**Information Sharing in
Critical Infrastructure:**
How electric utilities in the West
have found ways to work together
to share experiences and best
practices

SANS SCADA Summit
January 16th 2008
New Orleans, LA

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A MIDAMERICAN ENERGY HOLDINGS COMPANY

PacifiCorp Quick Stats

➤ Headquarters in Portland, OR

➤ ~6750 Employees

➤ ~136,000 square miles of service area over six states

  ▪ Oregon, Washington, California, Utah, Wyoming, Idaho

➤ ~1.6 million customers

➤ ~8,470 MW of generation

➤ Owned by MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company

➤ Made up of three sub-organizations

  ▪ PacifiCorp Energy, Pacific Power and Rocky Mountain Power

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What Is E-Sec NW?

➢ The official website verbiage is…

"Energy Security Northwest (E-Sec NW) is a private forum of information security, physical security, audit, disaster recovery and business continuity professionals from Energy Industry asset-owners. Nothing fancy, nothing formal, no profit and no vendors or outside consultants.

Participation is not limited to the Pacific Northwest region. We have members from most states and provinces (US and Canada) West of the Rockies and even a few from the East. In addition to our email forum, the group meets on a quarterly basis to discuss current security issues, events, tactics and strategies relevant to the Energy Sector."

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Our Worries – How It All Started

➢ Security concerns and security regulation were abound (copper theft, SCADA security)

➢ Security in the energy sector mattered more as traditional systems moved to more common operating environments.

➢ Draft documentation of emerging regulations were vague

- Security regulation seemed a bit scary (new to the industry)

- Costs of non-compliance were very scary!!

➢ We wanted to do the right thing

➢ Needed a forum to discuss things behind closed doors. Something for just the asset owners and no one else.

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Our Story…

➢ E-Sec NW was born from a 2004 lunch meeting in Portland, Oregon (Sungari's – great food!)

➢ Question: "What are you doing?"

➢ Answer: "Some of this, some of that. What are you doing?"

➢ Light bulb response: "I think so-and-so knows something about that stuff. Let's invite them!"

➢ And so it grew into a very large lunch…

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And So the Story Continues…

➢ Discussions were guarded at first but we began to form bonds

➢ We formulated an idea of sharing common practices. A list server was set-up to facilitate "live" communication!

➢ We grew too big for lunch meetings – began having monthly meetings with agendas. Finally moved to quarterly meetings so everyone could attend.

➢ Conversations addressed all aspects of security – physical, information, DR/BCP, audit, compliance

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The Story is Still Unfolding…

➢ Currently E-Sec NW organizes an annual Critical Infrastructure Protection Summit attracting 120+ attendees

➢ The E-Sec NW membership is 100 strong

  ▪ Only electric utility asset owners allowed

➢ Members of E-Sec NW continue to share past the membership boundaries

  ▪ This summit

  ▪ RSA Security Conference

  ▪ Peer organizations

The Advantages and Benefits…

➢ Common practices = better chance of compliance (wildebeest approach)

➢ Common practices = better reliability (as the saying goes: what's good for security is good for operations)

➢ Improved interpretation of general security practices and regulations

➢ Great benchmarking! Amazing tool to help "convince" management when all else is failing.

➢ As an entity, the government pays attention to our collective opinions/insight.

Questions?

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