



To: Finance & Audit (F&A) Committee
From: Jonathan Levine, ERCOT Senior Corporate Counsel
Date: December 4, 2017
Re: Item 6 – Annual Committee Self-Evaluation Survey Results

At the October 16, 2017 F&A Committee meeting, Committee members were encouraged to complete and submit the Annual Committee Self-Evaluation Survey.

Attached are the Annual Committee Self-Evaluation Survey results for the Committee's consideration.

ERCOT Finance & Audit Committee Annual Self-Evaluation (2017)		Yes	No	Not Sure	Comments
1.	Does the committee have the appropriate number of members? The committee should not be so large that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ its ability to operate efficiently and effectively is reduced ▪ members' ability to raise issues is hampered ▪ it is difficult to get a quorum when a time-sensitive issue arises 	6			This year, F&A included more than half of Board. More even split with HR&G might be preferable.
2.	Committee members demonstrate their objectivity during meetings through behaviors such as driving agendas, rigorous probing of issues, consulting with other parties, and hiring experts, as necessary.	5		1	
3.	Differences of opinion on issues are resolved to the satisfaction of the committee.	6			
4.	Committee members challenge the Chair as appropriate.	6			
5.	The committee charter is used as a document to guide the committee in its efforts, and to help guide the committee's agenda.	6			
6.	Committee members are financially literate, and the committee has determined that it has adequate financial expertise in accordance with its charter.	5		1	A sufficient number on the committee are financial experts. By the nature of sector representation on the Board, not all members are, but all have business experience and are financially literate.
7.	Committee members participate in some form of continuing education to stay abreast of changes in the financial accounting and reporting, regulatory and ethics areas.	5		1	We have developed a good program for training in connection with the committee meetings. F&A does a particularly good job of scheduling pertinent education topics.

ERCOT Finance & Audit Committee Annual Self-Evaluation (2017)		Yes	No	Not Sure	Comments
8.	The committee understands how the organization's performance compares with its budgetary targets and its peers, and how management plans to address any unfavorable variances.	6			F&A does not regularly receive information comparing ERCOT's budget to its peers (other ISO/RTO organizations), but the focus on performance to budget targets is very satisfactory. It might be helpful to see a comparison with other ISO/RTOs, but it may be difficult to draw conclusions.
9.	The committee discusses the initial selection of or changes in significant accounting policies used in developing the financial statements, the reason for and impact of any changes in policy, and reasons alternative treatments were not adopted.	6			
10.	The committee discusses significant, complex, or unusual transactions with management and the external auditors.	5		1	
11.	The committee understands which areas represent high risk for material misstatement of the financial statements, and discusses assumptions and approaches used with management and the external auditors.	5		1	
12.	The committee forms its own view of the risk of material misstatement due to fraud, discusses with management and the external auditors their views on the risk of material misstatement due to fraud, and is comfortable that any differences in views can be reconciled.	5		1	
13.	The committee fully understands significant changes in financial statements from prior years and from budget, and is provided with sufficient, reliable evidence to support variances.	6			
14.	The committee commits sufficient time to review, discuss, and consider the financial statements.	6			
15.	The committee makes optimum use of the meeting time allotted.	6			

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16.	The committee meets with financial management to discuss results reported before finalization.	6			
17.	Committee members have a clear understanding of ERCOT's debt structure and cash management practices.	6			
18.	Committee members receive sufficient details regarding long-term financial planning.	6			
19.	The committee makes appropriate use of the Credit Work Group and other workgroups or task forces to investigate issues defined by the committee.	6			Good progress on collateral issues, working with the Credit Work Group.
20.	The committee engages outside experts as appropriate.	6			
21.	The organization's financial reporting processes are stronger as a result of management's interactions with the committee.	5		1	
22.	The committee understands and agrees with the board on which categories of internal control it oversees. Categories include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Integrity of financial reporting ▪ Compliance with laws and regulations ▪ Operational efficiency and effectiveness 	6			
23.	The committee and the board concur with any changes to the committee's internal control oversight mandate.	6			
24.	The committee understands the current high-risk areas in the categories of controls it oversees, as well as how management addresses those areas.	6			
25.	The committee is cognizant of the line between oversight and management, and endeavors to respect that line.	6			

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26.	The committee conducts executive sessions in a manner that offers a “safe haven” to the individual, while at the same time asking tough and necessary questions, evaluating the answers, and pursuing issues that might arise to a satisfactory resolution.	6			
27.	The committee does its part to ensure the objectivity of the internal audit team.	6			
28.	The committee provides constructive feedback to the chief audit executive at least annually.	6			
29.	The committee receives sufficient detail regarding material issues and complaints brought forward which relate to the company’s fraud, ethics or accounting practices.	6			
30.	The committee has developed the scope of work to be done by the independent auditor and by the internal audit department based upon a reasoned review of the risks or exposures to the company.	6			Committee approves internal audit plan, which is based on a determination of relative risk exposures.
31.	The committee communicates at an appropriate level of detail when informing the Board of its actions.	6			
32.	Committee members receive clear and succinct agendas and supporting written material sufficiently prior to scheduled meetings.	6			
33.	Committee members have adequate opportunities to discuss issues and ask questions.	6			
34.	The frequency of committee meetings is appropriate for the responsibilities assigned to the committee.	6			
35.	Meeting facilities and presentation materials are effective for the conduct of committee activities.	6			Internal audit materials have been improved to provide the committee information with the appropriate level of detail.

ERCOT Finance & Audit Committee Annual Self-Evaluation (2017)		Yes	No	Not Sure	Comments
36.	The committee is efficient and value adding.	6			
37.	Please add additional comments, questions and suggestions here.	3	2	1	<p>No particular suggestions.</p> <p>Our chair did a superb job stepping in and taking over an essential role. Under her leadership the committee operates at the highest level. I am happy and honored to serve on such a committee.</p> <p>My one suggestion, which is already being acted on, is the committee should continue to press ERCOT and its consultants to provide information in a form that is most effective at enabling the committee to do its job—especially information that may be viewed by some stakeholders as controversial.</p> <p>I think the committee is functioning very well.</p> <p>No additional comments.</p>