

EARTH Ex – August 23rd, 2017

Emergency All-sector Response to Transnational Hazards Exercise



In a world with an ever-increasing degree of interconnectedness and dependence on critical life-line infrastructures, like electricity, and given the growing risk and potentially devastating impact of a variety of threats, inclusive partnerships will be required In order to prepare and improve. We must train and exercise.

What is EARTH Ex?

EARTH Ex is an annual exercise event sponsored by the Electric Infrastructure Security Council. It is one part of the Council's Electric Infrastructure Protection (**EPRO**) series of events designed to improve the coordination, preparedness, response and recovery to a potentially devastating long-duration power outage, or Black Sky event. EARTH Ex is a locally facilitated, come as you are, exercise opportunity designed and offered to allow all sector partners to review and test elements of sector response plans and playbooks. In addition, due to its cross-sector focus, EARTH Ex presents an opportunity to build cohesion, consistency and capabilities holistically across the primary sectors responsible for restoring critical lifeline capacities.

Why EARTH Ex

The need to exercise across all sectors has never been greater. EARTH Ex does not require a long lead time to gear up for the exercise. EARTH Ex offers all participants a unique opportunity to examine response and restoration postures without a long build up or preparation cycle. EARTH Ex is designed to be an out of the box senior level opportunity to rehearse and examine the critical executive and operational decisions that need to be well understood and practiced before a full operational exercise. In addition, EARTH Ex will present opportunities to integrate cross sector requirements into the decision-making cycle in a manner that adds realism and weight to the consequences. EARTH Ex is a distributed, collaborative, partner developed exercise, to improve local, state, federal and public/private partnerships in the preparedness for response, restoration and recovery to Black Sky events, or complex catastrophes, which include a long duration power outages.

EARTH Ex Overarching Objective and 2017 Priorities

Improve community resilience to long-duration power outage events through cross-sector exercises. In 2017 EARTH Ex will focus on these primary areas:

- Executive and Senior Operational Decision Making
- Initiating and Coordinating Initial Sector Response and Restoration Actions
- Cross Sector Communications and Coordination
- Developing Sector Recommendations for Improved Restoration Support and Resilience

Our Mission: The 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.



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Highlights

EARTH Ex is uniquely designed to offer executive and senior level operational decision makers the opportunity to review critical decision making policies, processes and roles and responsibilities. These aspects of the response and restoration phase are essential to ensuring the success of all other response and recovery operations.

EARTH Ex is constructed from the beginning to involve essential cross sector information to drive situational awareness, resource prioritization and interdependencies impacts. **EARTH Ex**, by design, will focus on all elements of the Electric Sector, to include generation, transmission and distribution. Internal assessment, resource accountability and coordinating priority of support across the Water Sector, Government, Regulatory and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), and the Private Sector are all exercise elements.

EARTH Ex is a come as you are exercise. Participation is voluntary and open to all elements of the response, restoration and recovery organizations that need to be prepared for a long duration power outage. **Earth Ex** presents an opportunity to review existing policies and plans or begin the planning process.

Citizen Lane: **EARTH Ex 2017** includes a citizen's preparedness and training lane for long duration power outages. It is designed to engage the public with awareness and preparedness.

EARTH Ex 2017 includes three separate dynamic exercise phases, and one reflective phase, each phase lasting approximately one hour. Each phase represents a different significant aspect of the response and recovery timeline. The entire exercise is designed to be conducted within a four-hour window. **Earth Ex** is administered using electronic tools with distributed play requiring minimal preparation and local facilitation for feedback and execution. During the fourth phase, **EARTH Ex** provides executive and operational level managers a chance to discuss existing policies and procedures to improve overall resilience. **EARTH Ex** is self-evaluated and assessed. Its primary focus is on sector and cross-sector capabilities and coordination development.

EARTH Ex Scenario. The **EARTH Ex** scenario centers on a long duration power outage and the cascading impacts that follow. The exercise allows participants to assess plans and policies, develop priorities, and assign responsibilities in order to advance the response and restoration process. Each phase of **EARTH Ex** begins with a framing scenario inject. Each phases advances using specific sector injects for exercise lane. Participants receive situational awareness injects from each of the critical sectors for a broad immersive real world environment.

EARTH Ex is a collaboratively designed, one of a kind exercise, with customized input and injects from each of the participating sectors. **EARTH Ex 2017** is scheduled for August the 23rd. Additional information on **EARTH Ex** can be found on the EIS Council web page at: www.eiscouncil.com .

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