



## **Ethics Agreement for Directors**

Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. ("ERCOT") is a Texas non-profit corporation organized pursuant to the Texas Business Organizations Code. ERCOT has been formed for the limited purpose of: (a) ensuring open access to the transmission and distribution systems within the ERCOT region for all buyers and sellers of electricity on non-discriminatory basis terms, ensuring the reliability and adequacy of the regional electrical network, ensuring that information relating to a customer's choice of retail electric provider is conveyed in a timely manner to the persons who need that information, and ensuring that electricity production and delivery are accurately accounted for among the generators and wholesale buyers and sellers within the ERCOT region; (b) coordinating activities within the region of ERCOT to fulfill these purposes; (c) performing the functions of an Independent Organization as certified by the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("PUC") and provided by the Public Utility Regulatory Act and PUC Rules; and (d) engaging in any lawful act or activity consistent with the foregoing for which nonprofit corporations may be formed under the Texas Business Organizations Code. ERCOT is certified as the Independent Organization for the ERCOT region by the PUC.

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 Certificate of Formation, applicable laws and the *Amended and Restated Bylaws of Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc.* (Bylaws), as may be amended from time to time.

### **Potential Conflicts of Interest**

Each Director of ERCOT shall have an affirmative duty to disclose to the Board, any actual or potential conflicts of interest as required by Article 9 of the Bylaws.

Each Director 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.

If a Director or member of their 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 shall provide full disclosure of such stock holdings or relationship in documented form to be filed with the permanent records of ERCOT.



## Prohibited Acts

As long as ERCOT exists, no Director may engage in any prohibited acts as set forth in Article 9 of the Bylaws. Violations of any such 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 as set forth in the Certificate of Formation, 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 Certificate of Formation, Bylaws or applicable law, the Certificate of Formation, Bylaws and applicable laws, as they may be amended from time to time, shall control. Directors will be required to reaffirm the Ethics Agreement on an annual basis.

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

Director Signature: 

Date: 2/4/25