



**Edison Electric
INSTITUTE**

Powerby Association

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Tom:

Thank you again for the update on the All Hazards Consortium (AHC) and the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) strategic partnership. For more than six years, this partnership has provided great benefit to our membership and the customers they serve.

We appreciated hearing about the many products, services, and initiatives currently in the partnership's "pipeline." In particular, the work being done under the Sensitive Information Sharing Environment (SISE) and the potential creation of a research and development focused institute going forward. The work of the SISE- and the efforts from many EEI members already involved- seems to have put in place an important framework for sharing sensitive information with our government partners to more effectively manage disruptions to critical infrastructure in a trusted, collaborative environment. In addition to your de-brief, we have heard directly from EEI member companies that this framework successfully supports year-round planning, coordinated exercises, and solution development with states as well. On the R&D front, we also are glad to hear that AHC is positioning itself to work with the new U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) rapid-research investment program aimed at increasing the electric sector's resilience to disasters and threats.

As you know, EEI is a big proponent of solutions you and the AHC Board have provided to the private and public sectors since we first entered into our partnership following Superstorm Sandy in 2012. Since Sandy, the support from AHC- particularly the Multi-State Fleet Response Working Group--has proved invaluable by reducing both administrative and physical barriers as our members move restoration resources from across the nation to impacted areas. Most recently, many of these solutions expedited power restoration efforts during the historic 2017-2018 hurricane and wildfire seasons.

From EEI's perspective it is especially worth noting the various attributes and capabilities we have observed AHC utilizing to get things done on behalf of both government and industry, specifically:

1. Operational problem solving: By connecting the state & local government and industry operations professionals, AHC facilitates a process that solves operational issues facing EEI members;

2. Continuity of public/private operational relationships: AHC connects with operations professionals across multiple sectors, multiple states and multiple FEMA regions.
3. Speed and Agility: AHC is nimble and can move faster and show results quicker than other public sector-only vehicles or avenues. The AHC can move faster than larger organizations to gather and organize people and information to address operational issues. This has been demonstrated time and again since our partnership began in 2012-2013 and has assisted FEMA, DHS, DOE, DOT, and numerous states and companies;
4. Trust: AHC has a 14-plus year track record of being a trusted agent for states and the private sector to convene, facilitate and solve problems. AHC also has a long track record of audited financial stewardship and cost-effectiveness with federal grants and funds. Finally, since AHC is a Maryland 501c3 organization it is exempt from FOIA (Freedom of Information Act). This decreases concerns in both government and industry that sensitive operations-related conversations and information will be accessed by non-operational users for non-operational purposes;
5. Sustainment: AHC manages to sustain relationships through state and federal election cycles and provides the private sector some form of continuity with government operations contacts;
6. Public / Private Partnership: AHC has long history and success record with DHS and FEMA leadership during blue-sky and black-sky day activities; and
7. Federal-level Council Coordination: The AHC has co-chaired the DHS NIPP's RC3 (Regional Consortium Coordinating Council) since 2007 and coordinates fully with the DHS CSCC (Cross Sector Coordinating Council), the DHS SLTTGCC (State, Local, Tribal Territorial Coordinating Council), and with the various ISACs through CICAP framework meetings, other cross-sector initiatives and during real world disasters. Additionally, many of the AHC Board and Committee members participate in state/local government councils and associations including NEMA, NGA, NFCA, AASHTO, and IAEM.

Going forward, EEI sees the potential for the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council (ESCC) to partner with AHC, especially in the area of state-level engagement and incident response preparation.

Finally, we understand that AHC recently sought the commitment of interested electric sector companies to be part of important advisory committees under SISE to define, prioritize, and work with states to develop the short-, mid-, and long-term solutions to address the operational issues that face our members. With this understanding- notably more than 15 of our members provided AHC letters of support- and having an appreciation for what

makes AHC unique in this space, I can say unequivocally that EEI is reconfirming its commitment to our strategic partnership and to helping AHC resource future initiatives that support our strategic partnership, EEI's membership, and the interdependent critical infrastructure community.

We look forward to discussing specifics around our increased support of this strategic partnership in the coming weeks/months as we continue working to shape this important effort in the future. Thank you, as always, for all that you do.

Best,

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