



GridEx II: November 13-14, 2013 Fact Sheet

GridEx Background

In November 2011, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) conducted its first sector-wide grid security exercise, GridEx 2011. The geographically distributed exercise was designed to validate the readiness of the electricity sector to respond to a cyber incident, strengthen utilities' crisis response functions, and provide input for internal security program improvements. Seventy-five industry and government organizations from the United States and Canada participated in GridEx 2011. NERC intends to build on the success of GridEx 2011, while expanding participation and scope for GridEx II.

GridEx 2013 Objectives

The participants of GridEx 2011 successfully achieved the objectives established in the initial planning phase. The updated objectives for GridEx II are:

- Exercise the current readiness of the electricity industry to respond to a security incident, incorporating lessons learned from GridEx 2011.
- Review existing command, control and communication plans and tools for NERC and its stakeholders.
- Identify potential improvements in physical and cybersecurity plans, programs, and responder skills.
- Explore senior leadership policy doctrine and triggers in response to major grid reliability issues.

Exercise Construct

As in the first GridEx engagement, GridEx II will feature a hybrid, operational- and discussion-based exercise format that combines a geographically distributed environment for operators and a tabletop exercise for executive leadership. The majority of participants will take part from their normal work environment. During the one and a half days of the live exercise play, participants will receive sequenced email messages – injects – that detail notional scenario conditions. Based on this information, participants will engage in both internal response measures and external information sharing activities across the sector. An Exercise Control cell, based in Washington, D.C., will manage scenario distribution, monitor exercise play and capture response activities.

Planning and Participation

The nine-month planning cycle will be structured around three planning conferences: the Initial Planning Conference on March 26th, the Mid-term Planning Conference on June 4th, and the Final Planning Conference on October 1st. Designated planners from each organization will participate in planning conferences and designate GridEx players. They will also support the development of a credible scenario that achieves exercise objectives. Planners will support scenario development and the orientation of their players. Organizations can elect to be "Full Players" that participate directly in planning, dynamic exercise play and after action activities; or "Monitor/Respond Players" who engage in a more passive, less resource intensive manner. The exercise is not open to media or non-participants.