

# ERCOT FACT SHEET

## Openness and Communication

### **PUBLIC MEETINGS**

- Meetings are posted weeks in advance on the ERCOT website and are announced in advisory emails distributed to ERCOT's subscriber lists.
  - Sign-up for the subscriber lists is free and open to the public.
- All ERCOT meetings are open to the public on a walk-up basis.
  - RSVPs are requested only for purposes of ensuring adequate accommodations, but are NOT required to attend.
  - The only exceptions to this open meeting policy are executive sessions of the Board, which are held only to discuss personnel issues, contracts or litigation. (This is consistent with Open Meetings law.)
- This language appears on the ERCOT web site calendar of events page. The open meeting policy is also included in outbound email meeting announcements.

**ERCOT meetings, including open session meetings of the Board and meetings of TAC and its subcommittees and working groups, are open to the public.\* In order to ensure adequate accommodations we request that you please RSVP to the contact person listed below at least two business days in advance (although an RSVP is not required to attend).**

\*The only exceptions to this public meeting policy are executive sessions of the Board of Directors (for limited confidential subjects), and certain meetings at which confidential information must be examined by a restricted audience of market participants, pursuant to confidentiality agreements (e.g., some transmission planning meetings; some stakeholder workgroup activities examining risks to system reliability; and some vendor selection processes).

### **ACCESS TO INFORMATION ONLINE at [www.ercot.com](http://www.ercot.com)**

ERCOT posts online for public access a significant amount of information, including:

- customer switching statistics
- energy prices
- other market data,
- transmission system information

The categories of data ERCOT makes available online are constantly growing, as ERCOT responds to requests and input from the market where additional transparency is warranted.

ERCOT makes confidential market information available to market participants through ERCOT's password-protected portal known as Texas Market Link, where they can view only their respective market data.

### **INFORMATION REQUEST PROCESS**

ERCOT provides a convenient web-based process for any person to request information from ERCOT.

- The process for obtaining information was developed by ERCOT in cooperation with PUCT staff, OPUC staff, Texas Legal Services Center staff, and Legislative Oversight staff.
- Includes some exceptions for confidential information.
- This process was in place even before it was required by PUCT Rule (See PUCT Subst. R. 25.362(e)).
- ERCOT responds to about 30 information requests per month through the following web address:  
<http://www.ercot.com/AboutERCOT/InformationRequest.cfm>
- If a requestor is unsatisfied with ERCOT's response to an information request, a complaint may be filed at the PUCT. No such complaints have been filed.
- Any denial of an information request will be accompanied by identification of the applicable exception.
  - If a document contains information that is not subject to an Exception, where possible only the excepted information will be redacted from the document before it is presented to the requestor.

### **ERCOT SUPPORT OF PUC INFORMATION NEEDS**

ERCOT devotes significant resources to providing the Commission with the information it needs to perform the many facets of its oversight function. ERCOT is committed to sustaining this effort and improving the completeness in responding to the needs of the Commission and taking initiative to keep the Commission informed of ERCOT activities.

#### **PUC Access to All Information**

- The PUCT has the authority to obtain any ERCOT information (See PUCT Subst. R. 25.362(e)(2)).
- Some confidential information (e.g., market and security data) is transmitted and managed securely.

#### **Market Oversight**

- \$3.4 million capital expenditure over the last two years, prioritized to meet the needs of the Market Oversight Division (MOD)
- Market Oversight Monitoring System - \$1.3 capital expenditures for 2004 alone. Between \$250,000-\$750,000 planned for 2005.
- Support for two full time PUC consultants in ERCOT facilities with full access to ERCOT databases.
- Numerous market monitoring reports in support of MOD analysis.

- Computer support for MOD activities.
- Ready access to ERCOT subject matter experts.

### **Retail Market Performance Metrics**

- Development and maintenance of retail transaction performance (2000 page reports filed quarterly at the PUCT).
- ERCOT Staff support of the PUC Retail Market Oversight division.

### **Fee Requests**

- Completion of the PUC approved “Fee Filing Package” and in compliance with PUC Rules.
  - In the past, over 400 pages of detailed schedules, testimony, and other information; voluminous responses to discovery requests from PUC Staff and other parties.
  - PUCT is in the process of expanding the Fee Filing Package to require more detail.
- By October 1, 2005, ERCOT must seek approval of its fees using the expanded Fee Filing Package format.