



## Filing Receipt

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Aspire Power Ventures, LP

July 21, 2021

Public Utility Commission of Texas  
William B. Travis Building  
1701 N. Congress Avenue  
7th Floor  
Austin, TX 78701

*Re: Project No. 51812, Issues Related to the State of Disaster for the February 2021  
Winter Weather Event*

Dear Commissioners:

Aspire Power Ventures, LP (“Aspire”) strongly supports South Texas Electric Cooperative’s (“STEC’s”) July 19, 2021 recommendation that the Commission retain an independent 3rd party consultant “that does not have a financial interest in the ERCOT market, using as a foundation the directive from the Governor and the newly passed legislation ... to perform the requisite studies and develop the information to advise the Commission as to the necessary ERCOT market reforms. A third-party consultant that is directly accountable to the Commission will be able to provide a neutral assessment of policy reforms that can be presented to stakeholders for comment.” Given the urgency of the issues that the proposed independent consultant will examine, Aspire urges the Commission to act promptly on STEC’s recommendation.

In particular, Aspire believes that the independent consultant should closely examine and perform necessary studies to assess whether the current market design creates opportunities and incentives to withhold generation in a manner adverse to the reliable delivery of electricity in ERCOT. This inquiry is wholly consistent with the Legislative and Gubernatorial calls for policies to increase the participation and availability of dispatchable generation in ERCOT’s Day-Ahead and Real-Time Markets. Incentives to withhold generation from these Markets run antithetical to the Governor’s directive and to Senate Bill 3’s clear call for increased availability of dispatchable generation in ERCOT and therefore must be eliminated.

Additionally, prompt improvements to incentives for dispatchable generation to bid into the Day-Ahead and Real-Time Markets offers a far quicker benefit to Texans than the promotion of new generation facilities, which typically take years to complete. Inadequate generation participation in the ERCOT Markets, whether the result of a lack of iron on the ground or a simple failure to offer generation to ERCOT, harms Texas consumers. The independent consultant’s analyses associated with dispatchable generation’s participation and availability in ERCOT’s Day-Ahead and Real-Time Markets should include review of trading and incentives related to secondary markets like the Intercontinental Exchange (“ICE”) as well as the physical ERCOT markets as that does not seem to have occurred in the past.

Aspire appreciates your consideration of these matters and looks forward to helping Texas improve its wholesale market design and, in so doing, improving the reliability of power for the State and promoting fair energy prices.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Adam Sinn*

Adam Sinn