Quick Facts

At a glance
- About 90% of Texas load
- 24 million consumers
- Competitive-choice customers: 73% of load
  - 6.7 million electric-service ID's (premises)
- More than 43,000 circuit miles of high-voltage transmission
- 550 generating units
- More than 74,000 megawatts (MW) capacity for peak demand
  - One megawatt of electricity can power about 200 Texas homes during periods of peak demand.
- Record peak demand: 68,305 MW (Aug. 3, 2011)
  - New monthly peaks in October, November and December 2013
- Energy used in 2013: 331 billion kilowatt-hours
  - A nearly 2.1 percent increase compared to 2012
- Market participants: More than 1,100 active entities that generate, move, buy, sell or use wholesale electricity

What we do
The Texas Legislature restructured the Texas electric market in 1999 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
- Wholesale market settlement for electricity production and delivery

State of the Grid
Transmission Investment and Development
- $14.3 billion in transmission added since 1999
- 9,141 circuit miles of transmission improvements since 1999
- 2,558 circuit miles of transmission planned
- $3.7 billion under development in five-year plan

Generation Development
- 48,000 MW new generation added since 1999
  - 137 older units decommissioned
- 12,754 MW generation committed for the future
  (with transmission contract and air permit)
- 51,100 MW of active generation requests under review,
  including more than 24,200 MW of wind (December 2013)

Wind Generation
- More than 11,000 MW of installed wind capacity
- More than 11,000 MW of installed wind capacity
- Most of any state in the nation
- Wind generation record: 10,808 MW (November 28, 2014)
- 34 percent of the load at the time

Retail Service Switches
- 89% of residential customers (February 2014)
- 90% of small non-residential customers (February 2014)
- 97% of large non-residential customers (February 2014)
- 186 certified competitive retail electric providers

Advanced Meters and Demand Response
- 6.6 million advanced meters
  - 97 percent of ERCOT load in competitive areas settled with 15-minute interval data
- More than 2,100 MW in demand response resources, including:
  - Load resources (mostly large industrial) ~1,200 MW
  - Emergency response service (commercial and industrial) ~700 MW
  - Utility load management programs
- Additional economic demand response, voluntary public responses to conservation requests and more

Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc.
ERCOT Governance

ERCOT Board of Directors

Craven Crowell  
Chair  
(unaffiliated)

Judy Walsh  
Vice Chair  
(unaffiliated)

Tonya Baer  
Office of Public Utility Counsel  
(residential consumer, ex-officio)

Jorge Bermudez  
(unaffiliated)

Mark Carpenter  
Oncor Electric Delivery  
(investor-owned utility)

Read Comstock  
Direct Energy LP  
(independent retail electric provider)

H.B. “Trip” Doggett  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer, ERCOT (ex-officio)

Jack Durland  
Valero Services Inc.  
(industrial consumer)

Keith Emery  
Tenaska Power Services  
(independent power marketer)

Nick Fehrenbach  
City of Dallas  
(commercial consumer)

Michehl Gent  
(unaffiliated)

Kevin Gresham  
E.ON Climate & Renewables  
(independent generator)

Clifton Karnei  
Brazos Electric Cooperative  
(cooperative)

Donna Nelson  
Chair, Public Utility Commission  
(ex-officio, non-voting)

Karl Pfirrmann  
(unaffiliated)

Carolyn Shellman  
CPS Energy  
(municipal utility)

Segment Alternates

Kristy Ashley  
Exelon Corporation  
(independent generator)

Mike Kezar  
South Texas Electric Cooperative Inc.  
(cooperative)

Jean Ryall Porter  
CCNG Power  
(independent power marketer)

Wade Smith  
American Electric Power  
(investor-owned utility)

John Werner  
Source Power & Gas LLC  
(independent retail electric provider)

Phil Williams  
Denton Municipal Electric  
(municipal)

Board, Stakeholder Process

The ERCOT Board of Directors has general overall responsibility for managing the affairs of ERCOT, including approval of the budget and capital spending priorities, approval of revisions to ERCOT protocols and guides, and endorsement of major new transmission recommendations.

ERCOT’s 16-member “hybrid” board includes five independent (or unaffiliated) members; three consumer segment representatives (industrial, commercial and residential); the ERCOT CEO; the Public Utility Commission (PUC) chairman (nonvoting), and six representatives from each of the industry segments – investor-owned utilities (or transmission owners), municipally-owned utilities, cooperatives, generators, power marketers and retail electric providers.

Under the Board’s oversight, ERCOT’s stakeholder process is responsible for developing policies, procedures and guidelines for power grid coordination, reliability and market operations.

Six standing committees and subcommittees supported by numerous working groups and task forces function within the stakeholder process.

PUC, Legislative Oversight

ERCOT is unique because its electricity grid is not synchronously connected outside of the state. Because of its separateness, ERCOT is primarily regulated by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) and the Texas Legislature, not federal authorities. The PUC approves the ERCOT system administration fee and has general oversight authority, including the ability to order audits.

For most purposes, ERCOT, like the PUC, is accountable to the Texas Legislature and its jurisdictional committees. For federal reliability standards, ERCOT is accountable to the Texas Reliability Entity, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) manages the flow of electric power to approximately 24 million Texas customers – representing about 90 percent of the state’s electric load and 75 percent of the Texas land area. As the Independent System Operator for the region, ERCOT schedules power on an electric grid that connects more than 43,000 miles of transmission lines and 550 generation units. ERCOT also manages financial settlement for the competitive wholesale bulk-power market and administers customer switching for 6.7 million premises in competitive choice areas. ERCOT is a membership-based 501(c)(4) nonprofit corporation, governed by a board of directors and subject to oversight by the Public Utility Commission of Texas and the Texas Legislature.