ERCOT Quick Facts

At a glance

- 72,820 megawatts (MW) generating capacity
- 62,339 MW system peak demand (August 2006)
- 13.8% reserve margin for 2008 (12.5% target)
- 38,000 miles of transmission lines
- 550 generation units
- 21 million Texans served
- 307 billion kilowatt-hours of power delivered annually
- 85% of Texas load
- 75% of Texas land area
- $30 billion market size
- 95% bilateral wholesale market
- 5% ERCOT-run balancing energy and ancillary services market
- $1.9 billion in annual billings

What do we do?

Senate Bill 7 (1999) restructured the Texas electric market by unbundling the investor-owned utilities and creating retail customer choice in those areas, and assigned ERCOT four primary responsibilities:
- System reliability – planning and operations
- Open access to transmission
- Retail switching process for customer choice – Only ISO with responsibilities as registration agent for retail transactions
- Wholesale market settlement for electricity production and delivery

Other Organizational Functions
- Wholesale market administration
- Ancillary services market administration
- System planning coordination
- Renewable Energy Credits management (statewide)
- Market participant/stakeholder activity support

How are we doing?

Generation Development
- 34,000 MW new generation added since 1996
- 10,245 MW of committed resources through 2013 (generation with interconnection agreements and air permits); includes 4,258 MW wind (effective load-carrying capacity of 370 MW)
- 104,000 MW of generation interconnection requests in the queue, including approximately 49,000 MW wind, 15,500 MW nuclear, 31,000 MW natural gas, and 8,500 MW coal (April 2008)

Transmission Investment
- 6,200 circuit miles of transmission built since 1999
- 2,538 circuit miles of transmission under study
- $3.9 billion investment in transmission placed in service since 1999
- $3 billion under development

Retail Service by Competitive Retailers
- 46% of residential load
- 66% of small commercial load

What’s ahead?

Comprehensive nodal market implementation, anticipated launch in 2009, to include:
- Nodal locational marginal pricing for generation
- Congestion revenue rights
- Day-ahead energy and ancillary services co-optimized market
- Day-ahead and hourly reliability unit commitment
- Price cap increases phased in through 2009