



Unanimously Adopted on September 26, 2016

Resolution sponsored by: Representative Rocky Miller, Missouri*
Representative Weldon Watson, Oklahoma
and Representative Chuck Martin, Georgia

3.2016 | Resolution Regarding Protection of the Nation's Electric Power Grid From Dynamic Cyber Threats

WHEREAS, protecting the nation's energy grid and ensuring a reliable and affordable supply of electricity are top priorities for the electric power industry and state and federal governments; and

WHEREAS, the electric power industry is one of sixteen critical infrastructure sectors that owns or operates assets, systems, and networks, whether physical or virtual, that are considered in some cases so vital to the United States that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating effect on security, national economic security, national public health or safety or any combination thereof; and

WHEREAS, the energy grid is a complex, interconnected network of generation, transmission, distribution, control, and communication technologies that can be impacted by natural events—including earthquakes and hurricanes - as well as by malicious events like cyber or physical attacks or a combined cyber/physical attack; and

WHEREAS, the electric and nuclear sectors have rigorous mandatory and enforceable standards developed by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, a government-certified standards setting body, under the oversight of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, to help protect the reliability and security of the bulk electric system assets they own and/or operate; and

WHEREAS, the electric power industry also relies on close coordination and partnerships with federal law enforcement, military and security agencies to defend against hostile nation-states or other acts of war against the United States, including cyber threats; and

WHEREAS, the electric power industry's partnership with the Federal government, through the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council, is cited by the National Infrastructure Advisory Council as the model for how critical infrastructure sectors can more effectively partner with the government; and

WHEREAS, electric companies continuously work across the industry, with other sectors, and the government – at all levels – to make the grid more secure and resilient and to improve response and recovery capabilities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, given interdependencies among the electric power industry, other sectors, and government, the private and public sector should continue to coordinate in planning and preparing for recovering from manmade and naturally occurring events that could disrupt electricity; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that given the dynamic nature of the cyber threats and the continued coordination of effort between critical infrastructure sectors and the federal government, states should proceed in a careful and deliberate manner to avoid unintended consequences to existing regulations, standards, efforts and initiatives when considering whether to pursue legislative or regulatory approaches to cyber issues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that electric companies should continue to serve as pillars of the communities they serve and should continue to work with state and local officials to educate electric customers on the appropriate steps to be prepared in the event there is a power outage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution are transmitted to governors, leadership in all state legislatures, state public utility/service commissioners and chairs of relevant state House and Senate committees with jurisdiction over energy and electricity policy in Southern States Energy Board States.