

Spear Phishing Attacks Targeting the Power & Utilities Industries

Phishers who target our industry are usually motivated by more than financial gain. Their objective is to steal information and gain access to energy networks, power grids, computer networks, and other sensitive control areas. Once they have access to operational systems, they have the ability to sabotage or gain control of these systems, possibly resulting in numerous system outages and shutdowns. As the number of cyberattacks targeting our industry continues to increase, it is important to be aware of the latest threats.

Do you recognize the sender?

From: m.smith@abcenergy.net

Subject: Documents for Review

Good day,

Kindly quote your best price and availability for the attached PO.

NOTE

1. Please quote price for ABC ENERGY
2. A MTC to be attached for evaluation

Important Notes:

1. You shall provide delivery on quotation.
2. You shall clearly mention weight.
3. Please send along technical details.
4. Your most competitive commercial offer complete in all respects, shall reach us ASAP.

Regards,
Mike Smith
ABC ENERGY

Does this email follow typical procedures for a PO?

Appealing to sense of urgency.

Spoofs a trusted brand to establish credibility.

REMEMBER:

- 1 Don't interact with unsolicited hyperlinks and attachments
- 2 Setup multi-factor authentication
- 3 Encrypt email and files
- 4 Always verify