

**ATTACHMENT 1 TO EXHIBIT D**  
**TEXAS RE REGIONAL HEARING PROCESS**

**1.0 Designation of Hearing Body**

All formal compliance hearings shall be held before the Compliance Enforcement Authority's Hearing Body. The Hearing Body shall be the Public Utility Commission of Texas. All hearings shall be conducted under the hearing procedures set forth in Attachment 2 to Exhibit D ("Attachment 2—Rules of Procedure"), supplementing this Attachment 1. As set forth in Attachment 2— Rules of Procedure, the Hearing Body may delegate any hearing-related task to a Presiding Officer, except for the issuance of the final recommendation.

The Compliance Enforcement Authority shall initiate the hearing process following the completion of the Notice of Alleged Violation and proposed sanction and registered entity response processes in accordance with Section 5.1 of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC") Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program ("NERC CMEP"), as set forth below.

Following the filing of a proceeding contesting an Alleged Violation or a Remedial Action Directive, no person shall engage in ex parte communications with the Hearing Body, including without limitation any appointed Presiding Officer, concerning the matter in dispute until the Chief Compliance Officer's written decision issued pursuant to Section 9.1 is appealed or the deadline for filing an appeal has passed; provided, however, that: (a) a member of the Hearing Body or the Presiding Officer may communicate ex parte with another member of the Hearing Body unless prohibited by other law, and (b) a member of the Hearing Body or the Presiding Officer may communicate ex parte with a Commission employee who has not participated in a hearing in the case for the purpose of using the special skills or knowledge of the agency and its staff in evaluating the evidence.

The Hearing Body may rule on all procedural and discovery matters pursuant to Attachment 2—Rules of Procedure.

The Hearing Body may delegate to a single commissioner, a hearings examiner, or an administrative law judge (a "Presiding Officer") the authority to establish the procedures and dates for the presentation of all materials concerning the alleged violation and the power to hear evidence and to issue a draft recommendation, but the Hearing Body may not delegate its authority to issue a final recommendation on the alleged violation to the Chief Compliance Officer of the Compliance Enforcement Authority.

In accordance with Attachment 2—Rules of Procedure, the Hearing Body may provide for additional procedures as it deems necessary to effectively carry out a compliance hearing. To the extent permitted by law, any provision in this Attachment 1 may be waived, suspended, or modified by the Presiding Officer or the Hearing Body, as defined in Attachment 2—Rules of Procedure §1.1.5, for good cause shown, either upon the Presiding Officer's or the Hearing Body's own motion or upon the motion of any Party.

## **2.0 Recusal of Member of Hearing Body**

A Hearing Body member, Presiding Officer, or Technical Advisor shall recuse himself or herself if participation in the enforcement proceeding would violate the Compliance Enforcement Authority's Conflict of Interest or Code of Conduct policy.

The Registered Entity may raise an objection to any member of the Hearing Body, a Presiding Officer or Technical Advisor on grounds of a conflict of interest or the existence of other circumstances that could interfere with the that person's impartial performance of his or her duties. Such objections must be provided in writing and filed reasonably in advance of the start of the hearing and the Presiding Officer shall make a decision on the objection promptly. Upon request of the Registered Entity, the Hearing Body (without participation of the Hearing Body member, Presiding Officer, or Technical Advisor) may review the determination and, if so, shall issue a decision on the objection promptly.

## **3.0 Authorized Representatives**

Both the Compliance Enforcement Authority and the Registered Entity shall submit to the Hearing Body the names of the persons authorized to represent them in the Hearing Process pursuant to Attachment 2—Rules of Procedure. Such persons shall be officers or equivalents of the Regional Entity and the Registered Entity that have the authority to act on behalf of the Regional Entity and the Registered Entity, respectively. In addition, a party shall advise the Hearing Body and the other party if the party will be represented by legal counsel.

## **4.0 Statement of Alleged Violation and Response by Registered Entity**

The Registered Entity shall initiate the compliance hearing process in accordance with Section 5.1 of the NERC CMEP and Attachment 2—Rules of Procedure by filing with the Hearing Body Clerk a statement or complaint contesting the written Notice of Alleged Violation and proposed sanction and serving a copy upon the Compliance Enforcement Authority. Specifically, the Registered Entity shall file with the Hearing Body (with service of copies upon the Compliance Enforcement Authority) a written statement of reasons why the Alleged Violation is in error or a written statement of reasons why the proposed penalty or sanction is inappropriate (if applicable in the particular case), along with copies of all documents relied on by the Registered Entity to support its position. If the dispute involves a Registered Entity's proposed mitigation plan ("Registered Entity's Mitigation Proposal") that has not been accepted by the Compliance Enforcement Authority, the Registered Entity may initiate the hearing process by filing a request for hearing with the Hearing Body Clerk and serving a copy upon the Compliance Enforcement Authority.

Within five (5) business days after the request for review of the Alleged Violation, penalty, or mitigation plan or Remedial Action Directive is filed, the Compliance Enforcement Authority's designated representative shall file with the Hearing Body (with copies to the Registered Entity) a copy of the written Notice of the Alleged Violation and proposed sanction that was originally provided to the Registered Entity, along with copies of any non-privileged or non-exempt documents gathered and reviewed by the Compliance Enforcement Authority in the course of determining an Alleged Violation has occurred and in determining the proposed sanction or penalty.

If the hearing involves the question of whether a Registered Entity's Mitigation Proposal should be accepted, within twenty (20) days after the request for review of the Alleged Violation, penalty, or mitigation plan or Remedial Action Directive is filed, the Compliance Enforcement Authority shall file a report stating why the Registered Entity's Mitigation Proposal was not accepted. If the hearing involves a Registered Entity's Mitigation Proposal, the Registered Entity shall file its proposed Mitigation Plan and supporting information stating why the Mitigation Plan should be accepted within thirty (30) days after the date the request for review of the Alleged Violation, penalty, or mitigation plan or Remedial Action Directive is filed.

## **5.0 Setting of Hearings and Conferences**

The Hearing Body shall set a date for an initial conference within thirty (30) days after the date the request for review of the Alleged Violation, penalty, or mitigation plan or Remedial Action Directive is filed. At the initial conference, the Hearing Body shall establish specific procedures for the hearing including (1) any procedures for exchange of additional documents, (2) any written testimony, (3) the hearing date(s), and (4) dates for any briefs. Subject to Section 6.0 and the Attachment 2—Rules of Procedure, each party shall be entitled to (1) present the testimony of witnesses, (2) cross-examination of opposing witnesses, (3) make an oral presentation of position, and (4) file a written post-hearing brief.

The Hearing Body may hold additional conferences. All notices of conferences and hearings shall set forth the date, time and place of hearing. The Hearing Body shall issue a written order setting forth the agreements and rulings made at each conference.

By agreement of the parties or order of the Hearing Body, any conference or hearing may be conducted via teleconference, except that, subject to section 6.0 of this hearing process, witnesses shall personally appear at the hearing.

All prehearing conferences and hearings shall be open to the public, except when the use of a closed meeting is authorized by Texas law.

## **6.0 Conduct of Hearing**

The hearing will be conducted under the provisions of this section 6.0 and the Attachment 2— Rules of Procedure.

The hearing need not be held on consecutive days, and shall be held at the offices of the Hearing Body unless the Hearing Body decides on a different location after consulting with the parties.

The party requesting transcription of the hearing, the Registered Entity or Compliance Enforcement Authority, will arrange and pay for transcription of the hearing.

The Hearing Body shall direct the direct testimony of any witnesses be in written form in accordance with Attachment 2— Rules of Procedure. All witnesses shall be required to appear in person, unless waived by the parties and the Hearing Body. Motions shall be made and decided, evidence shall be presented, and a record shall be made in accordance with Attachment 2— Rules of Procedure.

## **7.0 Submission of Post-Hearing Briefs**

The parties may submit post-hearing briefs on a schedule established by the Hearing Body pursuant to Attachment 2— Rules of Procedure. The parties may, and on request of the Hearing Body shall, submit proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law.

## **8.0 Record of the Compliance Hearing**

If applicable, copies of the following documents shall be maintained by the Hearing Body as the record of the hearing process:

- (1) The written notice that a request for review of the Alleged Violation, penalty, or mitigation plan or Remedial Action Directive has been filed with the Hearing Body Clerk;
- (2) The Notice of Alleged Violation and sanction issued by the Compliance Enforcement Authority and the response filed by the Registered Entity, including in each case all attachments thereto and documents provided therewith;
- (3) If the hearing involves a Registered Entity's Mitigation Proposal, (a) the Registered Entity's Mitigation Proposal and supporting information as to why the Registered Entity's Mitigation Proposal should be accepted and (b) the report of the Compliance Enforcement Authority stating why the Registrant's Mitigation Proposal was not accepted;
- (4) Any requests for recusal of a member of the Hearing Body, a Presiding Officer, or a Technical Advisor, and any responses to such requests;
- (5) All motions, notices and responses filed by the parties during the hearing process;
- (6) All documents that set forth or that summarize any ex parte communications;
- (7) All notices and rulings issued by the Hearing Body during the hearing process;
- (8) All interlocutory orders;
- (9) All written testimony and all exhibits received into evidence;
- (10) All written testimony and documentary exhibits that were proffered but not admitted into evidence;
- (11) Any transcript(s);
- (12) The parties' post-hearing briefs, any exceptions to the draft recommendation, any motions for reconsideration or rehearing, and any other post-decision briefing or motion;
- (13) The draft recommendation of the Presiding Officer, if any; and
- (14) The final recommendation of the Hearing Body.

## **9.0 Timing of Written Recommendation to the Chief Compliance Officer**

The Hearing Body shall issue its written final recommendation to the Chief Compliance Officer within thirty (30) days following the submission of post-hearing briefs, or, if briefing is waived, following the conclusion of the hearing. The Hearing Body may in its discretion extend the time for the issuance of the written final recommendation to the

Chief Compliance Officer for up to an additional sixty (60) days. The written final recommendation shall state the opinion of the Hearing Body with respect to Alleged Violations of Reliability Standards and proposed penalties or sanctions at issue in the hearing. If the hearing involves a Registered Entity's Mitigation Proposal, the written final recommendation shall either propose acceptance or rejection of the Registered Entity's Mitigation Proposal. If the proposed Registered Entity's Mitigation Proposal is recommended for rejection, the Hearing Body may specify the provisions of an alternative plan of mitigation that the Registered Entity should be required to implement. The written final recommendation shall explain the reasons for the Hearing Body's conclusions and cite the testimony and exhibits relied on by the Hearing Body in reaching its opinions. Copies of the written final recommendation shall be served electronically and by certified mail on the Registered Entity and on the Compliance Enforcement Authority's designated representative at the time it is issued to the Chief Compliance Officer.

### **9.1 Written Decision by the Chief Compliance Officer**

The Chief Compliance Officer shall issue his written decision accepting, rejecting or modifying the Hearing Body's recommendation, within twenty (20) business days following the issuance of the Hearing Body's written final recommendation. The Chief Compliance Officer may extend the date for issuance of his written decision for an additional twenty (20) business days in his sole discretion. The Chief Compliance Officer's written decision shall state the conclusion of the Chief Compliance Officer with respect to Alleged Violations of Reliability Standards and proposed penalties or sanctions at issue in the hearing. If the hearing involves a Registered Entity's Mitigation Proposal, the written decision shall either accept or reject the Registered Entity's Mitigation Proposal. If the proposed Registered Entity's Mitigation Proposal is rejected, the Chief Compliance Officer may specify the provisions of the Registered Entity's Mitigation Proposal that the Registered Entity should be required to implement, together with other mitigation measures the Chief Compliance Officer shall require. The written decision shall explain the reasons for the Chief Compliance Officer's conclusions and cite the testimony and exhibits relied on by the Chief Compliance Officer in reaching its conclusions. Copies of the written decision shall be served electronically and by certified mail on the Registered Entity, on the Compliance Enforcement Authority's designated representative, and on the Hearing Body.

### **9.2 NERC Appeal Process**

The Registered Entity may appeal an adverse decision of the Chief Compliance Officer to NERC, as provided for in NERC Rules of Procedure, Sections 407.3 and 410.

## **10.0 Expedited Hearing Process for Disputes Concerning Remedial Action Directives**

A Registered Entity that disputes a Remedial Action Directive issued by a Compliance Enforcement Authority may request an expedited hearing. To facilitate the expedited hearing, the Compliance Enforcement Authority may request that the Hearing Body convene for purposes of the expedited hearing process. The following expedited procedures shall be followed:

- (1) The Registered Entity shall file its written response the Remedial Action Directive and request for emergency hearing with the Hearing Body, with a copy to the

Compliance Enforcement Authority's designated representative within two (2) business days after receipt of the Remedial Action Directive. The Hearing Body may appoint a Presiding Officer to conduct all proceedings under this Section 10.0, except for the issuance of a final recommendation to the Chief Compliance Officer.

- (2) The Hearing Body shall be convened for purposes of a prehearing, and if requested, for interim relief, not less than two (2) nor more than five (5) business days after receipt of the Registered Entity's request for a hearing.
- (3) The Hearing Body shall conduct a hearing on the matter, in person or by teleconference, within thirty (30) days after the Hearing Body is convened. At the hearing, the Compliance Enforcement Authority shall explain why the Remedial Action Directive should be complied with, and the Registered Entity shall explain why the Remedial Action Directive is not necessary or should be modified.
- (4) The Hearing Body shall issue a summary written recommendation to the Chief Compliance Officer within twenty (20) business days following the hearing, stating whether the Registered Entity should or should not be required to comply with the Remedial Action Directive and identifying any modifications to the directive that it finds appropriate.
- (5) The Chief Compliance Officer shall issue a summary written decision within ten (10) business days following the Hearing Body's issuance of its summary written recommendation, stating whether the Registered Entity shall or shall not be required to comply with the Remedial Action Directive and identifying any modifications to the directive that it finds appropriate.
- (6) If the Chief Compliance Officer's summary written decision concludes that the Registered Entity is required to comply with the Remedial Action Directive or any modification to such directive (including adjustments to the timetable for implementation), the Registered Entity shall be required to begin implementing the Remedial Action Directive upon receipt of the summary written decision, if it has not already implemented the Remedial Action Directive.
- (7) Within thirty (30) days following issuance of its summary written decision, the Chief Compliance Officer shall issue a full written decision regarding the Remedial Action Directive to the requirements of Section 9.0, above, that may be appealed consistent with Section 9.2.
- (8) This Section 10.0 provides procedures for the expeditious determination of the propriety of a contested Remedial Action Directive. Nothing in this Section shall be read to impair the Compliance Enforcement Authority's authority to issue a Notice of Alleged Violation and proposed sanction on alleged violations of standards addressed by a Remedial Action Directive or on other alleged violations occurring contemporaneously with the Remedial Action Directive or at any other time using the non-expedited procedures of this Attachment 1 or Attachment 2— Rules of Procedure.