



Case Study

U.S. Cyber Security Client

Assessment of Six Locations Across Multiple States

This engagement was for an electrical utility holding company who had recently purchased six natural gas fired generation locations. The client needed assistance determining which of their devices were classed as Bulk Electric System (BES) cyber assets and whether they were properly protected per North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) cyber regulations.

This company saw EPS as having the experience and expertise to correctly locate all devices connected to their networks, as well as having the ability to accurately determine the appropriate level of cybersecurity protections.

As a result of the engagement, the client obtained accurate network drawings for each location, as well as an electronic perimeter drawing which distinguished between BES and non-BES assets.

Background

A large utility holding company who serves the Western Interconnection, was in need of a cyber security assessment of their six electrical generation locations across three states. Their NERC compliance team needed assistance with accurately determining the appropriate level of cyber security protections, along with locating all devices connected to their networks. EPS was able to deliver the desired results within six months from the start date, as well as identify all major devices on the client's network.

The Challenge

The client's NERC compliance team was having difficulty determining the right cyber security protections for their network. This difficulty coupled with looming enforcement of additional NERC CIP regulations was posing a challenge for an already busy team and creating the potential for large fines due to non-compliance. Rather than assuming the financial burden of hiring additional compliance staff, the client was able to meet their short-term needs by utilizing EPS' cyber security team, a ready resource whom they trusted from previous successful engagements.

The Solution

The choice of EPS to provide these services was easy for this client because of the longstanding relationship between the two companies. This established rapport provided a sound foundation of trust between the companies because of the previous successes involving quality service, cost efficiency, and top-notch deliverables.

Over the course of six months, EPS' team of networks and cyber security specialists were able to help this client become NERC compliant. In addition to achieving NERC compliance, the client received accurate drawings of their network for each location,

including devices they were previously unaware of, and the ability to distinguish between BES and non-BES assets through a perimeter drawing provided by EPS.



“EPS was able to identify devices on our network that we were previously unaware of thanks to their cyber security expertise.”

-Client

Conclusion

Years of networks and cyber security expertise allowed EPS to aid this client in their time of need. As a result, EPS delivered the final product within the desired timeframe and ensured the accuracy of all drawings for each of the six locations. Not only did these acts bring the client to compliance as per NERC CIP regulations, but they also significantly reduced costs for the client by eliminating the need to hire new or additional compliance staff. Through and through, a win for this loyal client.