

# Operations Training Working Group (OTWG)

January 14, 2021

WebEx

0900-1200

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**

* D. Penny announced eff. 11/16/20, TRE will no longer be compliance monitor for the ERCOT protocols per PUCT. TRE will continue to perform NERC audits.
* NERC is looking for members to fill vacancies on various working groups, including the Personnel Certification and Governance Committee

**OPERATIONS NOTICES, NOGRRs and NPRRs**

* 1.5.2 – drafting revisions to annual 32-hour Emergency Training requirement
* 1.5.4 – drafting removal of OWG oversight for annual Severe Weather Drills

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

* OTWG membership vs. access to Market Notices
* An **NDA** is required to join Task Forces and participate in CLOSED sessions

(one OTWG document covers participation on all TFs Forces, **NO** renewal required)

**TASK FORCES & TRAINING EVENTS**

* **ERCOT Operator Certification Task Force (EOCTF) – Update** 
  + Chair S. Rainwater, Vice-Chair J. Ballard
  + Member – D. Jackson
* Awaiting further members – Chair is requesting participation by QSE rep
* 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 finished working through the item bank for the exam, as well as 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; 11/12/2020 ERCOT RFP process is through legal into Exec Mgmt for approval; possibly month-month/half for remote hosting of exam
  + Update: RFP approved, currently working towards migration of exam to TesTrac.
  + S. Klinglesmith: Is an ERCOT operator Certification required to participate in this task force?
  + The task force shall require ERCOT certification for participation
* 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, D. Penny, S. Rainwater
* Awaiting further members – Volunteers/nominations for new Chair are requested
* NERC HPI Symposium postponed
* **Black Start and Restoration Training Task Force (BSTTF) – Update** 
  + Chair D. Blackshear, Vice-Chair J. Jarmon
  + Member – N. Perio, S. Klinglesmith, D. Penny
* Awaiting further members
* Only QSE’s that represent BS Resources (not Next-Start Units), GO’s that operate those Resources, and TO’s can participate
* 2021 training is under development review @ ERCOT
* ~~Option 1: Onsite training as usual (preferred)~~
* Option 2: Remote to simulator – E. Johnson announced this selection
  + ERCOT Training logistical support needed: market participant contact numbers, ability to login/function with ERCOT machines (similar to SWD remote training exercise, but more advanced engagement and coordinated operations), etc…
  + ERCOT training and authorization provided for on-site facilitation/proctoring at remote facilities consistent with NERC criteria for awarding CEHs
    - Scheduling across Memorial Day weekend**?**

Tue-Wed or Wed-Thu (preferred) sessions

* + - Scheduling accommodating ERCOT’s cycles**?**

Early notification for dates are tentatively set for non-ERCOT participants to consider

* + - On-site setup for MPs participants**?**

Lead time should allow for preparatory measures

* + - Limitations for MP seating**?**

Discussions/meetings held to cover questions/concerns

* PILOT: April 20-22, 2021

SESSIONS: May 11-13, 18-20, 25-27, Jun 1-3, 8-10, 15-17

* **ERCOT Region Operator Training Seminar (OTSTF) – Update**
* Chair S. Klinglesmith, Vice-Chair A. Ballew
* Member – M. Cruz-Montes
* Awaiting further members
* 2020 OTS – 5 CEHs (VILT) available through March 2021
  + - * See OTWG page @ ercot.com for course links to LMS
* **ERCOT Severe Weather Drill (SWDTF) – Update**
  + Chair N. Perio, Vice-Chair J. Jarmon
  + Member – S. Klinglesmith
    - Awaiting further members
  + 2020 SWD - 2 CEHs (VILT) available through March 2021
    - See OTWG page @ ercot.com for course links to LMS

**OLD Business**

* **NERC (CEH program, single certification, etc.) – No 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
* M. Cruz-Montez – PER-003 Revision Drafting Team
  + - No recent meetings to advance these efforts
* E. Johnson - NERC Security & Reliability Training Working Group
  + - Working with Credential Maintenance Working Group to draft purpose
* S. Rainwater – advantages? CEH maintenance requirement?
* 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)

**NEW Business**

Tamme Chilton will vacate the OTWG Chairman position in January.

Volunteers/nominations for new Chair are requested

PCGC update: NERC move to one credential is on hold.

IROL’s in ERCOT **– Update**

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.

A. Ballew: ERCOT SOs trained in Oct; WebEx will be posted soon

Grid Geo Training for Market Participants **– UPDATE**

S. Solis is the ERCOT point of contact; he will be contacted for an update at the December meeting.

Grid-Ex

November 16-17, 2021

ERCOT LMS Training Detail Reports

Availability to designated non-ERCOT Trainers? Not currently available; will need to be revisited to meet customer needs

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

**Adjourn**

**2021** Meeting Dates – Thursday following ROS sessions @ 0900

Feb 11, Mar 11, Apr 8, May 13, Jun 10, Jul 15, Aug 12, Sep 9, Oct 14, Nov 11, Dec 9

<http://www.ercot.com/committees/board/tac/ros/otwg/>