

US Telecom System Vulnerability

2/18/2025 RRC



U.S. Infrastructure and Telecoms

- Wall Street Journal Report from January 4, 2025
 - “Chinese hackers had gained the ability to shut down dozens of U.S. ports, power grids and other infrastructure targets at will, Jake Sullivan told telecommunications and technology executives at a secret meeting at the White House in the fall of 2023, according to people familiar with it...”
 - “Some national security officials involved in the investigation said they believe the telecom hack is so severe, and the networks so compromised, that the U.S. may never be able to say with certainty that the Chinese hackers have been fully rooted out.”
 - Due to aging equipment, and lack of software updates, there is a real risk of a severe cyber attack leading to a complete shutdown of the US Telecom System

Cyber Attack Utility Response

- Operations separation or isolation from corporate systems.
- Current PacifiCorp plan for continued operations:
 - Fall Back to Phone Call Balancing
 - Where EMS control is not sufficient, us phone calls to continue generator operations
 - Utilize support staff secondary communication systems (Cell Data) to maintain communications with RC/Neighboring Utilities
- All Backups are Cell Phone Based
 - What to do if Cell Phone Systems are down
- Possibility of Satellite still working
 - Current theory is the satellite system (being newer) is more secure
 - PAC has installed Satellite Phones, but also Starlink for backup

How to Maintain in Total Loss of Comms

- Assumption: All traditional communication methods fail
 - Cell phone
 - Landline
 - Satellite
- PacifiCorp Plan:
 - Expanding our Radio System to be non-corporate based
 - Install Radio Capability at all PAC generation facilities
 - Switch all Generators from ACE following to Frequency following
 - PacifiCorp believes that switching generation to frequency following would be the most effective solution to maintain power supply in WECC for a Telecom outage of longer than 24 hours.
 - Open to ideas/suggestions

Thoughts/Questions?

