**SCR786 Retail Market Test Environment Sandbox Functionality User Orientation**

1. **SCR786 Background**

The Retail Market Test Environment allows Retail Market Participant to perform testing independent of ERCOT Flight testing within the ERCOT Certification environment (CERT) prior to go-live in Production (PROD). This environment can be used to test the following business functional processes, but not limited to:

TXSET EDI Transactions:

Market Participants can send individual, as well as batched, TXSET transactions in isolation within an environment that mimics ERCOT PROD.

MarkeTrak GUI/API:

Market Participants can test MarkeTrak GUI and API performance and functionality within an environment that mimics ERCOT PROD.

Non-EDI transactions:

Market Participants can test non-EDI transactions such as Customer Billing & Contact Information (CBCI) files, Demand Response files, Loads in SCED and .LSE files.

Browser Compatibility Support:

Market Participants can test applications with upgraded browser versions in specific configurations.

NAESB EDM Support:

Market Participants can test NAESB Electronic Delivery Mechanism (EDM) modifications and future version upgrades.

1. **Prerequisites for Sandbox Testing**
2. Market Participants must have successfully completed Certification Testing prior to using the environment for sandbox testing.
3. Market Participants must have coordinated with their service provider, if applicable, before beginning sandbox testing.
4. Market Participants must have coordinated with any other Market Participant required for the completion of the desired test scenario before the start of testing.
5. Market Participants must have updated their testing worksheet, if applicable.
6. **Environmental Support**
7. ERCOT Business Support
   1. ERCOT Business Support for sandbox testing is available from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Retail Business Days.
   2. To request Business support, submit a MarkeTrak “Other” subtype issue using the Production instance of MarkeTrak. (Do not make request using the MarkeTrak version in the CERT Environment. That instance of MarkeTrak will not be monitored.)
   3. Business support should be requested at least 5 Retail Business Days in advance.
   4. Support for any request received less than 5 Retail Business Days in advance will be provided at ERCOT’s discretion.
8. ERCOT IT Support
   1. ERCOT IT Support for sandbox testing environment is available from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Retail Business Days.
   2. Issues with the testing environment should be reported through the ERCOT Helpdesk, specifying “CERT Environment”.
9. **Environmental Availability and Performance**
10. Environmental Availability
    1. Environment will be available for sandbox testing except during code migrations.
    2. Environment will be available for Flight Testing / Ad Hoc Flight Testing only during the designated Flight Testing windows.
    3. Sandbox testing can run simultaneously with Flight Testing / Ad Hoc Flight Testing.
11. Environmental Performance
    1. A maximum of 3 Market Participants can do volume testing in the environment simultaneously.
       1. Permission to run volume testing must be obtained by submitting a MarkeTrak “Other” subtype issue to ERCOT using the Production instance of MarkeTrak as early as possible, but not later than 5 Retail Business Days prior to first day of testing. The issue must contain the timeframe of the planned testing plus the expected volume of transactions.
       2. If more than 3 Market Participants request volume testing during the same timeframe, the first 3 requests received will be accepted and the additional Market Participants must wait.
    2. Transaction timing in the sandbox environment may not meet ERCOT Protocols when high volumes of transactions are submitted.
12. **Guidelines for the Environment**
13. Only file level validations, not business validations will be available for non-EDI files, such as Demand Response, ALRIS, and LSE.
14. Market Participants will aggregate their .EDI transactions as they do in Production. For example, 1 file of 3,000 transactions, not 3,000 files containing 1 transaction each.
15. ESIIDs set aside for use during Flight Testing will not be used for Sandbox Testing.
16. **Submitting Testing Requests**
17. Need additional language to describe when and why to submit testing requests.
18. Use Request Template, when applicable.