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Mapping Committee Meeting Minutes for October 08, 2021

Attendees:

PUC - Thomas Gleeson, Connie Corona, Andrew Barlow, Cindy Guerrero, David Smeltzer, Tom Hunter, Mike Hoke, Therese Harris, Rama Singh Rastogi, Rebecca Zerwas, Komal Patel, Gary Horton, Keith Rogas, Brady Cox, Chuck Bondurant, Shawn Hazard, Ramya Ramaswamy, Harika Basaran

RRC – Wei Wang, R J DeSilva, Jason Clark, Brandon Harris, Natalie Dubiel, Ashley Hyten, Edgar Chavez

TDEM – Nim Kidd, Blair Walsh

ERCOT – Brad Jones, Bill Blevins

Report from Thomas Gleeson, Executive Director, PUC

- Updated the committee about feedback to have more details on the supply chain committee meetings
- Suggested that the January meeting of the committee be a public meeting where agency staff can share a more comprehensive project update and seek public input. This suggestion was unanimously agreed by other agency heads.
- To prepare for the upcoming winter, he shared that there was a suggestion to have a high-level map of critical natural gas entities that feed the power generation supply chain. RRC is working on getting the data organized for this.
- Shared suggestion to have a Hurricane season map. Hurricane season starts June 1 – (not have a final map by then but something to work with).

Project Team Updates

Communications Team - Andrew Barlow

PUC had an internal meeting on Wednesday, 10/6/21 to discuss implementation of communications requirements. Interpretation of rule evolving from initial understanding of public outreach communications to a focus on connecting key agencies with their regulated community, both before and during potential disaster events. Key takeaway: the ESF 12 document relating to emergency communications already has guidance that need only be mapped to include affected agencies and their constituents.

Critical Facilities Team – David Smeltzer

Preliminary information about power gen assets has been shared with RRC and RRC is moving ahead with gathering more specific information about NG entities connected to power generation assets.

Database Team – (update provided by Therese Harris)

- PUCT and RRC met to discuss options to securely share information jointly collected from entities in the electricity supply chain
- Chuck Bondurant confirmed that Arc GIS online are not subject to NERC CIP requirements. PUCT will keep all data confidential

Report Team – Tom Hunter

- Going over various information sources for guidance on best practices for operating critical infrastructure, oversight and compliance practices and for inter-agency communication practices
- Aiming to have a draft report ready by early November with the final report expected to be ready by the second week of December.

Weatherization Team – Ramya Ramaswamy

- Rule will be proposed for adoption on Thursday, Oct 14.
- Rule requires all generation resources & TSP's to be weatherized for the upcoming winter.
- Rule also requires the generation resources to weatherize their fuel delivery systems within their fence.
- Working closely with ERCOT and they are preparing to inspect generation resources & TSPs

Mapping Team – Therese Harris

- MOU between RRC and PUCT signed!
 - Extension of MOU to ERCOT and TDEM.
- Confidential sharing of data can begin. The team can now jointly work to construct the electricity supply chain map.
- Weekly TEAM meetings with RRC mapping team began July 16, 2021 and are ongoing.
 - Continue work to identify gaps and overlaps in data between RRC and PUC.
 - GIS developers will meet regularly to discuss mapping techniques to inform the workflow and process for building the electricity supply chain map.
 - I reported last time that the PUC set up ArcGIS online group to test sharing of datasets. Goal was to determine if sharing files via ArcGIS online satisfies the security and data requirements of the team. Testing was successful.

RRC and PUCT have agreed to share GIS datasets through ArcGIS online.

- RRC and PUCT continue work on the schedule of milestones and work plan.
 - Goal is to have a completed electricity supply chain map by May 1, 2022 in order to facilitate testing and committee review.
- PUCT and RRC GIS mappers will continue to seek steady feedback and guidance from the larger electricity supply chain security and mapping committee regarding what attributes of the critical infrastructure are most important, and how the data should appear on the map.
- Upcoming: Meet with TDEM and PUC and RRC staff that are activated to the SOC during emergencies to determine what information is essential to include in the attribute tables of the critical infrastructure in the electricity supply chain.
- ERCOT DATA
 - ERCOT staff have been very helpful. Provided additional information to PUCT to provide the long names for operators of generation units and more descriptive names for substations.

DPS

- Seek information relating to critical infrastructure as defined by Section 421.001, Government Code and PURA 38.203(2).
- Met with DPS TX Mappers. We found out they also rely on Homeland Infrastructure Foundation Level Database for some of their information. We have the public version and are exploring the necessity of obtaining the confidential portions.

TDEM – Chief Nim Kidd

- Suggested that the following agencies partake in the mapping meetings to ensure that the emergency management plans of different agencies are synchronized and effective during emergencies
 - Texas Department of Safety
 - Texas Department of Transportation
 - Texas Forest Service
 - He shared that these agencies may be instrumental in ensuring that access roads to critical assets are cleared during weather and other emergencies.
- Suggested that there must be operational visibility of the supply chain through State Operations Center (SOC) to all the teams involved in the mapping committee.

RRC – Wei Wang, Executive Director

- Shared that RRC will be sending a Notice to O&G operators which will have three key elements specified
 - Take all necessary action to weatherize

- Update your critical load designation with ERCOT
 - List recommended best practices to weatherize
- He mentioned this notice will be useful while their critical load proposed rule is in the process of being finalized
- Wang also mentioned they RRC will be working on defining criterion for Critical Load Designation and also try to ascertain a method to prioritize critical NG entities

ERCOT – Brad Jones, Interim CEO

- Provided brief comments on ERCOT participation in data sharing with RRC

Conclusion

Next meeting will be scheduled for November 19, 2021