



CASE STUDY

Midwest U.S. Public Utility Gains NERC CIP Efficiencies with Industrial Defender

A Case Study on How a College Town Utility
Maintain OT Security & NERC CIP Compliance

[INDUSTRIALDEFENDER.COM](https://www.industrialdefender.com)



BACKGROUND

In the heart of a midwestern college town lies a city-run public utility, serving the energy needs of over 60,000 customers. This utility, though a relatively smaller power provider, still must carefully comply with stringent cybersecurity controls outlined in the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's Critical Infrastructure Protection (NERC CIP) standards. These standards are crucial for safeguarding critical infrastructure from cyber threats, yet maintaining and demonstrating compliance poses a significant challenge, particularly for a smaller public utility where teams are overstretched, and resources are limited.

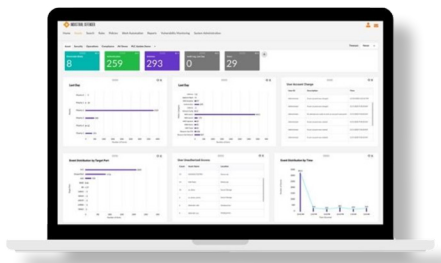
CHALLENGE

NERC CIP audits require extensive data collection, an exercise that is not only prone to errors when done manually but also consumes a significant amount of time and resources. For a utility with constrained resources, this process can be particularly taxing, so they sought a solution to help them maintain and prove NERC CIP compliance as reliably and efficiently as possible.

THE SOLUTION: THE INDUSTRIAL DEFENDER PLATFORM

The solution came in the form of the Industrial Defender platform, a solution that excels in automating OT security and compliance, particularly for NERC CIP. This platform enhances the utility's approach to managing its OT environment by offering a comprehensive and current understanding of all OT assets. It details configurations, vulnerabilities, and changes, moving beyond basic asset inventory to deliver deep, actionable insights into the OT landscape, thereby bolstering the utility's vigilance against cybersecurity and operational risks.

Implementing Industrial Defender's solution minimizes the need for manual processes like site walk-downs and spreadsheet management. Automated data collection, at the depth NERC CIP requires, ensures that important OT security and compliance data is always readily available, accurate, and easily accessible. When proving compliance, audit-ready NERC CIP reports can be generated with ease and on demand with the Industrial Defender solution.



**A SOLUTION
THAT EXCELS IN
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AND
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PARTICULARLY
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RESULTS

The integration of Industrial Defender's platform and automated data capabilities has not only led to a substantial boost in efficiency for the utility but has also cemented their confidence in the accuracy and reliability of their data. This advancement in data accessibility and management means the utility can now retrieve audit-relevant information about their OT environment with just a few clicks. This increased situational awareness of OT assets and potential risks greatly enhances their day-to-day operations.

◆ **With Industrial Defender, the utility is centrally monitoring and managing 100 assets including:**

- Workstations
- Servers
- VM Host Servers
- Firewalls
- Switches
- Storage Array

◆ **With comprehensive and accurate asset data, the utility is then able to leverage the platform to:**

- Manage secure configurations and vulnerabilities
- Establish baselines to maintain known, compliant states
- Detect when changes occur
- Easily produce NERC-CIP reports

Automating these efforts, the team has reported 80% reduction in compliance documentation preparation.

With quick deployment as a turnkey solution, Industrial Defender has freed up the utility's teams to focus on their core mission of delivering uninterrupted, safe, and efficient electric service to its community. The utility continues to operate with heightened assurance and confidence in meeting regulatory requirements and maintaining robust cybersecurity controls.

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THE INDUSTRIAL DEFENDER DIFFERENCE

Industrial Defender is a global leader in providing deep-level asset data and endpoint information for addressing cyber risks across the operational technology (OT) environment. Our customers rely on us as a single source of truth for all operational asset information, enabling them to achieve key goals in OT asset management and policy compliance. The Industrial Defender difference is in our best-in-class approach to data collection, with integrated methods for completeness and depth of OT asset information. Our mission is to protect our customers' reputations and competitive edge as the cyber-physical landscape evolves.

Learn more at www.industrialdefender.com.

Planning an OT Security Project?

SCHEDULE A DEMO

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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