



CASE STUDY

Clean Power Generation

Fast Tracking NERC CIP
Compliance to Save \$3 Million
in Upgrade Costs

INDUSTRIALDEFENDER.COM





COMPANY PROFILE

As a critical infrastructure developer, owner, and operator of power generation facilities in North America and Europe, this utility markets a wide range of clean energy products from a portfolio of natural gas-fueled, solar, and wind energy generation projects.

With over 6,600 MW of utility-scale renewable and natural gas-fueled power generation facilities globally, this utility prides itself on being North America's largest independent wind power generation company. The company operates and maintains more than 1,000 turbines at dozens of wind farms across North America. As designated critical infrastructure, this utility must operate with a zero down time policy, so maintaining reliability and availability while ensuring safety of workers and health of their control systems is paramount.

THE SITUATION: QUICK COMPLIANCE

When this utility brought their new 500MW generation facility Online, it was designated a critical cyber asset by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation under their Critical Infrastructure Protection (NERC CIP) standards since it exceeded the 300MW baseline. NERC gave them a 2-year deadline for compliance. With the average NERC CIP compliance program taking 30 months to achieve, the program had to be enacted quickly.

They first reached out to their multiple control system vendors in search of a purpose-built solution. While each vendor offered a comprehensive solution for their respective system, implementing a measurable, sustainable security and compliance program across the entire control system environment would still require numerous solutions. Having multiple solutions would require more equipment, maintenance, training, staff resources and budget than was possible. After presenting the initial findings to management, the project team was encouraged to search for external solutions that were vendor-agnostic and would be scalable enough to handle future projects.

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CUSTOMER REQUIREMENTS

- NERC CIP compliance reporting
- Automated data collection
- Continuous security monitoring
- Collection of ports and services data
- Asset management
- Firewall management
- Support of vulnerability assessments
- Interoperable with multiple control system vendor

THE SOLUTION: INDUSTRIAL DEFENDER

With a set of robust requirements and the significant constraints of the control systems environment, the team began to search for a solution from a broad range of vendors. They quickly found that few had long-term experience working within complex industrial control system networks or a scalable method for monitoring specific assets inside control networks such as RTUs and PLCs. The utility found the only solution provider that understood their challenges, met their requirements and delivered a sustainable compliance program was Industrial Defender.

With a total deployment time of less than 4 weeks from project scoping to system operation, systems engineers deployed Industrial Defender for less than 50% of the cost of comparable solutions and in a fraction of the time other vendors estimated. The solution included:

- Event/log management
- Compliance reporting
- Intrusion detection system
- Unified threat management

Goals	Results
• Enact sustainable compliance program to meet/exceed NERP CIP standards • Create and implement a measurable security monitoring program	• Automated regulatory compliance • Reduced cybersecurity risk and system maintenance costs • Improved revenue per headcount KPI

THE RESULT: MORE THAN JUST A COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

Industrial Defender exceeded the company's requirements for NERC CIP compliance and, thanks to the automated data collection, no additional staffing was required. Preparing for a compliance audit had once been an extremely tedious, manual endeavor requiring many operators to collect information from a wide range of devices.

With fully automated data collection, the staff previously assigned with manual compliance tasks were now able to focus on maintaining system uptime. They could now set baselines for software application, ports and services, and patch baselines using Industrial Defender and, with a few clicks, report against these baselines to identify variances and ensure system stability. Prior to deploying Industrial Defender, endpoint data collection could typically take 2-3 hours per device.

While they benefited from having operators focused on primary duties, a major cost savings came from delaying a system upgrade to the tune of \$3M.

“After meeting with us and reviewing our Technical Feasibility Exceptions, NERC auditors accepted Industrial Defender’s technology and threat mitigation strategies, instead of requiring the full operating system upgrade they had earlier requested. This was an incredible cost savings and immediately justified the purchase above and beyond what we saved by not deploying multiple point solutions.”

THE INDUSTRIAL DEFENDER DIFFERENCE

Since 2006, Industrial Defender has been solving the challenge of safely collecting, monitoring, and managing OT asset data at scale, while providing cross-functional teams with a unified view of security. Their specialized solution is tailored to complex industrial control system environments by engineers with decades of hands-on OT experience. Easy integrations into the broader security and enterprise ecosystem empower IT teams with the same visibility, access, and situational awareness that they're accustomed to on corporate networks. They secure some of the largest critical control system deployments with vendors such as GE, Honeywell, ABB, Siemens, Schneider Electric, Yokogawa and others to protect the availability and safety of these systems, simplify standards and regulatory requirements, and unite OT and IT teams.

Planning an OT Security Project?

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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