



## **News Release**

***For Immediate Release***

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**STATEMENT BY THE AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION ON 10<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY of 2003 NORTHEAST BLACKOUT  
August 15, 2013**

In the wake of the 2003 Northeast blackout and as not-for-profit electric utilities that are owned and operated by the communities they serve, members of the American Public Power Association (APPA) remain steadfast in their commitment to protecting their critical infrastructure from cyber and physical attack. Unlike other industry sectors, the electric utility industry must comply with an extensive list of mandatory reliability standards, including cybersecurity standards. The electric and nuclear industries are the only critical infrastructures that have such mandatory standards in place. As an industry, we continue to coordinate closely at high levels both amongst members of our industry and with the federal government on cyber and physical security to ensure reliable, safe, and secure electric service at the lowest cost possible to our customers. We will continue to utilize and strengthen those relationships as we respond to evolving threats.

APPA and our members are placing, and will continue to place, the highest priority on ensuring the security and resiliency of our electric systems. Examples of our efforts include:

- Strengthening our mutual aid network by using lessons learned from previous events and closely coordinating with the Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and other federal entities so that the effects of future disasters are mitigated as fast as possible
- Helping our electric utilities to comply with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) mandatory cybersecurity standards (already under their fifth revision)
- Actively advocating for cybersecurity legislation that will increase information sharing between the federal government and industry
- Expansion of the Electricity Sub-Sector Coordinating Council (ESCC) to have CEO's from the electric industry coordinate with senior leadership within the federal government to ensure a secure and resilient electrical grid.

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*Based in Washington, D.C., APPA is the national service organization for the nation's more than 2,000 community- and state-owned not-for-profit electric utilities serving 47 million customers.*