

Clear Path

SERIES OVERVIEW

Clear Path is the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security and Emergency Response's (CESER) annual all-hazards energy security and resilience exercise series. The Clear Path series brings together leading energy sector stakeholders to enhance policies and procedures, identify areas for collective improvement, and strengthen relationships and cooperation between industry and government energy sector partners.

The Clear Path series is the principal forum for enhancing the energy sector's ability to work together in response to catastrophic incidents. The series is DOE's effort to constantly improve its ability to successfully meet its responsibilities as the Emergency Support Function (ESF) #12 Coordinator and the Agency lead for the energy sector. The Clear Path series also examines the energy sector's response and restoration roles, responsibilities, plans and procedures following a major incident, stressing interdependencies between multiple critical infrastructure sectors.

The continued success of Clear Path is predicated on the resolute support and involvement from federal, state, and local municipality government partners, cross-sector entities, and private sector organizations. To date, DOE has engaged over **1200** energy sector and cross-infrastructure sector partners. Recognizing the strong support and engagement from partner organizations, DOE strives to ensure that each new edition of Clear Path presents an increasingly realistic and challenging exercise experience for all participants.

The Clear Path series presents a diverse array of exercise scenarios challenging response officials and allowing planners to build upon corrective actions and validate improvements made in response to lessons learned from previous exercises and real-world incidents.



HISTORICAL REVIEW

I-III: Washington DC
Hurricane(s) (Atlantic)

IV: Portland, OR/ Washington DC
Cascadia Subduction Zone

V: Houston, TX
Hurricane (Gulf)

VI: Herndon, VA
Hurricane (Atlantic)

VII: Memphis, TN
New Madrid Seismic Zone

VIII: Salt Lake City, UT
Wasatch Fault Zone

IX: Washington/Oregon
Cascadia Subduction Zone

Clear Path X

EXERCISE OVERVIEW

DOE CESER will host the 10th iteration of the Clear Path series throughout Spring 2022. The Clear Path X exercise concept continues to improve the energy sector's preparedness in responding to a multi-hazard (severe weather-hurricanes), multi-regional (Atlantic and Gulf coasts) incident, by expanding the industry's experience beyond discussion-based exercises.

The concept will include the incorporation of social media and messaging, both in a specific drill format and in a planned functional exercise. Continuing the success of virtual exercises, this year's iteration will maximize the use of various web-hosted capabilities.

DRAFT EXERCISE OBJECTIVES

- Identify and request resources from municipal mutual aid network to restore energy services during a multi-regional incident.
- Coordinate logistics support to energy mutual aid networks during a multi-regional incident.
- Utilize alternate communications systems to share incident information with industry and government partners during a multi-regional incident.
- Establish messaging priorities and requirements for a multi-regional incident.
- Establish a virtual Joint Information Center with industry and government partners to coordinate public messaging during a multi-regional incident.
- Develop and distribute accurate and timely public information messaging through social media platforms, in response to a multi-regional incident.
- Exercise the DOE All Hazards Energy Response Strategy, to include the Emergency Response Organization structure while coordinating a multi-regional incident from both the primary and alternate operating facilities.
- Conduct a knowledge exchange regarding the risks and mitigation efforts the Energy Sector is implementing as a result of climate change impact on energy infrastructure, response procedures and planning.

EXERCISE DATES

Continuity Communications Drill

April 5-6, 2022 (scheduled by participants)

Validate alternate communication systems (and plans) to communicate with industry and government partners when primary telecommunication systems are inoperable.

Social Media Drill

April 14, 2022

Develop and distribute accurate and timely public information messaging through social media platforms, in response to a catastrophic incident.

Functional Exercise

May 10-12, 2022

Players respond to the scenario in real time from locations appropriate to the response posed in the scenario utilizing real world communication technology between players and establish an active SimCell that will simulate organizations or resources that are not playing, especially at the tactical resource level.

Climate Preparedness Seminar

June 1, 2022

Discuss increased risks to the Energy Sector due to climate change and energy infrastructure that may require new tactics and procedures during a response.