

Electric Reliability Council of Texas

Market Data Transparency

Service Level Agreement

**Summary:**

This document describes Market Data Transparency services provided by ERCOT to Market Participants.

**EFFECTIVE: 1/1/2016**

Document Revisions

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Version | Description | Author(s) |
| January 2015 | 8.0 | 2015 Draft | Dave Pagliai |
| January 2016 | 9.0 | Updated Section 2.2.2 – 2016 Release Calendar  Updated Section 3.2, 6 | Dave Pagliai |

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# 1. Introduction

This Service Level Agreement (SLA) describes Market Data Transparency Services provided by ERCOT to Market Participants, and includes access to information, services and the delivery of data.

Where applicable, this information builds upon the requirements outlined in ERCOT Protocols and related Market Guides regarding the delivery of data extracts and reports.

In the event of a conflict between this document and the ERCOT Protocols, ERCOT Market Guides or PUCT Substantive Rules, the Protocols or PUCT Substantive Rules take precedence over this document.

# 2. Services

There are two services associated with this agreement:

* *Data Availability*  - the timeliness, completeness, and accuracy of the data created by ERCOT and delivered to Market Participants from automated reporting systems.
* *IT Applications*  - the availability of the applications that enable user access to ERCOT data.

## 2.1 Data Availability

### 2.1.1 Service Scope

ERCOT provides market data in the form of reports, extracts, dashboards and web services. These products are summarized in the [ERCOT Market Information List](http://www.ercot.com/services/mdt/) (EMIL).

### 2.1.2 Service Characteristics

The measured service characteristics that apply to the aforementioned products are: Timeliness, Completeness, and Accuracy. Incidents impacting these characteristics are reported as part of the Extract & Report Incident log, as described in Section 3.

ERCOT runs integrity checks to ensure that reports and extracts contain complete data sets. Validations will also be run to verify that the data sets provided are accurate and posted within protocol. Generation frequency for all products is recorded in the EMIL. Where there is not a specified protocol posting timeline, the default is 23:59 for the particular Operating Date.

For example, a daily report without a protocol posting timeline would be due by 23:59 for the given Operating Date and a weekly report would be delivered by the day of the week specified and no later than 23:59 that day to be considered ‘timely’.

***Hours of operation***

Data is available 24x7. Data issues will be worked during business hours only.

Note: Should you have any specific questions regarding reports and extracts, please contact your ERCOT Account Manager or the ERCOT HelpDesk for clarification at (512) 248-6800 or [hdesk@ercot.com](mailto:hdesk@ercot.com). A ticket will be generated by ERCOT and the issue will be tracked to completion.

## 2.2 IT Applications

### 2.2.1 Service scope

IT Applications enable user access to ERCOT systems and contribute to the delivery of ERCOT data. Measured operational elements include hours of operation, availability and performance targets, and Planned Outage windows. The following IT applications are in scope:

* **Market Information System (MIS**): User interface single point of access to protocol specified postings classified as Public, Secure, and Certified for reports, extracts, applications, and any other content required by protocol or a binding document.
* **External Web Services (EWS):** Programmatic point-of-entry to market systems enabling Market Participants to interact with the ERCOT market. Services include market transactions, automated notifications, and market information.
* **ERCOT.com:** ERCOT’s public website.
* **Commercial/Retail API**: Programmatic point of entry for Retail Find Transaction and Find ESIID services.
* **Market Participant Identity Management (MPIM):**  Provides administration support of digital certificate access to ERCOT MIS Secure and Certified areas.
* **Market Management System User Interface (MMSUI):** Point of entry for Market Transactions
* **Outage Scheduler User Interface (OSUI):** Point of entry for entering or managing outages

### 2.2.2 Service Characteristics

***Hours of operation***

ERCOT operates the hardware and software environment supporting the applications of this service 24/7, subject to scheduled maintenance windows. IT Operations supports these systems in Real Time, 24 x 7.

***Availability Targets***

ERCOT targets IT Applications to be available at least 99% of the time outside of scheduled maintenance and release windows. The exception is MPIM, which is targeted to be available 95% of the time.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Support Tier** | **Specification** |
| Real-Time | * Supported 24x7, 365 days a year, subject to scheduled maintenance windows. * Work until resolution for issues affecting system performance or availability * Problem and Issue Escalation happens in real-time |

***Scheduled Maintenance Window***

ERCOT reserves a Sunday maintenance outage window for IT applications. Notifications for planned maintenance during this window will be sent to the market at least 10 days prior to the planned outage.

* ***Sundays*—*6:00am until 9:00pm*** (15 hours)



***Release Window:***

* ERCOT will schedule 6 planned application releases per year during the following timeframe. Changes to this schedule will be managed as exceptions.
* Weekends ***7:00pm Saturday until 12:00am Monday*** (29 hours)



***2016***

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| --- | --- |
| **Month** | **Weekend Outage** |
| Jan | 30, 31 |
| Apr | 02, 03 |
| May | 21, 22 |
| Jul | 23, 24 |
| Sep | 17, 18 |
| Dec | 10, 11 |

# 3. Reporting

## 3.1 Data Extracts & Reports Service Reporting

ERCOT will maintain a log recording incidents impacting timeliness, completeness and/or accuracy of automated extracts & reports for which a market notice has been sent. The complete list of external products is available on the ERCOT Market Information List (EMIL - <http://www.ercot.com/services/mdt/>).

This log will be updated monthly and made available on the ERCOT website at <http://www.ercot.com/services/sla/>.The format of this log is outlined in section 6.

## 3.2 IT Application Service Reporting

ERCOT will measure and report availability and performance, both monthly and annually. These results will be reported monthly through the ERCOT governance process that includes the Commercial Operations Subcommittee, the Technical Advisory Committee, and the ERCOT Board of Directors.

These reports will include availability and/or performance for the following:

* **Market Information System (MIS**)
* **ERCOT.com**
* **Commercial/Retail API Availability**
* **Market Participant Identity Management (MPIM)**
* **External Web Services (EWS)**
* **Market Management System User Interface (MMSUI):** Point of entry for Market Transactions

**Outage Scheduler User Interface (OSUI):** Point of entry for entering or managing outages

**Availability:**

Availability is monitored through two methods, primarily through synthetic transactions which execute scripts against the IT applications at regular intervals. Upon returning a valid response, and not exceeding the timeout threshold, the IT application will be considered available. When this method cannot be used, the availability is calculated by system or hardware uptime, and outage detection through operational monitoring tools.

# 4. Service Availability Renegotiations and Change Control

Renegotiations of this SLA can be initiated by either Market Participants or ERCOT management by making a request through the stakeholder process. Changes outside the scope of this SLA, including delivery times required by protocols or market guides, will require use of the stakeholder process including Protocol revision requests.

Version control in the form of document version numbering will be maintained in this document as a means of providing a change control process.

# 5. Annual Review Process

ERCOT is committed to providing quality IT services to the competitive electric market in Texas. ERCOT intends that the IT services described in this document align with market participant requirements to the extent that is operationally feasible. To maintain alignment between the requirements of the market participants and the IT services delivered by ERCOT, the services defined in this document will be reviewed at least annually in a workshop setting or through an appropriate stakeholder group meeting.

# 6. Extract & Report Incident Log

A spreadsheet including the Extract & Report Incident Log will be maintained by ERCOT in a single spreadsheet file along with supporting information. This spreadsheet can be accessed at the following location:

<http://www.ercot.com/services/sla>

The following worksheets / tabs are included as part of this spreadsheet:

* Introduction / How to use
* Annual summary of Extract & Report Incidents
* Monthly summary of Extract & Report Incidents
* Detailed incident data of Extract & Report Incidents

Elements included in the ‘Detailed Incident Data’ tab are:

* Incident date
* Date of initial Market Notice (if applicable)
* Market Notice ID tag (if applicable)
* Incident start and end times and duration
* Application(s) impacted
* Extract or Report Impacted
* Service Impact
* Issue Description
* Root Cause
* ERCOT Protocols Missed (Y/N)
* Market impact – the impact of the incident to market participants and end use customers
* Root Cause Details
* Market Participant Input
* Identification method – the way that ERCOT learned of the incident (i.e.…monitoring, notification from market participant, etc…)
* Resolution
* Date of any identified fix to be implemented
* Additional comments or notes
* Current Status

The annual and monthly summary worksheets summarize the market notice data in annual and monthly breakdowns.

**7. Approvals**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Area of Responsibility** | **Name** | **Reviewed / Approved** | **Date** |
| Manager, ERCOT IT Support Services | Dave Pagliai |  |  |
| Manager, ERCOT Market Data Services |  |  |  |
| Stakeholder Sponsor – |  |  |  |

*Appendix A: Definitions*

This section contains definitions referred to in this document and of the commonly used acronyms.

* **Availability:** The ability of a component or IT service to perform its required function over a stated period of time
* **Degradation:** An event that causes the normal levels of ERCOT IT systems to be impacted while still allowing for minimal processing of or access to these systems
* **Incident**: Any event that causes the agreed levels of service of ERCOT IT systems to be impacted
* **Outage:** any incident resulting inthe unexpected failure of a computer or network hardware system or software application. As measured by this SLA, an outage occurs when an application fails to return a valid response within the timeout window. This window is between 20 seconds and 90 seconds, depending on the application.
* **Planned outage minutes**: minutes used by ERCOT during the maintenance and release windows
* **Planned Outage:** A planned change in ERCOT IT systems that prevents users from being able to access the systems
* **Unplanned Outage:** An unplanned change in ERCOT IT systems that prevents users from being able to access the systems
* **Unplanned Outage minutes:** minutes retail transaction processing services were not available that are outside of the planned use of the maintenance and release windows

*Appendix B: Notification Lists (from COPS Market Guide)*

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| Table 8:  E-mail Notification Subscription Lists  **Subscribe at:** lists.ercot.com  **View COPS Market Guide\*:**  [www.ercot.com/mktrules/guides/commercialops/current](http:// www.ercot.com/mktrules/guides/commercialops/current)  *\*See Table 8 for List Definitions and Information* |