



**Edison Electric Institute**

*Power by Association<sup>SM</sup>*

# **Update on the Industry's Partnership with Government on Power Restoration and Resiliency**

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# How Does the Mutual Assistance Network Work?

- Voluntary partnership of utilities that send skilled line workers to areas affected by major outages
  - Regional Mutual Assistance Groups (RMAGs)
    - Assist in coordinating restoration efforts
    - Locate and send equipment, materials, skilled and specialized workers
      - Line crews
      - Tree trimmers
      - Damage assessors
      - Logistics managers



# Regional Mutual Assistance Groups



- Wisconsin Utilities Association Mutual Assistance Group
- **Midwest Mutual Assistance Group**
- **Mid-Atlantic Mutual Assistance Group**
- **Northeast Mutual Assistance Group**
- **Great Lakes Mutual Assistance Group**
- **Western Region Mutual Assistance Agreement**
- **Texas Mutual Assistance Group**
- **Southeastern Electric Exchange**
- **New York Mutual Assistance Group**

# Origins of the Partnership

**“No bureaucracy, no red tape”**



President Obama speaks with EEI leadership and CEOs—October 2012

## Focus of Partnership

- DOE—coordinate with industry and federal / state agencies
- FEMA—industry exec embedded with interagency task force
- DOT / States—tolls, weigh stations, permit waivers/extensions
- DHS / Canadian BSA—expedite travel thru U.S. points of entry
- DOD—staging areas, lodging, fuel supplies, equipment
- National Guard / States—road clearance, security, utility responder and customer protection
- DOE—customer communications (types of data communicated, modes of communication)

# Improving Communication and Coordination

- Firm commitment to embed industry representatives with inter-governmental response teams
- Provided DOE with “master list” of industry restoration requirements concerning expedited transportation, access to fuel, and the elimination artificial constraints on crew movements or burdensome credentialing procedures
- Continue to participate in the ongoing power restoration dialogue with Administration officials



# Streamlining Transportation

- New and standardized procedure for U.S. and Canadian border crossings to minimize delays and to ensure timely movement of crews through points of entry
- Partnering with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and state transportation agencies to expedite the movement of electric utility mutual assistance resources
- Developing information resources and tools to address the specific needs of utilities to move mutual assistance fleets and resources across state lines during significant outages

# Enhancing Logistical Support, Security, and Access

- Currently engaged in an ongoing dialogue with the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) to build upon the unique capabilities that the military can provide during an emergency
  - Working to expand logistical support, such as access to DoD property and facilities for pre-staging
  - Exploring ways to enhance security and road access with the National Guard, and
  - Securing access to critical supplies and equipment from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

# EEI Priorities

- National Response Event
- Mutual Assistance and Restoration
  - RMAG configuration & coordination
  - Spare equipment
  - Contractors
  - Communication
  - Best Practices





# Hard Questions for all Stakeholders To Consider

- How hardened and resilient should the system be?
- What are customers willing to pay for? And when?
- Balancing Local, Regional and Inter-Regional Needs