



Working Group 8: Submarine Cable Routing and Landing Working Group

Status Update

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Cable Association/Wiltshire & Grannis LLP), Chair**

Background: WG8 new to CSRIC

- WG8 is an entirely new WG for CSRIC IV.
- Recent conflicts between installed and planned submarine cables and other marine projects (including energy facilities and dredging projects following Hurricane Sandy) have highlighted the need for industry best practices, government policies, and interagency coordination mechanisms to ensure resilience of U.S. submarine cable infrastructure.



WG8 Objectives

Description:

- WG8 will examine factors that encourage clustering of submarine cables and cable landing facilities, as well as siting of other marine infrastructure in close proximity to submarine cables, all of which increases risks of cable damage and harm to U.S. network resilience.

Deliverables:

- WG8 will recommend industry practices, government policies, and interagency coordination mechanisms to promote a more resilient submarine cable infrastructure.



WG8 Deliverables

- WG8 will produce three separate reports:
 - The first report will recommend approaches for spatial separation of submarine cables and other offshore activities/infrastructure to ensure infrastructure protection and continuity of communications.
 - The second report will examine gaps, conflicts, and sources of delay in existing interagency coordination for offshore permitting and recommend mechanism for enhancing coordination without increasing regulatory burdens.
 - The third report will address industry best practices and government policies for promoting geographic diversity of submarine cable landings.



WG8 Members

Steve Balk (Sprint)
Maureen Bornholdt (BOEM)
Ingrid Caples (HHS)
Seth Davis (SRD Associates, for
Pacific Crossing)*
Kevin Frank (Sprint)
Kurt Johnson (Pacific Crossing Ltd.)
Nick Lordi (Applied Communication
Sciences)
Ann Miles (FERC)*
John Madden (State of Alaska)

John Mariano (David Ross Group)
Mike O'Hare (State of Alaska)
Neil Rondorf (SAIC)
Frank Salley (Verizon)
Nikki Shone (Southern Cross)
Anthony Smith (Goldman Sachs)
Rick Spencer (CenturyLink)
Alland Sy (Goldman Sachs)
Gerald Tourgee (NASCA)
Robert Wargo (AT&T)
Joel Whitman

* Also a CSRIC member



The Core Problem: Marine and Shore-End Spatial Conflicts Threaten U.S. Network Resiliency

- The clustering in close geographic proximity of submarine cables and cable landing facilities, and the proximity of submarine cables to other marine infrastructure and activity, increases the risk that a single external event—whether snagged fishing gear, a dragged vessel anchor, an earthquake, or a terrorist attack—could damage multiple submarine cables and severely disrupt U.S. connectivity.
- Such disruptions would harm U.S. economic and security interests, as submarine cables provide more than 95 percent of U.S. international connectivity and significant domestic connectivity for Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- Seabed topography, existing and planned offshore activities (particularly alternative energy facilities and dredging projects), availability of terrestrial backhaul networks, and permitting costs and delays for new cable landing facilities all encourage clustering of cables and landings.



WG8 Status

- WG8 consists of approximately 20 members, representing diverse interests including submarine cable operators, cable system customers, marine services consultants, federal energy agencies, and state regulators, all with subject matter expertise to accomplish WG8's objectives.
- WG8 has nearly doubled its membership since September 2013.
- WG8 has adopted a draft work plan for its three reports.
- For the first two reports, WG8 has appointed task leaders for work plan elements has commenced scoping and information-gathering.



WG8 Approach

- WG8 will:
 - Identify relevant marine and permitting activities;
 - Identify potential conflicts and risks;
 - Review and assess existing standards and recommendations from various jurisdictions; and
 - Review and assess case studies and models for interagency coordination.
 - Identify obstacles to new and diverse cable landings.
- As WG8 members are geographically dispersed, WG8 will work primarily by conference call, email, and a SharePoint site that will launch later this week.



WG8 Schedule

- Bi/tri-weekly conference calls with members
- June 2014: submission of first report (spatial separation)
- TBD: submission of second report (interagency coordination)
- March 2015: submission of third report (promoting geographic diversity)



Next Steps

- Execute draft work plan to accomplish the CSRIC IV, charge taking advantage of WG8 members' subject matter expertise
- Seek WG8 volunteers to lead aspects of the work plan
- Continue bi-weekly conference calls
- Provide periodic status updates to Steering Committee and Council

