



---

Meeting Minutes  
Maryland Cybersecurity Council  
13 October 2021 Meeting  
Zoom Format

The following is an outline of the meeting.  
The full meeting recording may be found [here](#).

*Council Members Present or Represented (37/57)*

Attorney General Brian Frosh (Chair), John Abeles, Dr. David Anyiwo, Dr. Anton Dahbura, Delegate Ned Carey, Dr. Michel Cukier, Jessica Curtis and Bryant Wu (for David Engel), Cyril Draffin, LTC Colin Ferguson (for Adjutant General Timothy Gowen), Donald Fry, Michael Greenberger, Terri Jo Hayes, Senator Katie Fry Hester, Clay House, Mark Hubbard (for Walter Landon), Brian Israel, Anupam Joshi, Dr. Kevin Kornegay, Linda Lamone, Mathew Lee, Senator Susan Lee, Bel Leong-hong, Larry Letow, Blair Levin, Delegate MaryAnn Lisanti, Anthony Lisuzzo, Kimberly Mentzell (for Secretary Kelly Schulz), Joseph Morales, Steven Pennington (for Marty Rosendale), Rodney Petersen, Jonathan Powell, Jonathan Prutow, Markus Rauschecker, Chip Stewart (for Secretary Michael Leahy), Steven Tiller, Paul Tiao, and Pegeen Townsend.

*Staff Attending*

Howard Barr (Assistant Attorney General and Principal Counsel, Department of Information Technology), Laura Corcoran (NSA Fellow, Office of the Attorney General), Patrice Drago (Chief of Staff, Office of Delegate Ned Carey), Hannibal Kemerer (Director, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General), Michael Lore (Chief of Staff, Office of Senator Susan Lee), Stacey Volodin (Office of Senator Susan Lee), and Dr. Greg von Lehmen (University of Maryland Global Campus, Staff to the Council).

*Council Meeting*

Opening Remarks by the Chair

The 5.gmagUy GfeSecuritytopic cybersecurity in the electric utility industry.

Presentation

Mr. Sachs extended presentation provided an overview of the electric utility industry and its cybersecurity posture. The following are highlights of his remarks:

There is a high degree of cooperation across the different power generation regions on cybersecurity. This is because they do not compete for customers, and the interconnections between regions require precise synchronization of systems involved in

power generation and distribution. Inherently, there is a strong safety culture within the industry which has come to include cybersecurity.

While cybersecurity is a critical concern, utilities must deal with other threats to power distribution. These include animals, lightning strikes, and metal fatigue. Individuals have been involved in copper theft and physical attacks on the utility infrastructure, such as shooting at transformers. Physical security is critical to safeguard against activists or others intending harm from accessing facilities under false pretenses (delivery person or contractor).

All the utilities participate in the Electric Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC). The E-ISAC learned a lot about the Russian attack on the Ukrainian power grid. The attack was facilitated by the use of pirated Windows software that was not patched. The use of pirated software is common in many countries and creates exposure of their critical infrastructure to attack. This practice does not exist in the US power industry. The difficulty in recruiting and retaining cybersecurity talent in the utility industry is the same across industries in general. The talent gap is ubiquitous. There is a project underway to introduce cybersecurity into engineering curricula across the nation so that the next generation of operators will be cyber savvy. (In response to questions from Senator Lee and Rodney Petersen)

As connected technology has evolved, cybersecurity has become more complicated. The industry has an edge challenge in which any Wi-Fi connected device e.g., a smart meter or a smart home can become a path to an attack. (In response to a question from Clay House).

### Business Meeting

The Attorney General confirmed that a quorum of the members was present. He called for the minutes of the 9 June 2021 meeting of the Council. The minutes were approved without objection.

### Report by Laura Corcoran, NSA Fellow to the Office of the Maryland Attorney General

The Attorney General welcomed Ms. Corcoran to the meeting and reminded the Council that she had been working on her report on the electric utility sector serving Maryland since December of last year. He mentioned that she will be returning to the NSA in mid-December. Her overview of her report provided background on the electric utility sector, described challenges in securing the grid and highlight a few of the recommendations her report will make to enhance the cybersecurity of the sector serving the State. Her recommendations touched on regulatory goals, building cyber resiliency, adopting security by design for State-funded, grid-related projects, changes in utility reporting to the Public Service Commission, supply chain policies, and data privacy.

## Subcommittee Reports

Five subcommittees had reports for the Council:

*Subcommittee on Law Policy, and Legislation.* Speaking for herself and her co-chair, Blair Levin, Senator Lee observed that this month two bills responsive to two Council

recommendations had become law. These were the ransomware bill proposed by her in the  
Del3 (or 2tL)-5 (e)M.a (ve)rr66 (ve)4 . u]I51 (t3Tf12eii1)-3 (lsAs6p3 ( 1 .304 T5o8 reW\*nBT/TT1 1 Tf12 0 0 12

