The Electric Reliability Council of Texas

Operations Training Working Group



**June 12th, 2025**



Operations Training Working Group (OTWG)

# Minutes

June 12th, 2025

WebEx

0900-1100

Meeting Roster attendance results.

### 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.

# Open Session

Chair/Vice-Chair will only recognize those that use the “raise hand” feature in WebEx

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Previous meeting minutes approval | Made Motion | Jason Brackin |
|  | 2nd Motion | Kevin Griffin |

## CURRENT/UPCOMING EVENTS - 2025 Training Schedule

N/A

## OPERATIONS NOTICES, NOGRRs and NPRRs

NOGRR 247 concerning UFLS. Review the notice and the dates of these UFLS to be in effect.

Market Notification Link: <https://www.ercot.com/services/comm/mkt_notices/M-A022924-01>

NOGRR 245 just passed. See status and documentation related to this NOGRR. <https://www.ercot.com/mktrules/issues/NOGRR245#summary>

Location of all NOGRR - <https://www.ercot.com/mktrules/issues/reports/nogrr>

## ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Chair: Manuel.Sanchez@oncor.com

Vice-Chair: Benjamin.Ray@austinenergy.com

## TASK FORCES & TRAINING EVENTS

* Interest in serving on Task Forces should be emailed to Leadership (above)
* An NDA on file with ERCOT is required to join OTWG Task Forces and participate in CLOSED sessions (one document covers all TFs Forces - NO renewal required)

Email to NDA@ercot.com

### ERCOT Operator Certification Task Force (EOCTF)

### **Chair Steve Rainwater, Vice-Chair VACANT**

**Members – James Wallace**

**Requesting additional members – seeking member(s) from a QSE**

* ERCOT is hosting the test onsite. Use the link below for more details:

<https://web.cvent.com/event/1b1ffc4d-f78a-4e4b-b36b-2894e2835863/summary>

* ERCOT will open test every two weeks throughout the year. Cost will be $50 via credit card using CVENT to complete registration.
* Waiting period will be 21 days before retest.
* PLEASE USE THE CVENT SITE FOR ALL QUESTIONS. A FAQ document will be added to the site for more details.
* ERCOT is looking at the data for passing grades and evaluate the exam question bank.
* The test volume is not high enough for vendors to take interest in hosting the exams. This is a limitation ERCOT is evaluating to overcome.
* ERCOT continues to host the certification exam in house through the CVENT site, reference link above.

### Human Performance Improvement Topics

* Ideas for HPI topics:
	+ Identify topics for Human Performance Metrics for Real-Time operations.
	+ Visit NERC Event reports for additional resources at <https://www.nerc.com/pa/rrm/ea/Pages/Major-Event-Reports.aspx>
	+ Visit NERC lessons learned site for additional reference at <https://www.nerc.com/pa/rrm/ea/Pages/Lessons-Learned.aspx>
	+ Visit the <https://www.natf.net/> portal for HPI resources, discussion boards and initiatives, other companies are doing related to Human Performance Improvement.

### ERCOT Black Start Restoration Training Task Force (BSTTF)

**Chair Mark Spinner, Vice-Chair Nate Perio**

**Members –, S. Aragon, A. Ballew, D. Penny, Jonathan Love**

2025 Black Start Training

* Onsite training during Weeks of October-November 2025.
* Traditionally will be 20 hrs of simulation plus the EOP standard portion (~7 CEHs). (CBT being re-worked)
* Meeting in May about the Restoration simulation, events introduced to challenge restoration effort. Join Task force to voice on this effort.
* ERCOT is requesting to have more members involved in the group.
* Looking for strategies and processes that help making the simulation training more efficient, realistic, and challenging to the participants.
* CBT is being reformatted for this year’s training.
* There will be a closed session meeting (June 12th with task force members) to discuss the details of simulation exercises and training approach. The plan is for June 25th, the task force will present the results/agreements to the black start working group. An NDA is required to participate in the closed session meeting.
* The approximate time duration for the CBTs
	+ Voltage Control ~2hrs
	+ Frequency Control ~1hr
	+ Standard Restoration Training ~2hrs
	+ The idea is to break up the training content to include additional topics utilized and considered during black start restoration practices.

### ERCOT Region Operator Training Seminar Task Force (OTSTF)

**Chair Manuel Sanchez, Vice-Chair Aaron Ballew**

**Member – M. Cruz-Montes, Jonathan Love**

**Requesting additional members**

* Successfully completed the 41st ERCOT Operators Training Seminar.
	+ ERCOT provided the summary of the feedback received during the last training cycle.
	+ See attached summary at the end of the meeting minutes.
* ERCOT is evaluating to bring Black Start training back to the spring time in 2026 and move ERCOT OTS to the fall.
	+ ERCOT is evaluating the inclusion of senate bill 2148 to add cyber and critical facilities into training content. This topic may be included during the black start restoration training.
* 42nd ERCOT Operations Training Seminar 2026
	+ ERCOT continue to ask market participants to provide additional topics for 2026 ERCOT OTS.
	+ The Bulk Power System Awareness Group (BPSA) has offered one hour of NERC standards review for next year.
		- Investigate who will be the facilitator for this session or reach to TRE for additional recommendations.
* Topics for 2026 Operators Training Seminar

### ERCOT Severe Weather Drill Task Force (SWDTF) – No Updates

**Chair Nate Perio, Vice-Chair VACANT**

**Member –Jonathan Love**

**Requesting additional members**

* SWD training completed on 6/5/25
* This session will be a communication drill and some content presentation.
* More details released in a market notice.
* 
	+ The drill should be an hour long (0800 - ~0900 on 6/5/25).
	+ Including a slide for the progression of the event.
	+ Will include more control in managing phone calls for this session.
* Please include any suggestions for the drill.
* Lessons learned: ERCOT will try to get the hotline calls upfront for next year.

## OLD Business

* Find available RTC +B Training Videos at - <https://www.ercot.com/committees/tac/rtcbtf/training>
* Consideration about Taking Breaks during training delivery as per the CE Manual – The consensus was to continue deliver the courses as stated in the manual (50 minutes content and 10 minutes break per CEH) allowing the flexibility to take breaks when convenient.
	+ ERCOT will be hosting NATF Conference in July 29th, 30th and 31st.
		- This is for NATF members only.
		- For more details, companies need to be members of the NATF to see registration, cost, etc.

## NEW Business

* For group’s awareness, September 11th, there will be a table top exercise for Black Start with different state entities, PUCT, TRE, etc.
	+ - The session will be a high-level exercise (not intended to replace any existing Black Start trainings).
		- An after-action report will be available after the session to provide lessons learned of the exercise.
	+ Question to OTWG: Where are the meeting minutes stored in the ERCOT website? It looks like the archived meeting minutes can’t be found at this time.
		- James Ballard will take the responsibility to address this question.
	+ Members of different Task Forces and Working groups are expected to complete the Biennial TAC self-assessment sent by ROS. Deadline is by July 2nd, 2025.



## Upcoming OTWG Meetings

* OTWG Meeting dates:

July 17th, 2025 – OTWG Meeting

August 14th, 2025 – OTWG Meeting

September 18th, 2025 – OTWG Meeting

October 9th, 2025 – OTWG Meeting

November 13th, 2025 – OTWG Meeting – Potential Cancellation due to ERCOT Black Start

December 11th, 2025 – OTWG Meeting

# Closed Session

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  Need to have a closed session 6/12/2025 | Motion Made | James Ballard |
|  | 2nd Motion | Manuel Sanchez |

# Adjourn

Time: Adjourn on June 12th, 2025 at 0923 hours.

OTS-41 Evaluation and Feedback



What participants liked about OTS-41

**- Overall Satisfaction:** The event was well received, with attendees praising its informative nature, engaging presenters, and well-organized structure.

**- Speakers & Presentations:** Bobby Gray stood out as a favorite speaker, earning multiple enthusiastic mentions. Participants appreciated the knowledgeable instructors, expert presentations, and relevant topics.

**- Topics & Content:** A diverse range of topics were covered, with many commenting on their relevance, especially updates on ERCOT, RTC+B, system restoration, and summer weather outlook.

**- Event Structure & Organization:** The concise day-and-a-half format was appreciated, though some felt the event was too long. Presentations were structured well, easy to follow, and engaging.

**- Networking & Interaction:** Attendees valued the opportunity to meet others in the industry, interact with knowledgeable presenters, and ask questions.

**- Food & Refreshments:** The food and snacks received high praise, with many noting improvements from previous years. Cookies and lunch were particularly popular.

**- Miscellaneous:** Gifts, CE hours, and overall accommodations were mentioned positively.

**Summary:** Overall, participants found the event informative, well-structured, and enjoyable, with strong praise for presenters and the learning experience. Looks like it was a great success!

Items that could use improvement

Here's a summary of participant feedback on ways to improve the event:

**Event Structure & Timing**

* Presentations longer than an hour were deemed too lengthy, with many asking for shorter sessions.

**Speakers & Presentations**

* More on future trends rather than past events.

**Venue & Comfort**

* Better lighting in certain areas of the room was requested.
* Some suggested a different location or an offsite venue.

**Food & Amenities**

* Many appreciated the food but suggested improvements, such as better breakfast options, more variety, and less stingy catering.
* More seating outside and additional bathrooms were suggested.
* Requests for charging stations for phones and USB outlets were noted.

**Miscellaneous Suggestions**

* Some wanted remote training options.

**Summary:** Overall, the feedback suggests ways to improve attendee experience through better scheduling, more engaging presentations, and enhanced comfort and amenities. Sounds like the event was valuable, but a few tweaks could make it even better!