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Public Utility Commission of Texas

Memorandum

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: John Poole PE, Infrastructure Division
Julia Wagner PE, Market Analysis Division

DATE: February 28, 2025

RE: Project No. 55718 *Reliability Plan for The Permian Basin Under PURA §39.167*
Agenda for March 7, 2025 Public Workshop

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Commission Staff will hold a public workshop on March 7, 2025 starting at 9:30 am. The workshop will be held in the Commissioner's Hearing Room, 7th Floor, William B. Travis Building, located at 1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701. The workshop will also be broadcast live and archived for later viewing on AdminMonitor, which can be found by navigating to this link: <https://www.adminmonitor.com/tx/puct/>.

This workshop will be structured in three parts.

Part 1: Question to ERCOT

1. How does the Commission decision by May 1, 2025 determining the voltage level for the Permian Basin import paths impact the transmission planning for the rest of the ERCOT power region? Considering that the Commission never endorsed or approved an annual regional transmission plan (RTP) before, what is the relationship between the RTP and the reliability plans required under PURA §39.166/167 (HB5066, 88R)?

Part 2: Short presentations by several equipment vendors and infrastructure builders who will offer current perspectives on supply chain timelines and any cost variability between 345 kV and 765 kV transmission. After presentations conclude, presenters will be available to answer questions from the meeting attendees.

Part 3: The third part of the workshop will proceed in a question-and-answer format, during which Commission Staff will pose the seven questions listed below and interested stakeholders will be invited to respond to those questions. Commentary outside the scope of the questions listed below may not be considered due to time constraints. Staff appreciates any insights which expand

on – and do not simply repeat – feedback already provided to the Commission through written comments.

1. For the proposed Transmission Service Providers (TSP) owners of Permian Basin import lines, please provide your perspective on the uncertainties related to building 345 kV vs 765 kV infrastructure with respect to supply chain timelines and factors affecting their respective costs.
 - a. Based on your project preparations so far, please provide an updated all-inclusive \$/mi metric for 765 kV construction based on your own estimate.
2. Do you think the 765 kV costs represented in MISO's Cost Estimate Guide are a reasonable estimate for actual costs for Texas 765 kV infrastructure? Please explain.
3. Compared to 345 kV infrastructure, are there any additional challenges in arranging labor to construct 765 kV infrastructure? If so, in which specific area(s) may 765 kV labor issues develop differently than 345 kV?
4. Are there any new or recent risks outside the control of the TSPs (i.e., financial, trade, markets, transportation, etc.) that may affect a 765 kV infrastructure buildout differently as compared to a 345 kV buildout?
5. If 765 kV infrastructure is chosen for the Permian Basin import paths, should all TSPs be required to use uniform design and construction standards? Please share pros and cons.
6. Please provide real-world examples where 765 kV infrastructure exhibited additional operational resiliency benefits in an extreme disruption event/fault as compared to a 345kV infrastructure.
7. Is there anything else the Commission should consider already not addressed?