

EPRR Task Force: Black Sky Subcommittee Work Plan

A. Objectives

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) convened the Presidential Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, Recovery, and Resiliency (EPRR Task Force) to consider a range of emergency preparedness, recovery and resiliency topics and related policy issues. Subcommittees of the EPRR TF have undertaken work in four key thematic areas:

1. Federal funding opportunities to support emergency preparedness, recovery, and resiliency initiatives
2. Impact of consensus-based construction standards on federal funding opportunities
3. Black Sky event planning and preparedness
4. COVID lessons learned and best practices

The Black Sky Subcommittee is responsible for developing resources that support NARUC member preparedness in the event of a catastrophic, multi-regional event affecting multiple critical infrastructure sectors. Exceptional levels of collaboration across federal, state, and local governments, relief agencies, and private sector entities are necessary to plan for and build resilience to these hazards. The work of the Black Sky Subcommittee supports the EPRR Task Force's goal of improving state energy emergency response capabilities.

B. Scope

NARUC will leverage the Task Force membership and external expertise to support the Black Sky Subcommittee, which will include subject matter experts across federal, state, and private sector entities including the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) and National Governors Association (NGA). Over the approximately two year initiative, the subcommittee will develop and deliver a technical playbook and identify other potential future action plans to improve state energy emergency response capabilities. A contracted consultant with detailed knowledge of disaster response frameworks and federal and state disaster resources will support the Subcommittee's work efforts. The consultant will:

- Identify, collate, and coalesce a relevant collection of disaster response plans and practices.
- Facilitate a team of task force members and industry experts to build a tailored playbook that includes implementation instructions, templates, and links to preeminent external resources. The playbook will be consistent with and complementary to existing instructional materials while outlining comparable public and private sector roles and responsibilities.
- Identify and scope educational engagements for NARUC, NASEO, and NGA audiences to facilitate black sky playbook adoption and implementation.
- Suggest opportunities to exercise black sky playbook

The Black Sky Subcommittee will also engage in continuous education efforts (e.g., policy papers, external publications, trainings, exercises, panel discussions) focused on how state commissions can better respond to a potential Black Sky event hazard. The Black Sky Subcommittee will use the expert network of its members to recruit panel speakers to engage in educational events.

C. Tasks

Task 1 - Develop work plan and schedule for deliverables.

NARUC staff in conjunction with the members of the Black Sky Subcommittee will develop a work plan that clearly delineates areas of responsibility, contain a process map for how to complete each task, and agreed upon timelines for completing each task. Additionally, the Subcommittee Leadership will review a Scope of Work document for a proposed RFP to engage a consultant with external expertise in disaster response planning to support the Black Sky Subcommittee's content development efforts. The Subcommittee chair will report on the work plan to the full EPRR Task Force at the NARUC annual meeting on November 9-12, 2020.

Timeframe:

- Subcommittee work plan – September 15, 2020 - October 30, 2020
- Consultant work plan – October 2020 - December 30, 2020

Task 2 – Review relevant body of disaster response plans and practices to ensure comprehensive approach to content development for state public utility commission disaster planning.

The Subcommittee will work with NARUC's external consultant to identify, collate, and coalesce a relevant body of disaster plans and practices to inform disaster preparedness content. Such literature may include existing public-and private-sector disaster response plans available in the public domain or voluntarily offered for review. The *Consultant* will summarize key themes and best practices to inform state energy stakeholders' Black Sky planning and response requirements. The summary should include best practices for establishing and enhancing collaborative relationships between federal, state, and private sector entities to facilitate disaster response. The Black Sky Subcommittee will review produced literature review.

Timeframe: Initial version November 2020 – March 2021; expansion ongoing

Task 3 – Prepare a needs assessment and use cases

Based on the output of Task 2, the Black Sky Subcommittee will work with NARUC staff and external consultant to articulate key roles and responsibilities of state utility regulators in planning for and responding to Black Sky events. The consultant and NARUC staff will prepare use cases to further refine and clarify state utility regulator roles and responsibilities for Subcommittee consideration. Information derived from the needs assessment and use cases will inform the activities to be included in the Black Sky Playbook.

Timeframe:

- Needs Assessment – January 2021 - April 2021
- Use Case development - March 2021 - May 2021

Task 4 – Draft outline for Black Sky playbook.

Working with the consultant and NARUC staff, the Black Sky Subcommittee will prepare a content outline of a technical Black Sky planning and response playbook for state public utility commissions. The outline will reflect information gleaned through the needs assessment and feedback on the use cases and address complementary efforts in the energy sector to prepare for a black sky event. The playbook will incorporate references to those external efforts.

Timeframe: May 2021 - September 2021

Task 5 – Develop the Black Sky Playbook.

Supported by the consultant and NARUC staff, the Black Sky Subcommittee will develop a technical planning and response playbook for state public utility commissions. The playbook will include implementation instructions, templates, and links to preeminent external resources to ensure consistency and complement cross-sector roles. The playbook will become a reference document for all state commissions to adequately prepare for, recover from, and rebuild a more resilient system in the event of a Black Sky hazard.

Timeframe: October 2021 - September 2022

Task 6 –Create ongoing educational programming to inform NARUC members, non-member stakeholders, experts, and policymakers about available resources and tools to prepare for a Black Sky event.

The Black Sky Event Subcommittee will regularly convene industry experts to share the latest policy and practice developments related to disaster preparedness and planning, recovery efforts, and resiliency. Webinar recordings of expert panel discussions, distribution of NARUC-produced and external publications relevant to the overarching objectives of the EPRR Task Force and Black Sky Event Subcommittee, and roundtables at NARUC meetings will support this Black Sky educational programming effort.

Timeframe: January 2021 - September 2022

D. Major Activities and Leads

Task 1: Develop Work Plan and Schedule Timeframe: September 2020 - December 2020		
Activity	Lead	Timeframe
Appoint members & pre-plan with chair / vice chair	EPRR Task Force Chair Cmr. O’Guinn	September 2020
Kick-off call with Black Sky Subcommittee	NARUC Staff (Will McCurry/Lynn Costantini)	September 21 - October 2, 2020
Finalize Subcommittee work plan	Chair/Vice Chair Supported by NARUC Staff	October - November 2020
Report out on Black Sky Subcommittee Work Plan to EPRR Task Force	Chair/Vice Chair	NARUC Annual Meeting November 9-12, 2020
Complete RFP/execute contract for expert consultant	NARUC Staff	October 2020 – December 31, 2020
Task 2 : Compile library of existing disaster plans and documented best practices and assess regulatory implications Timeframe: November 2020 - February 2021		
Activity	Lead	Timeframe
Compile Disaster Plans and Practices	NARUC Staff/Consultant	January 2021 – March 1, 2021
Publish library on NARUC web site	NARUC Staff	March 2021
Maintain library	NARUC Staff	Ongoing

Task 3: Prepare Needs Assessment and Use Cases Timeframe: January 2021 - April 2021		
Activity	Lead	Timeframe
Prepare needs assessment	Consultant	January 2021 – April 1, 2021
Develop use cases	Consultant	March 2021 – May 1, 2021
Task 4: Create Content Outline for Black Sky Playbook for State Regulators Timeframe: May 2021 - September 2021		
Activity	Lead	Timeframe
Draft content outline leveraging needs assessment and use cases.	Consultant	March 2021 - April 2021
Prepare iterative drafts incorporating reviewers comments	Consultant	May 2021 - August 2021
Approve final outline for submittal to DOE	Chair/Vice Chair	September 30, 2021
Task 5: Prepare Black Sky Playbook for State Regulators Timeframe: October 2021 - September 2022		
Activity	Lead	Timeframe
Build draft playbook from approved content outline	Consultant	October 2021 - December 2021
Prepare iterative drafts incorporating reviewers comments	Consultant	January 2022 - June 2022
Approve final draft playbook for submittal to DOE	Chair/Vice Chair	July 2022
Publish final playbook	NARUC Staff	September 30, 2022
Final Report Out	Chair/Vice Chair	NARUC Annual Meeting November 9-12, 2022
Task 6: Ongoing Educational Programming Timeframe: January 2021 - September 2022		
Activity	Lead	Timeframe
Host quarterly webinars	NARUC Staff/Chair and Vice Chair staff	Quarterly basis – Starting January 2021
Offer NARUC meeting sessions	NARUC Staff/Chair and Vice Chair staff	NARUC Winter Policy Summits February 2021/February 2022 NARUC Summer Policy Summits July 2021/July 2022

E. Key Dates

The Black Sky subcommittee will meet monthly throughout the duration of the initiative. The broader EPRR Task Force will convene at each NARUC meeting, with an expectation of receiving progress updates from the subcommittees.

Meeting	Date(s)
Kick off call	Week of Sept. 28 - October 2
Monthly calls Subcommittee calls	TBD at standing day/time
NARUC 2020 Annual Meeting	November 9-12, 2020
NARUC 2021 Winter Policy Summit	February 7-10, 2021
NARUC 2021 Summer Policy Summit	July 18-21, 2021
NARUC 2021 Annual Meeting	November 7-11, 2021
NARUC 2022 Winter Policy Summit	February 13-16, 2022
NARUC Summer Policy Summit	July 17-20, 2022