

**Problem Statements:**

**Data Product Change Management**

**Version 1.0**

Document Revisions

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Version | Description | Author(s) |
| 06/07/16 |  | Initial Draft | Damon Stewart |
| 06/08/16 |  | Revisions | Aubrey Hale |
| 07/26/16 | 1.0 | Comments | MDWG |

**Table of Contents**

[1. Overview 4](#_Toc453155855)

[1.1. Background 4](#_Toc453155856)

[1.2. Stakeholders 4](#_Toc453155857)

[1.3. Problem Statements 4](#_Toc453155858)

# Overview

## Background

Modifications to ERCOT data products (reports and extracts) have the potential to adversely impact downstream Market Participant systems and processes that download and post-process ERCOT data. These impacts can affect stakeholder business processes and analysis. The modifications to downstream systems required by these changes can be hindered by a lack of advance notice, accurate specifications, and appropriate sample data that can be used to for design and testing. These impacts could be mitigated by increased transparency and Market Participant involvement in the early stages of change planning.

This document is an attempt to capture and validate the problem statements related to the impacts created by changes to data products so that we can begin to explore potential solutions.

## Stakeholders

Consumers of ERCOT data product

## Problem Statements

The following problem statements reflect impacts to consumers of ERCOT data products. Not all problem statements are present in all cases and don’t necessarily impact all stakeholders equally. The problem statements do not capture any constraints that may impact potential solutions to the problem statements.

* A 30-day notice of data product changes does not provide a sufficient window within which to assess and address Market Participant downstream technical impacts.
* Design, development, and testing efforts for Market Participants are hindered by a lack of accurate data definitions and sample data.
* There is no single location/repository for documentation of the drivers behind changes and affected reports and data elements.
* There is no single historical record of changes made to reports and data elements.
* The lack of a central repository for releases with details and links to change management discussions and approvals accessible to Market Participants makes it difficult to track status of changes.
* Impacts to Market Participant downstream system owners are not included in the Impact Analysis for proposed changes.
* Since changes with Market Participant downstream impacts often result in downtime and/or outages, maintenance/release windows for changes are too broad.