

Bulk power risk analysis: Ranking infrastructure elements according to their risk significance

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Received 30 August 2006; received in revised form 13 June 2007; accepted 17 June 2007

Abstract

Disruptions in the bulk power grid can result in very diverse consequences that include economic, social, physical, and psychological impacts. In addition, power outages do not affect all end-users of the system in the same manner. For these reasons, a risk analysis of bulk power systems requires more than determining the likelihood and magnitude of power outages; it must also include the diverse impacts power outages have on the users of the system.

We propose a methodology for performing a risk analysis on the bulk power system. A power flow simulation model is used to determine the likelihood and extent of power outages when components within the system fail to perform their designed function. The consequences associated with these failures are determined by looking at the type and number of customers affected. Stakeholder input is used to evaluate the relative importance of these consequences. The methodology culminates with a ranking of each system component by its risk significance to the stakeholders. The analysis is performed for failures of infrastructure elements due to both random causes and malevolent acts.

Published by Elsevier Ltd.

Keywords: Bulk power grid; Risk analysis; Random failures; Terrorism

1. Introduction

The electrical supply system in North America including the United States, Canada, and a small portion of Northern Baja, Mexico, can be viewed as consisting of three parts. These are the generation of electrical power, the transmission of electricity, and the distribution of electricity to the end-users. The bulk power system is the generation and transmission portion of the system. The term ‘bulk’ refers to the large amounts of electrical power before it is distributed to the end-users [1].

The bulk power grid is an international system that is divided into three major regions. These regions are known as the NERC (North American Electric Reliability Council)

Interconnections: the Eastern Interconnection; the Western Interconnection; and the ERCOT (Electric Reliability Council of Texas) Interconnection. The Eastern Interconnection services the US states and Canadian provinces east of, and including, the great plane region. The Western Interconnection provides power to states and provinces west of, and including, the Rocky Mountain area. The smallest interconnection, ERCOT Interconnection, covers the majority of Texas. These interconnections exhibit strong connectivity within themselves but are only weakly connected to each other.

Many end-user groups constitute the customers of the bulk power system making it an equally diverse group. These users include individual citizens, manufacturers, financial networks, communication companies, transportation networks, medical facilities, government agencies, and gas and water supply infrastructures. Electric power supports almost every aspect of our lives everyday, either

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directly or indirectly, and has become an integral part of our national security and economy.

In light of recent events, such as the 2003 Northeast Blackout, and the prevalent dependencies on electric power, it is recognized that a large disruption in the bulk power system, either due to random events or intentional attacks, may result in widespread consequences. These consequences could include economic, social, physical, and psychological impacts. The blackout of the Northeast on August 14, 2003, that affected over 50 million people, has been estimated to have had an economic impact between \$4 billion and \$10 billion in the United States alone [2].

There is a large amount of literature that analyzes failures in the bulk power system as they impact the economy. Zimmerman et al. [3] have developed a methodology that employs the economic accounting concept. The methodology uses cost factors to assign a monetary value to the consequences (loss of life, business losses, and loss of services) that may result from terrorist attacks on the bulk power system. The authors then combine these dollar values into a single measure, the economic impact, which is used to evaluate the risk terrorist attacks pose to the power grid. Greenburg [4] illustrates the use of this methodology by developing a terrorist attack scenario on the New Jersey electric power supply network and then evaluates the impacts on the New Jersey economy. The economic impacts of the August 14, 2003 Northeast Blackout as stated in Ref. [2] were also based on economist evaluations of metrics that included spoilage of perishable goods, cost of power not provided, lost productivity, disposal of goods in production during power outage, extra wages for employees, and equipment restart expenses. As stated earlier, there are various types of impacts (social, physical, and psychological) that accompany economic impacts with failures in the bulk power grid, some of which may be socially unacceptable to be assigned a dollar ‘cost.’

Analysis of past blackout data [5] show that outages and disturbances follow a power law distribution with a tail that shows that larger blackout frequencies decrease as a power function of its size. This is contrary to the previous belief that the frequencies of major blackouts decreased exponentially. Chen et al. [6] confirm this distribution, and its tail, by analyzing NERC data of power outages that date back to 1984. Carreras et al. [7] further investigate this distribution of blackout sizes by looking for critical loading points in electric power systems. They present an electric power transmission model that represents loads and generators as nodes of a network and use linear programming to analyze the network. Load shedding is observed as the load demand of the system is increased and the capacity of supply is held constant. This study shows that there are two transitions that define a critical loading that greatly increases the risk of major blackouts. One transition occurs when the load demand overcomes the total capacity of generation. A second transition occurs when load demand

causes the transmission lines to become overloaded. Criticality of electric transmission systems was verified by Nedic et al. [8] using AC power modeling.

There are also works that look at ‘hardening’ effects of the bulk power grid against terrorist attacks. Salmeron et al. [9] use non-linear programming to construct a power flow model that establishes the load flow of an electric power grid system. Lines are then attacked, or removed from service, and the power flow model is used to reestablish a stable configuration with portions of the system’s load not served. The effects on the system are tracked as multiple lines are removed from service. These results are used to find the optimal applications of available resources to harden the system and minimize the effects of terrorist action. Bier et al. [10] introduce a linear programming algorithm that also solves this optimization problem of applying available resources to the power grid with similar results as the previous work.

Engineers at the Duke Power Company have proposed a value-based approach to investment planning regarding upgrades to the power system [11]. Their methodology looks at the expected cost of proposed improvements and the expected cost to customers of future outages without this improvement. They combine the customer cost and investment cost to determine the minimal value over a time period using discounting of future costs. The lowest value of the combined cost determines the appropriate time to make the improvement to the transmission system. To do this, the engineers look at the likelihood of future outages, the possible effects of these outages, and the cost imposed onto the customers if these outages occur. This work looks at the direct economic impact to customers that result from power outages but not the social, physical, and psychological impacts.

This paper focuses on analyzing the risks associated with the bulk power system using the viewpoint of an electric utility company. Section 2 summarizes past work on risk assessment which is the basis for the methodology developed and applied to the bulk power grid in Section 3. Section 4 offers a discussion of the results and, finally, Section 5 offers a number of concluding remarks.

2. Risk assessment

2.1. Overview

There are three components that make up risk in a technological system. These are the sequences of failures that can lead to undesirable consequences, their likelihood of occurrence, and the consequences that accompany these failures. This triplet definition of risk was proposed by Kaplan and Garrick [12] when they defined risk as the answers to the following three questions:

- What can happen?
- How likely is it to occur?
- What are the consequences?

There are methods, such as Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA; also called Quantitative Risk Assessment – QRA), for answering these three questions in complex but well defined systems such as nuclear power stations, chemical processing plants, and space systems [13]. For large, national infrastructures, these methods need to be adapted to the infrastructure’s technological and sociopolitical complexities [14]. Garrick et al. [15] outline a possible application of PRA techniques in the analysis of infrastructures. They point out that the full application of these techniques requires the development of processes by which private and government bodies will be able to share data freely. The difficulty in applying these methods to the risk assessment of infrastructures is further exacerbated when terrorism or malevolent acts are to be considered due to problems with determining the likelihood of a successful attack. The assessment of the likelihood that a terrorist attack will occur requires information on the intent, capability, and resources to carry out the attack. Given that a group possesses these traits, determining the point, or points, of attack requires knowledge of the goals, beliefs, and desires of the group. The probability of the attack being successful depends upon the quality of countermeasures in place to deter or combat the attack [16]. For these reasons, the MIT methodology (to be described shortly) assumes threats of appropriate levels for the analysis and leaves the likelihood of attack to the agencies responsible for collecting intelligence [14]. The risk assessment of infrastructures presents additional difficulties due to their diffuse nature.

To answer the first two risk questions when dealing with infrastructures, the ideas of vulnerabilities and threats are used. Haimes [17] defines these two terms as follows:

“*Vulnerability* is the manifestation of the inherent states of the system (e.g. physical, technical, organizational, cultural) that can be exploited to adversely affect (cause harm or damage to) that system.”

“*Threat* is the intent and capability to adversely affect (cause harm or damage to) the system by adversely changing its states.”

We adopt these definitions in this paper.

2.2. The MIT methodology

Apostolakis and Lemon [14] develop a screening methodology for diffuse infrastructures and rank vulnerabilities to terrorism. The authors apply their methodology to the water, electric power, and gas distribution systems on the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) campus. The methodology requires the stakeholders to determine the importance of possible consequences that may result from successful attacks on these infrastructures. These consequences include impacts on public image, Institute operations, economics, health, safety, and the environment. The stakeholder group in this work is a multidisciplinary team

that includes decision makers of the MIT Department of Facilities with expertise in finance, utility operations, and space planning [18].

The stakeholder input is used to create a value tree that reflects the stakeholders’ views. A minimal cut set (mcs) approach is used to identify and analyze vulnerabilities in the infrastructures. The consequences resulting from successful attack on the vulnerabilities are then applied to the value tree to determine the stakeholder impact (value) each vulnerability represents. Apostolakis and Lemon point out that determining the likelihood of a terrorist attack is very difficult to determine and is best left to the security and intelligence agencies. Their work assumes a “minor” level of threat to be present. The work then determines the susceptibility of each mcs to this level of threat by looking at its accessibility and security measures. The susceptibility of each mcs is then combined with its value for ranking. The result is a ranking that requires a mcs to have both a high susceptibility and a high value to be placed higher in the ranking.

Michaud and Apostolakis [19] expand the methodology developed by Apostolakis and Lemon by analyzing a water supply network for an entire city. The authors use network theory and component capacity to analyze the water supply infrastructure rather than the mcs approach proposed in Ref. [14]. Michaud and Apostolakis also expand the methodology by including the duration of system failures in their analysis to capture the time dependence of the consequences resulting from failures in the infrastructure. These authors do not look only at terrorist acts on the infrastructure but split the threats to the system into mechanical (random) failures and malevolent acts. This allows the analysis to determine the risk within the infrastructure due to random failures and the risk due to terrorist attack that is conditional on the assumed threat level.

Patterson and Apostolakis [20] further develop the MIT ranking methodology by identifying critical locations within multiple overlapping infrastructures. They apply the methodology to the chilled water supply, domestic water supply, steam supply, natural gas, and electric power infrastructures on the MIT campus. The authors employ the Geographic Information System (GIS) to determine the geographical layout of each infrastructure. GIS also provides extensive data on the infrastructure user groups identified within the work. Due to the larger number of infrastructures and users included in the analysis, the authors use Monte Carlo simulation and importance measure concepts for the analysis of each infrastructure. The authors borrow the concept of importance measures from PRA [21] and they generalize it to include the stakeholder values. Each infrastructure is analyzed independently to assign to each location a value of the new importance measure the authors call Geographic Valued Worth (GVW). Once each infrastructure is analyzed, the GVWs from each infrastructure for a given location are summed to determine the location’s overall GVW. These GVWs are used to rank the various locations.

The following section describes the MIT methodology, as it applies to the bulk power grid, in detail. Detail of the grid and customer groups used in the work are also provided.

3. Methodology

3.1. Overview

The MIT risk ranking methodology is a systematic process to analyze failures in an infrastructure and rank them according to their impacts on the stakeholders. The work presented in this paper is an application to the bulk power grid of the methodology developed in Refs. [14,19,20]. The stakeholders used in this presentation are five members of an electric utility company. Fig. 1 illustrates the methodology. Although details will be provided later, a brief overview is given here.

The methodology begins by identifying assets and components of the bulk power infrastructure that will be included in the analysis. Analysis of the infrastructure is then performed, using the Sandia AC load flow simulation model [22], to determine the physical consequences resulting from the failure of the components. These consequences include the number and type of customers affected, and the duration of the power outages. These consequences are input to a value tree that incorporates the stakeholders' views of possible impacts. The value tree is then used to determine the impact the consequences have on these stakeholders. The amount of impact a component

represents to the stakeholder is its value. Each component value is then combined with its susceptibility to failure or attack. The combination of value and susceptibility is then used to rank the components according to their risk significance. The following subsections describe the process of this methodology in detail.

3.2. Infrastructure elements

The IEEE 1996 Reliability Test System (RTS-96) [23] is a test grid that has been established to evaluate bulk power reliability analysis techniques. The system does not resemble any portion of the North American power grid but has been developed to provide a universal standard that could be used for diverse applications [23]. The single area RTS-96 is used as the study grid for our application.

The single area RTS-96 grid (Fig. 2) contains 24 buses and 38 transmission lines. The buses consist of nine load only buses, eight load/generation buses, three generation only buses, and four transmission buses (no load or generation on the bus). Reference [23] provides data for generators, buses, and transmission lines that include capacities, failure rates and probabilities, mean times to repair/failure (MTTR/MTTF), and line lengths. However, there are no established customers associated with the RTS-96 grid. This requires that an artificial customer load be created and placed on the grid for our work.

We introduce four customer groups: Residential customers, Commercial customers, Small – Medium Industrial customers, and Large Industrial customers. These cus-

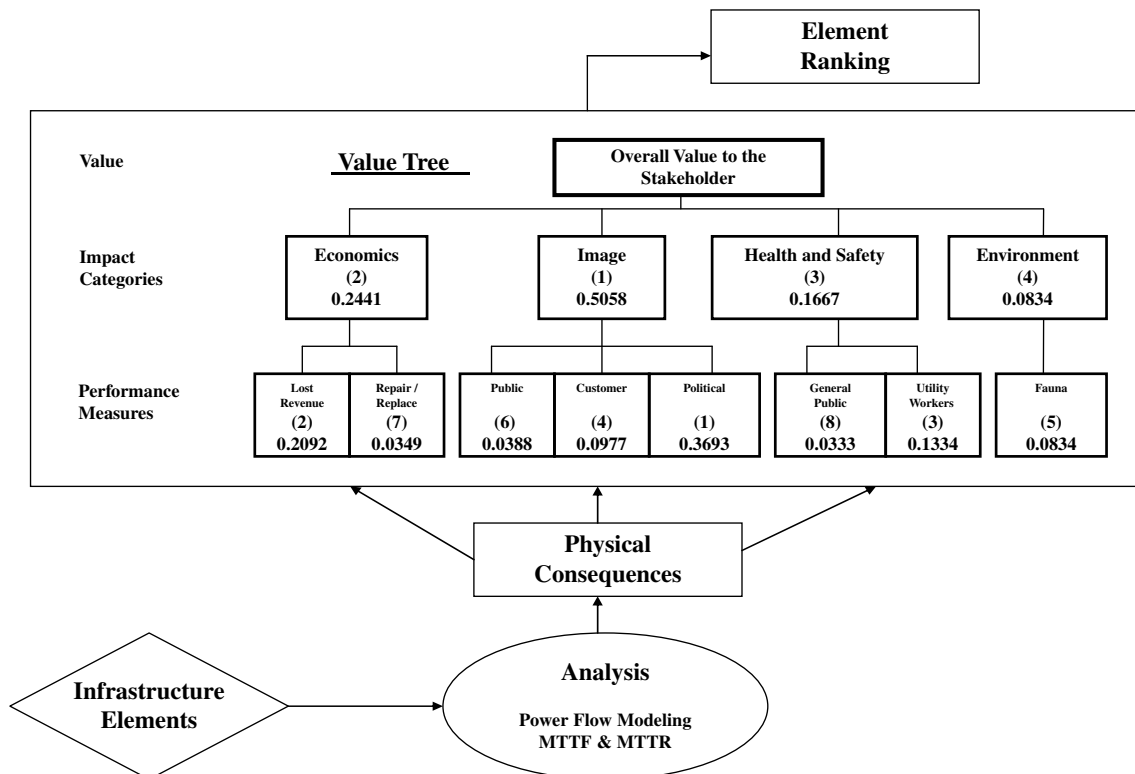


Fig. 1. Methodology overview.

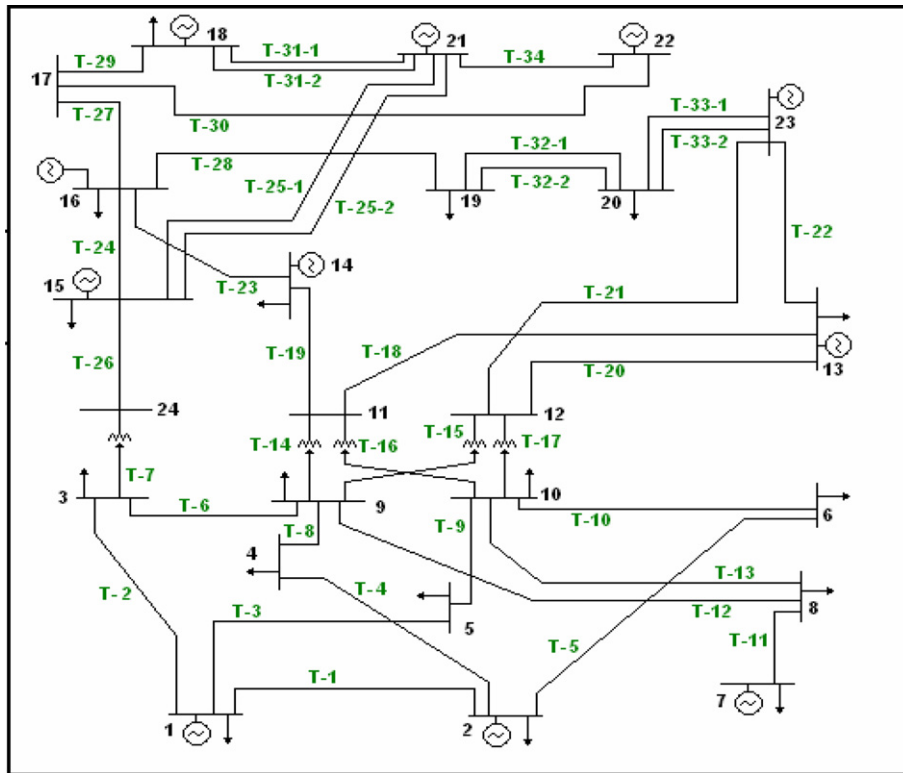


Fig. 2. Single area IEEE RTS-96 grid [23].

tomer groups were selected based on Edison Electric Institute [24], which identifies the customer groups as Residential, Commercial, and Industrial. The Industrial customer group was split into two groups, small–medium and large, so that the differences between these customer types could be included in the analysis, e.g., the impact due to down time, equipment re-start time, and the loss of product that results from power interruptions as discussed in the IEEE Gold Book [25].

Customers for each customer group were placed on each load bus using national average usage data [24] and the load history for the system [23]. These customers were added to each group until the load capacity of the RTS-96 was reached. Table 1 shows the customer loading. To simulate diversity within the grid, the customers are not placed in the same ratio among the groups on each bus. These customer groups were developed and applied to the grid prior to the infrastructure analysis. For application to an actual portion of the North American power grid, an assessment of the customers on the grid would be required. This assessment could be done using the utility company's customer data or by surveying the area which the analysis would cover.

The infrastructure elements whose failures will be investigated are the generators, buses, and transmission lines that make up the bulk power grid. The threats to these elements include both random failures and malevolent acts. Malevolent acts are the intentional disruption of the infra-

structure by purposely preventing a component from carrying out its designed operation.

Single-failure scenarios are used as the failure scenarios in the presentation of this methodology. As for attacks, only minor threats are considered. Minor threats are threats, such as vandalism or employee sabotage, that have the ability to attack a single infrastructure asset, but do not possess the ability to attack multiple assets with a coordinated attack. Even though the failure of multiple components would likely have larger consequences, the likelihood of multiple failures may decrease drastically, a fact that would partly offset their importance or value in the ranking process. This single-component limitation was made in part due to the limitations of the model used to analyze the power grid at this time and due to the rapidly increasing number of combinations of simultaneous events. If the present work included an actual portion of the North American power grid, the investigation of higher-order vulnerabilities would need to be covered to include coordinated attacks on multiple targets, as well as concurrent or correlated failures of two or more assets.

3.3. Infrastructure analysis

The infrastructure analysis of the bulk power grid employs an AC load flow simulation model developed at Sandia National Laboratories [22]. For input into the load flow model, the single area RTS-96 is modeled as a network

Table 1
Customer data per bus

Bus	Load (MW)	Residential customers (#)	Commercial customers (#)	Industrial customers	
				Small-medium (#)	Large (#)
1	108	38,680	6200	375	1
2	97	35,806	5690	265	0
3	180	83,200	6800	945	1
4	74	13,920	6000	355	0
5	71	21,300	4700	280	0
6	136	60,932	5580	690	0
7	125	48,470	6850	395	0
8	171	78,312	6680	650	5
9	175	89,260	6100	555	2
10	195	99,890	6259	825	2
11	0	0	0	0	0
12	0	0	0	0	0
13	265	131,012	8889	945	9
14	194	69,910	9650	850	10
15	317	86,080	17,600	1510	34
16	100	32,000	4000	750	12
17	0	0	0	0	0
18	333	87,020	18,500	1680	38
19	181	65,440	9600	750	5
20	128	39,290	7550	580	5
21	0	0	0	0	0
22	0	0	0	0	0
23	0	0	0	0	0
24	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2850	1,078,800	136,648	12,400	124

that includes the buses as nodes and the transmission lines as arcs. Node data include the real and reactive power generating capacity, the real and reactive power load demand, the customer loading, and the peak load history for each day in a 52 week year (364 days). Arc data include the voltage and current capacities [23]. The load flow model is currently limited to modeling only one generator per bus. Work is underway to update the program’s generator modeling characteristics and allow for the modeling of multiple generators on each bus. The analysis presented in this work combines the total generating capacity on each bus and treats it as a single generator.

Fig. 3 provides an overview of the infrastructure simulation model. Infrastructure analysis begins by selecting a system component (generator, transmission line, or bus) to be failed and the time frame for the analysis. The analysis time frame can be any time length between one day and 364 days (the entire load history period). This allows the analysis of the bulk power grid to be performed using varying seasonal data, such as the effects of the weather on component failure rates/frequencies and the consequences resulting from component failures during extreme cold/hot seasons. The number of days selected in the time frame will be the number of simulations run for the selected component. Transmission line 4 is selected as the failed component along with a time frame of 21 days and will serve as the example throughout this section.

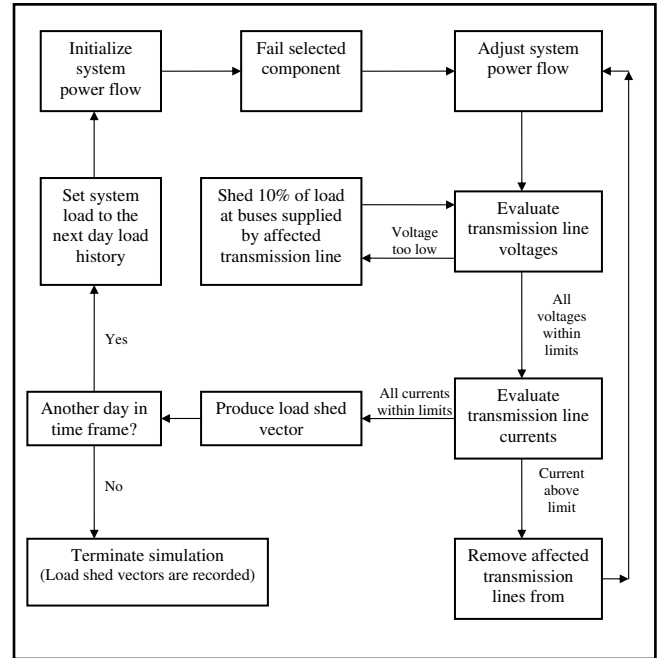


Fig. 3. Infrastructure analysis overview.

The load flow simulation model uses a quasi-steady state step in time to determine the effects an initial, single-component failure has on the entire infrastructure. This step in time simulation has the ability to identify components in the grid that experience conditions outside of their limits, e.g., transmission lines that experience over current conditions. These components are then tripped off line causing a cascading effect to be captured. This cascading effect can result in the initial, single-component failure causing more load shed than a normal stability analysis would conclude.

It is important to note an additional limitation of the model used in this paper. The model is not able to preemptively trip a component in order to protect larger portions of the system, i.e., opening a breaker to isolate and stop fault propagation and then re-closing the breaker to restore power. This protective tripping could result in larger momentarily load sheds with more rapid recoveries once the initial fault is stabilized, thus reducing the overall impact of the initial failure. During failure scenarios, when a failure is introduced into the system, it is allowed to propagate until the system stabilizes through load shed.

The power flow model begins by initializing the system with a stable flow for the first day of the time frame. To do this, the system loading for the day is determined by the load history data provided in the RTS-96 [23]. The day’s peak load is assumed to last the entire day. A stable flow is established when the existing load is being supplied with power from available generators and each transmission line is within its voltage and current capacities.

Once the system is in a fault-free, stable condition, the selected component is failed (transmission line 4 for our example). The introduced fault of the selected component causes a disturbance in the power flow. The simulation

model adjusts the generated power at each generator to attempt to regain a stable flow in response to this disturbance. Power is adjusted until the generating capacity is reached or the load is met on each bus, whichever occurs first. The current and voltage on each transmission line is tracked during this power adjustment.

Any transmission line that has a voltage below its limit requires load to be shed in order to bring the line voltage within specifications. Load shedding is done in 10% increments of the total bus load². This incremental load shed is done to simulate the segregation of load by the various branches leaving the bus in the distribution system. This simplifying assumption is made due to the RTS-96 not possessing an established distribution system that further carries the electric power from the bulk power grid to the end users. If an actual portion of the North American bulk power system were analyzed, where the distribution system is identifiable, the increments of load that may be shed at each bus would be determined by the configuration and priority of each branch in the distribution system. After each transmission line voltage is verified within its limits, the current on each line is investigated.

The simulation model identifies the transmission lines that are carrying a current above its limit. Transmission lines with excessive current will be tripped out of service and will require additional adjustment to the load flow. Any adjustment to the load flow will require the transmission line voltages to be reevaluated as in the previous step.

Once a stable load flow has been reestablished, the amount of load shed at each bus is recorded within a load shed vector and the simulation is repeated for the next day in the time frame or terminates if the time frame is complete. To complete the analysis of the components in the system, the entire simulation process is repeated for each remaining component using the same time frame.

The load shed vector is an N -dimensional vector that represents the effect the failed component has on the system with N being the number of buses in the grid. N is 24 for the single area RTS-96 grid. Each element of the load shed vector is the percentage of load at its respective bus that has been shed to regain stability in the system. The elements that correspond to a transmission bus (no customers present on the bus) will always be zero. Since the simulation can encompass several days, a separate load shed vector is produced for each day of the simulation time frame. Our example time frame is 21 days; therefore, 21 load shed vectors are produced for the failure of transmission line 4.

The affected component, the number and type of customers affected, and the duration of the power outages make up the physical consequences of system failures. The type and number of customers affected by load shedding is determined by the load shed vectors. It is assumed

for the RTS-96 customer base that the customers on a bus are evenly dispersed over the distribution system branches (10% increments) of the bus. That is, if a bus experiences a 20% load shedding during a failure scenario, 20% of each customer group on that bus will be shed to meet the load shedding requirement. The duration of the power outage is determined by the failed component. The duration of a failure scenario is assumed to be the component's mean time to repair (MTTR) or permanent outage duration time as specified in the RTS-96. For our example, transmission line 4 is the failed component so the duration of the scenario is 10 h. This time equates to the required time to repair the line and is listed as its permanent outage duration time listed in Ref. [23].

As mentioned previously, the time frame selected for the analysis determines the number of load shed vectors calculated for each component in the system. Due to the system load history (a different peak load for each day), these load shed vectors for a single component may vary throughout the time frame. We assume that the load shed vector that results in the largest amount of load shed is the representative vector for the component. The customer portion of the physical consequences of losing transmission line 4 is given in Table 2. The zero elements of the load shed vector are omitted since there would be no load loss on their associated buses. It is not allowed to shed a portion of a single customer, for this reason, there are no large industrial customers lost upon failure of transmission line 4.

3.4. Value tree and constructed scales

As described in Ref. [14], the value tree is based on multi-attribute utility theory (MAUT) and provides a hierarchical view of the impact each failure scenario may have on the stakeholders. The value tree consists of three levels in which the top level is the overall impact, or value, of a failure scenario (Fig. 1). The second level breaks this overall impact into broad categories called impact categories. The impact categories are further reduced in the third level to specific aspects, called performance measures, that specifically describe the various ways consequences result in impacts to the stakeholders. Each performance measure is divided into various levels of impact called the constructed scales. The levels of the constructed scales represent the amount of impact the physical consequences have on the stakeholder through each performance

Table 2
Customer portion of physical consequences for transmission line 4

Bus	Load shed vector	Residential	Commercial	S–M industrial	Large industrial
2	0.10	3580	569	26	0
3	0.10	8320	680	94	0
4	0.10	1392	600	35	0
6	0.10	6093	558	69	0
7	0.10	48,470	6850	395	0
Total		67,855	9257	619	0

² The simulation model assumes a constant daily load throughout each day of the simulation for analysis simplifications. This allows the simulation to measure the amount of load shed during each simulation as either power or energy. Power was chosen as the metric for this paper.

measure. The levels for each constructed scale range from no impact to complete impact to the performance measure.

The value tree is constructed using stakeholder input regarding the ways in which they may be affected by system failures. This is done by the stakeholders defining the impact categories, performance measures, and constructed scales that make up their value tree. Once the value tree is formed, the stakeholders' view of importance regarding each impact category, performance measure, and constructed scale is modeled. The importance modeling is done by assessing the stakeholders' beliefs using pairwise comparisons. These comparisons are then used in calculating the weights for the impact categories, performance measures, and each level in the constructed scales. The impact category and performance measure weights represent their contributions to the overall impact. The weight of a constructed scale level represents the amount of impact felt by the stakeholders when the physical consequences result in that level. Since the impacts felt by the stakeholders are negative impacts, the amount of impact is referred to as the disutility.

For each failure scenario, the physical consequences result in a constructed scale level being impacted for each performance measure. The performance measure weights and disutilities are then used to determine the overall impact felt by the stakeholder. The overall impact of a scenario is called its performance index and is used in the component ranking process.

The construction of the value tree and its weights used for the present work are presented here as an example of this methodology. The constructed scales used in this work are then discussed followed by an example of the process used to determining the performance index of each failure scenario.

The stakeholders that participated in the construction of the value tree are five members of a regional electric utility company affiliated with the management and transmission departments at the company (Table 3). They worked together to form the value tree in a workshop. Input for the weights associated with the value tree was provided independently by each member. The input provided by the senior participating member, referred to as S-1, will be the primary input for this work and is presented as the example in this section. The input provided by the remaining four members (S-2 through S-5) will be discussed in the following section and used as a sensitivity analysis on the application of the methodology.

Table 3
Participating members' affiliation with the electric utility company

Member	Organization
S-1	Management division
S-2	Transmission department
S-3	Transmission department
S-4	Management division
S-5	Transmission department

Fig. 1 contains the value tree that represents the consensus of the five stakeholders (excluding the weights). *Economics*, *Image*, *Health and Safety*, and *Environment* were defined as the impact categories and were deemed sufficient to encompass all possible impacts felt by the company following a failure in the power grid. *Economics* was divided into *Lost Revenue*, which accounts for the financial impacts due to power not supplied during an outage, and *Repair/Replace*, which is the cost associated with restoring the failed component. *Image* defines the impacts on the company's image following an outage and was split into the company's *Political*, *Public*, and *Customer* image. *Political* defines the impact system failures have on the local, state, and federal authorities which may propose additional regulations on electric generating and transmission companies. *Public* refers to the general public's view of and confidence in the company's ability to provide reliable power. *Customer* defines the company's relationship with non-residential customers and is assumed to be directly tied to the customer's incurred cost due to a power outage. *Health and Safety* was divided into *General Public* and *Utility Workers*. *General Public* is meant to account for the effects on the public when power outages affect medical facilities, emergency response services, transportation networks, and daily life conveniences such as heating and cooling a home. *Utility Workers* accounts for the increased safety concerns of the company regarding its employees that are responsible for repairing the failed component. *Environment* was assigned a single performance measure, which is *Fauna*. *Fauna* defines the effect failure scenarios have on the wildlife in the region with specific consideration to fish population associated Hydro-Electric generation.

To evaluate the weights present in the value tree, the participating members were provided surveys in which they performed pairwise comparisons between the impact categories. They first identified which impact categories they felt were more important and to what extent. This process is shown in Fig. 4 (using the input provided by S-1). For example, this stakeholder judges that the impact category *Health and Safety* is equally or slightly more important than the impact category *Environment*. The same stakeholder believes that the performance measure *General Public* is weakly to moderately more important than the performance measure *Utility Workers* with respect to *Health and Safety*. It is very important to point out that the stakeholders have already been informed about the possible ranges of the consequences and are making their evaluations being fully aware of these ranges. In the present case, it was the consensus that the potential impacts of failures on both *Health and Safety* and the *Environment* were very small, unless a major catastrophic event disrupted a majority of the grid. The stakeholder assessments were made under this assumption.

The stakeholder input is placed into a matrix and the weights are determined using the Analytic Hierarchy Pro-

Instructions:

1. Compare the two items listed; circle the item that you feel is the most important.
2. Indicate how much more important the circled item is using the scale provided:
 1 – equally 3 – weakly 5 – moderately 7 – strongly 9 – extremely
 Use even numbers to indicate importance between these increments.

Impact Categories	Economics:	Image:	Health & Safety:
1. Economic vs. <u>Image</u>	4	1. <u>Lost Revenue</u> vs. Repairs	6
2. <u>Economic</u> vs. Health & Safety	2	2. Public vs. <u>Customer</u>	4
3. <u>Image</u> vs. Health & Safety	2	3. Public vs. <u>Political</u>	6
4. Environment vs. <u>Economic</u>	4	3. Customers vs. <u>Political</u>	6
5. Environment vs. <u>Health & Safety</u>	2		
6. Environment vs. <u>Image</u>	4		
		1. <u>General Public</u> vs. Utility Worker	4

Fig. 4. Example of stakeholder input.

cess (AHP) [26]. Although several methods exist in the literature for evaluating weights [27], this method was used because the stakeholders find the pairwise comparisons easier to implement. The AHP results were scrutinized to make sure they represented the stakeholder views.

The constructed scales used for this work are presented in Tables 4–7. AHP is also used for the determination of the disutility for each level of the constructed scales. Disutility is a monotonically non-decreasing function that defines the amount of impact a level in the constructed scale has on its performance measure. For this reason, the disutilities in each constructed scale range from no impact (0.0000) to complete impact (1.0000) of the performance measure.

To determine the level in which physical consequences impact the stakeholders, the physical consequences are mapped onto the constructed scales of each performance measure. The mapping technique used is determined as shown in Table 8. Sum means that the effects on each customer group are determined and then summed to determine the level of impact. The consequence matrix follows the approach presented in Ref. [19] where the effects on each customer group are determined and then the customer group that results in the highest level of impact is chosen as the representative group for the performance measure. Component specific means that the level of impact is determined solely by the failed component in the failure scenario. Inspection means that the effects a failure scenario has on the infrastructure itself and not the customers is used to determine the level of impact. An example of each mapping technique is presented here using our example failure scenario (transmission line 4, 21 day time frame) to help clarify the process.

Sum is only used by the *Lost Revenue* performance measure. Each customer group has an associated average energy consumption (kWh) and rate charged per unit of energy consumed (\$/kWh). The physical consequences give us the number of customers in each group that is affected and the duration of the outage. Using this information we have:

Table 4
Constructed scales for *Economics* performance measures

Level	Constructed scale	Disutility	Weighted disutility
<i>Lost revenue</i>			
6	Hundreds of millions of dollars	1.0000	0.2092
5	Tens of millions of dollars	0.5409	0.1132
4	Millions of dollars	0.3684	0.0771
3	Hundreds of thousands of dollars	0.1761	0.0368
2	Tens of thousands of dollars	0.0687	0.0144
1	Thousands of dollars	0.0332	0.0069
0	No impact	0.0000	0.0000
<i>Repairs/replace</i>			
6	Hundreds of millions of dollars	1.0000	0.0349
5	Tens of millions of dollars	0.5409	0.0189
4	Millions of dollars	0.3684	0.0129
3	Hundreds of thousands of dollars	0.1761	0.0061
2	Tens of thousands of dollars	0.0687	0.0024
1	Thousands of dollars	0.0332	0.0012
0	No impact	0.0000	0.0000

Table 5
Constructed scales for *Image* performance measures

Level	Constructed scale	Disutility	Weighted disutility
<i>Public</i>			
4	International media interest	1.0000	0.0388
3	Repeated publications in national media	0.4862	0.0189
2	Repeated publications in local media, appearance in national media	0.1873	0.0073
1	Single appearance in local media	0.0501	0.0019
0	No impact	0.0000	0.0000
<i>Political</i>			
3	Political push for major regulation reform	1.0000	0.3693
2	Moderate political push for additional regulations	0.3606	0.1332
1	Low political influence on industry regulations	0.1604	0.0592
0	No impact	0.0000	0.0000
<i>Customers</i>			
5	Billions of dollars	1.0000	0.0977
4	Hundreds of millions of dollars	0.5069	0.0495
3	Tens of millions of dollars	0.3317	0.0324
2	Millions of dollars	0.1492	0.0146
1	Hundreds of thousands of dollars	0.0566	0.0055
0	No impact	0.0000	0.0000

$$\$ = \sum_{i=1}^n [(N_i) \cdot (R_i) \cdot (\bar{U}_i)] \cdot (T) \tag{1}$$

where \$ is the resulting lost revenue; *n* the number of customer groups included in the analysis (four in our case); *N_i* the number of customers in group *i*; *R_i* the rate charged to

Table 6
Constructed scales for *Health and Safety* performance measures

Health and Safety			
Level	Constructed scale	Disutility	Weighted disutility
<i>General public</i>			
5	Numerous deaths attributed to power outage	1.0000	0.0333
4	Few deaths attributed to power outage	0.5069	0.0169
3	Numerous long-term injuries related to power outage	0.2460	0.0082
2	Few long-term injuries/numerous short-term injuries related to power outage	0.1087	0.0036
1	Few short-term injuries related to power outage	0.0370	0.0012
0	No impact	0.0000	0.0000
<i>Utility workers</i>			
3	High safety impact on worker associated with repairs	1.0000	0.1334
2	Moderate safety impact on worker associated with repairs	0.4358	0.0581
1	Low safety impact on worker associated with repairs	0.0707	0.0094
0	No impact	0.0000	0.0000

Table 7
Constructed scales for *Environment* performance measures

Environment			
Level	Constructed scale	Disutility	Weighted disutility
<i>Fauna</i>			
3	Extensive impact on wildlife, decades required for full recovery	1.0000	0.0834
2	Moderate impact on wildlife, few years required for full recovery	0.2842	0.0237
1	Minor impact on wildlife, recovers quickly with no lingering impacts	0.0686	0.0057
0	No impact	0.0000	0.0000

Table 8
PM mapping techniques

IC	PM	Mapping technique
Economic	Lost revenue	Sum
	Repair/replace	Component specific
Image	Public	Consequence matrix
	Political	Consequence matrix
	Customers	Consequence matrix
Health and safety	General public	Consequence matrix
	Utility worker	Component specific
Environment	Fauna	Inspection

a customer in group i ; \bar{U}_i the average electric power usage for a single customer in group i ; and T is the duration of the scenario.

The lost revenue for our example is \$140,525. This results in transmission line 4 being placed in level 3 for *Lost Revenue* which has a disutility of 0.1761 to the stakeholder (Table 4).

The mapping technique (Table 8) “Component Specific” will be illustrated using the *Repair/Replace* performance measure. The cost to restore a failed component depends on the component itself and the way the component failed. The component may be able to be repaired or might be required to be replaced, depending on the level of damage to the component. The cost should include the price of repair parts as well as the cost of equipment used and wages paid due to the man–h required to restore the component. Company historical data may also be used to evaluate the average cost to restore a type of component and to determine its impact. Here, we assume that the cost to restore a transmission line does not exceed \$50,000 but is no less than \$10,000. This assumption is based on the required cost to repair a transmission line by looking at the labor of the worker, equipment operation cost, and material cost associated with the repairs. This puts transmission line 4 into level 2 for *Repair/Replace* which has a disutility of 0.0687 to the stakeholder.

The consequence matrix requires the construction of a matrix that relates the duration and number of customers affected by a failure scenario to the constructed scale. This is done by evaluating the response of the customer groups to past power outages of various sizes and durations. We use discrete estimates of magnitude and duration of the physical consequences to determine the expected impact level for the constructed scale. The consequence matrix for the *Customer* performance measure is provided in Table 9 for our example. The physical consequences for transmission line 4 (Table 2) lead to a level 3 impact based on Commercial, a level 3 based on S-M Industrial, and a level 0 based on Large Industrial. Since the maximum level among all groups is a level 3 impact, transmission line 4 is put into level 3 with a 0.3317 disutility to the stakeholder (Table 5).

The mapping technique “Inspection” is used only in the *Fauna* performance measure and is focused on the effects caused during power production increases at Hydro-Electric facilities that result in an impact on the local fish population. As power is increased at the Hydro-Electric generator, more water is forced through the generating house which results in less water that is allowed to bypass. Affecting this ratio of power production and bypass flow has effects on the fish population in the river. For this reason, the amount of power increase at these facilities and the duration of this power increase are the factors that affect this performance measure. Since the output of the simulation model (load shed vectors) does not give the increase in power production at each generation location, this information is determined through inspection. The difference between the amount of load shed and generation disconnected from the grid during a failure scenario is used to determine the increase demand placed on the generators remaining connected to the grid. It is also assumed that any increase in demand will be shared among the remaining generators. This difference in the amount of generation disconnected and load shed is used to create a unique consequence matrix for this performance measure and is pre-

Table 9
Consequence matrix for *Customer* PM

PM	Level	Commercial			S–M industrial			Large industrial		
		Duration								
		10 h	1 day	1 week	10 h	1 day	1 week	10 h	1 day	1 week
Customer	5	100,000	50,000	30,000	N/A	N/A	4000	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	10,000	5000	3000	3000	2000	400	N/A	N/A	N/A
	3	1000	500	300	300	200	40	N/A	100	20
	2	100	50	30	30	20	4	15	10	1
	1	10	5	3	3	2	1	2	1	N/A
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

sented in Table 10. The values in this matrix represent the amount of excess load that will be placed onto the remaining generators, including the Hydro-Electric facilities. If a failure scenario results in more load shed than generation disconnected, or if the hydro plants are disconnected from the grid, the effect on the *Fauna* performance measure is evaluated at a level 0. Transmission line 4 results in a generation lost to load shed of –174 MW which results in a level 0 impact with a 0.0000 disutility to the stakeholder.

To determine the performance index of a failure scenario, we use Eq. (2) [14]

$$PI_j = \sum_{i=1}^{K_{PM}} w_i d_{ij} \tag{2}$$

where PI_j is the performance index of failure scenario j ; w_i the weight of performance measure i ; d_{ij} the disutility of performance measure i and failure scenario j ; and K_{PM} is the total number of performance measures

Table 11 gives an overview of the level of impact to each performance measure along with the performance measure weights for our example failure scenario (stakeholder S-1). Using the disutilities, performance measure weights for S-1, and Eq. (2), the resulting performance index for transmission line 4 is 0.0884. This performance index represents the value transmission line 4 has to S-1.

3.5. Ranking

The work presented up to this point has been focused on determining the value of failure scenarios in the bulk power grid. So far, the first and third questions of risk assessment have been answered. The second question (likelihood) remains to be addressed.

Table 10
Matrix for *Fauna* PM

PM	Level	Generation lost–load shed		
		Duration		
		10 h	1 day	1 week
Fauna	3	N/A	N/A	2000
	2	100	1000	500
	1	500	500	100
	0	0	0	0

Table 11
Impacts to each PM for transmission line 4

PM	PM weight	Level of impact	Disutility	Weighted disutility
Lost revenue	0.2092	3	0.1761	0.0368
Repair/replace	0.0349	2	0.0687	0.0024
Public	0.0388	2	0.1873	0.0073
Political	0.3693	0	0.0000	0.0000
Customer	0.0977	3	0.3317	0.0324
General public	0.0333	0	0.0000	0.0000
Utility worker	0.1334	1	0.0707	0.0094
Fauna	0.0834	0	0.0000	0.0000

To review before we continue, there were two types of threats addressed by this methodology, random events and minor malevolent acts. As discussed earlier, while the likelihood of random events is determined by the scenario frequency, the likelihood of malevolent acts is not addressed by this methodology but, rather, the susceptibility to an assumed threat is evaluated [19].

For random failures, the frequency of a failure scenario is multiplied by the scenario’s value to determine the expected disutility to the stakeholder. As described in Ref. [19], the random failures of the infrastructure elements are then ranked according to their expected disutility.

For malevolent acts, we follow the approach proposed in Ref. [14]. The “susceptibility” of a component is judged subjectively by accessing the quality of security measures and openness of the component. Ref. [14] proposes six levels of susceptibility to malevolent acts ranging from completely secure (the lowest level) to completely open (the highest level). These susceptibility levels are given in Table 12.

Table 12
Susceptibility levels of infrastructure elements

Level	Description
5 – Extreme	Completely open, no controls, no barriers
4 – High	Unlocked, non-complex barriers (door or access panel)
3 – Moderate	Complex barrier, security patrols, video surveillance
2 – Low	Secure area, locked, complex closure
1 – Very low	Guarded, secure area, locked, alarmed, complex closure
0 – Zero	Completely secure, inaccessible

Table 13
Susceptibility and value combinations for each vulnerability category

Value levels	Susceptibility levels					
	Zero	Very low	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme
0.0000–0.0049	G	G	G	G	G	G
0.0050–0.0299	G	B	B	B	B	B
0.0300–0.0499	G	B	B	Y	Y	Y
0.0500–0.0999	G	B	Y	Y	O	O
0.1000–0.2499	G	Y	Y	O	O	R
≥0.2500	B	Y	O	R	R	R

As proposed in Ref. [14], each component’s performance index and susceptibility are combined in order to assign the component to a vulnerability category. This process is illustrated in Table 13. The vulnerability categories are shown in Table 14.

The present work assesses transmission lines to have an extreme susceptibility (level 5) due to their openness and remote locations. Buses are assessed to have moderate susceptibility (level 3) due to safety fences and possible video surveillance. Generators are usually located at facilities with security forces and high authorized personnel traffic. For this reason, generators are assessed to have a very low susceptibility (level 1).

To complete our example of the failure of transmission line 4, its random failure frequency is 0.39 outages/year. Multiplying this frequency with its performance index, we calculate the expected performance index for this transmission line to be 0.03448.

Table 14
Infrastructure asset vulnerability categories for ranking element failures due to malevolent acts

Vulnerability category	Description
Red	This category represents a severe vulnerability in the infrastructure. It is reserved for the most critical locations that are highly susceptible to attack. Red vulnerabilities are those requiring the most immediate attention
Orange	This category represents the second priority for counter-terrorism efforts. These locations are generally moderate to extreme valuable and moderately to extreme susceptible
Yellow	This category represents the third priority for counter terrorism efforts. These locations are normally less vulnerable because they are either less susceptible or less valuable than the terrorist desire
Blue	This category represents the fourth priority for counter terrorism efforts
Green	This is the final category for action. It gathers all locations not included in the more severe cases, typically those that are low (and below) on the susceptibility scale and low (and below) on the value scale. It is recognized that constrained fiscal resources is likely to limit efforts in this category, but it should not be ignored

The susceptibility category for transmission lines is extreme and transmission line 4 possesses a moderate performance index, which results in the line being assigned to the Orange category for vulnerabilities (Table 14).

4. Discussion

4.1. Stakeholder S-1

The input provided by stakeholder S-1 is used to determine the baseline results for the RTS-96 single area grid. S-1 valued *Economics* and *Image* as the most important impact categories and this resulted in the *Lost Revenue*, *Political Image*, and *Customer Image* performance measures being the dominant contributors to the overall value of each failure scenario. The top ten components ranked by their risk significance with respect to malevolent acts and random events are provided in Tables 15 and 16, respectively.

An in depth look at the results for the vulnerability rankings showed that there were two major reasons for T-16 and T-17 being placed at the top of the list. These transmission lines connect the upper portion of the grid,

Table 15
Top 10 components ranked by vulnerability level for S-1 (minor malevolent acts)

Rank	Component	Average load shed (MW)	PI	Susceptibility level	Vulnerability level
1	T-16	734	0.4021	5 – Extreme	I (Red)
2	T-17	850	0.4021	5 – Extreme	I (Red)
3	T-7	218	0.2583	5 – Extreme	I (Red)
4	B-17	1252	0.2246	3 – Moderate	II (Orange)
5	B-20	1385	0.2246	3 – Moderate	II (Orange)
6	T-14	136	0.2107	5 – Extreme	II (Orange)
7	T-15	136	0.2107	5 – Extreme	II (Orange)
8	T-13	687	0.1833	5 – Extreme	II (Orange)
9	B-3	1075	0.1820	3 – Moderate	II (Orange)
10	B-4	879	0.1820	3 – Moderate	II (Orange)

Table 16
Top 10 components ranked according to their expected disutility for S-1 (random failures)

Rank	Component	Average load shed (MW)	PI	Failure frequency (outages/year)	\bar{PI}
1	T-13	687	0.1833	0.44	0.0806
2	T-5	374	0.1055	0.48	0.0506
3	T-30	136	0.0883	0.54	0.0477
4	T-21	136	0.0883	0.52	0.0459
5	T-2	190	0.0883	0.51	0.0451
6	T-23	415	0.1055	0.38	0.0401
7	T-34	136	0.0883	0.45	0.0398
8	T-12	136	0.0883	0.44	0.0389
9	T-8	239	0.1055	0.36	0.0380
10	T-25-1(2)	136	0.0883	0.41	0.0362

where the majority of the generation is located, to the lower portion of the grid. When these lines fail, they limit the amount of power that can be transmitted to the lower portion of the grid causing the transmission lines in the lower portion of the grid to become stressed by increasing their loading. This increased loading results in transmission line T-5 becoming overloaded which then trips and increases the scenario's impact on bus 6. This results in a large number of customers being shed. Transmission lines T-16 and T-17 also have extremely long power outage durations due to their long repair times. This combination of duration and magnitude causes a high level impact to both *Political Image* and *Lost Revenue*.

Another interesting result of the vulnerability ranking for S-1 is that the amount of load shed alone does not determine the order in which the components are ranked. This observation is illustrated by the components ranked #6 through #10. The last two components of the ranking, B-3 and B-4, result in very large load sheds. However, T-14, T-15, and T-13 result in less load shed but are ranked higher. This is due to the transmission lines having a much longer duration associated with them. The duration is the key factor here that elevates their impacts to stakeholder S-1.

Looking at the results for the random failure events, high failure frequency was the dominant consideration for the rankings. Transmission line T-13, ranked #1 on the list, is one of two lines that connect a remote load bus, bus 6, to the grid. Upon failure of T-13, only moderate load shed results due to the other line connected to bus 6 having the ability to be loaded more minimizing the impact. However, due to its relatively high failure frequency, T-13 represents the most expected disutility to stakeholder S-1 by resulting in moderate impact to *Lost Revenue* and *Customer Image*. The components that resulted in higher load shed usually were associated with very low failure frequencies which reduced their expected impacts to S-1.

It was expected that the value of each generator would be high given the limitation placed on the modeling of gen-

eration at each bus. It was also expected that the buses would result in large consequences due to the load directly connected to the bus being completely lost when it fails. The infrastructure analysis did result in a large amount of load being shed when a bus or generator was selected as the initial failed component, which would have caused them to stand out in a conventional stability analysis of the grid. However, transmission lines are the highest ranked contributors with respect to both random events (expected disutility) and malevolent acts (vulnerability) for stakeholder S-1. This is due to the amount of load shed being only one of the factors that determine risk significance. In general, the high susceptibility level (extreme) and higher failure frequencies of the transmission lines are the key factors that elevated them in the rankings above the other types of components even though the amount of load is usually smaller.

4.2. Sensitivity evaluation

To determine the sensitivity of the results to the input provided by the various participating members, the component rankings were produced using each stakeholder's input. The rankings from each stakeholder are then compared to evaluate their differences.

As shown in Table 17, the five stakeholders' views of importance of the impact categories include many differences. This resulted in very large differences in the weights of each performance measure. The top ten components ranked by their vulnerability level and expected disutility for each stakeholder are presented in Tables 18 and 19, respectively.

The results of the comparisons between the component rankings of the stakeholders are surprising. Each stakeholder's vulnerability ranking results in very similar results with few differences in the components identified, the order of the components, and the vulnerability levels associated with each component within the rankings. Inspection of the effects each impact category has on the overall value for each stakeholder resulted in the following findings:

Table 17
Value tree weights (rankings) for each IC and PM by stakeholder

IC/PM	S-1	S-2	S-3	S-4	S-5
Economics	0.2441 (2)	0.2849 (2)	0.0614 (4)	0.1088 (3)	0.1991 (2)
Lost revenue	0.2092 (2)	0.2493 (2)	0.0491 (5)	0.0907 (4)	0.1493 (3)
Repair/replace	0.0349 (7)	0.0356 (6)	0.0123 (8)	0.0181 (6)	0.0498 (5)
Image	0.5058 (1)	0.4935 (1)	0.1487 (3)	0.0405 (4)	0.0427 (4)
Public	0.0388 (6)	0.0347 (7)	0.0266 (6)	0.0077 (7)	0.0101 (7)
Political	0.3693 (1)	0.1270 (4)	0.1054 (4)	0.0300 (5)	0.0297 (6)
Customer	0.0977 (4)	0.3318 (1)	0.0167 (7)	0.0028 (8)	0.0029 (8)
Health and Safety	0.1667 (3)	0.1645 (3)	0.4954 (1)	0.5139 (1)	0.6504 (1)
General public	0.0333 (8)	0.0274 (8)	0.2477 (2)	0.4111 (1)	0.3252 (1)
Utility worker	0.1333 (3)	0.1371 (3)	0.2477 (2)	0.1028 (3)	0.3252 (1)
Environment	0.0834 (4)	0.0570 (4)	0.2946 (2)	0.3368 (2)	0.1078 (3)
Fauna	0.0834 (5)	0.0571 (5)	0.2946 (1)	0.3368 (2)	0.1078 (4)

Table 18
Top 10 components ranked by vulnerability level for all stakeholders

Rank	S-1	S-2	S-3	S-4	S-5
1	T-16/I (Red)	T-16/I (Red)	T-16/II (Orange)	T-16/II (Orange)	T-16/II (Orange)
2	T-17/I (Red)	T-17/I (Red)	T-17/II (Orange)	T-17/II (Orange)	T-17/II (Orange)
3	T-7/I (Red)	T-7/I (Red)	T-7/II (Orange)	B-17/II (Orange)	B-17/II (Orange)
4	B-17/II (Orange)	T-14/I (Red)	B-17/II (Orange)	B-20/II (Orange)	B-20/II (Orange)
5	B-20/II (Orange)	T-15/I (Red)	B-20/II (Orange)	T-7/II (Orange)	T-7/II (Orange)
6	T-14/II (Orange)	T-13/I (Red)	T-13/II (Orange)	T-13/II (Orange)	T-14/II (Orange)
7	T-15/II (Orange)	T-8/II (Orange)	T-14/II (Orange)	T-14/II (Orange)	T-15/II (Orange)
8	T-13/II (Orange)	B-17/II (Orange)	T-15/II (Orange)	T-15/II (Orange)	T-13/II (Orange)
9	B-3/II (Orange)	B-20/II (Orange)	G-13/III (Yellow)	G-13/III (Yellow)	T-23/II (Orange)
10	B-4/II (Orange)	B-3/II (Orange)	G-18/III (Yellow)	B-3/III (Yellow)	T-5/II (Orange)

Table 19
Top 10 components ranked by expected disutility for all stakeholders

Rank	S-1	S-2	S-3	S-4	S-5
1	T-13 [0.0806]	T-13 [0.1172]	T-13 [0.0417]	T-13 [0.0320]	T-13 [0.0366]
2	T-5 [0.0506]	T-5 [0.1108]	T-30 [0.0203]	T-30 [0.0145]	T-30 [0.0300]
3	T-30 [0.0477]	T-30 [0.0932]	T-21 [0.0195]	T-21 [0.0140]	T-21 [0.0289]
4	T-21 [0.0459]	T-21 [0.0898]	T-5 [0.0194]	T-2 [0.0137]	T-2 [0.0283]
5	T-2 [0.0451]	T-2 [0.0880]	T-2 [0.0191]	T-5 [0.0131]	T-5 [0.0269]
6	T-23 [0.0401]	T-23 [0.0877]	T-34 [0.0169]	T-34 [0.0121]	T-34 [0.0250]
7	T-34 [0.0398]	T-8 [0.0831]	T-12 [0.0165]	T-12 [0.0118]	T-12 [0.0244]
8	T-12 [0.0389]	T-34 [0.0777]	T-25-1 [0.0154]	T-25-1 [0.0110]	T-25-1 [0.0228]
9	T-8 [0.0380]	T-12 [0.0759]	T-25-2 [0.0154]	T-25-2 [0.0110]	T-25-2 [0.0228]
10	T-25-1(2) [0.0362]	T-25-1(2) [0.0709]	T-26 [0.0154]	T-26 [0.0110]	T-26 [0.0228]

- The *Economics* and *Image* impact categories are more sensitive than the other impact categories to the range of physical consequences that can result from component failures in the grid.
- The *Health and Safety* and *Environment* impact categories have very little influence on the overall failure scenario impact unless the physical consequences include a lengthy duration and/or a very large number of customers are affected by the scenario.

Even though S-3, S-4, and S-5 rank *Health and Safety* and *Environment* highly, the higher level of these impact

categories are not affected until the physical consequences reach a very large scale. In order to impact these higher levels, almost half of the power grid would need to be shed which did not occur in this study. This was in line with the consensus reached at the input elicitation workshop that the impact to *Health and Safety* and *Environment* was small unless a catastrophic event takes place. Without the higher scales of these impact categories being affected, the *Economics* and *Image* impact categories are the key factors that determine a component's value. This results in similar random event and malevolent act rankings of the components among all stakeholders.

5. Concluding remarks

The methodology presented in this paper provides a systematic process that produces a ranking of the elements within the bulk power grid for random failures and malevolent acts. This ranking is not dictated by the amount of load shed when a specific component experiences failure but, rather, by multiple aspects that make up the risk a component adds to the system, as determined by the impacts to the stakeholders. The reasons for each component's position in the rankings are identifiable and can be traced back to the stakeholder preferences and the infrastructure itself. These results should be viewed as a first input to a deliberation by the stakeholders in which their reasonableness of the rankings is debated and the assumptions of the analysis scrutinized [28]. The results of this analysis process are also stakeholder dependent. Any other stakeholder, such as a federal agency like the Department of Homeland Security, could include additional performance measures and discard some that we have included in our study. However, the methodology is unchanged and would result in a component ranking appropriate for the new stakeholder's views.

There are several areas in which additional work is required to improve the analysis. The identification and modeling of more specific customer groups would improve the value assessment of each component in the grid by allowing a more specific look at the effects on customers during power outages. Customer prioritization for load shedding would also increase the accuracy of the analysis by not including the customers that pay a premium for more reliable service in most load shedding scenarios.

Application of this methodology to an actual portion of the North American power grid would also provide the realism needed to generate more support for the methodology. The power flow simulation model is in its infancy and is being improved regarding its generator modeling capabilities and load shedding scheme. This will allow the results for forced outages of generators to be more realistic. Further improvements to the model will also include mitigation measures to minimize load shedding to better reflect the application of such in the industry. It is also realized that placing each component into a susceptibility level by its type is also not completely realistic, such as all buses

in the Moderate susceptibility level. This assumption eliminates probably the most significant risk to a substation, the susceptibility of various individual components within the substation. To increase the accuracy of the analysis, the analyst must identify each component's susceptibility on a case by cases bases. This was not possible with the application of the RTS-96 single area grid due to the limited data provided for each component.

This paper's purpose is to present the MIT risk ranking methodology as it applies to the bulk power grid. The load flow simulation model used in the presentation of this methodology is not the focal point. The analysts are not bound to perform the infrastructure analysis in this manner and may choose any method of analysis suitable to meet their needs. The assumptions made in this paper are sometimes broad and may appear to oversimplify the analysis. However, the improvements suggested above to increase the realism of the individual tools used would not affect the overall methodology.

Acknowledgement

We thank Bryan Richardson of Sandia National Laboratories for his help with the power flow simulation model used in this work.

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