

DOE identifies foreign adversaries, seeks input on securing the U.S. bulk-power system

21 July 2020

On 8 July 2020, the Department of Energy (DOE) published a [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) regarding the implementation of Executive Order (EO) 13920 of 1 May 2020, on [Securing the United States Bulk-Power System](#). See our prior analysis of the EO [here](#). On 21 July 2020, DOE issued a notice [extending](#) the comment deadline to **24 August 2020**.

The RFI includes several key pieces of information. First, it identifies as “foreign adversaries” for purposes of the EO the governments of China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, and Venezuela. DOE indicates that this list is subject to periodic review and could be expanded or modified.

In addition, the RFI notes that the Secretary of Energy may establish pre-qualification criteria for certain components that support defense critical electric infrastructure (DCEI) and other critical loads and critical transmission feeders (69 kV and above) reported under critical infrastructure protection reliability standards as formulated by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

The RFI also seeks comments on the following types of equipment:

1. Transformers (including generation step-up transformers).
2. Reactive power equipment (reactors and capacitors).
3. Circuit breakers.
4. Generation (including power generation that is provided to the Bulk Power System (BPS) at the transmission level and back-up generation that supports substations).

Finally, the RFI also requests input from asset owners in particular on a number of detailed questions regarding supply chain security and the economic impact of the EO.

If you have any questions, please contact the Hogan Lovells lawyers listed below.

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