



## **Ethics Agreement for Directors and Segment Alternates**

Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. ("ERCOT") is a Texas non-profit corporation organized pursuant to the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act. ERCOT has been formed for the limited purpose of: promoting the reliable and efficient operations of electric power systems, ensuring open access for all users of the ERCOT transmission and distribution systems on a non-discriminatory basis, coordinating activities within the region of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas and as liaison to the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, performing the functions of an Independent Organization, and engaging in any lawful act and activity consistent with the foregoing for which corporations may be formed under the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act. ERCOT is certified as the Independent Organization for the ERCOT Region by the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("PUCT").

The management of ERCOT is vested in a Board of Directors ("Board") and such committees of the Board that the Board may, from time to time, establish. It is the duty of the Board to initiate any specific action required, in their opinion, to fulfill the purposes of ERCOT as stated above, within the limitations of the Articles of Incorporation, applicable laws and the Bylaws, as may be amended from time to time.

### **Potential Conflicts of Interest**

Each Director and Segment Alternate of ERCOT shall have an affirmative duty to disclose to the Board, any actual or potential conflicts of interest of the Director, Segment Alternate, or his employer where, and to the extent that, such conflicts or potential conflicts directly or indirectly affect any matter that comes before the Board as required by the Bylaws. A Director or Segment Alternate with a direct interest in a matter, personally or via his employer, or by having a substantial financial interest in a person with a direct interest in a matter, shall recuse himself from deliberations and actions on the matter in which the conflict arises and shall abstain on any vote on the matter and not otherwise participate in a decision on the matter. A direct interest is a specific interest of a person or entity in a particular matter, provided that an interest that is common to entities in the Market Segment of a Director or Segment Alternate or a general interest of some or all Market Participant Directors or Segment Alternates in a matter does not constitute direct interest. Any disclosure of a direct interest by a Director or Segment Alternate shall be noted in the minutes of the Board meeting at which the direct interest is disclosed. Mere attendance at the meeting, if the Director or Segment Alternate recuses himself from the deliberation and action on the matter in which the conflict arises, shall not constitute participation.

Each Director and Segment Alternate must disclose all personal relationships (including household member or family member (spouse, parent, child, or sibling, including step and adoptive relatives) relationships) with ERCOT vendors to the Board. Such relationships include: current ties (within the last two years) as a director, officer, or employee of an ERCOT vendor; direct business relationships, other than retail customer relationships,



with an ERCOT vendor; and directly or indirectly owning or holding at least five percent (5%) of voting securities of an ERCOT vendor.

ERCOT may not make any loan to a Director or Segment Alternate of ERCOT. A Director or Segment Alternate may lend money to and otherwise transact business with, ERCOT except as otherwise provided by the Bylaws, the Articles of Incorporation, and applicable law. Such a person transacting business with ERCOT has the same rights and obligations relating to those matters as other persons transacting business with ERCOT. If a Director, a Segment Alternate, or member of his immediate family is an officer or director, is employed by, or owns or has a beneficial interest in more than ten percent of the stock in a bank or other financial institution that would otherwise be a Qualified Institution (as defined in ERCOT's Investment Corporate Standard), such Director or Segment Alternate shall provide full disclosure of such stock holdings or relationship in documented form to be filed with the permanent records of ERCOT. ERCOT may not borrow money from, or otherwise transact business with, a Director or a Segment Alternate unless the transaction is described fully in a legally binding instrument and is in ERCOT's best interests. ERCOT may not borrow money from, or otherwise transact business with, a Director or a Segment Alternate without full disclosure of all relevant facts and without the Board's approval, not including the vote of any person having a personal interest in the transaction.

### **Independence of Unaffiliated Directors**

Unaffiliated Directors of ERCOT are required to maintain independence of any Market Participant in the ERCOT Region. Requirements of such independence include, but are not limited to, the following:

- An Unaffiliated Director or family member (any spouse, parent, spouse of a parent, child or sibling, including step and adoptive relatives and household member) shall not have the following:
  - Current or recent ties (within the last two years) as a director or officer of a Market Participant or its Affiliates;
  - Current or recent ties (within the last two years) as an employee of an ERCOT Member or North American Electric Reliability Corporation-Registered Entity operating in the ERCOT Region;
  - Direct business relationships, other than retail customer relationships, with a Market Participant or its Affiliates; and
  - To the extent that an Unaffiliated Director or family member (any spouse, parent, spouse of a parent, child or sibling, including step and adoptive relatives) living in the same household or any other household member owns stocks or bonds of Market Participants, these must be divested or placed in a blind trust prior to being seated on the Board.
- An Unaffiliated Director shall not have any relationship that would interfere with the exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the responsibilities of an ERCOT Board member, including the Delegated Authority pursuant to the Bylaws.



## **Prohibited Acts**

As long as ERCOT exists, no Director or Segment Alternate may:

- Do any act in violation of the Articles of Incorporation or the Bylaws.
- Do any act in violation of a binding obligation of ERCOT except with the Board's prior approval.
- Do any act with the intention of harming ERCOT or any of its operations.
- Receive an improper personal benefit from the operation of ERCOT.
- Use ERCOT's assets, directly or indirectly, for any purpose other than in furtherance of ERCOT's exempt purposes.
- Wrongfully transfer or dispose of ERCOT property, including intangible property such as good will.
- Use ERCOT's name (or any substantially similar name) or any trademark or trade name adopted by ERCOT, except on behalf of ERCOT in the ordinary course of its business or as a reference to the ERCOT Region.
- Disclose any of ERCOT's or ERCOT Member's business practices, trade secrets, or any other confidential or proprietary information not generally known to the business community to any person not authorized to receive it.
- Take any action, without written notice to Members and reasonable time for Members to respond, that would cause another ERCOT Member that is not a "public utility" under the Federal Power Act or ERCOT itself to become a "public utility" under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") rules or become subject to any plenary jurisdiction of FERC.

Violations of these prohibited acts may lead to sanction, suspension, expulsion or termination after a hearing as described in Article 3 of the Bylaws.

## **Disclosure of Trade Secret Information**

Under the Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 (the "Act"), an individual may not be held criminally or civilly liable under any federal or state trade secret law for disclosure of a trade secret as defined in the Act: (i) made in confidence to a government official or to an attorney, solely for the purpose of reporting or investigating a suspected violation of law; and/or (ii) in a lawsuit filing made under seal. In addition, an individual suing an employer for retaliation based on the reporting of a suspected violation of law may disclose a trade secret to his or her attorney and use the trade secret information in the court proceeding, so long as any document containing the trade secret is filed under seal and the individual does not disclose the trade secret except pursuant to court order.

The Ethics Agreement is not intended to alter in any way the duties, obligations and rights of Directors or Segment Alternates as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and applicable law, as they may be amended from time to time, nor does it create any third party rights, claims or causes of action. To the extent, if any, that the Ethics Agreement is inconsistent with the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws or applicable law, the



Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and applicable laws, as they may be amended from time to time, shall control. Directors and Segment Alternates will be required to reaffirm the Ethics Agreement on an annual basis.

By my signature I, Wade Smith, acknowledge that I have read and understand the above Ethics Agreement and agree to be bound by its terms.

Director/Segment Alternate Signature: /s/Wade Smith

Date: 1/13/2021