



GridEx IV Fact Sheet

November 15-16, 2017

Background

[GridEx IV](#) is scheduled for November 15-16, 2017. This biennial exercise provides an opportunity for utilities to demonstrate how they would respond to and recover from simulated coordinated cyber and physical security threats and incidents, strengthen their crisis communications relationships and provide input for lessons learned. The first grid security exercise took place in November 2011.

Objectives

The objectives for GridEx IV are:

- Exercise incident response plan
- Expand local and regional response
- Engage interdependent sectors
- Improve communication
- Gather lessons learned
- Engage senior leadership

Similar to the first three GridEx exercises, GridEx IV is an operational exercise for utilities and other stakeholders from North America. Industry participants take part from their regular work locations and respond to simulated scenario events, called injects, during the two-day exercise. Participants respond with simulated internal and external operational activities as they would during an actual event, including sharing information within their organization and with external entities according to their established procedures. NERC also coordinates a tabletop discussion for industry executives and senior government officials on an invitation-only basis.

Planning and Participation

The two-year GridEx IV planning schedule is structured around three planning meetings made up of planners from participating utilities. The initial meeting was held on November 14, 2016. Planners identify their organizations as either “active” (i.e., directly involved in planning, dynamic exercise play, and after-action activities) or “observing” (e.g., more limited tabletop-like participation). Planners identify their own exercise participants (“players”) from across departmental and functional areas and are encouraged to develop their own customized scenario events consistent with the NERC scenario to achieve additional local exercise objectives and increase realism for their Players.

Flexibility and Feedback

The GridEx planning team designs the exercise to allow each organization to participate in a way that is consistent with its available resources and real-world operational environment. NERC asks participating organizations to complete an after-action survey and encourages them to share with the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center lessons learned for the key observations and recommendations provided in reports after each exercise. For more information on GridEx IV, contact [Jake Schmitter](#), Senior Manager of Training and Exercises, Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center.