Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group

Report to

ERCOT Reliability Operation Subcommittee

January 13, 2011

The CIPWG has met twice since the last report to ROS. Attendance generally averages around 25 with participants divided across a wide range on market participants and government agencies. At each of the meetings a portion of the meeting is devoted to discussions with TRE to discuss issues with TFE filings with TRE or clarification on data we need to support certain requirements. At each of the meetings a discussion is also held, without TRE present, on how different market participants interpret requirements and new issues that have been discovered at various organizations.

At the December 3, 2010 CIPWG meeting discussions were held on:

1. The WG discussed TFE Issues with Bill Beaver of TRE. The discussion also covered how to submit TFEs, TFE amendments and self-reports since the TRE portal has been down for several weeks.
2. The WG also discussed procedures for updating TFEs and when amendments are required.
3. The WG discussed the implications of the Aurora NERC Alert and possible ways the members planned to respond to NERC. It appears the members are taking the required response to NERC very seriously and are planning fairly detailed actions and responses. The response is due to the NERC Alert portal by December 13. Follow up responses are due every six months until all mitigation actions are complete.
4. A discussion on the current status of the Stuxnet NERC Alert and potential implications to the ERCOT Grid.
5. Several members of the NERC CIP version 4 Standards drafting team were present. They provided information on the status of the CIP version 4 standards as well as the status of the CIP-010 and CIP-011 standards.
6. A general discussion on the status of the CIP-005 version X standard addressing the technical requirements of remote access to networks containing Critical Assets. This remote access is defined as remote access by a human not databases communication between two separate network segments. At least one member expressed opposition to the standard because they felt the standard was not restrictive enough and should require more secure access methodologies.
7. The WG discussed the possibility of filing joint comments on NERC Standards or ERCOT Operating Guide revisions. Based on the discussions at TAC it was determined that it was probably impractical for the WG to file comments at ERCOT or NERC. The members decided that the best way to provide comments was to provide individual comments but that whenever possible the members should circulate their proposed comments among the WG to allow the members to discuss the comments prior to filing and to give others a starting point for their comments.
8. NERC implementation of Compliance Application Notices (CAN) including the six in effect now and the 59 under development. It was noted that the NERC CAN-0007 which was finally adopted had been so watered down from the initial draft that it didn’t really provide any guidance beyond the standard it was meant to interpret. Since the CIPWG meeting, NERC has withdrawn CAN-0005 for a rewrite due to the concerns expressed by member systems.
9. It was noted that the NERC Rules of Procedures had been modified to allow the NERC BOT to approve a standard even if the ballot body had voted it down.
10. Preliminary discussions of the agenda and the expected discussions at the NERC CIPC Meeting to be held in Tampa on December 8-9. There will be a classified briefing on security issues at the FBI Tampa offices on the morning of December 8 for CIPC members with security clearances.
11. Members discussed issues related to CIP compliance within their organizations and discussed possible solutions.
12. The CIPWG Charter was reviewed to determine if the charter was still appropriate. After reviewing the charter the group felt the charter was satisfactory as it currently stood.
13. It was noted that the WG needed to complete the recommendations for Chair and Vice Chair at the January meeting in order to forward to ROS for its February meeting.
14. The WG discussed the possible dates for the 2011 meetings. It was agreed to request the first Friday of each month from ERCOT for a possible meeting date.
15. It was noted that Energy Sec, a contractor to DOE, will make a presentation to the WG at its February meeting.
16. A discussion of upcoming conferences was held including the 2011 SANS SCADA Summit in Florida in February.
17. Other issues and open discussion by members

The January CIPWG meeting will be held on January 11 at the ERCOT offices. The dates for the remaining meetings for 2011 have not been confirmed at this time.