Program

Annual Reliability Seminar – Tuesday, October 6, 2026

HYBRID MEETING: IN PERSON & VIRTUAL (VIA ZOOM)

9:00 am – 4:15 pm EDT / 6:00 am – 1:15 pm PDT / 7:00 am – 2:15 pm MDT / 8:00 am – 3:15 pm CDT / 10:00 am – 5:15 pm ADT / 10:30 am – 5:45 pm NDT

Note: At all times, simultaneous interpretation services from French to English and from English to French will be available for the attendees and speakers.

TIME (EDT)	PRESENTATION
9:00 am	**Welcome and introduction (in French)** Christian Cruz-Sanchez, *Spécialiste en régulation économique*, Régie de l'énergie
9:05 am	**The Energy Sector and Its Cyber Threats (in French)** **Description:** The presentation will provide an overview of the main cyber threats that critical infrastructure organizations are currently facing in the energy sector (cyber threats originating from foreign state actors and cybercriminal groups), as well as how these threats are influenced by a set of trends (cutting-edge technologies, new tactics and procedures, etc.). The presentation will also focus on the phenomenon of cyber threats targeting supply chains in the energy sector. **Speaker:** Jean-Philippe Racicot, Manager, Head of the Montréal Team, Canadian Centre for Cyber Security (CCC) **Note:** This presentation will not be included in the seminar video recordings.
9:55 am	**Building a Defensible Cyber and Physical Security Program (in English)** **Description:** The presentation will focus on the building blocks of a sustainable cyber and physical security compliance program. One that considers risk and compliance requirements to secure organizations from a dynamic threat landscape. **Speaker:** Jonathan Espinosa, Senior CIP Compliance Analyst, NPCC
10:15 am to 10:30 am	**Pause**

TIME (EDT)	PRESENTATION
10:30 am	**Bridging the Gap: Addressing Reliability Risk Management (in English)** **Description:** This session will focus on the importance of interim, risk-based measures to proactively address emerging reliability risks in areas where regulatory requirements or reliability standards have not yet been developed or updated. The discussion will examine how these measures can be an effective tool for maintaining reliability and mitigating risk pending the implementation of longer-term solutions. **Speaker:** Joshua Trichon, Enforcement Attorney, NPCC
10:50 am	**Inherent Risk Assessment and Compliance Oversight Plans: How Risk Informs Monitoring (in English)** **Description:** NPCC will review the process utilized to determine a Registered Entity's Inherent Risk and what additional information is utilized when developing entity specific compliance monitoring strategies. **Speaker:** Tracy MacNicoll, Senior Registration, Certification, and Risk Analyst, NPCC
11:10 am to 11:20 am	**Pause**
11:20 am	**Beyond the Standards: Additional Resources (in English)** **Description:** NPCC will provide an overview of available NERC and NPCC resources including QRSAWSs, Implementation Guidance, Practice Guides, and other documentation available to assist entities with their compliance programs. **Speaker:** Seema Thakur, Senior Compliance Engineer, NPCC
11:40 am	**Quebec Reliability Standards Update: Key Changes for 2026–2027 (in English)** **Description:** NPCC will provide an overview of the Quebec versions of the NERC Reliability Standards. The session will focus on standards becoming effective in late 2026 and early 2027, highlighting key changes, compliance considerations, and implementation impacts for registered entities. The following standards will be covered: • Grid Operations and Operating Limits: FAC-003-5, FAC-011-4, FAC-014-3, IRO-008-3, TOP-001-6 • Protection and Control Systems: PRC-023-6, PRC-026-2 • Cybersecurity and Communication: CIP-003-9, CIP-012-2 • Reliability in the Evolving Resource Mix: BAL-007-1, TOP-003-7 **Speaker:** Patrick Davis, Senior Standards and Criteria Engineer, NPCC

TIME (EDT)	PRESENTATION
12:15 pm to 1:15 pm	**Lunch break**
1:15 pm	**Registered Entities participation in the Public Consultation Process (in French)** **Description:** This presentation will include a review of the North American context surrounding the development and adoption of reliability standards and will highlight the importance of participating in the public consultation process. A practical example will be presented to illustrate the different documents and key steps in the public consultation process. **Speaker:** Junji Yamaguchi, Eng., Head – Regulatory Affairs of the Coordinator, Analysis and Guidelines, Hydro-Québec
1:45 pm	**Final Changes to the Revised QCMEP and Documentation of Monitoring and Enforcement Processes (In French)** **Description:** The review process for Québec Reliability Standards Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (QCMEP) is nearing completion, and this presentation will focus on final changes made to the program. To align monitoring and enforcement activities with those of NERC, two new processes, Self-Logging and Compliance Exception, are now included in the program. What are the implications for registered entities, the advantages of qualifying for them and the documentation related to these processes that the Régie intends to make available? These are questions that the presentation will address. **Speaker:** Laurentia Dumitrescu, *Spécialiste en régulation économique*, Régie de l'énergie
2:15 pm to 2:30 pm	**Pause**
2:30 pm	**Regulatory Audits: A Continuous Improvement Driver (in French)** **Description:** Hydro-Québec has been subject to regulatory audits over the past two years. This presentation will focus on the audit process, advice on how to prepare for one and lessons learned. **Speaker:** • Michel Belhumeur, Reliability Standards Advisor, Hydro-Québec • Jonathan Trépanier, Reliability Standards Advisor, Hydro-Québec
3:10 pm	**NERC Large Loads Action Plan (in English)** **Description:** An increasing number of large commercial and industrial loads are rapidly connecting to the bulk power system (BPS). Computational loads such as data centers present unique challenges in BPS planning and operations. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) in collaboration with the Regions and Industry is continuing to make great strides in enabling these large

TIME (EDT)	PRESENTATION
	loads to connect to the BPS. This presentation will provide an update on the recent and upcoming activities in NERC's Large Loads Action Plan. **Speaker:** Jack Gibfried, Engineer II, Engineering & Security Integration, NERC
3:30 pm to 3:40 pm	**Pause**
3:40 pm	**Strategic Value of E-ISAC Information Sharing for Global Industry Resilience (in English)** **Description:** The Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC) enhances global industry resilience against converged cyber-physical threats by facilitating voluntary, non-regulatory intelligence sharing across a vast network of partners. This presentation outlines how E-ISAC's strategic framework, including its developing analyst cyber and physical services and crisis simulation via GridEx, operationalizes trust and collective. This presentation will provide an overview on E-ISAC services including new initiatives to Canadian Utilities and highlight its collaboration with global partners to foster resiliency. **Speaker:** Lauren Gattone, Director, E-ISAC Security Operation, NERC
4:00 pm	**Overview of the initiatives of the Committee on the use of monetary penalties (in French)** **Description:** The Committee on the use of monetary penalties will highlight current and upcoming initiatives that aim to promote the reliability of electricity transmission. The committee will present initiatives in the areas of continuing education, research and innovation, as well as the organization of forums supporting knowledge sharing and best practices. **Speaker:** Christian Cruz-Sanchez, *Spécialiste en régulation économique*, Régie de l'énergie
4:15 pm	**End of the seminar**

Speaker Biographies

Jean-Philippe Racicot, Manager, Head of the Montréal Team of the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security (CCC)

Jean-Philippe Racicot is the Manager of the Montréal Team of the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security (CCC). Previously, Mr. Racicot managed a strategic cyber threat assessment team at the CCC after joining the organization in 2019. Mr. Racicot also led a team of civilian and military strategic analysts within the Canadian Forces Intelligence Command for two years and held several analytical and management positions within the Privy Council Office for over fourteen years.

Jonathan Espinosa, Senior CIP Compliance Analyst, NPCC

Jonathan joined NPCC in February of 2026 as a Senior CIP Compliance Analyst, bringing diverse experience from his roles in the military, law enforcement and cybersecurity. He comes to NPCC from Texas RE where he worked as CIP Compliance Analyst for two and a half years.

Jonathan began his professional career as a Network Specialist for the United States Marine Corps Reserve, where he developed a solid foundation in IT and networking. During his time in the Marine Corps Reserve, Jonathan also worked in Law Enforcement as a Police Officer for the City of College Station and then the Austin Police Department.

Transitioning into cybersecurity, Jonathan enhanced his technical skills with experience as a cybersecurity specialist for the Texas Department of Public Safety and then transferred to the AT&T Cybersecurity Operations Center (CSOC) working as a contractor for Diversant. At the AT&T CSOC, Jonathan provided cybersecurity services to Texas DIR, TXDoT, TXTag, and BNSF Railway.

Jonathan holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from DeVry University and a Master's degree in Information Technology Management from CSU Global. Jonathan is

also CompTIA Security+ certified. He is also a member of InfraGard, and the Institute of Internal Auditors.

Joshua Trichon, Enforcement Attorney, NPCC

Joshua Trichon is an Enforcement Attorney at NPCC, where he provides legal and regulatory support on a wide range of enforcement and compliance matters. He manages enforcement actions related to registered entity noncompliance with NERC Reliability Standards, including reviewing risk assessments, negotiating settlement agreements, and ensuring consistent application of penalties and sanctions. Additionally, Mr. Trichon supports regulatory filings, contributes to organizational and ERO Enterprise initiatives, and provides guidance to stakeholders on reliability and regulatory issues. Before joining NPCC, Mr. Trichon was appointed as an Excelsior Fellow at the New York State Public Service Commission, where he later served as an Assistant Attorney. Prior to that, he worked as a legal clerk at the Innocence Project and the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science – International Relations and Environmental Studies from Tulane University and a Juris Doctor from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. Mr. Trichon is a member of the bar in the state of New York.

Tracy MacNicoll, Senior Registration, Certification, and Risk Analyst, NPCC

Tracy MacNicoll is a Senior Registration, Certification, and Risk Analyst. He has been with NPCC since March 2024. Prior to joining NPCC, Tracy was the Director of Technical Services at Utility Services of Vermont where he was responsible for providing oversight and management of the technical CIP and O&P staff. The technical teams, led by Tracy, were responsible for working with Registered Entities across the ERO on the development, management, and demonstration of compliance programs. In his role, he was also an active participant in the NERC Standard development and balloting process including serving as a member on multiple Standard Development Teams and several ERO committees and groups.

Tracy has a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Vermont.

Seema Thakur, Senior Compliance Engineer, NPCC

Seema is a Senior Compliance Engineer at NPCC. She has worked in the US Electric power industry since 2013. Prior to joining NPCC in 2025, Seema worked for various utility companies including Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), International Transmission Company (ITC), Dominion Energy, Engie North America, and FERC with experience in multiple different areas including EMS modeling, Transmission System Protection, Planning and Interconnections and Standards for Operation and Planning.

Seema has a Masters' in Electrical Engineering with an emphasis on Power Systems from Iowa State University, is an IEEE Senior Member, and is a licensed Professional Engineer. She is also a member of the Institute of Internal Auditors.

Patrick Davis, Senior Standards and Criteria Engineer, NPCC

Patrick (Pat) Davis is a Senior Standards and Criteria Engineer who began his career in the utility industry in 2005. He joined NPCC in 2024 after 11 years with the New York Power Authority (NYPA), where he served as Operations Superintendent. In that role, he managed generation and transmission operations for the St. Lawrence-FDR Power Project and its associated substations. His responsibilities included oversight of control room operations, coordination of maintenance resources, outage management, generation planning and scheduling, and direction of water management activities. He also represented NYPA on the Operations Advisory Group to the International Lake Ontario–St. Lawrence River Board, where he collaborated on hydropower operational matters related to the management of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Earlier in his career, Patrick worked at General Electric as a Generator Advanced Manufacturing Engineer. There, he led new product and generator uprate designs for large gas and steam turbine generators, developed manufacturing processes, and managed capital projects at GE's Schenectady, NY facility.

Patrick holds an A.S. in Engineering Science from SUNY Canton and a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Engineering and Management from Clarkson University. He also earned a Certificate in Asset Management from the Institute of Asset Management.

Junji Yamaguchi, Eng., Head – Regulatory Affairs of the Coordinator, Analysis and Guidelines, Hydro-Québec

Junji Yamaguchi, Eng., MBA, is the Head of Regulatory Affairs of the Reliability Coordinator at Hydro-Québec. With over 20 years of experience, he ensures that Quebec's power system is reliable and complies with NERC reliability standards, while working with different partners to improve system security and performance. He earned an Electrical Engineering degree from Université de Sherbrooke and an MBA from HEC Montréal. He is recognized for his leadership, and his ability to innovate and clearly explain complex topics to any audience. He is passionate about collaboration and sharing knowledge. He enjoys making technical and regulatory issues accessible and believes system reliability is dependent on both the expertise and commitment of the teams.

Laurentia Dumitrescu, *Spécialiste en régulation économique*, Régie de l'énergie

Ms. Dumitrescu has been with the Régie since October 2014 as a *Spécialiste en régulation économique*, where she gained experience with regulatory proceedings. She has more than ten years of experience with compliance monitoring and enforcement of reliability standards within a government agency. A professional engineer in Québec, she holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the Politehnica University of Bucharest (Romania) and a Diploma of Advanced Studies (DEA) from the Paul Sabatier University of Toulouse (France).

Michel Belhumeur, Reliability Standards Advisor, Hydro-Québec

Michel Belhumeur is a reliability standards advisor at Hydro-Québec. A graduate in electrical engineering from l'École Polytechnique Montréal, he has worked for over thirty years in various companies maintaining quality systems, conduction compliance investigations, and improving IT or reliability processes. He also served as an internal

auditor for the ISO 9001 standard and the CMMI model and conducted site audits at Hydro-Québec.

Jonathan Trépanier, Reliability Standards Advisor, Hydro-Québec

Jonathan Trépanier is a reliability standards advisor in the reliability standards compliance department at Hydro-Québec, specializing in physical security (notably for CIP-006 and CIP-014 standards). Holding a bachelor's degree in security and police studies from l'Université de Montréal and certified in several fields, including management system auditing, emergency management and physical security, he has worked for over 15 years at Hydro-Québec in various functions, including compliance to reliability standards. Having coordinated and supported the organization during recent regulatory audits, he holds practical insights aimed at turning audits into a true driver of continuous improvement.

Jack Gibfried, Engineer II, Engineering & Security Integration, NERC

Jack Gibfried is an Engineer II at the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). In this role, Jack is involved in NERC's efforts related to its Large Loads Action Plan as well as other work. Jack is a coordinator for the NERC Large Loads Working Group (LLWG), performs dynamic analysis and other assessments, supports NERC standards development, and coordinates with Interconnection-wide modeling groups. Before joining NERC in 2024, Jack spent three years in an Operations Planning Engineer role and held a NERC Reliability Coordinator System Operator certification.

Lauren Gattone, Director, E-ISAC Security Operation, NERC

As the Director of Security Operations at the E-ISAC, Lauren Gattone leads teams dedicated to safeguarding critical infrastructure by delivering actionable intelligence on emerging threats, adversarial tactics, and trends related to cyber and physical security to key stakeholders. With a background in intelligence collection, operational security, and incident response, Lauren facilitates timely intelligence sharing and industry collaboration aimed at improving security posture across the North American electricity grid. Prior to

joining the E-ISAC, Lauren managed a large team of investigative analysts at the Washington, DC Metropolitan Police Department, further honing expertise in investigative operations and rapid incident response. Lauren began her career at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), supporting a critical mission and collaborating on investigations with local, state, and federal law enforcement.

Christian Cruz-Sanchez, *Spécialiste en régulation économique*, Régie de l'énergie

Mr. Cruz-Sanchez has been with the Régie since February 2022 as a *Spécialiste en régulation économique* as part of the reliability standards compliance monitoring team. He acts as project manager for the Régie's committee established to manage the amounts collected following the imposition of financial penalties in the event a failure to comply with reliability standards has occurred. He has more than four years of experience in project engineering within the aviation sector. He holds a Bachelor of Aerospace Engineering from École Polytechnique of Montréal, a Post Graduate Degree (DESS) of Business Administration and a Master of Sustainability Management from École des Hautes Études Commerciales of Montréal. He holds the CC certification from ISC2.

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