

# Operations Training Working Group (OTWG)

October 8, 2020

WebEx

0900-1100

Anti-trust Admonition:

To avoid raising concerns about antitrust liability, participants in ERCOT activities should refrain from proposing any action or measure that would exceed ERCOT’s authority under federal or state law. For additional information, stakeholders should consult the Statement of Position on Antitrust Issues for Members of ERCOT Committees, Subcommittees, and Working Groups, which is posted on the ERCOT website.

Disclaimer:

All presentations and materials submitted by Market Participants or any other Entity to ERCOT staff for this meeting are received and posted with the acknowledgement that the information will be considered public in accordance with the ERCOT Websites Content Management Operating Procedure.

**O P E N S E S S I O N**

Previous meeting minutes:

Motion to pass

**CURRENT/UPCOMING EVENTS**

* None

**OPERATIONS NOTICES, NOGRRs and NPRRs**

* None

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

* **Revised OTWG Scope**
  + Approved by ROS, 7 May 2020
  + Effective immediately, OTWG meetings will begin OPEN for general business and then transition to CLOSED for the Task Force session
  + NDA’s are required to join Task Forces and participate in CLOSED sessions

(one OTWG document will cover participation on all OTWG Task Forces, annual renewal required)

**TASK FORCES & TRAINING EVENTS**

* **ERCOT Operator Certification Task Force (EOCTF) – Update** 
  + Chair S. Rainwater, Vice-Chair **J. Ballard nominated (VOTE)**
  + Member – D. Jackson
* Testing
* ERCOT Legal closed the exam to anyone not represented by an ERCOT market participant
* Unavailable until further notice due to COVID-19 outbreak
* EOCTF is currently working through the item bank for the exam.
* A. Ballew: ERCOT is committed to establishing remote hosting of the exam – likely employing a vendor for hosting/administration/testing sites –
  + 7/15/2020 began project; 8/21/2020 response from vendors; 9/9/2020 proposals due to proceed w/legal, procurement, etc.
  + Proposals back to procurement – waiting for status from procurement. **Status @ October OTWG meeting (vendor/sites/release date/fees?).**
  + Legal concerns re: LMS security, therefore, administer third-party unless budget conflict; Guidelines outlined for integrity of the exam including fees.
* ERCOT Fundamentals Manual under review – ON HOLD
* ERCOT Initial Operator Training Program – ON HOLD
* Inhouse curriculum is ongoing; major initiative
* Market Participant curriculum will be revisited upon NERCs decision re: one Certification for adjustments as necessary
* **Human Performance Improvement Task Force (HPITF) – Update**
  + Chair B. Legg, Vice-Chair M. Goulding
  + Member – M. Cruz-Montes
  + Awaiting further members: Jonathan Love new member
* **Black Start and Restoration Training Task Force (BSTTF) – Update** 
  + Chair unnamed, Vice-Chair unnamed
  + Member – N. Perio, D. Blackshear
    - Pilot only; additional sessions cancelled due to COVID-19 outbreak
* Only QSE’s that represent BS Resources (not Next-Start Units), GO’s that operate those Resources, and TO’s can participat
* Awaiting further members, Chair selection
* Contingencies for 2021 training are under review.

**All OTWG members September thoughts/concerns**

* **Option 1: Onsite training as usual**
* R. Haarer – AEN might be able to attend onsite @ Taylor in 6 months
* S. Patel – Constellation unable to travel until May 2021 at best
* S. Williams – ONCOR told back in November 2020, however advised not to interact with operators
* J. Love – Hybrid options 1 & 2
  + E. Johnson – ERCOT executive management desires training onsite in Taylor. Feasability to the market participants? Consensus from OTWG/BSWG/ROS members?
  + J. Branch – If training happens as normal – then an outbreak occurs – will ERCOT have a contigency in place to continue training?
  + **Option 2: Remote to simulator**
    - D. Penney – sounds best; conerns with ILA for remote awarding of CEHs; structure/agenda?
    - D. Blackshear – PNM Resources – What about server issues; whether remote or in person lengthen from 6 weeks to 12 weeks to accommodate COVID requirements
      * E. Johnson – No; would significantly impact ERCOT operator training
    - S. Williams – would Grid-GEO interface be available for option 2?
    - E. Johnson – No; Grid-GEO timeline is 2022
* **Option 3: Remote table top exercise via Zoom/WebEX**
  + S. Aragon – LCRA – What about a BST exercise without SCADA system?
  + D. Penney – regarding a tabletop exercise, what would be the coops/municipal’s involvement?
  + D. Penney – Concerned there’s not enough time with COVID; can we move BST later in the year?
    - E. Johnson – Yes, decision will need to be made soon. **Survey to send out to OTWG/BSWG/ROS with alternative options and dates?**
    - S. Rainwater – 10/8 OTWG meeting combined recommendation for 2021 BST deadline. Last meeting before OTWG meeting for BSWG is 9/21/2020. 2021 BST options need to be presented to Freddy prior to BSWG meeting for consensus.
* **ERCOT Region Operator Training Seminar Task Force (OTSTF) – Update**
* Chair S. Klinglesmith, Vice-Chair unnamed
* Member – M. Cruz-Montes
* 2020 OTS (Market Notice 06302020) – 8 CEHs (VILT)
  + - Pilot: October 6-7, 2020 (live, non-CEH)
    - Online: November 2, 2020-January 4, 2021 (pre-recorded, CEH)
  + Updated Market Notice coming; CEH available via LMS; non-CEH presentations on ERCOT.com; Interaction/feedback mechanism?
    - Awaiting further members
* **Severe Weather Drill Task Force (SWDTF) – Update**
  + Chair unnamed, Vice-Chair unnamed
  + Member – N.Perio
  + 2020 offering modified cbt via LMS for winter outlook (available 11/2020)
    - Insert component for OSPs impacted via remote operations (i.e. COVID-19)
  + Future years, return to drill format as part of the OTS
    - Awaiting further members, Chair selection

**OLD Business**

* **NERC (CEH program, single certification, etc.) – Update**
* Discussions on-going between FERC and NERC; focus of FERC is on how this change is an improvement over current practice and how it improves reliability
  + - For further detail go to: NERC.com>Reliability and Technical Security Committee to see how proposed changes to combine three existing groups
* For SOCCED issues, continue to provide feedback and follow up (NERC is lightly staffed in this respect, so keep on top of issues you bring up)
* M. Cruz-Montez - PER-003 Revision Drafting Team
  + No recent meetings to advance these efforts
* E. Johnson - NERC Reliability Training Working Group
  + Working with Credential Maintenance Working Group to draft purpose statements re: guidelines for certification and improving processes for initial/continued operator training to acquire/maintain certification
  + FERC looking at intent/result of single certification pending PCGC action
* **32-hour EOP training requirment per ERCOT Operating Guides 1.5.1 - Update**
* S. Rainwater/ERCOT: history of requirment goes back to previous version of NERC training standard. The 32 HR EOP requirement was dropped with NERC PER-005 which requires application of the SAT. NERC’s rationale was that if SAT is implemented correctly any EOP training necessary would be identified.
* D. Penny/TRE: NERC has waived requirements due to COVID19. Can ERCOT do same utilizing recent FERC direction as to allowable deviations from standards due to pandemic as basis?
* D. Penny will follow up with TRE staff since the 32 hr requirement is auditable.
* Protocol & Compliance Group discussed w/PUC; no solid answer yet
* L.White feedback from JP Urban & regulatory groups re: elevation of discussion

**NEW Business**

**C L O S E D S E S S I O N**

**Adjourn**

* Next Meeting Dates <http://www.ercot.com/committees/board/tac/ros/otwg/>
  + November 12 (9am) WebEx
  + December 3 (9am) WebEx