



**Region 3 Fall 2023 Meeting
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Conference Center
October 4-6, 2023**

Preliminary Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, October 4th

- 7:30 AM** **REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST FOR ALL ATTENDEES**
- 8:30 AM** **CALL TO ORDER, OPENING REMARKS & Housekeeping notes**
- Speaker:** **Michael Silvas, Principal Engineer, Florida Power & Light Company, Region 3 Chair**
- 9:00 AM** **WELCOME MESSAGE & HOST UTILITY HIGHLIGHT**
- 9:30 AM** **BREAK**
- 10:00 AM** **UTC Leadership Report & Federal Advocacy Update**
- Speaker:** **Michael Silvas, Principal Engineer, Florida Power & Light Company, Region 3 Chair**
Ron Beck, Interim President & CEO – UTC
Kirt Mayson, UTC Board Chair, NorthWestern Energy
Brett Kilbourne, Senior Vice President of Policy & General Counsel – UTC
- 11:00 AM** **Lunch**
- 1:00 PM** **CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**
- Speaker:** **Michael Silvas, Principal Engineer, Florida Power & Light Company, Region 3 Chair**
- 1:15 PM** **UTC COMMITTEE REPORTS**
- Speakers:** **Present Committee Chairs or Delegates**
- 1:45 PM** **State of the Union Utility Presentations – 10 minutes for each officer**
- Speakers:** **Justin Hardy, Telecom Engineer, Southern Company**
Lee Ayers, VP Engineering, Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Casey Harris, Senior IT Telecom Analyst, Duke Energy Corporation
- 2:15 PM** **Break**

******* THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING IS FOR UTC UTILITY MEMBERS ONLY *******



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2:30 PM REGION 3 BUSINESS MEETING

3:30 PM ADJOURN TO EXHIBIT HALL

Please visit the Exhibit Hall hosted by our vendors between 3:30 PM and 6:00 PM. This is an outstanding opportunity to see the latest technology in our industry, plus network with peers and vendor partners.

Thursday, October 5th

7:30 AM REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST FOR ALL ATTENDEES

8:30 AM INTRODUCTION OF TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

Speaker: Justin Hardy

8:45 AM Cybersecurity Sessions

**8:45-9:15 AM
Impacts of 5G & AI on Utility Data Centers**

Speaker: Senad Palislamovic, Head of Technology, Nokia Enterprises

As AI and 5G technologies proliferate through communication channels all around us, it is worth noting that they will inherently change the geoplacement, usability and application of edge computing assets. Coupled with the private, public and hybrid cloud connectivity models, they all push the limits of data center architectures and deployment models. This talk will address some of these challenges and their potential solutions.

**9:15-9:45 AM
Layer 0 and Beyond: How Proteus Cybershield Defends Against Advanced Cyber Threats**

Speaker: Michael Hylton, Sr. Director of Cybersecurity Sales, Microwave Networks

Professional cyber criminals aim to tunnel from IT to OT. Attacks may seemingly happen overnight, but the majority take days, if not weeks or even months to be discovered.



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Because OT/ICS systems manage physical operational processes, cyber actors' operations could result in physical consequences, including loss of life, property damage, and disruption of National Critical functions.

The Microwave Networks Proteus Cybershield is an AI-driven technology that analyzes Layer 0 signals for patterns that indicate malicious activity before it happens.

Early detection is not only required to extend visibility beyond common data controls, it's also a capability to take preventive and corrective actions in order to increase utilities' resilience as they face risks including cyber-attacks, operational control, downtime and public health protection.

The Proteus Cybershield, driven by innovation and powered by SIGA technology, is a result of a strategic partnership between Microwave Networks and SIGA to better address Cyber risks on critical assets.

9:45 AM Integrating Business and Engineering – The Value Proposition

Speakers: **Bob Buckner, Director, Heath Integrated Business and Engineering Program, University of Tennessee, Knoxville**
Keith Stanfill, Edwards Assistant Dean and Director of Integrated Engineering Design, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

The pace of innovation and risk of disruption are significant factors that companies in every industry face in today's economy. To compete effectively, organizations must evolve from historical siloed structures and mindsets to cross-functional organizations that encourage constant collaboration across all business and technical disciplines.

The Heath Integrated Business and Engineering Program (Heath IBEP) at The University of Tennessee develops leaders who understand the interdisciplinary nature of business and engineering and are adept at breaking down organizational silos to increase collaboration and speed to market, improve engagement and productivity, and strengthen overall business results. Through this program, business and engineering students are united through a shared curriculum that combines effective problem-solving and systems engineering processes and practices, business strategy and decision-making practices, and leadership and communication skills to develop well-rounded individuals who can deliver immediate value to any organization from day one.

In this presentation, we share our approach to accomplishing this mission and let you hear from students who are currently completing their senior capstone experience.

10:45 AM BREAK



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11:15 AM Grounding

Speaker: Jerry Hogan, Director of Engineering & Marketing, Solara Technical

What is "ground" anyway? There are several types of ground, each with unique uses. Many will be discussed, along with their pros and cons. Emphasis will be placed on how various grounds might be used, in different applications, to protect either people, property, or equipment, or all three.

12:15 PM LUNCH

1:30 PM Technology Partner Engagement: Vendor Risk at Utilities

Speaker: Adam Spratt, CISSP, Security Architect, Senior, Southern Company

Working with third parties for hardware, software, and/or services is a necessity for functioning in today's technology-driven business world. As an electrical operator, a natural gas distributor, and telecommunications carrier, Southern Company must engage in highly regulated, critical infrastructure environments that can carry high impact consequences for cyber events. Our ability to assess, monitor, and mitigate risk associated with our third-party partners allows us to operate safely and securely while producing clean, safe, reliable, and affordable energy for our customers.

2:30 PM BREAK

3:00 PM Why IT/OT Security Doesn't Stop at the Perimeter

Speaker: Simon Hill, Vice-President, Certes Networks

This year's Red Report identified that credential access is one of the most prominent attack trajectories under the MITRE Attack Framework used by adversaries in cyber-attacks. Techniques such as 'adversary in the middle' and credential dumping allow bad actors to gain unauthorized access to critical infrastructure.

Lateral movement is also on the rise which allows attackers, once inside, to move from one system to another until sensitive data is compromised with new techniques now in play, that enable attackers to abuse built in tools and protocols and weaponize legitimate software.

This emphasizes that perimeter-based security is not enough – organizations must strengthen their resilience by developing strong policies and defensive techniques that protect both critical application data flows in IT networks and interconnects between IT and OT networks.

This session will consider:



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- Several common attack trajectories used to penetrate critical infrastructure.
- Common risks and security gaps that adversaries continue to leverage.
- What to do about it.

4:00 PM AI Panel Session

Speakers: Lee Ayers, VP Engineering, Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Chrissy Carr, PE, Chief Engineering Officer, Milhouse, Inc.
Adam Spratt, CISSP, Security Architect, Senior, Southern Company

5:00 PM ROUND TABLE, CLOSING STATEMENTS & ADJOURN

Speaker: Michael Silvas, Principal Engineer, Florida Power & Light Company, Region 3 Chair

5:30 PM NETWORKING EVENT - Cocktail reception

Friday, October 6th

7:30 AM BREAKFAST FOR ALL ATTENDEES

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8:30 AM UTC Region 3 Members Meeting
Michael Silvas, Principal Engineer, Florida Power & Light Company, Region 3 Chair
UTC Region 3 Meeting in Review
Discussion Regarding Next Meeting
Lessons Learned / "Pens Down" Roundtable/TARFU
Adjourn