

ERCOT Resource Integration Working Group Charter

**Jan 8, 2021**

# Introduction

ERCOT, as the independent organization (IO), is charged under the P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.198, Initiating Transmission Service, to initiate transmission service with a transmission customer desiring to make sales of energy and to ensure such interconnection complies with ERCOT market rules and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Reliability Standards to ensure the reliability and adequacy of the regional electric network. 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 interconnection of generation projects to the ERCOT Transmission System as outlined in Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) Substantive Rules.

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

Revisions to the ERCOT Resource Integration Working Group Charter shall be approved by the ERCOT Board.

# Resource Integration Working Group

Generation Interconnection affects many stakeholders and benefits from input of diverse ideas and perspectives. The RIWG is the primary mechanism through which stakeholder communication related to interconnection activities in the ERCOT Region is accomplished. The RIWG is a non-voting, consensus-based organization focused on identifying needs, identifying potential solutions, communicating varying viewpoints and reviewing current protocols, operating guides and planning guides to meet the needs of ERCOT and its stakeholders. Participation in the RIWG is open to all stakeholders. Representatives of transmission and distribution owners, generators (existing and potential), marketers, consumer groups, and other entities typically participate in RIWG meetings. The RIWG is led and facilitated by ERCOT. Meetings are held on a monthly basis “as-needed” and are open to stakeholders and the public.

Communication with and among RIWG members is accomplished via these open meetings, as well as email and web postings. All stakeholders who are interested in RIWG activities and information should register for the RIWG email distribution list. The ERCOT MIS Secure contains a posting of all interconnection projects required by ERCOT protocols and guides. Access to such information is controlled because some of this information may be market sensitive or considered protected Critical Energy Infrastructure Information (CEII).

The goals of the RIWG are:

* Open a communication channel among Interconnecting Entities, Resource Entities, ERCOT and Transmission/Distribution entities;
* Discuss proposed and submitted revision requests affecting the interconnection process;
* Allow for stakeholder/Market Participant review of major proposed changes to the interconnection process;
* Improving communication and understanding between neighboring TSPs/DSP on related interconnection activities;
* Integrating renewable technologies under PUCT Substantive Rules and Legislative mandates;
* Incorporate new types of resources into the interconnection process;
* Extend the interconnection process to distribution connected projects.