



Electric Reliability Council of Texas

# Market Data Transparency Service Level Agreement

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## **Summary:**

This document describes Market Data Transparency (MDT) services provided by ERCOT to Market Participants.

**EFFECTIVE: 01/01/24**

## Document Revisions

Date	Version	Description	Author(s)
January 2015	8.0	2015 Draft	Dave Pagliai
May, June 2016	9.0	Updated Section 2.2.2 – 2016 Release Calendar Updated Sections 1, 2, 3, 6, Appendix B General Update – updated ERCOT logo throughout	Dave Pagliai
January 2017	10.0	Updated Section 2.1.2 – 2017 Release Calendar	Dave Pagliai
January 2018	10.1	Updated Section 2.1.2 – 2018 Release Calendar	Dave Pagliai
March 2019	10.2	Updated Section 2.1.2 – 2019 Release Calendar Updated Sections 7, Appendix B (delete)	Dave Pagliai
March 2020	10.3	Updated Section 2.1.2 – 2020 Release Calendar	Dave Pagliai / Jordan Troublefield
September 2020	10.4	Updated Section 2.1.2 – 2021 Release Calendar and other minor updates	Mick Hanna
September 2021	11.0	Updated Section 2.1.2 – 2022 Release Calendar and other minor updates	Mick Hanna
November 2022	12.0	Updated Section 2.1.2 – 2023 Release Calendar and other minor updates	Mick Hanna
December 2023	13.0	Updated Section 2.1.2 – 2024 Release Calendar and other minor updates related to approvers.	Mick Hanna

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## 1. Introduction

This Service Level Agreement (SLA) describes Market Data Transparency (MDT) Services provided by ERCOT to Market Participants, and includes systems which support access to information, services and the delivery of data.

ERCOT provides market data in the form of reports, extracts, dashboards and web services. These data products are available on the Market Information System (MIS) website summarized in the [ERCOT Market Information List](#) (EMIL). Issues associated with specific data products are circulated via Market Notice and discussed at the appropriate Working Group(s). Individual data products are out of scope for this document.

Where applicable, this information builds upon the requirements outlined in ERCOT Protocols and related Market Guides regarding the delivery of data extracts and reports.

In the event of a conflict between this document and the ERCOT Protocols, ERCOT Market Guides or PUCT Substantive Rules, the Protocols or PUCT Substantive Rules take precedence over this document.

## 2. Services

The service associated with this agreement:

- *IT Applications* - the availability of the applications that enable user access to ERCOT data.

### 2.1 IT Applications

#### 2.1.1 Service scope

IT Applications enable user access to ERCOT systems and contribute to the delivery of ERCOT data. Measured operational elements include hours of operation, availability and performance targets, and Planned Outage windows. The following IT applications are in scope:

- **Market Information System (MIS):** User interface single point of access to protocol specified postings classified as Secure, and Certified for reports, extracts, applications, and any other content required by protocol or a binding document.
- **External Web Services (EWS):** Programmatic point-of-entry to market systems enabling Market Participants to interact with the ERCOT market. Services include market transactions, automated notifications, and market information.
- **ERCOT.com:** ERCOT's public website.
- **Commercial/Retail API:** Programmatic point of entry for Retail Find Transaction and Find ESIID services.
- **Market Participant Identity Management (MPIM):** Provides administration support of digital certificate access to ERCOT MIS Secure and Certified areas.

- **Market Management System User Interface (MMSUI):** Point of entry for Market Transactions
- **Outage Scheduler User Interface (OSUI):** Point of entry for entering or managing outages

## 2.1.2 Service Characteristics

### **Hours of operation**

ERCOT operates the hardware and software environment supporting the applications of this service 24 x 7, subject to scheduled maintenance windows. IT Operations supports these systems in Real-Time, 24 x 7.

### **Availability Targets**

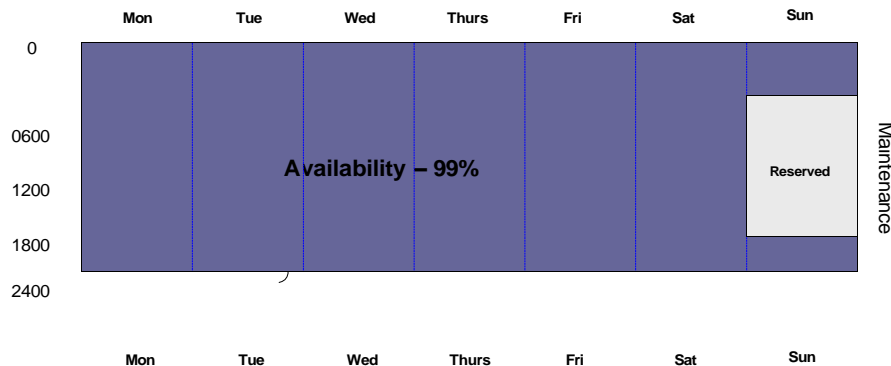
ERCOT targets IT Applications to be available at least 99% of the time outside of scheduled maintenance and release windows. The exception is MPIM, which is targeted to be available 95% of the time.

Support Tier	Specification
Real-Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported 24x7, 365 days a year, subject to scheduled maintenance windows.</li> <li>Work until resolution for issues affecting system performance or availability</li> <li>Problem and Issue Escalation happens in real-time</li> </ul>

### **Scheduled Maintenance Window**

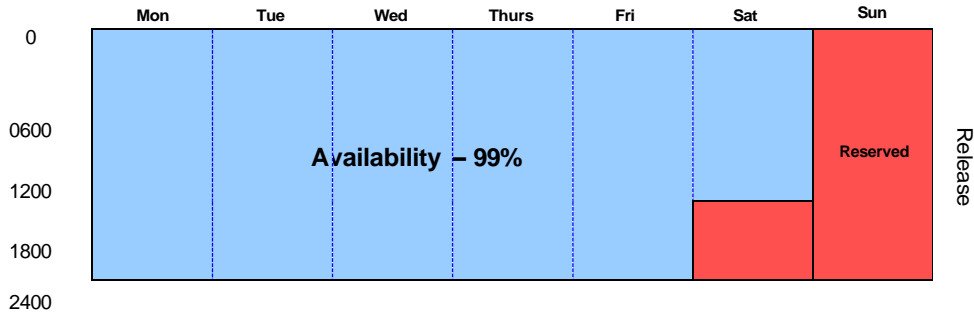
ERCOT reserves a Sunday maintenance outage window for IT applications. Notifications for planned maintenance during this window will be sent to the market at least 10 days prior to the planned outage.

- **Sundays—6:00am until 9:00pm** (15 hours)



### Release Window:

- ERCOT will schedule 6 planned application releases per year during the following timeframe. Changes to this schedule will be managed as exceptions.
- Weekends **7:00pm Saturday until 12:00am Monday** (29 hours)



## 2024 APPLICATION RELEASE SCHEDULE

Release ID	Release Type	Prod Release	Retail Release
R1	Application	01/25	1/28
R2	Application	2/22	2/25
R3	Application	3/28	3/31
R4	Application	4/25	4/28
R5	Application	5/30	6/2
R6	Application	6/27	No Release
R7	Application	7/25	7/28
R8	Application	8/22	8/25
R9	Application	9/26	9/29
R10	Application	10/24	10/27 and 11/10
R11	Application	12/11 - 12/12	12/15

## 3. Reporting

### 3.1 *IT Application Service Reporting*

ERCOT will measure and report availability and performance in an incident log. This log will be updated monthly and made available on the ERCOT website at <http://www.ercot.com/services/sla/>. The format of this log is outlined in Section 6, MDT IT Application Incident Log.

Additionally, these results will be reported monthly through the ERCOT governance process that includes the appropriate Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Subcommittee(s), the Technical Advisory Committee, and the ERCOT Board of Directors.

These reports will include availability and/or performance for the following:

- **Market Information System (MIS)**
- **ERCOT.com**
- **Commercial/Retail API Availability**
- **Market Participant Identity Management (MPIM)**
- **External Web Services (EWS)**
- **Market Management System User Interface (MMSUI):** Point of entry for Market Transactions
- **Outage Scheduler User Interface (OSUI):** Point of entry for entering or managing outages

**Availability:**

Availability is monitored through two methods, primarily through synthetic transactions which execute scripts against the IT applications at regular intervals. Upon returning a valid response, and not exceeding the timeout threshold, the IT application will be considered available. When this method cannot be used, the availability is calculated by system or hardware uptime, and outage detection through operational monitoring tools.

## **4. Service Availability Renegotiations and Change Control**

Renegotiations of this SLA can be initiated by either Market Participants or ERCOT management by making a request through the stakeholder process. Changes outside the scope of this SLA, including delivery times required by protocols or market guides, will require use of the stakeholder process including Protocol revision requests.

Version control in the form of document version numbering will be maintained in this document as a means of providing a change control process.

## **5. Annual Review Process**

ERCOT is committed to providing quality IT services to the competitive electric market in Texas. ERCOT intends that the IT services described in this document align with Market Participant requirements to the extent that is operationally feasible. To maintain alignment between the requirements of the Market Participants and the IT services delivered by ERCOT, the services defined in this document will be reviewed at least annually in a workshop setting or through an appropriate stakeholder group meeting.

## **6. IT Services Reporting**

Service availability and impacting events related to the IT services described in this document will be reported monthly to the Texas Data Transport and the Retail Market Subcommittee. The availability metrics and detailed market notice log will be updated monthly and posted to the Retail Market Subcommittee website on [www.ercot.com](http://www.ercot.com).



Elements included in the detailed report are:

- Date of Market Notice
- Outage Date
- Market Notice Subject
- Market Notice ID
- Notice Status (Initial/Follow Up)
- Type (Planned/Unplanned)
- Incident Status (Complete/Upcoming/Ongoing)
- Business Service (Retail/Non-Retail)
- Notable Impacts

Market Participants may provide data and information regarding the notable impacts of an incident to ERCOT to be included in the monthly report detailed above. Information provided to ERCOT for the purposes of inclusion in the incident log will be treated as confidential and may be submitted through their client representative.

## Approvals

Area of Responsibility	Role for Approver	Reviewed / Approved	Date
ERCOT IT Operations	ERCOT IT Operations Manager	Approved	12/5/2023
ERCOT Retail Business Operations	ERCOT Retail Business Operations Manager	Approved	12/5/2023
Retail Market Subcommittee	RMS Chair	Approved	12/5/2023

## Appendix A: Definitions

This section contains definitions referred to in this document and of the commonly used acronyms.

- **Availability:** The ability of a component or IT service to perform its required function over a stated period of time
- **Degradation:** An event that causes the normal levels of ERCOT IT systems to be impacted while still allowing for minimal processing of or access to these systems
- **Incident:** Any event that causes the agreed levels of service of ERCOT IT systems to be impacted
- **Outage:** any incident resulting in the unexpected failure of a computer or network hardware system or software application. As measured by this SLA, an outage occurs when an application fails to return a valid response within the timeout window. This window is between 20 seconds and 90 seconds, depending on the application.
- **Planned outage minutes:** minutes used by ERCOT during the maintenance and

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release windows

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- **Planned Outage:** A planned change in ERCOT IT systems that prevents users from being able to access the systems
  - **Unplanned Outage:** An unplanned change in ERCOT IT systems that prevents users from being able to access the systems
  - **Unplanned Outage minutes:** minutes retail transaction processing services were not available that are outside of the planned use of the maintenance and release windows