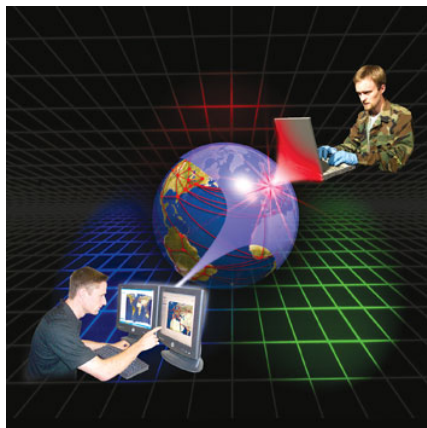


# Information Security and Critical Infrastructure Protection - Cyber Programs and Preparedness

## Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) – Cyber

The Critical Infrastructure Protection standards related to cyber are part of the overall reliability standards and yet require a different skill set to ensure compliance. Implementing a sound program to ensure cyber security and compliance with the NERC reliability standards requires knowledge not only of the power system but also of information technology applied to the power system. When NERC Implemented Version 5 of the CIP Standards, NERC stated *“CIP Version 5 represents a significant improvement – and change – over the currently-effective CIP Version 3, as it adopts new cyber security controls and extends the scope of systems that are protected by the CIP Reliability Standards.”* This statement could not be more correct. The scope of the standards is now extended to all BES Cyber Assets and requires a categorization of those assets.



In most cases, multiple functional groups are involved with implementing programs to meet the requirements of these standards. They include:

- System Planning and Operation
- Information Technology
- Physical Security
- Human Resources

Bringing the varying groups together can be challenging. Sound compliance program assignments

With the implementation of the NERC CIP Version 5, 6, and beyond reliability standards, the requirements will bring additional compliance requirements to many more companies, many of whom initially had not identified any critical assets. This comes as the result of the need to classify all BES Cyber Assets as high, medium, and low risk. NERC and FERC have stated that there needs to be some level of control for even low and medium risk assets. That means a program will need to be established to identify and classify all assets and associated cyber assets. This is no small task and requires the engagement of new business units for companies that have existing programs and the development of a program for those who were eliminated from further consideration under CIP Version 3 through their Risk Based Analysis Methodology (RBAM) by not identifying any critical assets.

Grid Reliability Consulting with its partners can offer a full suite of assistance for the NERC CIP Standards. This includes program development, mock audits, RSAW review, and expert advice.