

NERC's Certified System Operator Single Credential

A Discussion with Brett Hallborg,
PCGC Member and Former Chair

A QTS Customer Success Webinar
November 20th, 2019

Agenda

- Logistics
- Webinar Objectives
- Introductions
- NERC's Certified System Operator Single Credential
- Q&A and Discussion

Webinar Logistics

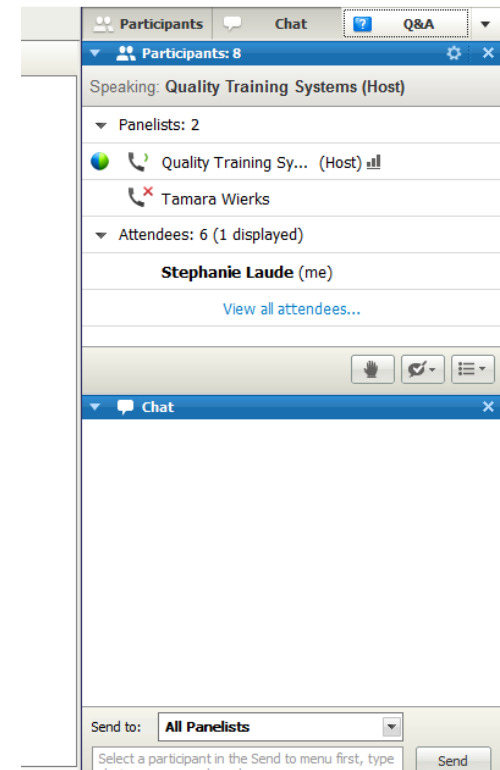
- This webinar will be recorded; presentation and recording will be available on www.qualitytrainingsystems.com following webinar
- How to ask questions and make comments

Webinar Logistics

To see **Participants** and **Chat** in right panel of screen, click so they are both 'gray'

You can **raise your hand** in the Participants section

Send a message to 'All Panelists' in the Chat section



Webinar Objectives

At the end of this webinar, you should be able to:

- Explain how to navigate to the PCGC single credential whitepaper on NERC's website
- List the former System Operator credentials which would be replaced by this proposed single credential
- Explain the rationale for why the PCGC recommended implementing a single credential
- Describe the planned next steps in the process

Introductions



Guest Speaker

Brett Hallborg

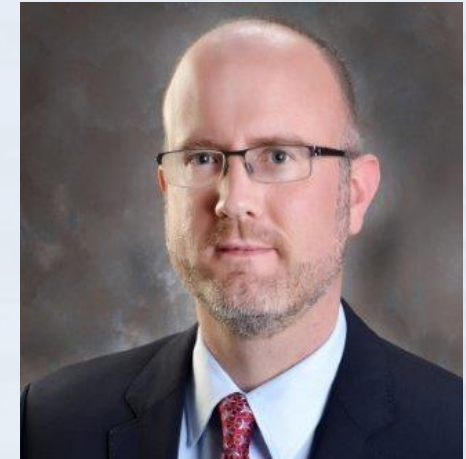
Member PCGC
Committee, Former Chair



Facilitator

Adam Reisinger

Sales Account
Representative, QTS



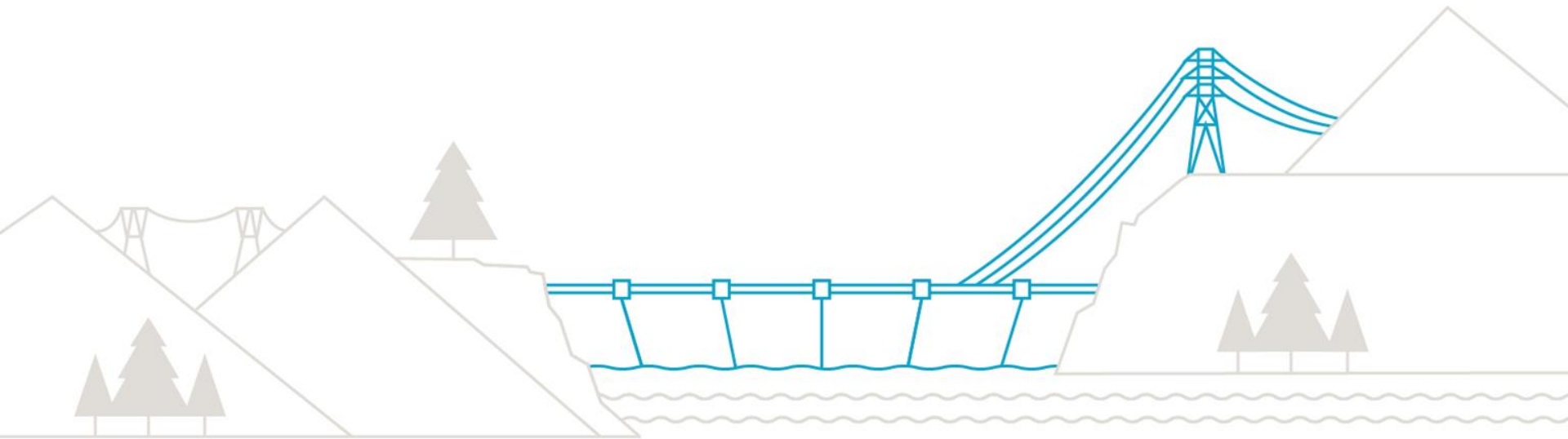
Facilitator

Tim Hickey

VP, QTS

NERC Certified System Operator

Discussion on Proposed Certification



November 2019

Brett Hallborg



- Manager of Balancing Authority and Transmission Operations for BC Hydro
- Member of the NERC Personnel Certification and Governance Committee and ex-Chair of the committee (2012-2018)
- Worked in the industry since July 1990, all in power system operations
- An original “N” credential holder, first version of the NERC System Operator credential

Background

- February 11th, 2019 – PCGC publishes whitepaper communicating proposed changes to NERC's System Operator Certification program
- Proposed change: transitioning to one credential: "NERC Certified System Operator"
- New credential would replace the current four credentials:
 - Reliability Coordinator (RC)
 - Balancing and Interchange Operator (BI)
 - Transmission Operator (TO)
 - Balancing, Interchange and Transmission Operator (BT)

Rationale

- As the governing body, the PCGC feels that having one credential better serves reliability of the Bulk Electric System by:
 1. Ensuring all System Operators are tested to the same level of minimum knowledge and skills
 2. Helping to eliminate knowledge silos within the System Operator community

Where to find the whitepaper:

https://www.nerc.com/comm/PCGC/Related%20Files%20DL/NERC%20System%20Operator%20Certification%20Program%20Whitepaper_Final.pdf

Comments Received

- During the comment period over 40 responses were received with an overwhelming majority in support of the proposed change
 - Responses to comments can be found on the NERC website:
<https://www.nerc.com/comm/PCGC/Pages/RelatedFiles.aspx>
- A number of comments and questions were received regarding:
 - ✓ The intent for transitioning to the single credential
 - ✓ The implementation plan (timeline) and process for transitioning credentials
 - ✓ When study materials will be ready for the new single credential exam and when that exam will be available
 - ✓ The Continuing Education hours required to renew the credential
 - ✓ How the program fees may be impacted
 - ✓ 'Region specific' certification programs
 - ✓ Publishing a draft copy of the System Operator Certification Program Manual for comment

Next Steps

- The PCGC has submitted a draft Standards Authorization Request (SAR) to modify PER-003-2
- A 30-day informal comment period and nominations for SAR drafting team members for the Project 2019-05 Modifications to PER-003-2 concluded at 8 p.m. Eastern, Friday, August 30, 2019
 - Similar comments were received during the informal comment period
 - A drafting team has been established and is working on the draft SAR
- PCGC continues to work in parallel with the SAR effort to further refine its implementation and transition plan

Q&A / Discussion





Thank you

- This webinar recording and presentation will be available on www.qualitytrainingsystems.com following webinar
- Please contact Adam@qualitytrainingsystems.com if you have any additional questions