

■ **Energy & Infrastructure Program**

*Energy Project*

■ **National Security Program**

*Homeland Security Project*

# Cybersecurity and the North American Electric Grid:

## New Policy Approaches to Address an Evolving Threat

### By the Numbers

**256** cyber incidents reported to DHS in 2013 across all critical infrastructure sectors

**59%** of those 256 incidents in 2013 involved the energy sector – particularly, electricity

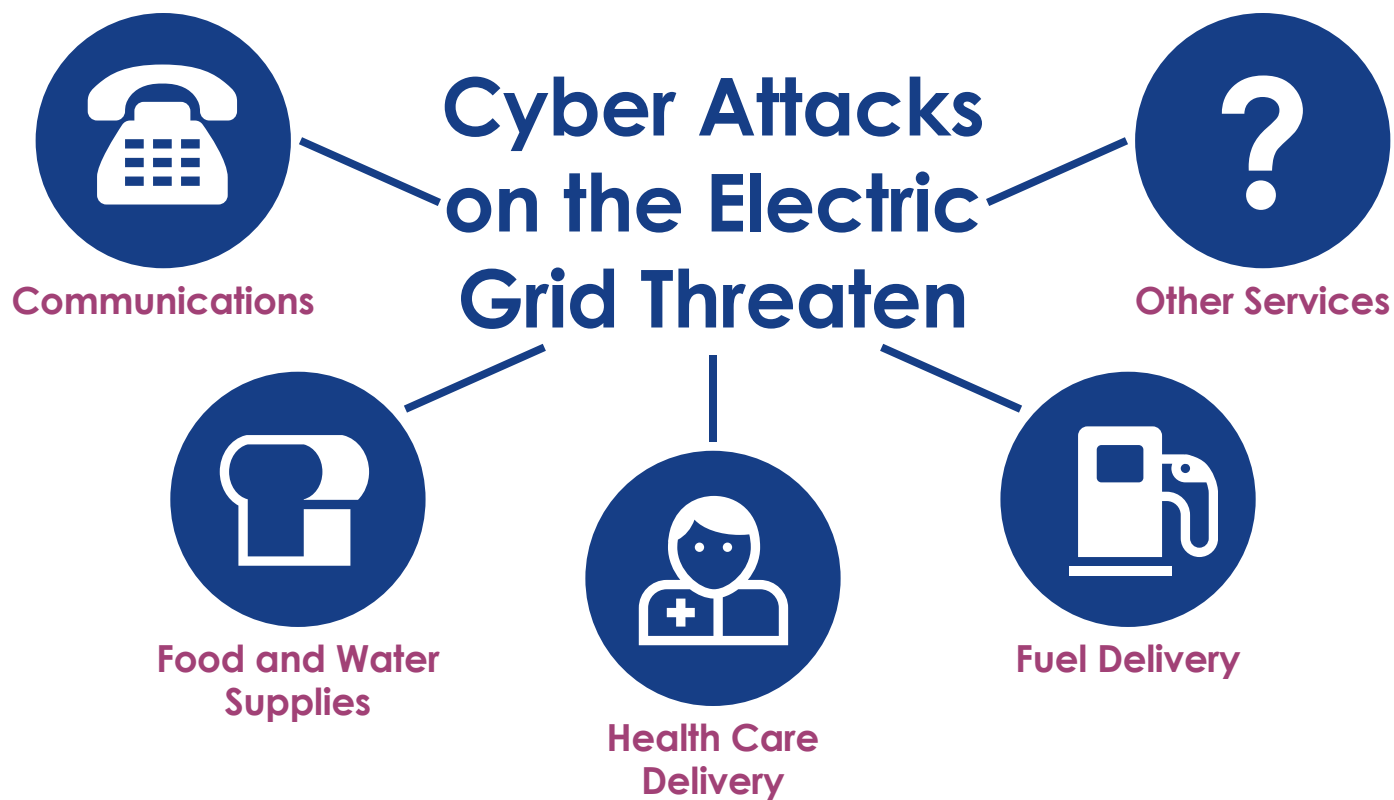
**\$6B** estimated cost of the 2003 Northeast Blackout

**\$7B** projected investments by utilities on cybersecurity by 2020

### BPC's Recommendations Include:

- Standards and best practices
- Information sharing
- Response to a cyber attack
- Evaluation of and cost recovery for cybersecurity investments





## Room for Improvement

The electric sector has extensive policies in place to assure grid reliability. However, current efforts for electric grid cybersecurity are dispersed and involve numerous federal, state and local agencies.

Urgent priorities include:

- Strengthening existing protections for the distribution system as well as the bulk power system;
- Enhancing coordination at all levels; and
- Accelerating the development of robust protocols for response and recovery in the event of a successful attack.

To find out more about BPC's Electric Grid Cybersecurity Initiative or to read the report, go to <http://bipartisanpolicy.org/projects/electric-grid-cybersecurity-initiative>