Our next step in strengthening public power cybersecurity

As public power utilities continue to counter cyber threats to the critical infrastructure they manage, they need to have accessible, trusted technology solutions, data analysis, and information sharing networks that fit their unique size and needs.

From selecting vendors who understand your operational technologies (OT) and network architectures to being able to engage in meaningful information sharing, there is much to be gained from our collective knowledge and experiences.

Through funding from the Department of Energy Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER), the American Public Power Association is helping the public power community to instill a culture of collective defense.

Through a multi-year effort, we aim to:

Make the purchasing and deployment process easier. This project will help utilities evaluate and deploy the best solutions for their network by developing common specifications, criteria, and guidance for successful deployment of OT monitoring systems and evaluating vendors against these factors.

Refine and reform OT data analysis. We will explore the benefits, barriers, and gaps of different data analysis methods – including those that analyze all data or only detected threats – and establish an OT threat intelligence analysis and information sharing process in partnership with industry cybersecurity analysis centers.

Ease independent information analysis. Including developing key elements to allow OT cybersecurity data to move securely and anonymously from public power utilities to analysis providers, including a framework and methodology for information sharing, legal agreements, and stable data connection technologies.

Better curate threat information. We will work in partnership with energy and public sector industry cybersecurity analysis centers to refine how public power organizations receive alerts in an effort to maximize the chance of OT threat detection and mitigation – especially at utilities with limited cybersecurity staff.

Leverage the public power network. We are building a Cybersecurity Defense Community, comprised of representatives from public power utilities, joint action agencies, and state/regional associations that can inform all program activities to ensure they meet cybersecurity needs and best practices for public power.

Learn more about the effort at **www.PublicPower.org/Cyber-Defense.** For further questions, or to volunteer to participate in the Cybersecurity Defense Community, email **Cybersecurity@PublicPower.org.**

AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION
Powering Strong Communities