

Registered Ballot Body Procedure

Purpose

This document explains the steps in establishing the Registered Ballot Body (RBB) and the subsequent Registered Ballot Pool (RBP) for the purpose of Voting by ERCOT Membership on proposed Regional Reliability Standards as detailed in Step 5 of Texas Regional Entity Standards Development Process.

Membership

The Registered Ballot Body will be comprised of representatives from all market segments to provide balanced decision-making on ERCOT-Specific Reliability Standards and Regional Variances. The Ballot Body will vote on all proposed new or revised ERCOT-Specific Reliability Standards and Regional Variances.

Entities entitled to vote (Voting Entities) are ERCOT Corporate Members, ERCOT Associate Members, and ERCOT Adjunct Members. Voting Entities must align themselves each calendar year with a Segment for which they qualify for or in the case of Adjunct Members, a Segment to which they are similar to. Voting Entities that align themselves with a Segment must be aligned with that same Segment for all ERCOT subcommittees, and remain aligned with that Segment for the entire calendar year.

Membership in ERCOT is open to any entity that meets any of the segment definitions as set forth in the ERCOT Bylaws. Members must be in an organization that either operates in the ERCOT region or represents consumers within the ERCOT region.

The members are organized by the following seven market segments:

- Consumers
- Cooperatives
- Independent Generators
- Independent Power Marketers
- Independent Retail Electric Providers
- Investor-Owned Utilities
- Municipals

Segment Qualification Guidelines

The segment qualification guidelines are inclusive; i.e., any entity with a legitimate interest in the reliability of the ERCOT Bulk Power System that can meet any one of the guidelines for a segment is entitled to belong to and vote in that segment.

The general guidelines for all segments are:

- Members must qualify in one of the segments as defined in Article 3 of ERCOT Bylaws
- At any given time, affiliated entities may collectively be registered only once within a segment.
- Corporations, organizations, and entities may participate freely in all meetings.
- The qualification guidelines and rules for joining segments will be reviewed periodically to ensure that the process continues to be fair, open, balanced, and inclusive.
- Only one representative of each Voting Entity may vote. Voting Entities are limited to their Representative or their designated Alternate Representative.

Voting

The Reliability Standards Manager (RSM) shall send a notice to every entity in the Registered Ballot Body (RBB) to establish a ballot pool for a Regional Standard or a Regional Variance to a NERC Reliability Standard action at least 30 days prior to the start of a ballot. The purpose of this notice is to establish a ballot pool to participate in the consensus development process and ballot the proposed action. The ballot pool may be established earlier in the development process to encourage active participation in the development process.

Any member of the Registered Ballot Body may join or drop out of a ballot pool until the ballot period begins (Step 5 of Texas Regional Entity (RE) Standards Development Process). No Registered Ballot Body member may join or leave the ballot pool once the first ballot starts, including between the first ballot and a recirculation ballot (Step 6B of Texas Regional Entity Standards Development Process). The RSM shall coordinate changes to the membership of the ballot pool and publicly post the ballot pool for each action.

At least one (1) ERCOT Member Representative from five (5) of the seven (7) ERCOT Market Participant Segments must vote to constitute a quorum.

If a quorum of the ballot pool is not established, the Regional Standard or Regional Variance to a NERC Reliability Standard will be balloted a second time, allowing a 15-business day period for the ballot. Should a quorum not be established with the second ballot, the RSM would re-survey the Registered Ballot Body to establish interest in participating in a ballot in accordance with the procedures for ballot pool formation. A re-ballot will take place with the revised ballot pool.

Members of the ballot pool should submit any comments on the proposed Regional Standard or Regional Variance to a NERC Reliability Standard during the public comment period. If any comments are received during the ballot period, they shall be addressed in accordance with Step 4 of Texas Regional Entity Standards Development Process and included with the recirculation ballot.

The RSM shall facilitate the Standard Drafting Team (SDT), assisted by the requester, in preparing a response to all votes submitted with reasons. The member submitting a vote with reasons will determine if the response provided satisfies those reasons. In addition, each objector shall be informed that an appeals process exists within the Texas Regional Entity Standards Development Process (Appendix B, Section VII)

A negative vote that does not contain a statement of reason does not require a response.

If there are no negative votes with reasons from the first ballot, then the results of the first ballot shall stand.

The above segment is in accordance with the NERC Standards Development Process.

At all meetings, each Segment shall have one (1) Segment Vote. The representative of each Voting Entity, participating in the vote, shall receive an equal fraction of its Segment's Vote.

The Consumer Segment vote shall be divided into three sub-segments (Residential, Commercial, and Industrial) that receive one third of the Consumer Segment Vote. If no representative from a Consumer sub-segment is present; such sub-segment's fractional vote is allocated equally to the participating sub-segment(s). If a representative from a sub-segment abstains from a vote, the fraction of the Consumer Segment Vote allocated to such representative is not included in the vote tally.

In the event that a representative of any other Voting Segment abstains from a vote, the Segment Vote is allocated among the members casting a vote within the segment; except for the Consumer Segment.

If a draft Standard receives 4.67 or greater affirmative votes during the 15-day voting period, the RSC will forward the Standard to the ERCOT BOD for action (Step 7 of the Texas RE Standards Development Process).

If a draft Standard does not receive 4.67 or greater affirmative votes during the 15-day voting period, the RSC may take several steps at its own discretion based on Step 6B of the Texas RE Standards Development Process.