

Summary

FERC 2021 Annual Technical Conference on Reliability

September 30, 2021

Media Link: [2021 Annual Commissioner-led Reliability Technical Conference](#)

- **Four Panels**
 - Bulk-Power System Reliability and Security: Current State, Challenges, and Initiatives
 - Extreme Weather, Risks and Challenges
 - Managing Cyber Risks in the Electric Power Sector
 - Maintaining Electric Reliability with Changing Resource Mix

- NERC representatives focused on the recent NERC 2021 Risk Priorities Report and defined major risks to reliability being:
 - Grid transformation;
 - Security;
 - Extreme events (weather and other sources);
 - Critical infrastructure interdependencies.

- NERC representatives advocated for Reliability Standards enhancements in the future to include:
 - Reliability Standard requirements that establish a process for determining the ambient temperature and weather conditions to which generating plants must weatherize.
 - Reliability Standard requirements for Generator Owners to identify and implement freeze protection measures for cold-weather-critical components

- Generator Owners to develop and implement Corrective Action Plans when their facilities experience outages, failures to start, or derates due to freezing.
 - Reliability Standard requirements and seasonal assessment protocols that better account for expected generator availability during cold weather, taking into account factors such as contractual arrangements for natural gas supply.
- Former FERC Commissioner Cheryl LaFleur noted that as the generating resource mix continues its transition away from resources capable of providing energy “on-call” toward decarbonized resources wholly reliant on weather as the energy sources (solar and wind), that instances of energy shortfalls may occur more frequently.
 - Coupled the varying output of decarbonized resources with increased electricity demand from the electrification of the heating and transportation sectors will create a significant reliability risk.
 - She noted that currently, planning processes are capacity (not energy) oriented and do not plan the power system for low probability, high impact severe weather events in a systematic manner.
 - She advocated for new NERC Reliability Standards to require a forward-looking assessment of energy adequacy risks taking into account extreme weather events and contingences.

NYSRC EC Members can view the video at the link above or read the submitted testimony. Record of pre-filed remarks is at this [link](#)