



NARUC
National Association of Regulatory
Utility Commissioners

For Immediate Release

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NARUC Releases New Cybersecurity Baselines for Electric Distribution Systems and DER

WASHINGTON (February 22, 2024) — The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, in collaboration with the U. S. Department of Energy Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response, today released a set of cybersecurity baselines for electric distribution systems and distributed energy resources that connect to them. This joint initiative recognizes that cybersecurity is an integral underpinning of power system resilience and builds on work that states have undertaken over the last decade to address cybersecurity risks across their critical infrastructures.

These cybersecurity baselines, coupled with forthcoming implementation guidance, are intended to be resources for state public utility commissions, utilities and DER operators and aggregators. These resources encourage alignment across states who choose to adopt the cybersecurity baselines to help mitigate cybersecurity risk and enhance grid security. NARUC convened a steering group of regulatory, cyber and industry experts from across the sector to help ensure that a wide range of perspectives were considered during the development phase.

“Addressing cybersecurity is essential as electric distribution systems continue to evolve, spurred by new technologies and operational models, as well as the ever-increasing threat of cyber attacks,” said NARUC Executive Director Greg White. “This NARUC/DOE initiative complements ongoing industry and government efforts by providing cybersecurity baselines, tailored for electric distribution systems and the DER that connect to them, that provide a common starting point for cyber risk reduction activities.”

NARUC and DOE will now kick off Phase 2 of the cybersecurity baselines initiative: Developing implementation strategies and adoption guidelines. This resource will include recommendations for prioritizing the assets to which the cybersecurity baselines might apply, as well as prioritizing the order in which the baselines might be implemented based on cyber risk assessments.

“Creating implementation guidance is the natural next step to helping commissions and other stakeholders ensure that cybersecurity protections are applied on the electric distribution grid where they matter most,” said NARUC Center for Partnerships and Innovation Deputy Director Lynn Costantini.

Phase 2 implementation guidance is expected by the end of 2024.

Download and read *Cybersecurity Baselines for Electric Distribution Utilities* and DER at <https://bit.ly/cybersecurity-baselines>.

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About NARUC

NARUC is a non-profit organization founded in 1889 whose members include the governmental agencies that are engaged in the regulation of utilities and carriers in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. NARUC's member agencies regulate telecommunications, energy, and water utilities. NARUC represents the interests of state public utility commissions before the three branches of the federal government.