



Edison Electric
INSTITUTE

EEI Emergency Response Programs and Playbooks

OVERVIEW

The EEI Emergency Response Programs and Playbooks document provides a high-level outline of event preparedness and response resources available to EEI members. This document focuses on the areas of equipment sharing, mutual assistance, and other topics such as support for unmanned aircraft systems and electricity sector coordination. Points of contact for engagement with each respective listing can be found throughout the document below.

MUTUAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Mutual Assistance Networks

Edison Electric Institute (“EEI”) member companies have established and implemented an effective system, organized in seven regional groups, whereby member companies may receive and provide assistance in the form of personnel and equipment to aid in restoring and/or maintaining electricity service after disruptions.

EEI’s mutual assistance program is a voluntary partnership of investor-owned electric companies across the country committed to helping restore power whenever and wherever assistance is needed. Created decades ago, our mutual assistance program provides a formal, yet flexible, process for electric companies to request support from other electric companies in parts of the country that have not been affected by major outage events. Municipal utilities and electric cooperatives also own mutual aid programs that provide restoration support to their participating utilities. EEI communicates regularly with associations that serve municipal and cooperative utilities during major outage incidents.

- [EEI Mutual Assistance Overview](#)
- [“Understanding the Electric Power Industry’s Response and Restoration Process”](#)

POC: Wally Mealiea (wmealiea@eei.org); Chris Eisenbrey (ceisenbrey@eei.org)

National Response Event (NRE) Framework and Playbook

Edison Electric Institute’s (EEI) members developed the National Response Event (NRE) framework to meet the challenge of supporting members’ restoration resource needs during major outages that have a national impact. EEI members identify two levels of NRE response. The critical difference between the two NRE levels is whether the event requires the national-level allocation of restoration resources due to the number of Regional Mutual Assistance Groups (RMAGs) impacted or due to resource constraints between RMAGs.

A Level 1 National Response Event is an electric company event where:

- A significant threat is forecast to occur, or is occurring, where expected or actual resource requirements are greater than what the impacted RMAG(s) can supply, and
- Resources from other RMAGs are available without causing resource constraints or competition between RMAGs.

A Level 1 NRE is activated by the National Response Executive Committee based on situational awareness of the forecast (or occurring) threat. During a Level 1 NRE, resources will continue to be allocated by the impacted RMAG(s), with the support of EEI members nationwide. All NRE roles (described below) will work to provide appropriate national-level situational awareness, as well as operational and communications support to the impacted RMAG(s). RMAGs will continue to allocate restoration resources following their established procedures.

A Level 2 NRE is an electric company event where:

- It is expected to or has impacted two or more Regional Mutual Assistance Groups (RMAGs); and
- The resource requirements are greater than what the impacted RMAGs can provide; or
- Multiple events are creating a resource constraint or competition between RMAGs. A Level 2 NRE is requested by the Chief Executive Officers (or designated officers) of requesting EEI member companies when multiple RMAGs cannot adequately support the resource requirements of the requesting companies.

Once the Level 2 NRE is activated, all available resources (line workers, tree trimmers, damage assessors, logistical support, etc.) are allocated at the national level across RMAGs and individual companies based on transparent and objective criteria. This playbook should be used by all NRE participants as a reference guide during the event and should be tested in tabletop and functional exercises annually. Updates to the playbook should be based on lessons learned from the after-action review (AAR) following actual events or exercises.

The NRE process is overseen by the National Response Executive Committee (NREC) comprised of senior-level member company executives from all regions of the country. The allocation of restoration resources during a Level 2 NRE is managed by the National Mutual Assistance Resource Team (NMART). NMART's members are the officers of the EEI Mutual Assistance/Emergency Preparedness Committee and one representative from each RMAG.

- [National Response Event \(NRE\) Community](#)

POC: Wally Mealiea (wmealiea@eei.org); Chris Eisenbrey (ceisenbrey@eei.org)

Cyber Mutual Assistance (CMA)

Building on the industries' culture of mutual assistance and informed by lessons learned from major destructive cyber incidents overseas as well as by exercises held in North America, the ESCC directed the formation of the Cyber Mutual Assistance (CMA) Program. CMA is a natural extension of the electric power and natural gas industries' longstanding approach of sharing critical personnel and equipment when responding to emergencies. By coordinating with the government and providing mutual assistance to address cyber threats, the electric power and natural gas industries are enhancing our nation's ability to defend and protect against threats and to meet customers' expectations.

- [Cyber Mutual Assistance Backgrounder](#)

POC: cma@electricitysubsector.org

SPARE EQUIPMENT PROGRAMS

Spare Transformer Equipment Program (STEP)

The Spare Transformer Equipment Program (STEP) provides a ready mechanism for participating entities to share assets if existing equipment is destroyed. Each participating electric company enters a binding contract that provides legally enforceable rights to access hard-to-replace transformers committed to STEP. Under STEP, each participating electric company is required to maintain and, if necessary, acquire a specific number of transformers. STEP requires each participating company to sell its spare transformers to any other participating company that suffers a "triggering event," defined as an act of terrorism that destroys or disables one or more substations and results in the declared state of emergency or grid security emergency by the president of the United States.

STEP membership is primarily made up of EEl companies but also includes transmission-owning power marketing administrations and public power utilities. EEl's role is to administer and support the program, but contractually involved member companies have responsibility over the program's functions.

- [Spare Transformer Issues & Policy Overview](#)
- [Spare Equipment Initiatives Three-Pager](#)

POC: Wally Mealiea (wmealiea@eei.org); Ken Hall (khall@hallenergyconsulting.com)

SpareConnect

The SpareConnect program provides an additional mechanism for Bulk Power System (BPS) asset owners and operators to network with other SpareConnect participants concerning the possible sharing of transmission and generation step-up (GSU) transformers and related equipment, including bushings, fans, and auxiliary components. SpareConnect establishes a confidential, unified platform for the entire electric industry to communicate equipment needs in the event of an emergency or other non-routine failure.

SpareConnect was developed by EEl in coordination with industry partners including the sector trade associations. EEl actively supports the SpareConnect program and administers the portal established for members to coordinate equipment sharing.

- [SpareConnect Portal](#)
- [Spare Equipment Initiatives Three-Pager](#)

POC: info@spareconnect.com

Grid Assurance

This 'first of its kind' spare equipment service is designed to help shield customers from the devastating impacts of prolonged transmission outages. In particular, Grid Assurance (1) maintains an incremental inventory of new and dedicated critical long lead-time spare transformers, circuit breakers, and related

transmission equipment, (2) provides secure domestic warehousing of the inventory of spares in strategic locations, and (3) maintains up-to-date, executable preplanned transportation and logistics plans that support expedited delivery of spare equipment to subscribers as needed to respond to emergencies.

- [Grid Assurance Website](#)
- [Spare Equipment Initiatives Three-Pager](#)

POC: Dale Russell (rdrussell@aep.com)

Restore (NATF)

The NATF's RESTORE program is designed to enhance the resiliency and reliability of the energy grid by providing additional sources for obtaining critical equipment following disastrous events. This optional, self-funding program is available to NATF members for a minimal additional cost. The program establishes a voluntary-but-formal agreement between transmission owners to commit to share (own, maintain, and sell to one another) available spare equipment (e.g., spare transformers and other transmission equipment) for an event that results in major damage to the transmission grid. RESTORE is supplemental to, and not intended to be a replacement for, any current industry programs, such as EEI's Spare Transformer Equipment Program (STEP) or Grid Assurance.

- [NATF RESTORE Program Website](#)
- [Spare Equipment Initiatives Three-Pager](#)

POC: Ken Keels (kkeels@natf.net)

Transformer Transportation Working Group (TTWG)

The Transformer Transportation Working Group (TTWG) is for representatives from across the sector involved in the movement of large transformers and heavy equipment used by electric companies. The TTWG provides a forum for members to share information and update the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council (ESCC) Transformer Transportation Emergency Support Guide (ESG). The ESG provides guidance on how to obtain support from government and private sector transportation partners during incidents that require the emergency movement of large transmission power transformers (LTPTs) or other heavy equipment.

- [TTWG Community](#)
 - [Executive Overview](#)
 - [Emergency Support Guide](#)

POC: Wally Mealiea (wmealiea@eei.org); Chris Eisenbrey (ceisenbrey@eei.org)

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

ESCC Playbook

The CEO-led Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council (ESCC) serves as the principal liaison between the federal government and the electric power industry, with the mission of coordinating efforts to prepare for, and respond to, national-level disasters or threats to critical infrastructure. The ESCC focuses on actions and strategies that help protect the energy grid, prevent various threats from disrupting electricity service, and develop capabilities that help the sector quickly respond and recover when major incidents impact the grid.

The ESCC Playbook provides a framework for collaboration, addressing both steady state and crisis state activities by outlining the role and responsibilities of the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council (ESCC) during such events.

- [ESCC Community](#)

POC: secretariat@electricitysubsector.org

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Working Group

The Unmanned Aircraft Systems Working Group was established as the industry forum for shareholder-owned electric company subject matter experts to influence UAS public policy and to advise on both technical and strategic issues affecting EEI members. The UAS Working Group and its members serve to educate and advise the EEI Chief Executive Officers and Board of Directors as they discuss, develop, and shape the implementation of public policy as it relates to UAS. The UAS Working Group also serves as a resource for the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regarding issues surrounding member company uses of UAS.

- [UAS Community](#)

POC: Chris Eisenbrey (ceisenbrey@eei.org); Tim Kuhl (timkuhl@eei.org)

Current as of June 2021



Edison Electric Institute
701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004-2696
202-508-5000 | www.eei.org