



Black Sky Subcommittee Meeting Minutes June 18, 2021

Chair Gladys Dutrieuille convened the meeting of Black Sky Subcommittee, followed by introductions from the membership of the Subcommittee. The meeting agenda and presentation materials are attached for reference.

Chair Dutrieuille introduced Jonathon Monken and John Heltzel from Converge Strategies to lead the Subcommittee in a detailed discussion of a Use Cases document, which contextualized recent real-world energy crises and the implications for Black Sky preparedness. Cases included the Black Sky events in Puerto Rico after the 2017 hurricane season, Winter Storm Yuri in February 2021, the 2021 California wildfire season, the 2003 Northeast blackout, Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Superstorm Sandy in 2012, and other high-profile events. These cases illustrate the key roles, responsibilities, and requirements for state public utility commissions and state energy officials to effectively respond to a potential Black Sky hazard. The intent of these use cases is demonstrate and amplify themes, challenges, and extraordinary considerations for regulators in Black Sky conditions, and to update the needs assessment accordingly.

The Subcommittee engaged in a robust discussion and provided feedback:

- Outline specifically how the Use Cases document builds on identified gaps and challenges in the Needs Assessment;
- Highlight specific state energy officials and state utility regulators roles and responsibilities in each scenario;
- Apply the Use Case scenarios in appropriate exercises of a Black Sky Playbook;
- Encourage each scenario is useful for commission staff and Commissioners;
- Define approaches to building effective interagency coordination;
- Consider cybersecurity Use Cases that exemplify unique challenges associated with Black Sky cyber hazards; and,
- Ensure that recommended 'lessons learned' become lessons applied and implemented.

The Converge Team and NARUC staff will update the Use Case document with this feedback in mind. The Subcommittee will meet again in September to discuss a draft outline of the Black Sky Technical Playbook.



Attendance

Black Sky Subcommittee Members:

CHAIR: Gladys Brown Dutrieuille - PA Public Utility Commission

Co-Chair: Phil Moeller – EEI

Kim O’Guinn – Arkansas Public Service Commission

Lillian Mateo-Santos – Puerto Rico Energy Bureau

Dan Scripps – Michigan Public Service Commission

Donald (Don) Schumacher – Connecticut Water

Mary Lasky – Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory

Michael E. Bryson - PJM

Richard Mroz – Resolute Strategies

Brandi Martin - DOE

Staff Support:

John Heltzel – EIS Council / Converge Strategies

Jonathon Monken – Converge Strategies

Erin Brousseau – Converge Strategies

David Alexander – PA PUC

Scott Aaronson - EEI

Lynn P. Costantini - NARUC

William McCurry – NARUC

Ashton Rafferty - NARUC