

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Staff Technical Conference on Geomagnetic
Disturbances to the Bulk-Power System

Docket No. AD12-13-000

TECHNICAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

(April 20, 2012)

As announced in the Notice of Technical Conference issued on April 6, 2012, the Commission Staff will hold a technical conference on Monday, April 30, 2012, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to discuss issues related to the reliability of the Bulk-Power System as affected by geomagnetic disturbances. The conference will explore the risks and impacts from geomagnetically induced currents to transformers and other equipment on the Bulk-Power System, as well as, options for addressing or mitigating the risks and impacts. The agenda for this conference is attached. Commission members will participate in this conference. All interested persons are invited to attend.

The Commission will be accepting written comments regarding the matters discussed at this technical conference. Any person or entity wishing to submit written comments regarding the matters discussed at the conference should submit such comments in Docket No. AD12-13-000, on or before May 21, 2012.

Information on this event will be posted on the Calendar of Events on the Commission's web site, www.ferc.gov, prior to the event. The conference will be transcribed. Transcripts will be available immediately for a fee from Ace Reporting Company (202-347-3700 or 1-800-336-6646). A free webcast of this event is also available through www.ferc.gov. Anyone with Internet access who desires to listen to this event can do so by navigating to www.ferc.gov's Calendar of Events and locating this event in the Calendar. The event will contain a link to the webcast. The Capitol Connection provides technical support for webcasts and offers the option of listening to the meeting via phone-bridge for a fee. If you have any questions, visit www.CapitolConnection.org or call 703-993-3100.

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For more information about this conference, please contact:

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Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,
Deputy Secretary.



Reliability Technical Conference

Staff-Led Reliability Technical Conference

April 30, 2012

11:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Agenda

11:00 a.m. Opening Remarks

11:10 a.m. Panel I: Assessment of Geomagnetic Disturbances (GMD) Risks

Presentations: Panelists will address:

1. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) GMD Interim Report; other related assessments, e.g., Oak Ridge Study; and the differences between these reports and assessments.
2. The potential risks from geomagnetically induced currents (GIC)
 - a. Damage to transformers
 - b. Instability and System Blackout Costs and Damages
 - c. Incompatibility of Spare Equipment
3. Potential affects on equipment other than transformers (e.g. relays, breakers)

Panelists

- Scott Pugh – Interagency Programs Office, Science & Technology Directorate, U. S. Department of Homeland Security
- Mark Lauby – Vice President and Director of Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis, North American Electric Reliability Corporation
- Frank Koza – Executive Director, Support Operations, PJM Interconnection LLC
- John Kappaman – Storm Analysis Consultants
- Dr. Ben McConnell – Research Scientist, Lecturer University of Tennessee
- John Houston – Division Senior Vice President, High Voltage Delivery & Compliance, CenterPoint Energy

1:30 p.m. Break

1:45 p.m. Panel II: Moving Forward on GMD

Presentations: Panelists will address

1. What, if any, actions should the Commission, NERC, or industry undertake in response to the NERC report or other related assessments?
 - a. Further scientific or technical studies?
 - b. Assessment of:
 - i. Technical specifications for new transformers
 - ii. Vulnerability and retrofit assessments for existing transformers
 - c. Additional operating rules and training?
 - d. Review of adequacy of spare transformers?
 - e. Development of reliability standards addressing any of the above?
2. What are the costs of potential mitigation options considered to date?
 - a. Operational procedures
 - b. System Protection Hardware/Software for new and existing transformers
 - c. Warning Hardware/Software
3. Wrap-up and next steps

Panelists

- William Murtagh – Program Coordinator, Space Weather Prediction Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Singh Matharu – Senior Engineer, Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- Michael Rutter – Head of Energy Resilience, UK Department of Energy and Climate Change
- Gerry Cauley – President and CEO, North American Electric Reliability Corporation
- Dr. Peter Vincent Pry – Task Force on National and Homeland Security
- Michael Heyeck – Senior Vice President of Transmission, AEP and President of Electric Transmission America, AEP and MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company
- Steven T. Naumann – Vice President, Wholesale Market Design, Exelon Corporation

3:50 p.m. Closing Remarks