

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

Supply Chain Risk Management) **Docket No. RM17-13-000**
Reliability Standards)

COMMENTS OF THE ISO/RTO COUNCIL

The ISO/RTO Council (“IRC”)¹ respectfully submits these comments in response to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (“FERC” or “Commission”) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“NOPR”) to approve supply chain risk management Reliability Standards CIP-013-1 (Cyber Security – Supply Chain Risk Management), CIP-005-6 (Cyber Security – Electronic Security Perimeter(s)) and CIP-010-3 (Cyber Security – Configuration Change Management and Vulnerability Assessments).²

The IRC generally supports FERC’s proposed approval of the supply chain risk management Reliability Standards, but provides these comments to request that the Commission: (1) reconsider its proposal to include Electronic Access Control or Monitoring Systems (“EACMS”) associated with medium and high impacts to the Bulk

¹ The IRC is comprised of the Alberta Electric System Operator (“AESO”), the California Independent System Operator Corporation (“CAISO”), the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. (“ERCOT”), the Independent Electricity System Operator (“IESO”), ISO New England Inc. (“ISO-NE”), the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (“MISO”), the New York Independent System Operator, Inc. (“NYISO”), PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. (“PJM”), and the Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (“SPP”). AESO, ERCOT, and IESO are not subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction. Accordingly, AESO and ERCOT are not joining these comments. Individual IRC members may also file separate comments.

² *Supply Change Risk Management Reliability Standards*, NOPR, 83 Federal Register 3433 (January 25, 2018), 162 FERC ¶ 61,044 (2018).

Electric System (“BES”) Cyber Systems within the scope of the proposed standard; and (2) approve the 18-month implementation plan as originally proposed by North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”).

I. GENERAL COMMENTS

A. Inclusion of EACMS in CIP Reliability Standards

In the NOPR, FERC proposes to direct NERC to develop modifications to the Critical Infrastructure Protection (“CIP”) Reliability Standards to include EACMS associated with medium and high impacts to BES Cyber Systems within the scope of the supply chain risk management Reliability Standards.³

In response to the Commission’s request for comment on this proposal,⁴ the IRC submits that EACMS associated with medium and high impact to BES Cyber Systems should not be included within the scope of the supply chain risk management Reliability Standards at this time. This is a new area of effort for the power sector, and will require that significant resources and effort, which are best applied to a focused set of vendors associated with systems already included in the present draft standard (medium and high impact BES Cyber Systems). Successful development of new processes and approaches working with a smaller set of vendors will be crucial in the short term, and this development may be at risk if more systems are brought in scope, including EACMS, Physical Access Control Systems (“PACS”), and Protected Cyber Assets (“PCA”). EACMS, PACS, and PCA systems are frequently sourced from vendors with much larger markets than the power sector. As a result, the entire process could be slowed as the

³ NOPR at P 39.

⁴ *Id.*

industry would need to resolve these issues with large commodity IT vendors (e.g., Microsoft, Cisco) who would be analyzing the impact of any requirements on the rest of their customers outside of the power sector. This is not to say such an effort is not needed but only that it should be sequenced as the industry moves to implement the supply chain management standard in a deliberate and expeditious manner.

B. Board of Trustees-Requested Cyber Security Supply Chain Risk Study

The Commission requested comments on its proposal to direct NERC to include PACS and PCAs in the NERC Board of Trustees-requested study.⁵ The IRC agrees that this expansion study is a reasonable measure and recommends that the NERC study also include EACMS as an additional category. Further, the Commission should provide an opportunity for Registered Entities and vendors to respond to the results of the study prior to adding any EACMS, PACS, and/or PCA systems to the scope of CIP-013-1.

C. Implementation Plan

FERC seeks comment on the proposed Reliability Standards becoming effective the first day of the first calendar quarter that is 12 months following the effective date of a Commission order approving the Reliability Standards.⁶ The Commission asserts that the “proposed implementation period is reasonable, given the nature of the requirements in the proposed Reliability Standards, and provides enhanced security for the [BES] in a

⁵ *Id.* at P 43.

⁶ *Id.* at P 44.

timelier manner.”⁷

The IRC submits that the proposed 12-month timeline may not be sufficient to address all the issues arising from development of new programs needed to comply with these standards. The protections associated with CIP-005-6 (remote access requirements) and CIP-010-3 (software source and media verification) should remain on an 18-month timeline to enable entities to acquire technology, work with vendors on relationships and new purchasing and contractual terms, develop procedures, and train people to use these new procedures and technology to fully comply. For example, significant assistance from vendors may be required to develop effective approaches to software verification for complex software stacks (CIP-010-3), and this development could require more than 12 months. Additionally, thorough scoping of applicable systems for CIP-013-1 will be required to complete development of compliant programs during the 18-month timeline approved by NERC. Completing these preparations within a 12-month compliance period may present a challenge for many IRC members.

II. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the IRC requests that the Commission consider these comments on the NOPR before issuing the final rule.

Respectfully submitted,

⁷ *Id.*

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon each person designated on the official service list compiled by the Secretary in this proceeding.

Dated at Carmel, Indiana this 26th day of March, 2018.

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