

# Operations Training Working Group (OTWG)

November 12, 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 Certification Exam Task Force (EOCTF) – Update** 
  + Chair S. Rainwater, Vice-Chair James Ballard
  + 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, as well as cert exam improvements.
* 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.
  + ERCOT RFP process is winding down. Vendor for remote hosting of exam expected soon.
  + S. Klinglesmith: Is an ERCOT operator Certification required to participate in this task force?
  + S. Rainwater: highly desirable.
* 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, K. Adare, J. Ballard
* Task force is up and running
  + HPI definition (contact Chair/Vice-Chair for details)
* **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 participate
* Contingencies for 2021 training are under review. All OTWG members are encouraged to share thoughts/concerns.
* Discussions continue @ ERCOT
* Option 1: Onsite training as usual
* Option 2: Remote to simulator
* Option 3: Remote tabletop exercise via Zoom/WebEx
* Awaiting further members, Chair selection
* **ERCOT Region Operator Training Seminar (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
* **ERCOT Severe Weather Drill (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 selections

**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 requirement per ERCOT Operating Guides 1.5.1 - **Update**
* S. Rainwater/ERCOT: history of requirement 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?
* R. Harrar (AEN): L. Martin working on NOGGR; ERCOT Compliance on wording

**NEW Business**

GridGeo training for TOs/NERC/FERC/TRE staff – S. Rainwater, S. Solis

1. Introduce topic at OTWG to get feedback.
   1. As we only are going to allow one license per TO, we need to come up with a strategy on how we can allow additional users temporarily or perhaps on a test system or something like that so we can figure out how they can train.  Perhaps it’s just via PowerPoint.
2. Draft outline for training by end of October for each of the entities.
3. Schedule now for probably early December anticipating we can get everything set up in November.

IROL’s in ERCOT

M. Cruz Montes (Center Point): Will ERCOT coordinate IROL training or is there a desire amongst members to move the idea forward?

S. Rainwater (ERCOT): By NERC Standard, if a system contains an IROL it must be trained on. Approach?

NERC PCGC

NERC is currently seeking nominations for the Personnel Certification and Governance Committee. Contact S. Rainwater for details.

**2021**

Convert OTWG to a completely closed group

S. Rainwater (ERCOT): Maintaining the duality is difficult and time-consuming, requiring separate minutes, meetings, verification of attendees, etc.

T. Chilton (CenterPoint): OTWG will put it to vote in November

Meeting dates

Thursday following ROS sessions

Jan 14, Feb 11, Mar 11, Apr 8, May 13, Jun 10,

Jul 15, Aug 12, Sep 9, Oct 14, Nov 11, Dec 9

OTWG Chairman

Tamme Chilton will vacate this position in January. Please consider volunteering!

**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/>
  + December 3 (9am) WebEx