

Agenda

Q1 2026 Trades & Forums Meeting

January 28, 2026 | 11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. Eastern

Hybrid – In-person (Washington, D.C.) & [Teams](#)

NERC Antitrust Compliance Guidelines

Agenda Items

Session I (11:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.)

1. IBR-Related Activities
2. CIP Roadmap
3. Planning Energy Assurance Standard
4. Wildfire Workshop & Report¹
5. Modernization of Standards Processes and Procedures Task Force (MSPPTF) Update
6. E-ISAC Briefing and Events Update

Lunch (12:00—1:00 p.m.)

Session II (1:00—2:00 p.m.)

1. NERC 3-Year Plan
2. Government Affairs Update
3. Assessment Modernization Efforts
4. Gas-Electric Coordination and NPC Study
5. Large Loads Action Plan Update

Key Upcoming NERC Events

1. MSPP Comment Deadline | February 5
2. NERC Board of Trustees Meetings | February 11-12
3. Technical Workshop: Project 2024-02 Planning Energy Assurance | February 17
4. Large Loads Technical Workshop | February 24-25
5. Reliability Assessments Workshop | March 26-27

¹ Workshop agenda and attendee list included below.

6. Q2 2026 Trades and Forums Meeting | April 1, 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Eastern
7. Milestone 4 Industry Engagement Workshop | May 19-20
8. NERC Board of Trustees Meetings | June 17-18
9. Q3 2026 Trades and Forums Meeting | July 7, 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Eastern
10. Q4 2026 Trades and Forums Meeting | November 4, 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Eastern

Agenda

NERC Wildfire Mitigation Workshop

January 29, 2026 | 11:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Mountain | Tesla Meeting Room

January 30, 2026 | 8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Mountain | Breakout Sessions - Reliability, Edison, Tesla, and The Lounge Meeting Rooms

Day 1

11:30 – 12:00 Lunch

12:00 Call to Order

Agenda

1. Safety Briefing – Western Electricity Coordinating Council (*5 minutes*)
2. Welcome – Melanie Frye, Western Electricity Coordinating Council (*5 minutes*)
3. Introductions NAE - Anjan Bose, National Academy of Engineering (*5 minutes*)
4. Keynote – Jim Robb, President and Chief Executive Officer, North American Electric Reliability Corporation (*10 minutes*)
5. Details on Days Activities – Branden Sudduth, Vice President, Western Electricity Coordinating Council (*5 minutes*)

12:30 – 1:45 Presentations (*15 minutes each/order subject to change*)

6. Wildfire Risk - Jim Kubrak, Senior Technical Advisor, North American Electric Reliability Corporation
7. Vegetation Management – Kelly Miller, Wildfire Mitigation Program Manager, Bonneville Power Administration
8. Vegetation Management – Duane Highly, CEO, Tri-State
9. Vegetation Management – Andy Abranches, VP Wildfire Mitigation, Pacific Gas & Electric Company

1:30 – 1:45 Break (*15 minutes*)

1:45 – 3:30 Presentations (*15 minutes each/order subject to change*)

10. Operations - Weather Modeling – Brian D’Agostino, Vice President, Wildfire and Climate Science, San Diego Gas & Electric
11. Operations – Raymond Fugere, Director Wildfire Safety, Southern California Edison
12. Operations – Raja Thappetaobula, Director, Reliability Coordination, California Independent System Operator RC West
13. Equipment Maintenance – Patrick Kuretich, Dir, Wildfire Strategy Gov and Performance, Xcel Energy
14. Equipment Maintenance – Evan Mitchell, Vice President, System Operations & Asset Investment Planning, AltaLink – Calgary

15. Equipment Maintenance – Carrie Laird, Vice President, Wildfire Mitigation & Emergency Operations, PacifiCorp

3:15 – 3:30 Break *(15 minutes)*

3:30 – 4:45 Presentations *(15 minutes each/order subject to change)*

16. Protection – Jonathan Sykes, Vice President, Advanced Applications, MPAC, Danovo Energy Solutions

17. Protection – Roderick Robinson, VP Electric Operations, Pacific Gas & Electric Company

18. Detection to Prevent Wildfire Ignition – Don Russell, Regents Professor, Texas A&M

19. Insurance Risk – David Fischer, Senior Manager, Climate Risk, Munich RE

20. Insurance Risk – Anita Daddar, Vice President of Excess Liability Underwriting, AEGIS Insurance, and Laura Strowbridge, Vice President of Loss Control Utility Operations, AEGIS Insurance

4:45 – 5:00 Recap, Mark Lauby, Senior Vice President and Chief Engineer, North American Electric Reliability Corporation

5:00 Adjournment

Reception to follow immediately upon adjournment

Day 2

8:00 – 9:00 Breakfast

9:00 – 9:05 Details on Day 2 Activities – Jim Kubrak, Technical Advisor, North American Electric Reliability Corporation (5 minutes)

9:05 – 11:00 Breakout Sessions (115 minutes)

Participants will be divided into four groups to discuss questions related to the following topic areas: Operations, Vegetation Management, Equipment Maintenance, and Protection. This workshop will assist NERC in preparing a report that utilizes these discussions for its filing with FERC, which is due on or before **May 1, 2026**.

Breakout Sessions

Group A – Operations

Questions:

1. Can you speak to any preventative actions your organization has implemented on your BES, such as: disabling automatic re-closing; no test orders on facilities; and pre-emptive de-energization of electric facilities (e.g., PSPS, Encroachment Policies, etc.); system hardening (e.g., covered conductor, undergrounding conductor, ground level distribution systems)? How are you measuring the effectiveness of these preventative actions in reducing wildfire ignition due to electrical contact?
 - a. Does your company have a Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) that includes these preventive strategies and programs to address the risk of wildfires caused by the BES?
2. What criteria does your company use to determine when to implement PSPS?
 - a. How do you gauge that your PSPS program is effective?
 - b. How can these be enhanced, for example, temporary grounding to reduce induction risk?
 - c. How do you reduce customer impacts (specifically for critical care/medical baseline customers)?
 - d. Do you believe a NERC standard should be implemented or existing standards enhanced to set the baseline in addressing PSPS programs?
3. What actions have you taken to increase your situational awareness? What monitoring tools do you use (e.g., weather stations; operational studies; high-definition cameras to detect wildfires, wildfire dashboards, fuel sampling programs; and integration of climate change scenarios into your risk models)?
4. What improvements in extreme weather forecasting and modeling can or have been made?
5. What technologies is your organization utilizing to detect wildfires and communicate with first responders, RCs, TOPs, etc.?

Moderator: Tim Ponseti, Vice President, Operations, Southeastern Electric Reliability Corporation

Scribe: Brad Gordon, SR. ENG, Event Analysis, North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Flip Chart Manager: Steve Ashbaker, Director, Western Electricity Coordinating Council

Location: Reliability Meeting Room

1. **Andre Coleman, Chief Scientist, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory**
2. **Brian D'Agostino, Vice President, Wildfire and Climate Science, San Diego Gas & Electric**

3. **Kal Ayoub, Director, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**
4. **Roderick Robinson, VP Electric Operations, Pacific Gas & Electric Company**
5. **Raymond Fugere, Director Wildlife Safety, Southern California Edison**
6. **Thomas Overbye, TEES Distinguished Research Professor, Texas A&M**
7. **Anjan Bose, Regents Professor, Washington State University**
8. **Kellie Cloud, Senior Director of Wildlife Operations, Portland General Electric**
9. **Scott Tomashefsky, Regulatory Affairs Manager, Northern California Power Agency**
10. **Megan Olmstead, Regulatory Affairs Director, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association**
11. **David Fischer, Senior Manager, Climate Risk, Munich RE**
12. **Francisco Velez, Director, Electric Transmission Reliability, Dominion Energy**
13. **Derek Rinn, Regional Manager of Operations, FortisBC**
14. **Adam Johnson, Manager, Emergency Preparedness, Duke Energy**
15. **Laura Strowbridge, Vice President of Loss Control Utility Operations, AEGIS Insurance**

Group B – Vegetation Management

Questions:

1. Does your company manage vegetation differently in locations with High Fire Risk compared to locations with little to no fire risk (e.g., urbanized areas)?
2. What new technologies (e.g., drones, LiDar, GIS satellite) has your organization investigated or implemented to reduce the likelihood of vegetation contacting energized lines? What metrics do you trend to determine the impact they have made in reducing vegetation contact from BPS facilities?
3. Can you speak to technologies your organization has implemented to enhance vegetation trimming, spraying, etc., to reduce vegetation contact to electrical equipment?
4. Does your company have a hazard tree management program for both green trees, dead trees, and dying trees?
5. Are existing NERC Reliability Standards on vegetation management sufficient? Are there any improvements that can/should be made to help mitigate wildfires? For example, lowering the voltage from 200kV to 100kV to reduce the likelihood of flashover within the Minimum Vegetation Clearance Distance (MVCD)?

Moderator: Mark Henry, Chief Engineer and Director, Reliability Outreach, Texas RE

Scribe: Vic Rivera, Engineer, Performance Analysis, North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Flip Chart Manager: Kiel Lyons, Senior Manager Compliance Assurance, North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Location: Edison Meeting Room

1. **Scott Bordenkircher, Director, Forestry & Fire Mitigation, Arizona Public Service**
2. **Anne Egger, Senior Project Manager, Department of Energy, Grid Deployment Office**
3. **Kelly Miller, Wildfire Mitigation Program Manager, Bonneville Power Administration**

4. **Scott Aaronson, Senior Vice President, Energy Security & Industry Operations, Edison Electric Institute**
5. **Ann Rendahl, Commissioner, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission**
6. **Damir Novosel, President and Founder, Danovo Energy Solutions**
7. **Andy Dressel, VP for Energy, Reliability, Security, and Resilience, Charles River Associates**
8. **Kristin Sleeper, Deputy Undersecretary for Natural Resources and the Environment, Natural Resources and the Environment**
9. **Steve Gray, Senior Manager of Land Rights and Permitting, Tristate**
10. **Heide Caswell, Safety Director, Oregon Public Utility Commission**
11. **Justin Turner, Director, Wildfire Mitigation & Response, American Electric Power**
12. **Andy Abranches, VP Wildlife Mitigation, Pacific Gas & Electric Company**

Group C – Equipment Maintenance

Questions:

1. Can you speak on technologies your organization has implemented to enhance maintenance activities in reducing the risk of equipment failures, such as tower and wood pole structure management; conductors falling from transmission towers or equipment failure producing electrical arcing?
2. If there were a national maintenance standard applicable to Bulk Electric System (BES) facilities, what should and should not be included in the standard?
3. Does your Transmission Maintenance and Inspection Plan include inspection requirements or patrol requirements?
4. Are existing NERC Reliability Standards on maintenance sufficient, for example, FAC-501-WECC? Are there any improvements that can/should be made to help mitigate wildfires?

Moderator: Jeff Craig, SVP Operations & Risk, ReliabilityFirst

Scribe: Scott Barfield-Mcginis, Principal Technical Advisor of Risk Issue Management, North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Flip Chart Manager: Scott Rowley, Sr. Reliability Specialist, Western Electricity Coordinating Council

Location: Tesla Meeting Room

1. **Patrick Kuretich, Dir, Wildfire Strategy Gov and Performance, Xcel Energy**
2. **Evan Mitchell, Vice President, System Operations & Asset Investment Planning, AltaLink – Calgary**
3. **Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Director of the California Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, California Office of Energy: Infrastructure Safety**
4. **Rich Vavrek, Director System Operations, FirstEnergy**
5. **Tyler Wray, T&D Portfolio Manager, BC Hydro**
6. **Brenda Compton, Dir, FERC/NERC Compliance, NVEnergy**

7. **Raul Pantoja, Manager of Transmission and Distribution Maintenance Planning, Sacramento Municipal Utility District**
8. **Dave Morton, WECC Board Member, Western Electricity Coordinating Council Board**
9. **Carrie Laird, Vice President, Wildfire Mitigation & Emergency Operations, PacifiCorp**
10. **Tyler Swearingen, Electric Transmission Reliability, Dominion Energy**
11. **Kevin Conway, Senior Manager of Non-Tariff Programs, Western Power Pool**
12. **Anita Daddar, Vice President of Excess Liability Underwriting, AEGIS Insurance**

Group D – Protection

Questions:

1. Are there new and advanced protection/control technologies that detect/mitigate potential equipment failures that could spark wildfire?
 - a. Open Phase Detection (OPD)
 - b. Protection Equipment and Device Settings (e.g., Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings, Fast Curve Relay Settings)
 - c. Rapid Earth Fault Current Limiter (REFCL)
 - d. Early Fault Detection (EFD)
2. How should utilities balance increased relay sensitivity for certain protection settings to detect/mitigate equipment failures that could spark a wildfire against the risk of misoperations that could create reliability issues?
3. Would the widespread use of synchro phasors improve operations awareness to help prevent wildfires or increase sensing capabilities for advanced protection systems?
4. Are existing NERC Reliability Standards on relay protection sufficient? Are there any improvements that can/should be made to help mitigate wildfires?
5. How do reclosing practices need to change in high wildfire risk conditions, and what role should relays play in adaptive reclosing logic (where relay settings change based on fire weather conditions)?

Moderator: Mark Tiemeier, Director of Power System Risk Management, MRO

Scribe: Patrick Harwood, Senior Counsel, North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Flip Chart Manager: Rich Bauer, Protection Principal Engineer, North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Location: The Lounge Meeting Room

1. **Raja Thapetaobula, Director, Reliability Coordination – RC West/California Independent System Operator, California Independent System Operator RC West**
2. **Colin Willenbrock, Chief Operating & Legal Officer, Snohomish County PUD**
3. **Scott Hayes, Principal Protection Engineer, Pacific Gas & Electric Company**
4. **Lee Underwood, Director, Practices, North American Transmission Forum**
5. **Cory Allen, Assistant General Manager, South Texas Electric Cooperative**

6. Doug Dorr, Technical Executive, Electric Power Research Institute
7. Joe Dygert, Natural Hazards R&D Program Manager, Department of Energy (CESER)
8. Jonathan Sykes, Vice President, Advanced Applications, MPAC, Quanta
9. Matt Reno, Distinguished Research Engineer, Sandia National Labs
10. Mark Esguerra, Director of Transmission and Substation Engineering, Southern California Edison
11. Don Russell, Regents Professor, Texas A&M

Group E – Observers

1. Melanie Frye, President and Chief Executive Officer, Western Electricity Coordinating Council
2. Branden Sudduth, VP, Western Electricity Coordinating Council
3. Mark Lauby, SVP and Chief Engineer, North American Electric Reliability Corporation
4. Soo Jin Kim, VP, Engineering and Standards, North American Electric Reliability Corporation
5. Stephen Crutchfield, Manager – PRISM, North American Electric Reliability Corporation
6. Jim Kubrak, Senior Technical Advisor, North American Electric Reliability Corporation
7. Darrell Moore, Director Situational Awareness, North American Electric Reliability Corporation
8. Al McMeekin, Senior Technical Advisor, North American Electric Reliability Corporation
9. Levetra Pitts, Program Administrator, North American Electric Reliability Corporation
10. Kelsi Boyd, Program Specialist, North American Electric Reliability Corporation

11:00 – 11:15 Break

11:15 – 1:00 Breakout Reporting and Lunch *(105 minutes)*

11. Breakout Reporting – Moderators *(60 minutes)*
12. Actionable Takeaways – Mark Lauby, Senior Vice President and Chief Engineer, NERC; Branden Sudduth, Vice President, Western Electricity Coordinating Council, Moderators *(30 minutes)*
13. Closing Remarks – Mark Lauby, Senior Vice President and Chief Engineer *(15 minutes)*

1:00 Adjourn

1:00 -1:30 Actionable Takeaways (ERO Staff)

NERC Wildfire Mitigation Workshop Attendee List*

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Laura	Strowbridge	AEGIS Insurance Services
Evan	Mitchell	AltaLink
Justin	Turner	American Electric Power
Scott	Bordenkircher	Arizona Public Service
Tyler	Wray	BC Hydro
Kelly	Miller	Bonneville Power Administration
Caroline	Thomas Jacobs	California State Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
Andy	Dressel	Charles River Associates
Damir	Novosel	Danovo Energy Solutions
Anne	Egger	Department of Energy
Joseph	Dygart	Department of Energy/Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response
Francisco	Velez	Dominion Energy
Tyler	Swearingen	Dominion Energy
Adam	Johnson	Duke Energy
Scott	Aaronson	Edison Electric Institute
Douglas	Dorr	Electric Power Research Institute
Chloe	Koseff	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Alexander	De Taboada	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Kal	Ayoub	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Rich	Vavrek	FirstEnergy Corp.
Derek	Rinn	FortisBC
Mark	Tiemeier	Midwest Reliability Organization
David	Fischer	Munich RE
Lee	Underwood	American Transmission Forum
Brad	Gordon	NERC
Darrell	Moore	NERC
Jim	Kubrak	NERC
Kelsi	Boyd	NERC
Kiel	Lyons	NERC
Levetra	Pitts	NERC
Patrick	Harwood	NERC
Rich	Bauer	NERC
Scott	Barfield-McGinnis	NERC
Soo Jin	Kim	NERC
Stephen	Crutchfield	NERC
Victoria	Rivera	NERC
Scott	Tomashefsky	Northern California Power Agency
Megan	Olmstead	National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
Heide	Caswell	Oregon Public Utility Commission

* As of January 23, 2026

Andrew	Abranches	Pacific Gas & Electric Company
Scott	Hayes	Pacific Gas & Electric Company
Andre	Coleman	Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
Carrie	Laird	PacifiCorp
Kellie	Cloud	Portland General Electric
Jonathan	Sykes	Quanta Technology
Raul	Pantoja	Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Brian	D'Agostino	San Diego Gas & Electric
Matthew	Reno	Sandia National Laboratories
Colin	Willenbrock	Snohomish County Public Utility District
Cory	Allen	South Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Mark	Esguerra	Southern California Edison
Raymond	Fugere	Southern California Edison
Don	Russell	Texas A&M University
Thomas	Overbye	Texas A&M University
Mark	Henry	Texas RE
Duane	Highley	Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association
Steve	Gray	Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association
Anjan	Bose	Washington State University
Ann	Rendhal	Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
David	Morton	WECC
Scott	Rowley	WECC
Steve	Ashbaker	WECC
Kevin	Conway	Western Power Pool
Patrick	Kuretich	Xcel Energy