

Securing the Energy Grid Is a Team Sport

By CHRIS CRANE

When we think about the vital work our industry does every day to power lives and the economy, there is nothing more important than the safety and security of our people, our customers, and the energy grid that serves us all. Grid security is a responsibility we share within our industry and with the government. That work has been a key driver of the partnership we have developed with the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council (ESCC) and the Departments of Energy (DOE) and Homeland Security (DHS).

Our collaboration with federal agencies has resulted in several important changes to how we manage the energy grid and how we respond when incidents affect energy infrastructure. For example, we developed the ESCC Playbook, which provides a framework for how industry and government work together during major natural and man-made disasters. We also have improved our coordination with our federal partners through preparedness exercises.

During the new Administration's transition, we helped the new leaders at both DOE and DHS to build upon this progress and to continue our close partnership. Our efforts are paying off: In June, we had our first ESCC meeting with the new federal leadership team. As a result of the

meeting, we are moving forward with a number of new initiatives.

Today, we are working to enhance how public affairs teams in both industry and government coordinate when incidents affect the energy grid. We also are improving how government shares actionable intelligence with industry leaders during major incidents, which will help our sector better manage key elements of energy infrastructure. We are partnering with DOE on a project that will enable industry and government to better prioritize and prepare for threats that impact the energy grid. We also are engaging with DOE on the development of supplemental operating strategies to guide how our industry would operate the energy grid under sub-optimal conditions following a major cyber or physical attack.

In addition to these important projects, we also are working closely with the Administration to implement the President's executive order on cybersecurity.

In short, our partnership with the federal government is continuing and expanding. Our new colleagues share our industry's sense of urgency on security issues, and we look forward to continuing to work with them—and with other critical infrastructure sectors—to ensure the resilience of our energy grid. **EP**

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CHRIS CRANE is president and CEO of Exelon Corporation, chair of the ESCC's Industry-Government Strategic Committee, and vice chairman of EEI.

The Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council (ESCC) serves as the principal liaison between the federal government and the electric power sector, with the mission of coordinating efforts to prepare for, and respond to, national-level disasters or threats to critical infrastructure. The ESCC includes electric company CEOs and trade association leaders representing all segments of the industry.

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