



Powering Strong Communities

GridEx VI – What, How and Why – Kansas Power Pool

September 17, 2021

Jack Cashin, APPA

About APPA

The voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide

- Public power serves more than **49 million customers** – 15% of all electric utility customers in the U.S.
- Public power **employs 96,000 people**
- Public power utilities represent 60% of the nation's electric utilities

Serves nearly 1,500 utility members & 220 corporate members

- APPA also has joint action agency and state/regional association members

Diverse membership:

- Very large members, like LADWP (1.4 million customers)
- Very small members, like Orlando, OK (93 customers)
- Approximately 50% of members serve less than 5,000 meters

65 full-time staff including lobbyists, engineers, lawyers and other subject matter experts

APPA's Strategic Priorities

- 1) Advocating for Public Power.** Promote policies before the federal government; educate decisionmakers and stakeholders; increase awareness of the public power business model.
- 2) Moving Public Power Forward.** Assist members in addressing technological and regulatory changes; support innovative activities; assist members in meeting workforce challenges.
- 3) Strengthening Grid Security.** Taking an all-hazards approach to create a more resilient and secure grid.
- 4) Promoting Association Excellence Initiative.** Work to increase member engagement and internal efficiencies; grow non-member dues revenue to deliver cost-effective services to members.

APPA's Strategic Priorities

Strengthening Grid Security

- Continue to improve public power's cyber and physical preparedness posture and culture through education, products, and services.
- Facilitate members' response to, and recovery from, events that could impact grid security and facilitate communications for situational awareness and mutual aid, including engaging with senior federal leadership.

GridEx VI Timeline Moves 1 and 2 - What

- Exercise play starts at 10:00 a.m. Eastern on November 16 and on November 17 to allow for coordinated play across time zones
- ESCC Role occurs during Moves 1 and 2

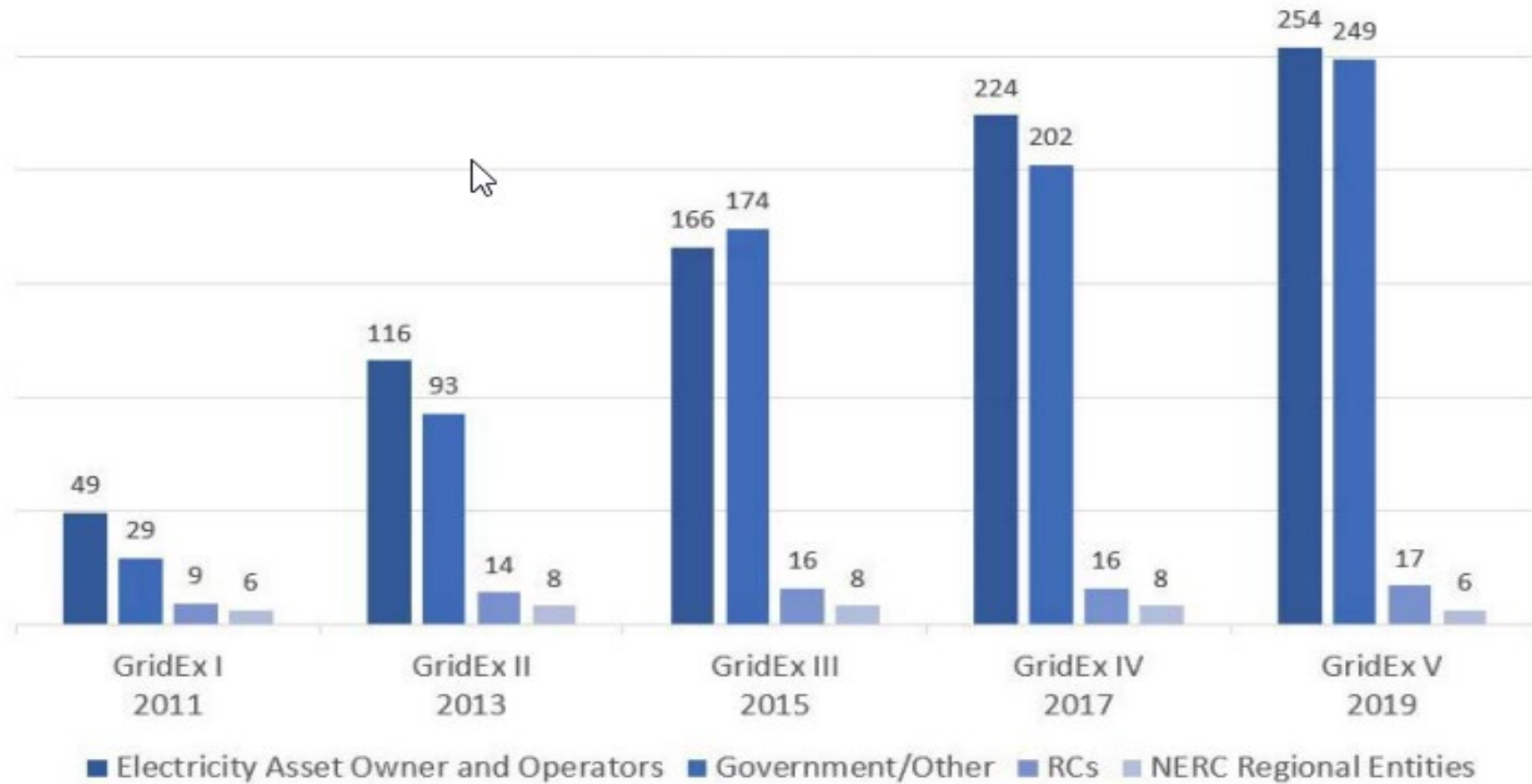
November 16 - Move 1

- 10:00 a.m. – GridEx VI Start Exercise
- 11:00 a.m. – EISAC CEO recommends NERC CEO to recommend ESCC Playbook activation
- 12:00 noon – ESCC Secretariat announces ESCC Playbook activation

November 16 – Move 2

- 2:00 p.m. – ESCC Playbook Call

GridEx Growth Since Its Inception in 2011



GridEx Objectives

- Exercise Incident Response Plans
- Expand Local and Regional Response
- Engage Critical Interdependencies
- Improve Communications
- Gather Lessons Learned
- Engage Senior Leadership

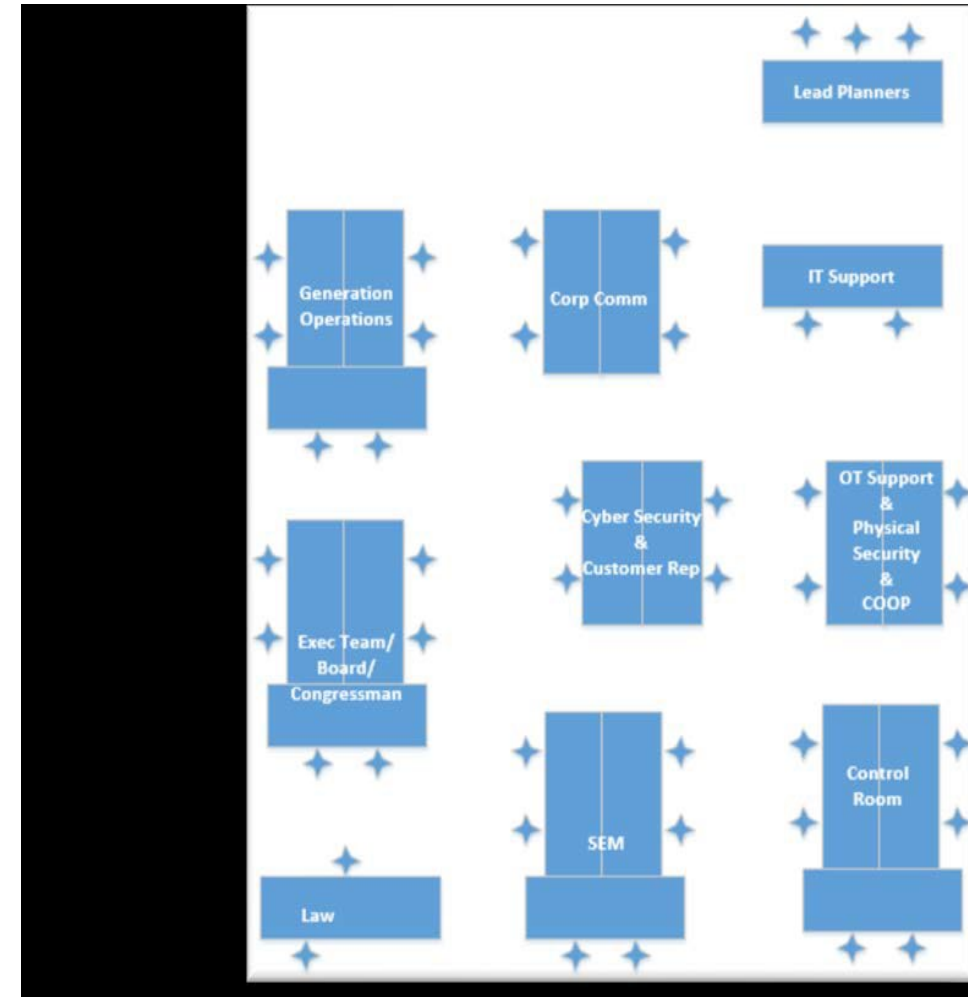
Observing Versus Active Participation – What & How

- Observing Participation: Do not respond to the scenarios (injects)
 - Everyone in one room at a single table
 - Lead Planner steps the participants through the exercise injects
 - Lead Planner leads the group discussion
 - Follow-up items and Lessons Learned should be recorded
 - Will see the GridEx Simdeck and the simulated news videos
- Active Participation: Respond to the scenarios (injects) as if they were real events
 - Separate players into separate 'pods' or conference rooms
 - Players receive numerous injects as the day unfolds
 - Customized to stress knowledge of and adherence to established procedures
 - Report security matters to 'Exercise E-ISAC'
 - Lead Planner facilitates the day; let the Players work through the injects
 - Follow-up items and Lessons Learned should be recorded
 - Optional coordination with external participants
 - Adjacent Transmission Operators, Reliability Coordinators, law enforcement, Govt officials, etc.

Active Participants - How

- Pods

- Players have laptops
- Injects (via email) setup ahead of time “Exercise Exercise Exercise”
- Forced our communication
- Emphasized that we won’t have all of the answers
 - Collection of Observations and Lessons Learned



2019 LES Configuration

Level of Effort – Active Participation - How

- Lead Planner(s)

- Work with SMEs to customize the injects
- Hold 1hr pre-exercise kickoff for Players
 - Explain the exercise, outline goals, answer questions
- Send injects to players during the exercise
 - Via email, paper copy, room announcement
 - Consider 'who would discover the event described in the inject?' when determining who it will be sent to
- Run the exercise
 - Roster development (internal & external), room arrangements, lunch, A/V, phones, laptops, etc.
- Be an Evaluator
 - Gather recommendations for operational improvement
 - Ask Players to provide recommendations too

- Players

- Attend pre-exercise kickoff
- Show up day of exercise
 - Normal day –respond as the day unfolds
- Make decisions, make mistakes, ask for help

Other Thoughts About Participation

- Customize the injects
 - Get out what you put in
 - Stress your weaknesses, reaffirm your assumed strengths
- Collect Follow-up Items
 - Collect from Players, Observers and Exercise Controllers
 - Assign and address... Follow-up on GridEx Exercise

GridEx is well worth your time - Why

- E-ISAC Membership has its benefits
- Allows those responsible for incident preparation to inform the organization
- Minimal time investment for the Players - \$0 cost, no travel
- At minimum, Observe the Exercise

Questions?