NEW YORK STATE RELIABILITY COUNCIL
MEETING 204: April 8th, 2016
Report for Agenda Item 8.1: Michael Forte
NPCC Board of Directors Report

The next NPCC Board of Directors (BOD) meeting will be held on April 27th. The following is a summary of the *Report on the FERC-NERC Regional Entity Joint Review of Restoration and Recovery Plans*, which was discussed at the March NPCC BOD meeting.

FERC-NERC Regional Entity Joint Review of Restoration Recovery Plans

On January 29th, 2016, FERC released a report on its review of nine bulk power system owners and operators' emergency response and recovery plans. The objective of the review was to assess participants' plans and readiness for system restoration and recovery efforts following a widespread outage and to ensure the adequacy of these plans. The report makes several recommendations, which are highlighted below.

I.   **Overview**

    a. **Background**
        i.   The review was spurred by recent extreme events resulting in widespread outages, including Superstorm Sandy in 2012 and the 2011 Southwest Cold Weather event.
        ii. Nine entities participated in the review, including three Reliability Coordinators (RCs), seven Transmission Operators (TOPs), five Transmission Owners (TOs), one Generator Operator (GOP), two Generator Owners (GOs), and five Balancing Authorities (BAs).
        iii. The review team examined the restoration, response, and recovery plans of each participant, along with supporting information.
        iv. The team also met with the participants to discuss their plans, observe restoration training exercises, and review their experiences with recent restoration, response, and recovery exercises or drills.

    b. **Objective**
        i.   The review was intended to evaluate entities' plans and readiness for system restoration and recovery efforts following a widespread outage.
        ii. The review targeted three NERC Reliability Standards (EOP-005-2 *System Restoration from Blackstart Resources*, CIP-008-3 *Cyber Security—Incident Reporting and Response Planning*, and *CIP-009-3 Cyber Security—Recovery Plans for Critical Cyber Assets*) to assess their adequacy.

II. **Report Results**

    a. **Summary**
        i.   Overall, the joint staff review team found that the participants have system restoration plans that, for the most part, are thorough and highly-detailed.
        ii. The review team found that participants had extensive cyber security incident response and recovery plans for critical cyber assets covering the majority of the response and recovery stages.
        iii. In addition, the team observed that each participant has full time personnel dedicated to the roles and responsibilities defined in their respective response and recovery plans.

b. Recommendations

    i. The joint staff review team identified several opportunities for improving system restoration and cyber incident response and recovery planning and readiness.

    ii. The team recommends that entities:

- Verify and test modifications to a system restoration plan;
- Plan for the potential loss of Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) computers and other data sources;
- Obtain insight from entities that have experienced widespread outages;
- Ensure that cyber security response plans identify the types of events that trigger a response and which types should be reported;
- Obtain independent technical review of recovery plans for critical cyber assets and cyber security incident response plans; and
- Participate in exercises and simulations to help develop robust cyber security response and recovery plans.