

EARTH EX™ 2017

Emergency All-sector Response
Transnational Hazard Exercise™

August 23, 2017

OVERVIEW



EARTH EX is part of the National Exercise Program, sponsored by the United States Department of Energy.

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Today's lifeline infrastructures are interconnected and resourced on unprecedented scales, with supply chains spanning the nation and, increasingly, the world. With this growing integration and global reach, they have brought us remarkable capabilities.

At a price.

Concerns have grown over the potential for severe malicious or natural "Black Sky" hazards associated with subcontinent scale, long duration power outages, with cascading failure of all our other increasingly interdependent infrastructures. This creates a grim and difficult dilemma: Restoration of any sector will only be possible with at least minimal operation of all the others.

To deal with this deadlock, careful sector by sector and cross-sector resilience planning is crucial. However, such plans, to be effective, must be exercised. With the diversity and the national and global scale of the infrastructures we now depend on, this requires an unprecedented, multi-sector, national and international exercise series.

WHAT IS EARTH EX?

EARTH EX is an evolving, distributed, collaborative partner-developed exercise designed to meet this need. Hosted by EIS Council as part of the EPRO® Resource Family, these annual multi-sector, international exercises are being developed to evaluate and improve restoration support, preparedness, response and recovery plans for severe hazards. As the series continues, it will provide increasing opportunities to enhance coordinated planning across all infrastructure sectors, and their corporate, government and NGO partners.

MISSION

EARTH EX is designed to improve community resilience to large scale, long duration power outages through multi-sector exercises



All Sectors

Develop or Review Resilience Policies and Plans in a

“Come as you are” Exercise: Participation is voluntary and open to all organizations that need to be prepared for long duration power outages. The exercise is designed for self-evaluation, with distributed play conducted using electronic tools, and local facilitation for feedback and execution. Provides an opportunity to validate or examine new plans such as Power Outage Incident Annexes within the region or at headquarters in Washington, DC

Prioritization and Coordination across Multiple

Sectors: EARTH EX is constructed as a multi-sector scenario. Participants receive situational awareness updates from each of the critical sectors, providing a broad immersive environment simulating real world impacts of the scenario. Specific features for different sectors include:

Electric Subsector

Provides opportunities to evaluate interdependencies and priorities for situational awareness and resource prioritization for generation, transmission and distribution.

Other Sectors

For other infrastructure sectors and for corporate, government and NGO partners, provides opportunities for internal assessment, resource accountability and evaluation of needs and priorities for coordinated, cross-sector support.

Individual and Family Lane

Evaluate personal preparedness and train for severe outage scenarios.

Dynamic, Multi-Phase Four-Hour Exercise: EARTH EX 2017 includes three one-hour dynamic exercise phases representing different aspects of the response and recovery timeline, and one reflective phase. Each phase begins with a framing scenario inject, using sector-specific injects for each exercise “lane,” developed by key stakeholders in that sector.

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Exercise Description

EARTH EX will advance through the following three dynamic phases, followed by a final “lessons imagined” assessment and feedback phase.

Phase 1	Day 3	Widespread Power Outage/No Solution
Phase 2	Days 4-6	Widespread Power Outage/Critical Decisions, Assessments & Actions
Phase 3	Day 15....	Ongoing Widespread Power Outage, Black Start, Communications, Cross Sector Coordination
Phase 4		"Lessons Imagined:" Assessment and Feedback

Multi-Sector Objectives

Provides an opportunity for all sectors to explore key roles, in an exercise that includes lifeline infrastructure utilities, and other corporate, State, Federal and Local Government and NGO partners. All participating organizations will examine sector-specific and cross-sector restoration, response and population sustainment issues, options, plans and playbooks associated with subcontinent scale Black Sky power outages. Cross-sector communication and coordination considerations will be highlighted as a special focus.

Participating Sectors

Private Sector

- Electricity
- Oil and Natural Gas
- Water and Wastewater
- First Responders
- Information Management
- Situational Awareness
- Other Private Sector Corporations

Government Sector

U.S. and allied government departments and agencies; Federal, State and Local

- Energy
- Emergency Management
- Critical Infrastructure
- Security / Defense
- Health
- Regulatory

Mass Care NGOs

(Non-Governmental Organizations)

Individuals and Families

For more information or to register, visit www.eiscouncil.org



The Electric Infrastructure Security Council, Inc. EIS Council hosts national and international collaboration on resilience and whole community restoration and response planning, addressing severe, national and global scale hazards to lifeline infrastructures.