



Proposed Policy Resolution 2.2021

Adopted Unanimously on September 28, 2021

Promoting Energy Security, Resilience, and Reliability

Sponsors

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WHEREAS, the future reliability, resilience and security of the nation's various energy networks is under significant risk; the continuity of energy is being endangered due to increasing frequency and complexity of cybersecurity threats, aging infrastructure, and the political drive to replace massive amounts of scalable and baseload generation with intermittent resources.

WHEREAS, interconnection of utility-scale renewable energy projects, including wind, present new challenges to the existing transmission network; requiring new points of interconnection and miles of new or upgraded transmission lines; and

WHEREAS, cyber-terrorism is a continuous and growing threat that endangers lives by compromising continuity of energy supply and endangers the economic stability and prosperity of the nation and states.

WHEREAS, recent events - rolling blackouts in California due to a lack of grid capacity, the widespread Texas power outage, and the crippling shutdown of a major East Coast pipeline - have informed the need act immediately to promote the security, reliability, and resilience of energy assets; and

WHEREAS, the nation's electricity transmission and distribution systems are in need of informed, intelligent expansion and upgrades for continued security, resilience, reliability, and efficiency as the United States transitions its fuel mix to cleaner, but often intermittent resources.

WHEREAS, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") issued an advanced notice of rulemaking reflecting the need to ensure the efficient and cost-effective development of regional transmission facilities required to meet the needs of a changing resource mix while maintaining reliability and just and reasonable rates; and

WHEREAS, FERC approved final rule, Order 2222, enabling the aggregation of distributed energy resources ("DERs") for participation in all regional organized wholesale electric markets, promoting the adoption of DERs and making them more competitive in wholesale markets.

WHEREAS, unlike utility-scale generation assets, DERs are interconnected to the local distribution systems; this includes battery storage, intermittent renewable generation, demand

response, energy efficiency, thermal storage, zero emission vehicles and the associated supply equipment, and combined heat and power (“CHP”) systems.

WHEREAS, energy sector cybersecurity, coupled with increased deployment of DERs, and smart distribution planning, will enhance reliability, decrease the overall need for future transmission and distribution upgrades, and can help mitigate the negative grid impacts of intermittent resources; and

WHEREAS, resources dedicated to cybersecurity, the study of locational value, cooperative distribution planning, and smart siting of DERs are necessary to the energy security of the states.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board calls upon our Nation’s political and community leaders to support states’ efforts to study, improve, and develop future plans for their respective distribution grids; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, national leaders must promote a cooperative energy sector cybersecurity approach, providing resources, technical assistance, and an open pathway of communication between and amongst states and the relevant federal agencies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board encourages the direct and indirect support of state-led efforts to modernize and secure energy assets across the country.