# Emergent Threats Roundtable

Webinar: The Real and Present Threat to America's Power Grid

May 1, 2023 @ 1:00-2:30pm EST

Co-hosted by:

RUTGERS Miller Center on Policing & Community Resilience

GCLETE Global Consortium of Law Enforcement Training Executives

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

uOttawa Institut de développement professionnel Professional Development Institute

AVANGRID

ASIS INTERNATIONAL Advancing Security Worldwide®

NCRI NETWORK CONTAGION RESEARCH INSTITUTE

RUTGERS Center for Critical Intelligence Studies

STATE POLICE NJ

Sponsored by:

Skydio

## PANEL 1

### Industry Panel Discussion

After describing the structure and layout of the U.S. electric grid, a panel comprising some of the most prominent security executives in the power industry will discuss the grid's unique threats, vulnerabilities, and adversaries. Analysis of recent attacks on the power supply will shed light on challenges, gaps, opportunities, and success stories.

## PANEL 2

### Law Enforcement Panel Discussion

Since 90 percent of critical infrastructure is in the hands of the private sector, law enforcement often finds itself behind the curve in understanding the risk profile of the electric power supply, resourcing protection efforts, and investigating attacks against the grid. Law enforcement executives experienced in protecting the U.S. energy infrastructure will delve into best practices, including in liaising and information sharing with their private sector counterparts.

Webinar Registration Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aL3_YGXRRuCG9UG4VN-qnw

## Webinar Overview

Until it's interrupted, citizens don't truly appreciate the electric grid. A reliable source of power runs computers, refrigerates food, enables communication, allows retailers to do business, and operates hospital equipment. That all stops when the power goes down, and negative effects quickly cascade.

The country has witnessed an alarming increase in physical attacks on electric utilities. The number of incidents of intrusion, vandalism, and gunfire jumped 71 percent between 2021 and 2022. The consequences can be severe. After two gunmen fired at electric substations in North Carolina, 45,000 people were left without power. In February, two neo-Nazis were arrested for plotting to shoot at substations in Baltimore with the goal of instigating racial hatred. Domestic Violent Extremists (DVE) have critical infrastructure owners and operators squarely in their crosshairs.

This timely webinar will take the form of a series of panel discussions among experts in law enforcement, government, and private industry. Panels will include: an overview of the grid, its security, and recent attacks on infrastructure; best practices for law enforcement; and public-private information sharing.

# Agenda
## Emergent Threats Roundtable
The Real and Present Threat to America's Power Grid

## Learning Objectives

➢ Learn the current risk level (threats, vulnerabilities, consequences) of the power grid.

➢ Understand the trend of physical, cyber, social, and combined attacks on the electrical infrastructure.

➢ Get best practices on how law enforcement can help protect the vast electrical infrastructure.

➢ Find out which information-sharing practices are the most beneficial and successful.

## Introductions & Level Set
Brian Harrell – VP & Chief Security Officer at Avangrid
Paul Goldenberg – Chief Advisor, Policy and Global Policing, Rutgers Miller Center on Policing

## Panel 1 – Industry
Moderator: Michael Gips – Former Chief Global Knowledge and Learning Officer at ASIS
Mark Weatherford – former Chief Security Officer at North American Electric Reliability Corporation
Eric Barnhart – Chief Security Officer at Portland General Electric
Adam Lee – VP & Chief Security Officer at Dominion Energy
Aric Mutchnick – President of Red Ball Drills

## Panel 2 – Law Enforcement
Moderator: Paul Goldenberg – Rutgers University Miller Center on Policing
Panelists:  Sheriff Paul Fitzgerald – Story County, Iowa
Major Larry Williams – New Jersey State Police
Chief Jack Donohue (NYPD ret.) – Network Contagion Research Institute

## Closing Remarks
Brian Harrell – VP & Chief Security Officer at Avangrid
Paul Goldenberg – Chief Advisor, Policy and Global Policing, Rutgers Miller Center on Policing

## Background

The threats to our nation's power grid are not just physical, but cyber and social as well. The Government Accountability Office has published multiple reports on the cyber vulnerability. Grid distribution systems have grown more vulnerable because they increasingly allow remote access. The GAO has noted that "nations and criminal groups pose the most significant cyber threats to U.S. critical infrastructure."

In addition, the power grid is targeted by misinformation and disinformation that appears online and on social media. For example, opponents of wind energy have claimed that wind turbines cause everything from birth defects in horses to wind turbine syndrome—which allegedly produces ills ranging from ADHD to cancer. Those reputational attacks can undermine public confidence and lead to kinetic actions against power companies, including assaults on employees.

Cyberattacks can have devastating physical consequences as well. The oil industry, which like the power grid uses Industrial Control Systems (ICS), provides an analogous example. The 2021 ransomware attack on Colonial Pipeline disrupted oil supplies on the East Coast and caused gas scarcity, hoarding, and price gouging.

To complicate the matter, law enforcement is not well equipped to protect the grid, most of which is held in private hands. Police are often unfamiliar with the electrical infrastructure, even though interruption of power could paralyze the community, and the communication between law enforcement and utilities is spotty at best. Moreover, attacks against utilities are becoming more aggressive and frequent, and little is known about the perpetrators and how they are leveraging social media.