The Electric Reliability Council of Texas

Operations Training Working Group



**August 14th, 2025**



Operations Training Working Group (OTWG)

# Minutes

August 14th, 2025

WebEx

0900-1100

Meeting attendance roster 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 | Mike Flores - ONCOR |
|  | 2nd Motion | Daniel Castillo – CPS Energy |

## 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.
* ERCOT Certification exam will be suspended during Black Start Training. The exam will resume in December.

### Human Performance Improvement Topics – No Updates

* 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

* On track to have onsite training during Weeks of October 7th (Tu. 0.5 day, Wed. full day, Thu. full day) - November 11th 2025.
* Pilot session planned for a half-day on September 23rd, this session is to test the simulator and simulation exercises.
	+ No CEHs for the pilot session. Looking to have for late morning on 9/23/25 (around 1000 hrs onward).
* Traditionally will be 20 hrs of simulation plus the EOP standard portion (7 CEHs CBT). New CBTs will be available for Black Start Training in Spring of 2026
	+ Cost per person is estimated $675 for the in-person session and CBT.
	+ Total number of CEHs is estimated at 27 hrs.
* ERCOT is requesting to have more members involved in the group.
* CBT is being reformatted for this year’s training.
* The approximate time duration for the CBTs. Release date is not known yet, but it will be released the same day the market notice is sent.
	+ There are sections for topics and application of the system restoration approach.
	+ CBT must be completed before Dec 31, 2025.
	+ 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.
* Simulation is planned to have realistic cold load pickup to about 6x normal load for a portion of the exercise. Through the simulation days there is plans to implement cold load pick up of 4x normal load.
* The number of anomalies that will be included to the simulation will be strategic and gradually introduced to avoid creating extreme complexity and difficulty for operators and ERCOT trainers operating the simulator.
* Market notice will be released by the end of August.
* During the simulation where two large islands are to be tied, there are plans to allow other market participants to execute and restore their system.

### ERCOT Region Operator Training Seminar Task Force (OTSTF) – No Updates

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

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

**Requesting additional members**

Topics for 2025 Operators Training Seminar

* 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
* OTS will be moved to the fall beginning in 2026. Black Start Training will be in the spring.
	+ ERCOT continue to ask market participants to provide additional topics for next year’s ERCOT OTS.
		- Suggested topic: Spain/Portugal event
	+ 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.

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

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

**Member –Jonathan Love**

**Requesting additional members**

* This group is still looking for additional members. Please consider joining.

## OLD 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.
		- This is a closed exercise organized by PUCT.

## NEW Business

* + - Evaluate the possibility of creating a training course on GridGeo related to how monitor and maintain situational awareness for contingencies and response to system conditions by market participants.
			* It looks like this effort may be necessary to coordinate with OWG leadership.
			* Currently there is no online trainings related to GridGeo. This can be a recommended topic for the ERCOT Operations Training Seminar next year.
		- Recommending evaluating some training opportunities for incoming 765 kV transmission system and voltage control best practices.
		- NERC SOCCED representative will be invited to one of the OTWG meetings to provide an update on the new vendor SOCCED will be transitioning to monitor, manage, and track CEHs, certifications, and ILAs. Details are being coordinated.

## Upcoming OTWG Meetings

* OTWG Meeting dates:

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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|  No closed session needed | Motion Made | Michael Goulding |
|  | 2nd Motion | Mike Flores |

# Adjourn

Time: Adjourn on August 14th, 2025 at 0924 hours.