

Press Release

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NERC Issues AURORA Alert to Industry

WASHINGTON, DC – The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) issued a recommendation to industry on the AURORA vulnerability yesterday. The recommendation provides new sensitive and clarifying information regarding the nature of AURORA. The recommendation requires entities to report on efforts and progress by Dec. 13, with updates every six months until mitigation is complete.

The recommendation developed by the AURORA Technical Team, working with subject matter experts in the federal community, highlighted detailed engineering data and new understandings of the issue. The mitigation elements that have been recommended fall into two broad categories: *Protection and Control Engineering Practices* and *Electronic and Physical Security Mitigation Measures*.

“While there is no single answer to the AURORA vulnerability, these recommendations offer asset owners options to develop and test in their own environments,” said Mark Weatherford, vice president and chief security officer at NERC. “NERC continues to work with government and industry experts to provide information to the industry as it becomes available.”

NERC initially issued a notification to the industry on the AURORA vulnerability on June 21, 2007, which was based on information available at the time. Since that time, NERC has worked with its federal partners to establish a technical library that entities can use to understand the complexities of AURORA at an engineering level.

The technical library was made available at the “For Official Use Only” (FOUO) classification level by NERC’s federal partners. These documents are located on protected sites on the NERC Regional portals for industry use. Making information available and in an accessible form is a top priority for NERC in its cybersecurity efforts.

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The North American Electric Reliability Corporation’s mission is to ensure the reliability of the North American bulk power system. NERC is the electric reliability organization (ERO) certified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to establish and enforce reliability standards for the bulk-power system. NERC develops and enforces reliability standards; assesses adequacy annually via a 10-year forecast, and summer and winter forecasts; monitors the bulk power system; and educates, trains and certifies industry personnel. Learn more at www.nerc.com.