



# Utility Resilience & Preparedness

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& Emergency Management  
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Megan Decker, OPUC  
Commission Chair



# WHAT THE OPUC DOES

## Economic regulator of investor-owned utilities (IOUs)

- Set rates to provide fair compensation for reasonable actions and prudent investments needed to provide safe, reliable service
- Do not regulate consumer-owned utilities (COUs), internet, or cell phone providers

## Broader safety and emergency functions

- Audit all utilities' compliance with the National Electric Safety Code
- Share responsibility for Emergency Support Functions 2 (communications, with DAS) and 12 (energy, with ODOE)

# Reliability

## Meet reasonably anticipated conditions

- Vegetation management
- 1-in-10 LOLP
- Standardized interruption duration and frequency metrics (SAIDI and SAIFI)
- Storm accrual account

# Resilience

## Withstand and respond to unusual and unusually severe disruptions

*“While reliability is a broadly accepted term with well-defined metrics, [resilience](#)—the ability of the system to anticipate, absorb, recover from, and adapt to disruptive events, particularly high-impact, low-frequency events—is not yet incorporated into regulatory processes.”*

National Association of Utility Regulators (NARUC), Center for Partnerships & Innovation  
<https://www.naruc.org/cpi-1/critical-infrastructure-cybersecurity-and-resilience/resilience/>

# OPUC RESILIENCE ACTIVITIES

- **Best practices** review (wildfire, seismic, cyber)
- Guiding and evaluating **utility spending** on resilience actions and emergency response
- **Distribution grid** planning and pilot programs
- **Community** engagement, communications, equity
- Continuous improvement in **emergency response**



# FEBRUARY ICE STORM - LEARNINGS

Reminder of the need for an all-hazards approach to resilience planning.

## The Good

- Operations coordination
- No loss of electricity generation
- Dialogue with critical facilities

## The Bad

- Customer information on outage restoration
- Public confusion around veg management

## The Questions

- Harden vs. community resilience?
- Standards and metrics?
- Equity implications?
- Rate impacts?

## Next Steps

- Cost recovery proceedings
- Distribution system planning
- Program development