

# FACT SHEET

## Grid Security & Reliability

### **RELIABILITY: “JOB 1”**

- ERCOT is a Regional Reliability Council of the North American Reliability Council (NERC)
  - Monitors & enforces compliance with NERC standards

### **GRID & MARKET OPERATIONS ARE SECURE**

- No external material vulnerability has been detected
- No market operations affected or market data compromised

### **ERCOT’S SECURITY & RELIABILITY FUNCTIONS**

- Enforce compliance with NERC reliability standards
  - Separate Compliance group reports directly to CEO
- Electricity scheduling and congestion management
  - Grid operations 24x7
- Supervise transmission planning process
  - Over 693 miles of new 345kV high-voltage power lines constructed since 2000
- Maintain emergency operation procedures

### **SYSTEM OUTAGES & ERCOT RESPONSE**

- Blackouts can have numerous causes:
  - Weather event
  - Fuel curtailment
    - E.G., natural gas diverted from electric generation to consumer use
  - Simultaneous major facility outages or equipment failure
    - Due to coincidence or coordinated large-scale attack
- ERCOT system is prepared for “first contingency” crisis
- ERCOT has sophisticated processes for restoring service
  - “Black start” plan to restore power to grid
    - Certain plants outfitted with diesel generators able to fire up without grid power
- “Never Say Never!”