



**The Finance & Audit (F&A) Committee is  
expected to consider  
F&A Committee Agenda Item 6.3:  
*Recommendation regarding Investment Corporate  
Standard*  
at its meeting on February 9, 2015**

**The Board of Directors is expected to hear the  
F&A Committee's recommendation on this matter  
as part of the F&A Committee Report at  
the Board meeting on February 9-10, 2015.**

**Attached are the Board materials in relation to  
these agenda items.**



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## **Item 6.3: Recommendation regarding Investment Corporate Standard**

*Leslie Wiley*  
Treasurer

Finance & Audit Committee Meeting  
ERCOT Public  
February 9, 2015

# Investment Corporate Standard

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- The Investment Corporate Standard's objective is to document the guidelines and related activities for the investment and management of funds held by ERCOT.
- The Board of Directors established the Standard, which is reviewed annually.
- ERCOT staff proposes minor modifications to update titles.
- Seeking a vote from Finance and Audit Committee members.

# Investment Corporate Standard Objectives

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The Investment Corporate Standard defines:

- Investment Objectives
  1. Safety
  2. Liquidity
  3. Return on investment
- Investment Instruments
  1. Qualified Institutions
  2. Money Market Mutual Funds
- Investment Constraints
  1. Maximum in Qualified Institutions
  2. Maximum in Money Market Mutual Funds
  3. Treasury Funds

## Request for Vote

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ERCOT is seeking a vote from the Finance and Audit Committee to recommend that the Board of Directors approve ERCOT's Investment Corporate Standard with minor modifications.

**<Vote>**



**Date:** February 2, 2015  
**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Leslie Wiley, Treasurer  
**Subject:** Investment Corporate Standard

**Issue for the ERCOT Board of Directors**

**ERCOT Board of Directors Meeting Date:** February 9-10, 2015

**Item No.:** 14.4

**Issue:**

Whether the Board of Directors (Board) of Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. (ERCOT) should approve any or all of the ERCOT staff-proposed modifications or recommend and approve any other changes to the ERCOT Investment Corporate Standard (Standard), to become effective upon approval by the Board.

**Background/History:**

The Board has established an Investment Corporate Standard, which is reviewed annually and updated as needed. The Board must approve any modifications to the document.

This Standard documents the guidelines and related activities approved by the Board for the investment and management of funds held by ERCOT, whether those funds arise from ERCOT operations or are held by ERCOT on behalf of the ERCOT market.

ERCOT staff has reviewed the Standard and respectfully proposes minor staff title changes, as reflected in *Attachment A*, to become effective upon approval by the Board. The Finance and Audit (F&A) Committee is expected to recommend the Board adopt, reject, or amend the Standard at its February 9, 2015 meeting.

**Key Factors Influencing Issue:**

The key factors influencing the issue are adherence to provisions of Board-approved corporate standards, improved clarity and consistency of policy documents, and the need to provide sound financial guidance for ERCOT's exempt purposes.

**Conclusion/Recommendation:**

The F&A Committee is expected to review the revised Standard at its meeting on February 9, 2015 and is expected to recommend to the Board whether any revisions should be made to the Standard and whether they should become effective upon approval by the Board.



**ELECTRIC RELIABILITY COUNCIL OF TEXAS, INC.**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, after due consideration of the alternatives, the Board of Directors (Board) of Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. (ERCOT) deems it desirable and in the best interest of ERCOT to revise the ERCOT Investment Corporate Standard (the Standard), as recommended by the Finance and Audit (F&A) Committee, consistent with the revisions reflected in *Attachment A* hereto;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ERCOT is hereby authorized and approved to revise the Standard consistent with the revisions reflected in *Attachment A*, to be effective immediately.

**CORPORATE SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE**

I, Vickie G. Leady, Assistant Corporate Secretary of ERCOT, do hereby certify that, at its February 9-10, 2015 meeting, the ERCOT Board passed a motion approving the above Resolution by \_\_\_\_\_.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this \_\_\_\_ day of February, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vickie G. Leady  
Assistant Corporate Secretary

## ERCOT CORPORATE STANDARD

<b>Document Name:</b>	<b>Investment Corporate Standard</b>
<b>Document ID:</b>	<b>CS3.2</b>
<b>Effective Date:</b>	<b><del>February 11, 2014</del> Upon Approval</b>
<b>Owner:</b>	<b>ERCOT Board of Directors and Finance &amp; Audit Committee</b>
<b>Governs:</b>	<b>ERCOT Personnel</b>
<b>Approved:</b>	<b>ERCOT Board of Directors</b>

### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the ERCOT Investment Corporate Standard is to document the guidelines and related activities for the investment and management of funds held by ERCOT. ERCOT invests and manages funds received from a variety of sources including:

- 1) fees described in ERCOT protocols;
- 2) proceeds from the issuance of debt;
- 3) receipts from congestion revenue rights auctions;
- 4) receipts relating to market settlement operations;
- 5) security deposits from market participants; and
- 6) receipts from other miscellaneous sources.

The Investment Corporate Standard does not apply to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan investments, which are managed separately.

### 2. TERMS & DEFINITIONS

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition / Description</i>
<b>Designated Investment Officers</b>	ERCOT's President and Chief Executive Officer, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, <del>Vice President and</del> General Counsel <u>and Senior Vice President – Governance, Risk &amp; Compliance</u> , Vice President <del>of Finance and Treasury</del> <u>and Chief Financial Officer</u> , and <del>Treasury Manager</del> <u>Treasurer</u> .
<b>ERCOT</b>	All references to "ERCOT" in the Investment Corporate Standard shall be to Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc., unless ERCOT is used in conjunction with "market", in which case the reference shall be to the market which ERCOT manages.
<b>"Prudent investor" standard</b>	A financial concept assuming investment transactions are made with judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, that persons of prudence, discretion and intelligence would exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation but for investment, considering the probable safety of principal as well as the probable income to be derived.



### 3. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

Responsibility for the Investment Corporate Standard is hereby delegated to ERCOT's Designated Investment Officers. They establish a system of controls over the investment program including written investment procedures for the operation of the investment program consistent with the Investment Corporate Standard. No person may engage in an investment transaction except as provided under the terms of the Investment Corporate Standard and the procedures established by the Designated Investment Officers.

Designated Investment Officers shall apply the prudent investor standard in managing ERCOT's investment portfolio. The Designated Investment Officers, acting in accordance with the prudent investor standard, supplemented as appropriate by other written procedures pertaining to the administration and management of ERCOT's investment portfolio, shall be relieved of personal responsibility for an individual security's credit risk or market price changes.

### 4. INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES

ERCOT's investment activity is guided by three primary objectives:

1. Safety of principal – The foremost objective of ERCOT's investment program is safety of principal.
2. Liquidity – ERCOT's investment portfolio will remain sufficiently liquid to enable ERCOT to meet all operating requirements which might be reasonably anticipated.
3. Return on investment – ERCOT's investment portfolio is designed with the goal of attaining a reasonable rate of return throughout budgetary and economic cycles, in line with ERCOT's objectives relating to safety of principal and liquidity.

### 5. INVESTMENT INSTRUMENTS

To ensure ERCOT's three primary investment objectives are met, Designated Investment Officers shall ensure ERCOT invests only with Qualified Institutions offering money market mutual funds investing in U.S. treasury securities or a combination of U.S. treasury securities and repurchase agreements backed by U.S. treasury securities. ERCOT will make a reasonable effort to keep investments in funds investing 100 percent in treasuries. Investments should be diversified among a number of money market mutual funds offered by a variety of Qualified Institutions.

*Qualified Institutions* – Any two Designated Investment Officers shall have authority to identify and establish investing relationships with financial counterparties, also known as Qualified Institutions.

To be approved as a Qualified Institution, Designated Investment Officers will ensure that, at a minimum, the entity can take the following action:

1. Maintain a senior debt rating at least the equivalent of A- by Standard & Poor's or A3 by Moody's Investor Service;
2. Provide current audited financial statements to ERCOT treasury personnel;

3. Maintain capital of not less than \$100 million; and
4. Maintain assets of not less than \$1 billion.

If an ERCOT Board member or member of his or her immediate family is an officer or director, is employed by, or owns or has a beneficial interest in more than 10 percent of the stock in a bank or other financial institution that would otherwise be a Qualified Institution, such Board member shall provide full disclosure of such stock holdings or relationship to the ERCOT General Counsel in documented form to be filed with corporate records of ERCOT. Any institutions so disclosed will be excluded from consideration as a Qualified Institution without full disclosure to the Board of Directors of the relationship and approval of the Board to establish the relationship.

Qualified Institutions wishing to serve as an ERCOT cash depository must also be a federal or state-chartered bank and offer federal deposit insurance to the maximum amount allowed by law.

Money Market Mutual Funds – ERCOT will only invest in money market mutual funds which are defined under Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 2a-7, have at least \$1 billion of assets under management, and which invest in U.S. treasury securities or a combination of U.S. treasury securities and repurchase agreements backed by U.S. treasury securities. ERCOT will make a reasonable effort to keep investments in funds investing 100 percent in treasuries.

Direct Treasury Purchases – ERCOT may directly purchase United States Treasury obligations, the principal and interest of which are fully guaranteed by the government of the United States, if the strategy for such transactions have been pre-approved by the Finance and Audit Committee.

Cash Investments – To the extent possible, ERCOT attempts to match its investments with anticipated cash flow requirements. Some level of cash may remain un-invested to meet liquidity needs or to address unusual situations as they arise.

## **6. INVESTMENT CONSTRAINTS**

Designated Investment Officers shall ensure that investments are made in compliance with the following constraints:

1. No more than 10 percent of the portfolio shall be invested with any single Qualified Institution,.
2. No more than 10 percent of the portfolio shall be invested in any single money market mutual fund.
3. No more than 40 percent of the portfolio shall be invested in repurchase agreements across all money market mutual funds.

## **7. INVESTMENT LOSSES**

Investment losses incurred on money market mutual funds held by ERCOT on behalf of Market Participants for collateral are attributable to Market Participants and are not borne by ERCOT.

ERCOT shall not have any fiduciary relationship with Market Participants and no implied covenants, functions, responsibilities, duties, obligations or liabilities shall be read into the Investment Corporate

Standard. Investment losses attributable to Market Participants shall be addressed in the ERCOT Protocols or by direction from ERCOT Board of Directors.

## 8. INVESTMENT MONITORING

Credit Analysis – Designated Investment Officers shall at least monthly review investments held through money market mutual funds to identify credit risk arising from the investments. Any credit-related concerns not satisfactorily resolved with fund managers will result in movement of the investment to an alternative fund. ERCOT staff will not duplicate credit analysis performed by fund managers and are not expected to provide assurance that all holdings are creditworthy.

100 Percent Treasury Analysis – Designated Investment Officers shall at least monthly review investments held through money market mutual funds to ensure funds are invested in 100 percent treasuries or repurchase agreements backed by treasuries. Any concerns not satisfactorily resolved with the fund managers will result in movement of the investment to an alternative fund.

Concentration Analysis – Designated Investment Officers shall at least monthly review investments held through money market mutual funds to identify concentration by counterparty. Any concerns not satisfactorily resolved with the fund managers will result in movement of the investment to an alternative fund.

Repurchase Agreement Analysis – Designated Investment Officers shall at least monthly review investments held through money market mutual funds to ensure portfolio has at least 60 percent invested in U.S. treasuries and no more than 40 percent in repurchase agreements backed by U.S. treasuries. Any concerns not satisfactorily resolved with the fund managers will result in movement of the investment to an alternative fund.

Direct Treasury Transaction Analysis – Designated Investment Officers shall at least monthly review any direct treasury purchases to ensure purchases are consistent with the plan approved by the Finance and Audit Committee. The Finance and Audit Committee will receive notification of auction results.

Investment Reporting – Designated Investment Officers shall provide regular periodic investment reports to ERCOT's Finance and Audit Committee which summarize monthly Credit Analysis, 100 Percent Treasury Analysis, Concentration Analysis, Repurchase Agreement Analysis, and Direct Treasury Transaction Analysis. Each report to the Finance and Audit Committee shall include a certification of compliance with the provisions of the Investment Corporate Standard.

Compliance Testing – Designated Investment Officers shall ensure that ERCOT's internal auditor periodically tests compliance with the Investment Corporate Standard and associated procedures.

## 9. CORPORATE STANDARD ADOPTION

ERCOT's Investment Corporate Standard is adopted by resolution of ERCOT's Board of Directors. The Corporate Standard is reviewed annually by the Finance & Audit Committee and any modifications made thereto must be approved by the Board of Directors.