



MEMORANDUM

To: Finance & Audit (F&A) Committee
From: Jonathan Levine, ERCOT Senior Corporate Counsel
Date: November 30, 2020
Re: Item 6 – Annual Committee Self-Evaluation Survey Results

At the October 12, 2020 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 (2020)		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 	10			
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.	10			2019 and 2020 saw the engagement of selected outside experts to assist ERCOT staff in assessing and addressing cited issues and opportunities.
3.	Differences of opinion on issues are resolved to the satisfaction of the committee.	10			
4.	Committee members challenge management as appropriate.	10			
5.	The committee charter is used as a document to guide the committee in its efforts, and to help guide the committee's agenda.	10			In response to a 2019 survey comment, an annual reconciliation and attestation of committee activities with the committee charter by Legal staff was implemented last year.
6.	Committee members are financially literate, and the committee has determined that it has adequate financial expertise in accordance with its charter.	9		1	
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.	6		4	ERCOT has not provided any training opportunities that I am aware of.
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.	10			

ERCOT Finance & Audit Committee Annual Self-Evaluation (2020)		Yes	No	Not Sure	Comments
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.	10			
10.	The committee discusses significant, complex, or unusual transactions with management and the external auditors.	8		2	There have not been any significant, complex or unusual transactions that I am aware of. Complex or unusual transactions are generally also shared with or escalated to the Board.
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.	10			
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.	9		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.	10			
14.	The committee commits sufficient time to review, discuss, and consider the financial statements.	10			
15.	The committee makes optimum use of the meeting time allotted.	10			
16.	The committee meets with financial management to discuss results when reported.	10			
17.	Committee members have a clear understanding of ERCOT's debt structure and cash management practices.	10			
18.	Committee members receive sufficient details regarding long-term financial planning.	10			

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19.	The committee makes appropriate use of the Credit Work Group and other workgroups or task forces to investigate issues defined by the committee.	9		1	The work of and the reporting by the Credit Work Group is sincerely appreciated by the committee.
20.	The committee engages outside experts as appropriate.	9		1	
21.	The organization's financial reporting processes are stronger as a result of management's interactions with the committee.	10			
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 	10			
23.	The committee and the board concur with any changes to the committee's internal control oversight mandate.	10			
24.	The committee understands the current high-risk areas in the categories of controls it oversees, as well as how management addresses those areas.	10			
25.	The committee is cognizant of the line between oversight and management, and endeavors to respect that line.	10			
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.	9		1	
27.	The committee does its part to ensure the objectivity of the internal audit team.	9		1	
28.	The committee provides constructive feedback to the chief audit executive at least annually.	9		1	

ERCOT Finance & Audit Committee Annual Self-Evaluation (2020)		Yes	No	Not Sure	Comments
29.	The committee receives sufficient detail regarding material issues and complaints brought forward which relate to the company's fraud, ethics or accounting practices.	10			
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.	9		1	
31.	The committee communicates at an appropriate level of detail when informing the Board of its actions.	10			
32.	Committee members receive clear and succinct agendas and supporting written material sufficiently prior to scheduled meetings.	10			ERCOT staff is outstanding in their support of the committee.
33.	Committee members have adequate opportunities to discuss issues and ask questions.	10			
34.	The frequency of committee meetings is appropriate for the responsibilities assigned to the committee.	10			
35.	Meeting facilities and presentation materials are effective for the conduct of committee activities.	10			Even the videoconferences work pretty well!
36.	The committee is efficient and value adding.	10			
37.	Please add additional comments, questions and suggestions here.	4	2	4	This survey is too long. The Committee has performed well and demonstrated its adaptability during 2020 despite the COVID-related changes to meeting formats, etc. I really appreciate ERCOT staff's support and their response in light of the circumstances as well.