



# Briefing on Possible Reimplementation of Board Question & Answer Sessions

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**H.R. & Governance Committee Meeting  
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**ERCOT Public**

## Overview

- Review of Status
- Scheduling of Sessions
- Webcasting Requirements
- Format of Sessions

# Possible Reimplementation of Board Question & Answer Sessions

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## Review of Status

- There has been renewed interest among Board members in Question and Answer (Q&A) Sessions.
- Q&A Sessions have traditionally preceded ERCOT Board meetings, but were discontinued in 2009 in consideration of new webcasting costs.
- ERCOT staff assigned to agenda items are available to response to Board members' requests and questions.
- A Q&A Session was scheduled at the end of the Monday, September 20, 2010 Special Board meeting (in part to assess the interest of the Board in re-instituting regular Q&A Sessions).
- ERCOT Staff presents the following information for the Board's information as it considers the re-implementation of Q&A Sessions, and requests direction from the Board.

# Possible Reimplementation of Board Question & Answer Sessions

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## Scheduling of Sessions

- **Historically**
  - Question and Answer (Q&A) Sessions are held:
    - On third **Monday** of each month from **4:00 pm to 5:00 pm** at the Austin MET Center (prior to the Board of Directors which are held on the third Tuesday of each month)
  - Board members usually attend in person, but are not required to attend
  - ERCOT subject matter experts (SMEs) usually attend either in person (for those who work primarily at the Austin facility) or by conference call (for those who work primarily at the Taylor facility)

## Options

- **Maintain the same historical schedule**
  - Monday from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm prior to the Tuesday Board meeting
- **Modify schedule**
  - Different start time on the same Monday
  - Different day

### Webcasting of Sessions

- **Legal Requirements**
  - ERCOT considers Q&A Sessions to be public meetings of the “governing body” of ERCOT within the meaning of PUC Substantive Rule Section 25.366 (*Internet Broadcasting of Public Meetings of an Independent Organization*)
- **Quorum Considerations**
  - Quorum triggered depending on Board member attendance
  - Even if no quorum, Q&A Session has been posted; thus, webcasting anticipated
- **Webcasting Costs**
  - Will increase if no other meetings are scheduled on the same day, based on current terms of vendor agreement

### Options

- **Webcast all Q&A Sessions**
- **Coordinate Q&A Sessions with other meetings which require webcasting**

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## Format of Sessions

- **Historically**
  - No written agenda was prepared
  - Notice of sessions (without agenda) was posted on ERCOT.com website
  - ERCOT Staff conducted a review of the General Session agenda items (in numerical order) of the Board of Directors scheduled for the following day
  - ERCOT SMEs answered Board members' questions during the one-hour review

## Options

- **Maintain historical format**
- **Modify format to include:**
  - More formalized presentation by ERCOT Staff, particularly as to TAC items
  - Prepare and post agenda
- **Consider other Board-requested format**