Summary

Todd Ponto joined ScottMadden in 2020, bringing with him 30 years of experience specializing in cyber and physical security, operational assessments, infrastructure design, and compliance auditing. During the past 12 years, he has consulted and advised energy, gas and oil, and water utilities. Prior to ScottMadden, Todd served as a NERC contract auditor, designing and implementing real-time networks for utilities and as a subject matter expert for NERC's GridEx 3 and GridEx 4 exercises, leading energy utilities to achieving compliant NERC CIP programs. Todd was also a member of the safety committee for VELCO. He is a proud U.S. Navy veteran who served in the Gulf War. He earned a master's degree in information security from Capella University and holds certifications in CISSP, GCIP, and PSP.

Areas of Specialization

- Transmission and Distribution
- NERC/CIP Compliance
- Operational Technology
- Compliance Program Assessment, Development, and Assurance
- Utility Operations and Technology
- Technology Selection and Implementation

Recent Assignments

- Provided NERC compliance support for a utility in the Northeast that was undergoing a NPCC CIP and O&P audit
- Assisted a battery storage energy vendor with NERC registration requirements and the requirements needed to meet NERC standards
- Provided technical and compliance advisory for the design and construction of a primary and backup control center in the NYISO area. Also provided advisory on physical security controls needed to meet NERC CIP-014 requirements for the primary control center
- Designed and assessed technical architectural segmentation methods for a large generation utility which reduced its generation BCS from medium to low impact for two large hydro plants
- Worked with a team on the NERC CIP compliance program recovery effort for a large utility focused on improving technical program and procedure documentation, educating and training the workforce, enhancing work management tools to track NERC-related activities, and developing dashboards and reporting tools to make CIP activities more visible across the organization. Implemented program recovery for generation and transmission on the NERC CIP standards
- Developed and worked to implement technology standards and frameworks for a large utility in Malaysia
- Designed and led the implementation of a new cyber security program, including the standardization of the cyber security tools used throughout the enterprise, for a large generation utility in Canada. This project not only ensured the utility could meet the latest cyber security threats but also standardized the cyber security tools used, reduced manpower, increased efficiency, and resulted in compliance with the latest NERC CIP standards
- Led the project team that advised and performed much of the work for a large municipal utility in Michigan in successfully integrating IT and operational technology (OT) across the entire enterprise. This multi-year project required a complete redesign of the IT and OT infrastructures, establishing a new communication backbone for the OT environments, assessing manpower requirements, and developing new FTE strategies, implementing proper cyber security tools in the OT environments, creating a new governance program to manage the new IT and OT divisions, and finally developing a solid and sound long-term budget. Provided support moving the current GIS to a new ESIR GIS system that would be used for their OMS. This was all done with no downtime for operations
- Worked as the owners' representative for the construction and renovation of the town's public elementary and high schools. Managed the design and implementation of the physical security measures, phone systems, computer networks, and installations of the visual and audio presentation systems, including the bells and public announcement system
- Performed investigations that included root cause analysis on safety incidents for a transmission utility in Vermont