

**AMERICAN  
PUBLIC  
POWER  
ASSOCIATION**

Powering Strong Communities

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

**September 17, 2021**

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# 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

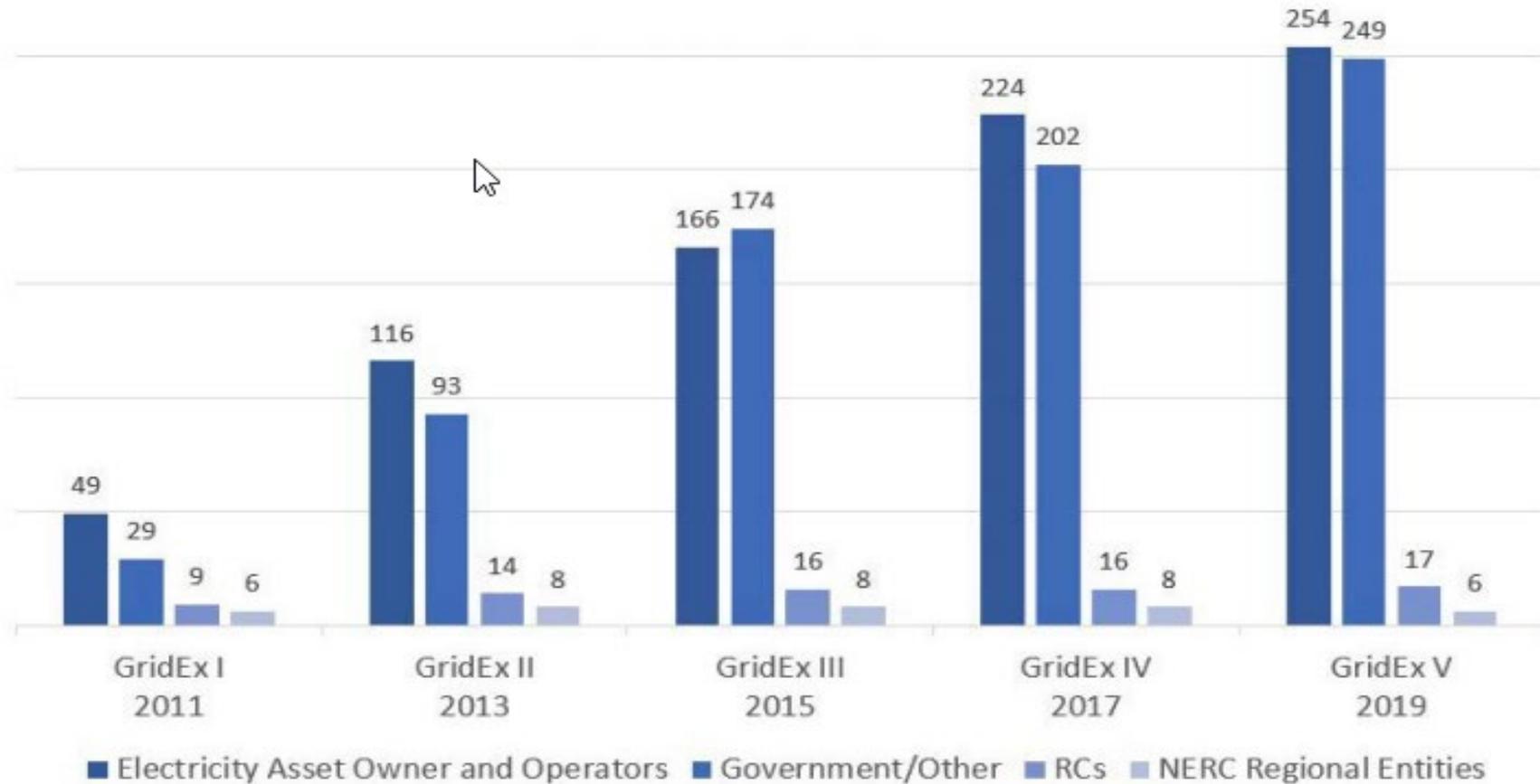
## November 16 - Move 1

- 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

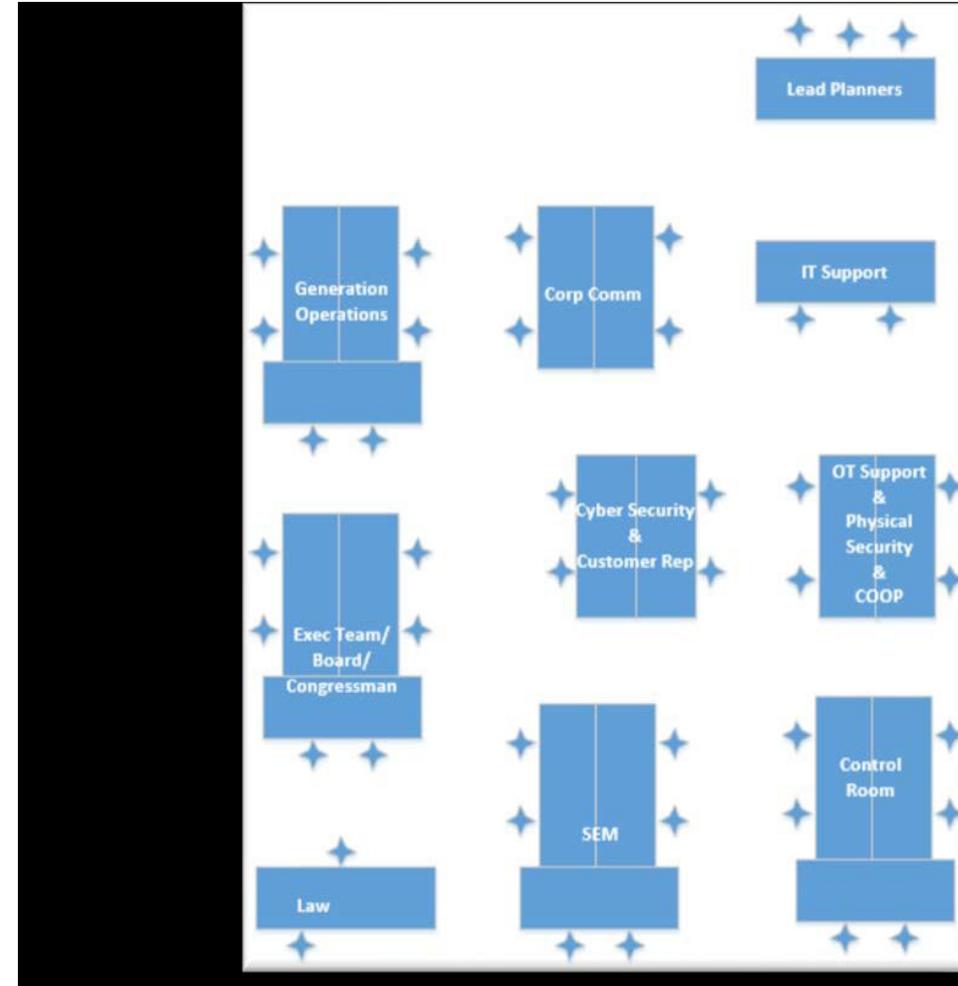
# Observing Versus Active Participation – What & How

- 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?