University of Pittsburgh
Cyber Energy Center

Cyber Energy Center October Seminar

October 27, 4pm- Benedum Hall Room 611, or Zoom

PJM Interconnection serves as the central balancing authority for the largest segment of the Eastern Interconnection, ensuring the reliable flow of electricity across 13 states and the District of Columbia. By coordinating with over 1,000 member utility companies, PJM operates a highly integrated energy management system (EMS) that relies on supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) protocols to collect, share, and analyze real-time telemetry and control signals. This seamless exchange of system data enables PJM to manage generation dispatch, monitor transmission constraints, and maintain the overall stability of the grid, while giving member utilities the trusted situational awareness they need to maintain reliability at a local level.

Equally important is PJM's role in safeguarding this critical infrastructure from cyber threats. As the digital backbone of regional grid operations, its networks and control environments are protected through layered defense strategies and achieve compliance with rigorous NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) standards. These measures ensure that the coordination and control functions vital to the Eastern Interconnection remain resilient against both physical and cyber disruptions, preserving not only the reliability of electricity delivery but also the security of the broader energy ecosystem.

In this talk, Jeff Tiemann, Sr. Manager - EMS Security & Resiliency, and Jim Gluck, Sr. Director - Cybersecurity, will explore PJM's role in coordinating the delivery of power across its footprint, the operational coordination with its member utilities, the use of technologies to sustain grid operations, and the cybersecurity measures that protect these critical systems. Together, these topics illustrate how PJM ensures a reliable, secure, and resilient energy supply while balancing technical complexity with evolving cyber risks.

Jeff Tiemann

Sr. Manager – EMS Security & Resiliency

Jeff Tiemann is an experienced software engineer specializing in Operational Technology (OT) security and organizational resiliency. With a strong background in securing critical infrastructure environments, Tiemann focuses on building, implementing and sustaining robust security architecture that bridges IT and OT systems while maintaining operational integrity and uptime for PJM's Energy Management System (EMS).

His expertise spans risk management, control implementation and cyber defense strategy, ensuring that both regulatory compliance and practical security objectives are achieved. Tiemann leads efforts in developing and enforcing security practices that include network segmentation, identity management, system hardening and continuous monitoring across PJM's EMS applications.

Tiemann is deeply involved in resiliency planning and readiness, conducting regular drills and tabletop exercises to validate response capabilities and identify improvement opportunities. His approach integrates incident response, system recovery and business continuity disciplines to ensure end-to-end operational resilience for the EMS applications.

A strategic thinker with hands-on experience, Tiemann partners closely with IT, physical security, cybersecurity and engineering teams to develop cohesive defense-in-depth frameworks that safeguard critical operations from evolving cyber and physical threats.

Tiemann joined PJM in 2011, working in various roles within the Information Technology Services Division. He joined System Operations in 2015. Tiemann earned a Bachelor of Science in software engineering and a Master of Science in information technology leadership, both from LaSalle University.

Jim Gluck

Sr. Director, Cybersecurity

In his role as senior director, Jim Gluck oversees PJM's cybersecurity design and engineering as well as policies, procedures and programs supporting cybersecurity across the enterprise. His responsibilities include identity and access management, cyber risk management, information protection, supply chain security, vulnerability management and security education.

Gluck has worked across PJM to implement effective artificial intelligence (AI) governance to enable valuable experimentation with AI technologies while managing risk appropriately.

In a prior role, Gluck was responsible for setting the organization's strategic direction in the areas of enterprise application and integration development as well as business intelligence within the Information Technology Services Division.

Additionally, Gluck has been responsible for PJM's member relations functions, including member onboarding, training and client management.