CEATI | Infrastructure Protection and Security

Owners and operators of dams, generating stations, and transmission and distribution systems are increasingly concerned with protecting their asset base and maintaining service reliability in the face of both physical and cyber security threats. As it is susceptible to damage and loss due to natural causes, theft, deliberate destruction and mischief, electrical infrastructure is confronted with unique protection challenges. Utilities must take the necessary steps to reduce physical and cyber security risks to ensure a safe and secure power system.

The CEATI Infrastructure Protection and Security Interest Group (IPSIG) is a technical forum for utility personnel tasked with the compliance and physical/cyber security of generation, transmission, and distribution assets. The program includes both a strategic component – with a focus on security program design, implementation, operation, evaluation, and improvement – and a tactical component, which enables rapid exchange of information and intelligence on an ad hoc basis.

Topics & Issues

1. Operational Security
2. Physical Security
3. Cyber Security
4. NERC CIP and NIST Compliance
5. Substations, Buildings & Storage Yars
6. Security of Overhead Lines, Right of Ways & Linear Assets
7. Security of Dams, Power Houses & Generation Stations
8. Secure Management of Third Party Contractors, Suppliers and Software.

Technical Advisor

Mr. Paul Silba is a Cyber Security and IT Systems Professional with 23 years of experience in cyber security program management. He worked as Director of Cyber Security for NY Power Authority, managing a staff of over a dozen cyber specialists in the areas of vulnerability prevention, cyber awareness, and computer forensics. He also worked with the Power Operations Team to maintain NERC-CIP compliance and develop/maintain auditable defense of standards compliance.

Mr. Scott Webber has thirty years of experience in various utility industry Physical Security leadership roles while employed at Allegheny Energy, FirstEnergy and Duquesne Light Company. During his career, Mr. Webber has experienced the growth in physical security's role within the electric sector, beginning with the first Gulf War to NERC CIP Compliance. During his tenure at Allegheny Energy, he chaired the Edison Electric Institute Security Committee from 2007-2009 and served on the Leadership Committee from 2009-2012. He also served on the NERC CIPC Executive Committee from 2007-2009 and chaired the Security Guidelines Work Group during this time. Mr. Webber has a BA and MA in Criminology with Security Management Concentration from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

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Projects

- Managing Cyber Security Risk and a Review of Protocols Used in Distributed Energy Resources
- Electric Utility Guideline for Asset Management of Physical Security Assets
- Electric Utility Guideline for Inventory and Asset Management of Cyber Security Assets
- Best Practices in Copper Theft Mitigation
- Managed Detection and Response for OT Networks and Devices
- Joint Cyber and Physical Security Operations Center (SOC) Best Practices
- Physical Security Maturity Matrix
- Physical Security Protection for New Technology Assets

Issues & Areas of Focus

Cyber Security & NERC CIP Compliance

- Physical Security of Cyber Security Assets
- Monitoring Revisions and Updates to the NERC CIP Standards
- Lessons from Compliance Audits
- NERC CIP Compliance Best Practices

Substations and Storage Yards

- Security Classification and Standards for Substations
- Perimeter Security
- Remote Monitoring
- Copper and Other Metal Theft

Dams and Generating Stations

- Threat and Risk Assessment
- Integration of Emergency Action Plans
- Barriers, Fencing & Signage
- Protection of DER and other New or Green Technology Systems

Overhead Lines

- Security of Right-of-Ways
- Security Hardening of Transmission Towers
- Strategic Camera Surveillance of Transmission Towers
- Security of Wireless Technology

Underground Lines

- Access to Tunnels and Joint Bays through Manholes
- Tampering and Cable Measurement Equipment

Security Management

- Best Practices for Running Corporate Security Departments
- Implementing Standards for Physical and Cyber Security Programs
- Best Practices for Operating a Security Operations Center
- Best Practices for Incident Response, and Exercise Planning
- Best Practices for Security Management of Digital Assets
- Best Practices for Security Management of Cloud Based Assets

Annual Activities

- 2 Face-to-Face Meetings & Quarterly Conference Calls
- Conference Calls
- On-Demand Information Exchanges
- Technical Tours
- Benchmarking Surveys

*Participation is open to Electrical Utilities, Independent Power Producers, and Government Agencies.

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