



Item 10: Regional Planning Group Charter

Jeff Billo

Senior Manager, Transmission Planning

Board of Directors Meeting

ERCOT Public

June 12, 2018

Action

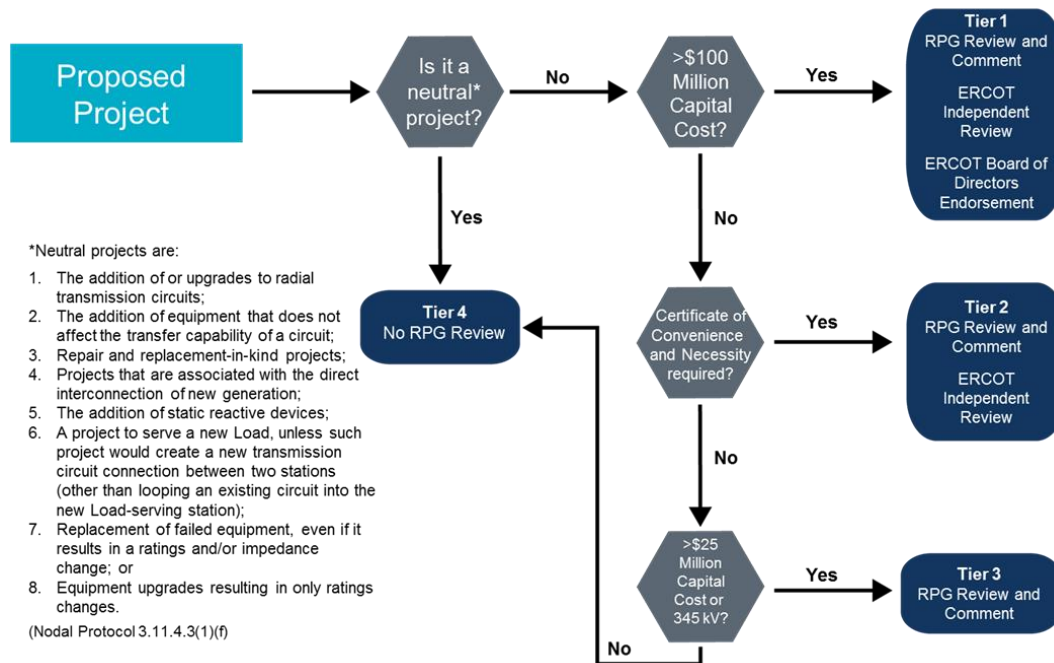
- At the conclusion of this presentation the Board of Directors will be asked to approve revisions to the ERCOT Regional Planning Group Charter

Background

- The Regional Planning Group (RPG) is a standalone stakeholder forum for communicating planning activities in the ERCOT Region
- Revisions to the RPG Charter must be approved by the Board

What's Changing?

- Revisions related to NPRR837
- Clarifications and clean-ups
- TAC voted unanimously to endorse the revisions



Request for Board Vote

ERCOT staff requests and recommends that the Board of Directors vote to approve the revisions to the ERCOT Regional Planning Group Charter, to be effective July 1, 2018.

<Vote>



Date: June 5, 2018
To: Board of Directors
From: Jeff Billo, Senior Manager, Transmission Planning
Subject: Regional Planning Group Charter

Issue for the ERCOT Board of Directors

ERCOT Board of Directors Meeting Date: June 12, 2018

Item No.: 10

Issue:

Whether the Board of Directors (Board) of Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. (ERCOT) should accept the recommendation of ERCOT staff to approve the revisions to the ERCOT Regional Planning Group (RPG) Charter.

Background/History:

The RPG is a standalone stakeholder forum for communicating planning activities in the ERCOT Region. As required by the RPG Charter, revisions to the charter shall be approved by the Board.

The primary reason the RPG Charter is being revised is to align it with changes associated with Nodal Protocol Revision Request (NPRR) 837, Regional Planning Group Process Reform, which is scheduled for the Board's consideration at its June 12, 2018 meeting. Additional edits are intended to provide clarity and better describe current practice.

ERCOT staff presented the revised RPG Charter to the RPG on March 27, 2018, and to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on May 24, 2018. At the May 24, 2018 TAC meeting, TAC unanimously voted to endorse the revised RPG Charter as recommended by ERCOT staff.

The redlined version of the RPG Charter, as revised by ERCOT staff and endorsed by TAC, is attached hereto as **Attachment A**.

Key Factors Influencing Issue:

1. The RPG Charter needs to be revised to align with NPRR837.
2. The RPG Charter requires revisions to the document to be approved by the Board.
3. TAC voted unanimously to endorse the revisions to the RPG Charter at the May 24, 2018 TAC meeting.

Conclusion/Recommendation:

ERCOT staff recommends that the Board approve the RPG Charter as revised by ERCOT staff and as endorsed by TAC, with an effective date of July 1, 2018 consistent with NPRR837.



ELECTRIC RELIABILITY COUNCIL OF TEXAS, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, after due consideration of the alternatives, the Board of Directors (Board) of Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. (ERCOT) deems it desirable and in the best interest of ERCOT to approve the ERCOT Regional Planning Group Charter (RPG Charter) as revised by ERCOT staff and as endorsed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), as reflected in **Attachment A** hereto;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the RPG Charter is hereby revised consistent with **Attachment A**, to be effective July 1, 2018.

CORPORATE SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE

I, Vickie G. Leady, Assistant Corporate Secretary of ERCOT, do hereby certify that, at its June 12, 2018 meeting, the ERCOT Board passed a motion approving the above Resolution by _____.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this ____ day of June, 2018.

Vickie G. Leady
Assistant Corporate Secretary



ERCOT Regional Planning Group Charter

Month XX, 2018

Introduction

ERCOT, as the independent organization (IO) under the Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA), is charged with nondiscriminatory coordination of market transactions, system-wide transmission planning, network reliability and ensuring the reliability and adequacy of the regional electric network in accordance with ERCOT and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Reliability Standards. The IO ensures access to the transmission and distribution systems for all buyers and sellers of electricity on nondiscriminatory terms. In addition, ERCOT, as the NERC registered Planning Coordinator, is responsible for assessing the longer-term reliability for the ERCOT Region.

ERCOT will supervise and exercise comprehensive independent authority of the overall planning of transmission projects of the ERCOT Transmission Grid (transmission system) as outlined in PURA and Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) Substantive Rules. ~~ERCOT's authority with respect to transmission projects that are local in nature is limited to supervising and coordinating the planning activities of Transmission Service Providers (TSPs).~~ The PUCT Substantive Rules further indicate that the IO shall evaluate and make a recommendation to the PUCT as to the need for any transmission facility over which it has comprehensive transmission planning authority. ERCOT examines the need for proposed transmission projects based on ERCOT planning criteria and NERC Reliability Standards. Once a project need has been identified ERCOT evaluates project alternatives based on cost-effectiveness, long-term system needs and other factors. In performing its evaluation of different transmission projects, ERCOT takes into consideration the need for and cost-effectiveness of proposed transmission projects in meeting the ERCOT planning criteria and NERC Reliability Standards.

Transmission planning (60-kV and above) is a complex undertaking that requires significant work by, and coordination among, ERCOT, the TSPs, and other Market Participants. ERCOT works directly with the TSPs, stakeholders, and Market Participants through the Regional Planning Group (RPG). Each of these entities has responsibilities to ensure the appropriate planning and construction occurs.

The Protocols and Planning Guide describe the practices and procedures through which ERCOT meets its requirements related to system planning under Texas statute, NERC Reliability Standards, and PUCT Substantive Rules.

Revisions to the ERCOT Regional Planning Group Charter shall be approved by the ERCOT Board.

Regional Planning Group

Transmission planning affects many stakeholders and benefits from input of different ideas and perspectives. The RPG is the primary mechanism through which stakeholder communication related to planning activities in the ERCOT Region is accomplished.

The RPG is a non-voting, consensus-based organization focused on identifying needs, identifying potential solutions, communicating varying viewpoints and reviewing analyses related to the transmission system in the planning horizon. While participation in the RPG is required of all TSPs, membership is open to all stakeholders.

Representatives of transmission and distribution owners ~~(existing and potential)~~, generators (existing and potential), marketers, consumer groups, environmental groups, landowners, governmental officials, PUCT Staff and other entities typically participate in RPG meetings. The RPG is led and facilitated by ERCOT. Meetings are held on an “as-needed” basis and are open to ~~all RPG participants~~ stakeholders and the public.

Communication with and among RPG members is accomplished via these open meetings, as well as email and web postings. All stakeholders who are interested in RPG activities and information should register for the RPG email distribution list. ~~ERCOT maintains a controlled access area on the~~ The ERCOT website MIS Secure contains a listing all projects and system planning related data that is not considered protected or proprietary. Access to such information is controlled because some of this information may be considered protected Critical Energy Infrastructure Information (CEII).

The goals of the RPG are:

- Coordinating transmission planning activities to ensure that the ERCOT and NERC TPL Reliability Standards are met and that proposed projects are the most reasonable means of addressing planning requirements;
- Preventing inefficient solutions to regional problems through a coordinated effort and resolving the needs of the interconnected transmission systems while ensuring a reliable and adequate network;
- Planning the bulk transmission system with sufficient lead time, and considering longer-term needs and impacts, to avoid unnecessary upgrades to the underlying transmission systems;
- Allowing for stakeholder/Market Participant and consumer review of major proposed transmission project additions;
- Improving communication and understanding between neighboring TSPs on planning related activities;
- Allowing for Market Participants to understand the scope and magnitude of all proposed, planned, and approved transmission projects within ERCOT, so that each can appropriately take into account the expected market impact; and,
- Integrating renewable technologies under PUCT Substantive Rules and Legislative mandates.
- Identifying differences between actual operating conditions on the ERCOT Transmission Grid and planning assumptions and working with appropriate groups to reconcile the differences.

Categorization of Proposed Transmission Projects

ERCOT classifies all transmission projects into one of four categories (or Tiers). Each Tier is defined so that projects with a similar cost and impact on reliability and the ERCOT market are grouped into the same Tier. The criterion used to classify a specific project into the appropriate Tier is outlined in Protocols Section 3.11.4.3.

The flowchart below illustrates the general process used to classify projects into the four Tiers.

