



Commissioner Andrew Giles Fay **Observes Grid Security Exercise**

The overarching theme for October's Cybersecurity Awareness Month 2020 is

"Do Your Part. #BeCyberSmart."

The theme empowers individuals and organizations to own their role in protecting their part of cyberspace, with a particular emphasis on the key message for 2020:

"If you connect it, protect it."

A proponent of cybersecurity, PSC Commissioner Andrew Giles Fay represents Florida as a member of the National Association of Regulated Utility Commissioners' (NARUC) Critical Infrastructure Committee where he is focused on protecting both the physical and cyber components of Florida's electric grid.

Commissioner Fay observed a series of Grid Security Exercises (GridEx) conducted by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC). NERC explains GridEx as, "an opportunity for utilities to demonstrate how they would respond to and recover from simulated coordinated cyber and physical security threats and incidents, strengthen their crisis communications relationships, and provide input for lessons learned." The exercise is conducted every two years.

Exercise participants included: Florida Power & Light Company (Florida's largest utility), the Florida National Guard, the Office of Public Counsel, local governments, and federal liaisons. The organizers used the SimulationDeck platform to receive default cyber and physical threat injects from NERC and also took the opportunity to customize injects specific to Florida. Their customized inject included the possibility of a hurricane hitting the Florida coast while intense cyber security breaches were occurring across the U.S. and Canada.

As noted in the Case Study produced by NARUC, Commissioner Fay said, "The GridEx exercise demonstrated that it is not enough to just rely on preparation to respond to a cyber incident.

"We must continuously test the resiliency of our cyber infrastructure to improve the effectiveness of how our grid responds to cyber challenges."

Commissioner Fay said he agrees that all of us, from consumers to those responsible for maintaining and protecting Florida's electric grid, should be "cyber smart" to keep what's in our control safer and more resilient for everyone!