

Energy Sector Government Coordinating Council Charter

I. Official Designation

The official designation of this Council is the Energy Sector Government Coordinating Council; herein, after referred to as the “EGCC.”

II. Objective

The objective of the EGCC is to provide effective coordination of Energy Sector efforts to ensure a secure, reliable, and resilient energy infrastructure. The EGCC will address initiatives to include policy considerations, program goals, and communication across government as well as between the government and the private sector to support the Nation’s energy security and resilience mission in accordance with the Presidential Policy Directive 21: Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience, the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) NIPP 2013 as well as the National Security Strategy.

- The EGCC acts as the counterpart and governmental sector partner to the industry-led Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council (ESCC) and the Oil and Natural Gas Subsector Coordinating Council (ONG SCC) in supporting the planning, implementation, and execution of timely and necessary sector-wide resilience and reliability programs for the Nation’s critical energy infrastructure.
- The EGCC is an advisory group and does not encroach upon or abrogate the legal or regulatory responsibilities of the participants.
- The EGCC endeavors to serve as a single point of contact to facilitate communication between the government and the private sector when preparing for and responding to issues and threats resulting from physical, cybersecurity, or weather-related disasters of national significance impacting the Energy Sector.
- The EGCC supports the Energy Sector goals and priorities established in the Energy Sector-Specific Plan (SSP).

III. Scope of Activity

The EGCC will accomplish the objectives through the following essential activities:

- Identifying issues that need interagency and public-private coordination and communication to advance critical infrastructure security and resilience.
- Identifying and proposing collaborative strategies to correct or eliminate needs/gaps; overlaps and conflicts in plans, programs, policies; and procedures in order to more efficiently use government resources and reduce unnecessary burden on the sector.
- Facilitating the sharing of approaches and results of successful programs related to critical infrastructure security and resilience.
- Leveraging complementary resources within and between the interagency and industry including securely sharing information which has been collected to lessen duplicative requests and the burden on industry.
- Improving coordination and consolidation of government-led exercises, voluntary programs, and reporting which involve participation from the energy sector.

- Acknowledging and responding to the concerns of the sector, from both public and private partners, and working in coordination to address and resolve those concerns when possible.

IV. Membership

The EGCC membership will be composed of Federal, State, local, territorial, and tribal government departments and agencies with responsibilities involving the safety, security, preparedness, response, and resilience of the Energy Sector.

Specific government department offices and agencies as well as representative associations are designated as standing members of the EGCC, due to their engagement with the Energy Sector and/or pipeline and maritime facilities and systems that are integral to the Energy Sector.

Standing members of the EGCC include:

- Bonneville Power Administration
- Executive Office of the President
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners
- National Association of State Energy Officials
- Natural Resources Canada
- Public Safety Canada
- Southeastern Power Administration
- Southwestern Power Administration
- Tennessee Valley Authority
- Western Area Power Administration
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- U.S. Department of the Interior
- U.S. Department of Justice
- U.S. Department of State
- U.S. Department of Transportation
- U.S. Department of the Treasury
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The EGCC may also ask other departments and agencies to participate in GCC activities on an *ad hoc* basis to meet expertise requirements necessary to fulfill the GCC objectives or due to the department's or agency's involvement with sectors that have interdependencies with the Energy sector. *Ad hoc* participation may be ended at the discretion of the Chair and by determination of the Council when the participant's expertise is no longer required.

Standing EGCC members may also request other offices or units within their own department or agency to participate in GCC meetings and activities based on the need for their subject matter expertise or responsibilities.

V. Roles and Responsibilities

As the Sector-Specific Agency (SSA) for the Energy Sector designated by PPD- 21, the Department of Energy (DOE) Assistant Secretary of the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability will serve as the Chair and provide leadership for the EGCC's activities and meetings. Additionally, in accordance with the NIPP 2013 and the Energy SSP, the DHS Assistant Secretary of Infrastructure Protection Co-chairs the EGCC.

The EGCC brings topics to DOE as the SSA for consideration and discussion. DOE will monitor and ensure that topics are fully considered.

Each standing member will designate a primary representative to the EGCC who should be at the director-level or equivalent to discuss topics on their agency's behalf. The designated representative may appropriately delegate other agency representatives to participate in GCC meetings and activities.

Each standing member will name a primary point of contact for the EGCC and working group chairs and secretariat for the purpose of discussing ongoing business and administrative matters. The agency's primary point of contact should seek out subject matter experts within the agency to participate in GCC and working group activities that are focused on specific topics.

The EGCC member representatives will strive to represent the respective positions of their individual organizations; however, the Council recognizes that members may lack the legal authority to act. However, any actions of the Council or of individual members are not binding on any government entity or organization.

The EGCC Secretariat, provided by DOE and supported by DHS when the GCC or working groups meet with industry in Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council meetings will provide meeting and organizational support including coordination of agenda development, support to the GCC and working group Chairs on maintaining rosters, meeting calendars, meeting minutes, tracking the status of initiatives and work products, other administrative support, logistic arrangements, and supporting communication between GCC members and with the SCC as requested.

VI. Working Groups

The EGCC will establish standing or ad hoc working groups when investigation, research, or other tasks concerning specific topics or activities which cannot be achieved at a regular EGCC session. A working group may be asked to jointly work with a work group of the ESCC and/or ONG SCC on specific issues as well as with other sector working groups. All products of the working groups will be reported to Council members at EGCC meetings.

When establishing working groups, the EGCC:

- Will request that member agencies with equities concerning the working group activities encourage participation as appropriate;
- A GCC member will lead the working group;
- Establish specific and clear charges with time limits when initiating the working group, and request the GCC Secretariat and GCC members to support the working group as desired.
- Standing working groups will be established as needed.

VII. Principles of Participation

All EGCC members and participants are invited to contribute and collaborate to:

- Work towards the same Sector goals and to improve the security, preparedness and resilience of the Nation's Energy Sector;
- Participate in EGCC activities;
- Recognize each EGCC member's statutory responsibilities and experiences, resources, strengths, skills, and perspective during discussion and deliberations.

VIII. Frequency and Conduct of Meetings and Decision Making

The EGCC will meet at least three times per year, with additional meetings held as needed. Members are invited to attend in person or through teleconference.

The EGCC will seek to develop a broad agreement on issues, recommendations, decisions and documents which the Council may discuss. No votes will be taken or recorded. Council members may reach broad agreement, encouraging the exchange of information and points of view.

IX. Charter Amendments

This Charter may be amended as needed under the guidance of the EGCC Chairs and its members.