

Securing Washington State Energy Critical Infrastructure

Energy Resilience & Emergency
Management Office

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Washington State
Department of
Commerce

We strengthen communities



HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS



INFRASTRUCTURE AND BROADBAND



SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE



ENERGY



PLANNING AND TECH ASSISTANCE



COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES



CRIME VICTIMS AND PUBLIC SAFETY



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Overview of EREMO



Mission

Energy Resilience and Emergency Management Office's mission is to **provide comprehensive and sustainable emergency management, resilience development and cybersecurity services** for Washington's energy sector. To accomplish this, we coordinate with communities, stakeholders at all levels of government, and electric and natural gas utilities, the petroleum industry, and renewable sectors statewide to develop planning documents and standards, trainings, and operational support during emergencies.



Energy industry sectors we work with

Electric Sector



Petroleum Industry



Natural Gas Sector



Alternative Fuels Sector



Strategic Priorities, 2025 to 2030

Our strategic priorities are guided by our mission, vision, guiding principals and values and, in turn, inform our yearly goals.



Interdependencias

All about critical infrastructure



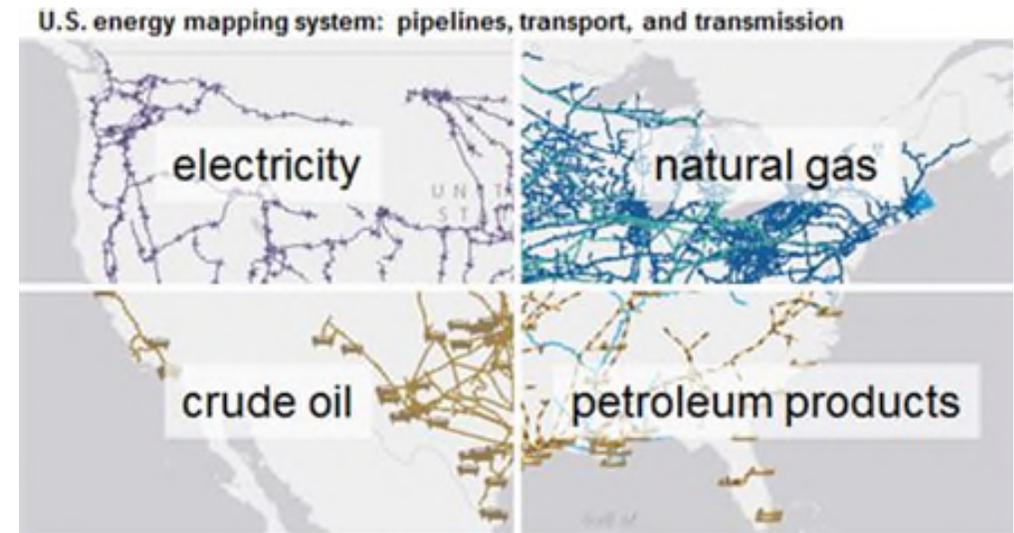
What is Critical Infrastructure

- There are 16 different critical infrastructure sectors.
- Critical infrastructure refers to the systems, networks and assets that provide services that are so essential that their incapacitation or destruction would debilitate security, the economy or public health or safety.



Critical Energy Infrastructure Defined

- Critical Energy Infrastructure means, systems and assets, whether physical or virtual, the incapacity of destruction of which threatens to disrupt or diminish the supply of energy to the extent that the public health, safety, and general welfare maybe jeopardized.



Attacks on Critical Energy Infrastructure

‘Crash Override’: The Malware That Took Down a Power Grid

In Ukraine, researchers have found the first real-world malware that attacks physical infrastructure since Stuxnet.



Power grid attacks on the rise

Confirmed or suspected human-caused electric incidents or disturbances in Washington.

Recent substation vandalism added to rising number of attacks on Washington power grid

By Shea Johnson

Updated January 11, 2023 9:31 AM

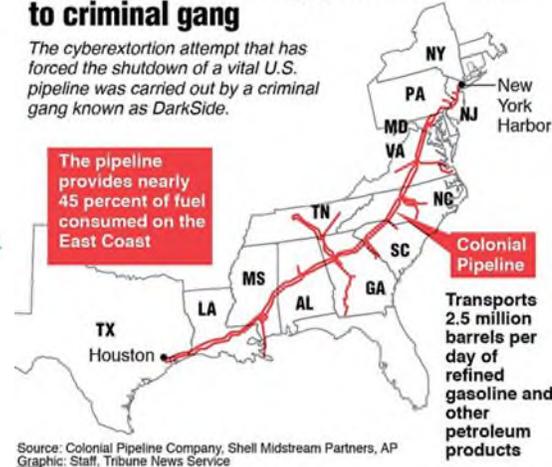


Sophisticated hackers could crash the US power grid, but money, not sabotage, is their focus

For now, the capability remains in the hands of nation-state actors. But “sophistication can ultimately be bought,” EEI Vice President for Security and Preparedness Scott Aaronson said.

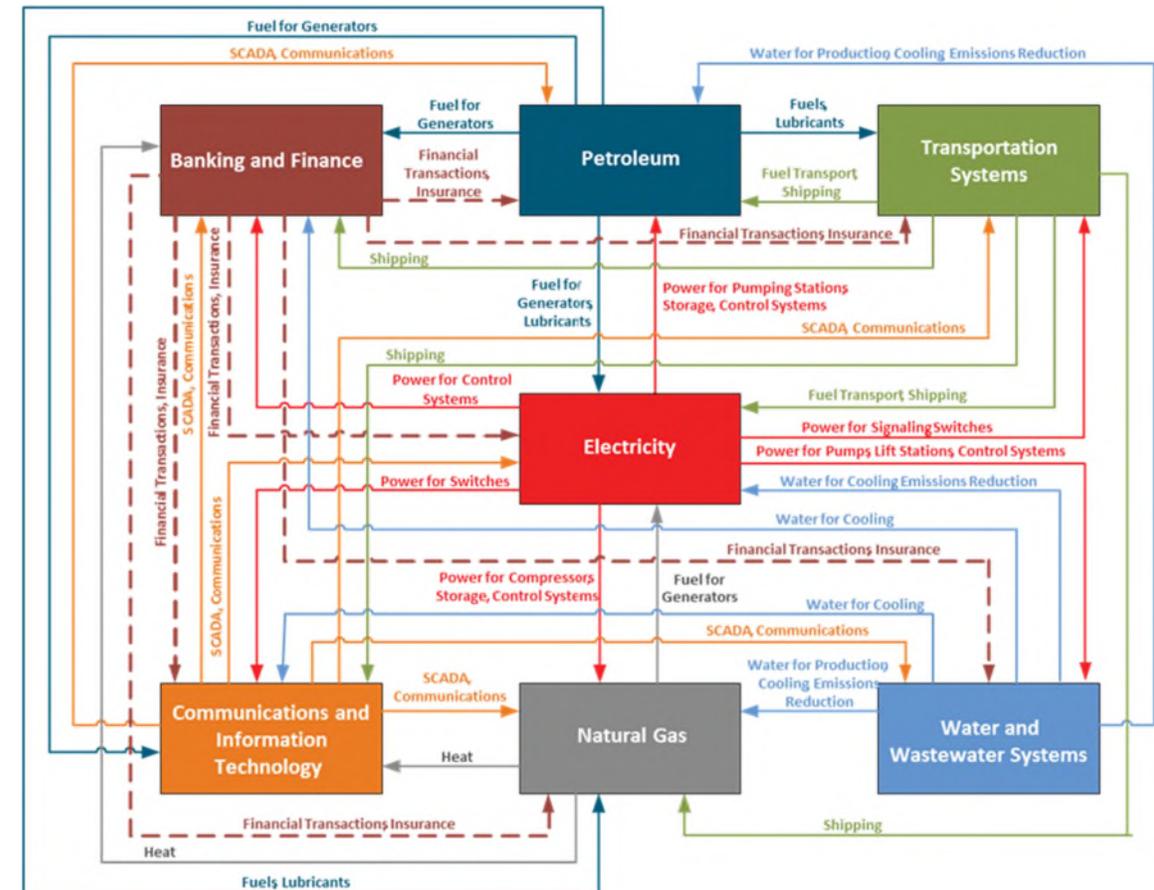
Cyberattack on U.S. pipeline is linked to criminal gang

The cyberextortion attempt that has forced the shutdown of a vital U.S. pipeline was carried out by a criminal gang known as DarkSide.



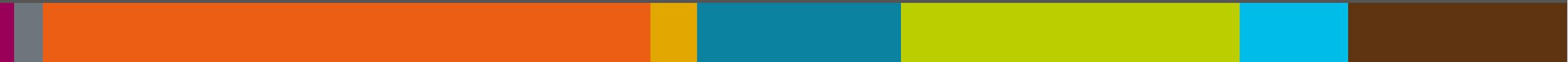
Importance of Securing Energy Infrastructure

Washington law (RCW 43.21F.045) mandates securing energy infrastructure against physical and cybersecurity threats. The Energy Physical & Cybersecurity Program supports all energy sectors in addressing these concerns.

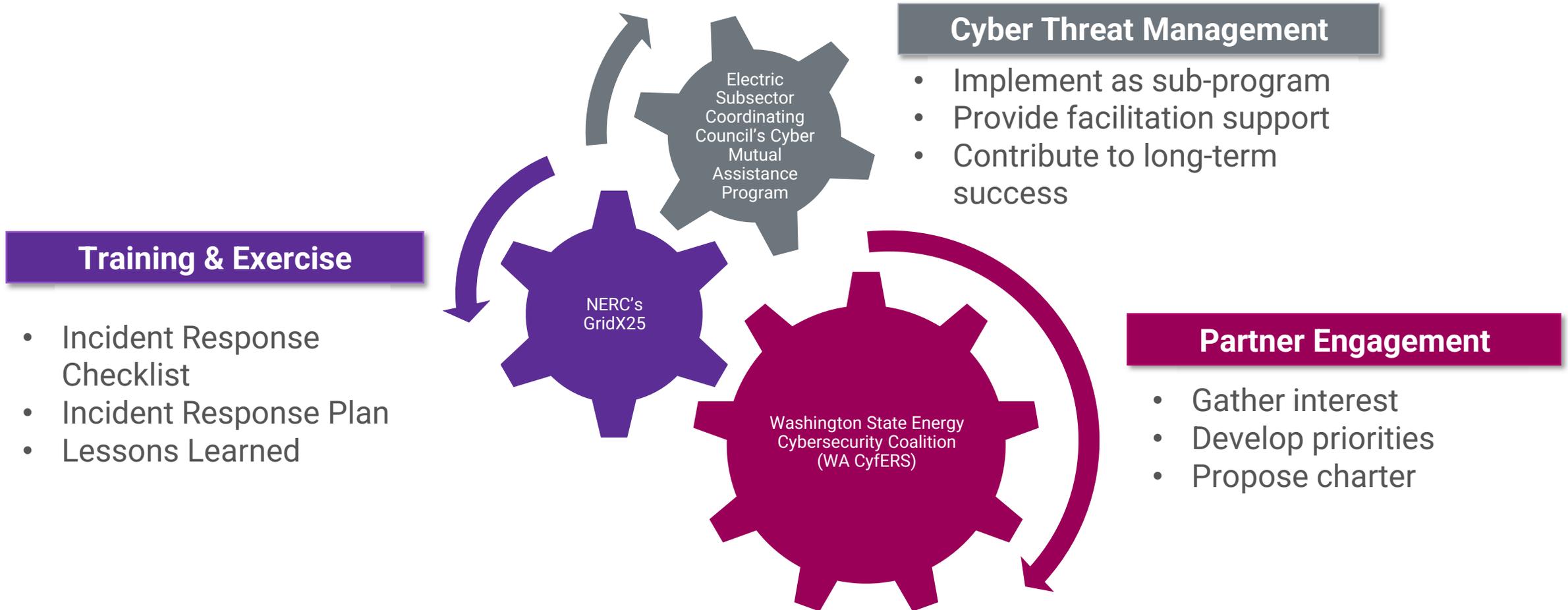


Role of EREMO Physical & Cybersecurity

Energy Physical & Cybersecurity Program



Coordination & Collaboration



Coalition for WA State Energy Security (WA CyfERS)

- **WA CyfERS – energy sector workgroup to support industry and state collaboration.**



Promote best practices in cybersecurity & critical infrastructure protection.



Facilitate an open information-sharing forum between government jurisdictions & key partners.



Discuss potential WA State policy gaps regarding cybersecurity & physical security as proposed by new legislative sessions.



Address energy cyberattacks & threats to energy critical infrastructure through policy & operational guidance.

Current and ongoing activities

- **NERC's GridEx VIII**
 - Largest energy specific cyber and physical security exercise and is conducted every two years.
- **Cybersecurity for solar installs, EV Charging, distributed energy resources (DERs)**
 - Baseline development for electric distribution utilities and DERs
- **Bringing the Public and Private Sector Together**
 - Specific and clear protections for critical energy infrastructure information.
 - EV Charging Infrastructure risks and vulnerabilities
 - Existing workforce engagement and collaboration on future workforce needs for training and education.



Thank you!



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