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REPORTS OF THE ELECTRIC

RELIABILITY COUNCIL OF TEXAS



PROJECT NO. 50664

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ISSUES RELATED TO THE STATE	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF DISASTER FOR CORONAVIRUS	§	
DISEASE 2019	§	OF TEXAS

ELECTRIC RELIABILITY COUNCIL OF TEXAS, INC.'S NOTICE OF AUGUST 10 AND AUGUST 11, 2020 URGENT TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE ERCOT NOMINATING, FINANCE AND AUDIT, AND HUMAN RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEES AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Given the continuing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic situation and the inability to accommodate medium to large in-person groups and maintain proper social distancing requirements, Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. (ERCOT) hereby provides notice to the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) that it has scheduled <u>urgent teleconference meetings</u> of the ERCOT Board of Directors' (Board) Nominating Committee at 9:00 a.m., and the Finance and Audit Committee at 1:30 p.m. on August 10, 2020, and the Human Resources and Governance Committee at 9:30 a.m., and the Board at 10:30 a.m. on August 11, 2020, to consider urgent, time-sensitive matters that cannot wait until the next regularly-scheduled Nominating Committee, Finance and Audit Committee, Human Resource and Governance Committee, Finance and Audit Committee, Human Resource and Governance Committee at 9:30 n. October 12-13, 2020. In addition, ERCOT has cancelled the <u>in-person, regularly-scheduled meetings</u> of the Board and its Committees originally scheduled for August 10-11, 2020.

I. COVID-19 Pandemic Outbreak and Mandatory Social Distancing

The circumstances surrounding the international COVID-19 outbreak and the resulting need for ERCOT to conduct meetings via teleconference are set forth in ERCOT's April 6, 2020 *Notice of April 14, 2020 Urgent Teleconference Meeting of the ERCOT Board of Directors* in these Projects (April 6, 2020 Notice). ERCOT continues to monitor this extremely fluid and

dynamic situation closely, and follow guidance from federal, state, and local health agencies, along with professional epidemiologist recommendations. As such, ERCOT intends to continue to restrict visitation on all ERCOT facilities for the foreseeable future. Consistent with this policy, after consultation with Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and TAC Subcommittee leadership, on May 11, 2020, ERCOT announced via Market Notice that ERCOT and TAC leadership have determined that all stakeholder meetings will continue to operate remotely for the foreseeable future.

II. <u>ERCOT Bylaws Allow for a Teleconference Board and Committee Meetings to Act on</u> <u>Urgent Matters and Discuss Non-Urgent Matters</u>

Consistent with Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA) Section 39.1511(b), while meetings of the Board and its Committees are generally conducted in person, ERCOT Bylaws Sections 4.6(c) and 4.7(e) provide that meetings may be held via teleconference, but that the Board may only take action on urgent matters. At the July 31, 2020 Commission Open Meeting, the Commission approved the Petition of Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. for Approval of Expedited Bylaws Amendment.¹ As amended, Bylaws Section 4.6(b) defines "urgent matters" as follows:

For purposes of these Bylaws, an urgent matter is an emergency or public necessity (including but not limited to an imminent threat to public health and safety or to the ERCOT market or system), or a reasonably unforeseen situation. A matter shall be considered an urgent matter if it would be difficult or impossible for a quorum of Directors or subcommittee members to physically convene in one location and failure to consider the matter without delay may result in operational (including but not limited to those activities and functions affecting the ERCOT market or system), regulatory, legal, organizational or governance risk.

Given the national health recommendations, local and state orders and directives that have been issued (particularly with regard to physical social distancing in enclosed indoor areas), the speed of the transmission of COVID-19, and the serious health concerns about travel and crowds, ERCOT believes an in-person meeting of the Board or any of its Committees could pose a significant public health and safety risk and it would be difficult or impossible for a quorum of Directors or subcommittee members to physically convene in one location, and therefore the conditions for an urgent meeting have been met in accordance with the Bylaws. Accordingly,

¹ PUC Docket No. 50918.

ERCOT has decided to hold urgent meetings only via teleconference of the Nominating Committee at 9:00 a.m., and the Finance and Audit Committee at 1:30 p.m. on August 10, 2020; and the Human Resources and Governance Committee at 9:30 a.m., and the Board at 10:30 a.m. on August 11, 2020. The voting items for the urgent Committee meetings and Board meetings will be limited to urgent, time-sensitive matters that if not considered until the regularly-scheduled October 12-13, 2020 Committee meetings and Board meeting may result in operational (including but not limited to those activities and functions affecting the ERCOT market or system), regulatory, legal, organizational or governance risk.

As required by PURA Section 39.1511(c), ERCOT will make live Internet video of the general session (public portion) of each meeting publicly accessible without charge for viewing from an Internet website. Specifically, the teleconferences will be hosted by ERCOT through Cisco Webex, which will be simultaneously webcast live by ERCOT's vendor, Swagit Productions, to the public on the ERCOT website at no charge. In addition, ERCOT expects to utilize Webex's video functionality as part of these teleconferences, assuming no technical difficulties; and this video will be webcast live to the public. To address public participation and comment on the agenda items of the urgent Board and Committee meetings, ERCOT will provide the public with the Assistant Corporate Secretary's email address for the purpose of notifying ERCOT staff by 5:00 p.m. on August 7, 2020, of any person's desire to provide commentary at the Board or Committee meetings in connection with any specific agenda items. Upon receipt of the email, ERCOT staff will provide instruction regarding the way to participate in the relevant teleconference(s) and direction not to share the teleconference participation information or the participant's unique identifier (which is necessary for identification of online speakers and for the orderly administration of remote participant communication during the teleconferences).

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Chad V. Seely

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