

# Electric Power and Power Electronics Institute

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## WEEKLY SEMINAR SERIES – FALL 2017

Monday, November 6th, 2017, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m., ETB 1003

### **CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE: ADVENTURES IN THE WORLD OF INDUSTRIAL CONTROL SYSTEMS**

Benjamin Stirling  
Operations Technology Analyst at Luminant

#### **Abstract**

Supporting and securing modern control systems requires a unique knowledge and skillset. This session will discuss a root cause analysis covering a denial of services event, that resulted in the faulting of control system processors. As well as the recovery and lessons learned. It will also address the topic of how to build the knowledge and team to secure the ICS environment. The speaker will share a model for the development of the necessary skill, the consequences of failure, and a call for change. Attendees will have an opportunity to engage in a discussion of the benefits and challenges of implementation of this environment as well as ask questions.

#### **Biography**

Benjamin Stirling is an Operations Technology Analyst with Luminant, a subsidiary of Vistra Energy, as well as a member of the ERCOT CIP working group. For the last four years, Ben has been deeply integrated with Luminant's I&C, Operational Technology, and Vistra Cyber Security groups. Providing support in cyber security engineering regarding industrial control systems and other critical infrastructures, he works to identify security and operational risks and develop mitigating approaches. He also conducts system and network administration in addition to project management. With a 13-year background in information technology, physics, and cyber security analysis, he also provides consulting services for the banking, publishing, energy, and healthcare industries as well as for a variety of commercial organizations. His current research focuses on control systems protocols and application security.