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| SCR Number |  | SCR Title | Retail Market Test Environment |
| Date Posted | |  | |
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| Requested Resolution | | Normal | |
| Supporting Protocol or Guide Section(s)  (If applicable) | | 7.11.3.1, Flight Testing Submission of Customer Billing Contact Information  7.15.1, Ad Hoc Connectivity Test of Advanced Metering System Interval Data | |
| Other Document Reference/Source | |  | |
| System Change Description | | This System Change Request instructs ERCOT to develop a new Retail Market Test Environment, in addition to the current Certification environment, that mimics the Production environment functionality. This new Retail Market testing environment will provide flexibility and availability for ad-hoc testing requests by MPs, and will reduce the overall risk to the Retail Market by allowing MPs to fully test internal projects before going live in Production. | |
| Reason for Revision | | Addresses current operational issues.  Meets Strategic goals (tied to the [ERCOT Strategic Plan](http://www.ercot.com/content/news/presentations/2013/ERCOT%20Strat%20Plan%20FINAL%20112213.pdf) or directed by the ERCOT Board).  Market efficiencies or enhancements  Administrative  Regulatory requirements  Other: (explain)  *(please select all that apply)* | |

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| **Business Case** | |
| **Qualitative Benefits** | Describe qualitative benefits   * Allows for the Retail Market Participants to independently test various market processes independent of the current Certification testing environment * Reduces potential negative customer impact and/or market participant risks by testing changed or new business processes before implementation * Provides flexibility and availability for any adhoc testing needs for Retail Market Participants that is not contingent upon the current certification testing environment blackout periods * Eliminates the need for simulation date to test transactions * Eliminates the need for sending duplicate transactions multiple times * Requires minimal manual intervention of transaction processing * Allows ERCOT systems to simulate retail transactions thereby eliminating the need for additional retail market participants to be involved in additional adhoc testing * Allows retail systems in addition to Texas SET and NAESB to be certified for new releases * Could potentially be leveraged to support certain retail market training scenarios * Would allow testing of initial Web Service Definition Language (WSDL) to expose Applicaion Program Interface (API) errors * Would allow a final API WSDL to be provided at earliest date possible |
| **Quantitative Benefits** | Explain in detail possible benefit calculations to support quantifiable benefits .  Based on prior experience with various Market Projects both ERCOT and MPs estimate savings as detailed below:   * Estimated that the new testing environment would save 8 man hours per retail market participant per market project. * A more stable testing environment will reduce the testing duration by 80%. * Reduces unexpected cost of issues that are identified post implementation. * Reduces or eliminates risk to the market by providing a robust testing environment accessible for MPs to test internal projects with ERCOT prior to going live in Production. |
| **Impact to Market Segments** |  |
| **Other** |  |

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| Market Segment | NA |

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| Business Case for Proposed System Change  [Please provide sufficient detail] |

**Issue:**

The Certification (CERT) environment was originally created and is currently used for Market Flight testing to certify Market Participants in ERCOT Retail Market.

Our investigation into current CERT environment capabilities revealed that it does not meet Retail Market testing needs. Some of the challenges found during the course of our investigation are:

1. Insufficient for market volume testing and API testing.
2. Currently the test scenario uses a Simulated (SIM) date. This makes it difficult to perform adhoc testing in CERT.
3. Restricted availability for additional adhoc testing outside CERT environment schedules.
4. Data is purged after every testing cycle resulting in resending of same data.
5. Manual intervention required for validating transaction data set.
6. Current environment unable to simulate Transmission and/or Distribution Service Provider (TDSP)/ Competitive Retailer (CR) transactions resulting multi party coordination for testing.

**Resolution:**

Due to Retail Market’s evolution, there is a need for a market facing test environment that provides expanded functionality that is not currently supported by CERT environment. A fully robust testing environment will provide flexibility and availability for any ad-hoc testing requests by Market Participants. This new testing environment would operate on its own unique release calendar and SLAs.

Expanded functionality to match ERCOT production environment capabilities for the following:

1. Improving overall testing capabilities in all the Retail Business Processes.
2. Eliminating the need for SIM date to test transactions.
3. Allowing existing Market Participants more flexibility to perform various adhoc testing during Monday to Friday (8:00 am – 5:00 pm).
4. Data is purged only on agreed upon schedule eliminating the need for sending the same transactions multiple times.
5. Transactions are processed through ERCOT systems with minimal manual intervention resulting in faster turn around time.
6. ERCOT systems are able to simulate TDSP/CR transactions.

**Benefits:**

1. This environment will allow Retail Market Participant to perform testing independent of certification flight schedules. Specifically, This new environment will be used to test following business functional process:
   1. TXSET EDI Transactions.
      1. Market Participants will have the ability to send individual as well as batched transactions.
      2. Market Participants will have the ability to test in isolation since the new environment will be providing the faciltity to mimic a TDSP or a CR.
   2. Ability to test MarkeTrak API and GUI.
      1. Market Participants will be able to test MarkeTrak API and GUI in more robust environment.
      2. Market Participants will have the ability to performance test MarkeTrak API.
   3. Non-EDI transactions.
      1. Market Participants will have the ability to send and receive non-edi transactions like CBCI, Demand Response, Loads in SCED and LSE.
   4. Browser Compatability Support.
      1. Market Participants will have the ability to test applications with upgraded version of browser in specific configurations.
   5. Ability to test NAESB Electronic Delivery Mechanism (EDM) modifications and future version upgrades.
2. The quantative benefits of the new Retail Testing environment:
   1. Estimated that the new testing environment would save 8 man hours per retail market participant per market project.
   2. A more stable testing environment will reduce the testing duration by 80%.
   3. Reduces unexpected cost of issues that are identified post implementation.
   4. Reduces or eliminates risk to the market by providing a robust testing environment accessible for MPs to test internal projects with ERCOT prior to going live in Production.