

Registered Ballot Body Procedure

Purpose

This document explains the steps in establishing the Registered Ballot Body (RBB) and the subsequent Registered Ballot Pool (RBP) for the purpose of Voting by Texas RE Segments – on proposed Regional Standards as detailed in Step 5 of the Texas Regional Entity Standards Development Process. The Texas RE Segments are defined in the Texas Regional Entity Standards Development Process as the seven (7) ERCOT Market Participant Segments and the ERCOT ISO.

Membership

The RBB will be comprised of representatives from all Texas RE Segments to provide balanced decision-making on Regional Standards and Regional Variances and will vote on all proposed new or revised Regional Standards and Regional Variances.

Entities entitled to vote (Voting Entities) are the ERCOT ISO, the Office of Public Utility Counsel, and ERCOT Corporate Members, ERCOT Associate Members, and ERCOT Adjunct Members.

The ERCOT Members and the Office of Public Utility Counsel are organized by the following seven Market Participant Segments:

- Consumers
- Cooperatives
- Independent Generators
- Independent Power Marketers
- Independent Retail Electric Providers
- Investor-Owned Utilities
- Municipals

RBB Qualification Guidelines

The RBB qualification guidelines are inclusive; i.e., any entity with a legitimate interest in the reliability of the ERCOT Bulk Power System that can meet any one of the guidelines for a Texas RE Segment is entitled to belong to and vote in that Segment.

The general guidelines for RBB activities are:

- RBB membership shall be consistent with the Texas RE Segments.
- Those RBB members who are ERCOT Members and the Office of Public Utility Counsel must qualify in one of the ERCOT Market Participant Segments as defined in Article 3 of ERCOT Bylaws.
- At any given time, affiliated entities may collectively be registered only once within a Segment.

- Corporations, organizations, and entities may participate freely in all meetings.
- The qualification guidelines and rules for joining ERCOT Market Participant Segments will be reviewed periodically to ensure that the process continues to be fair, open, balanced, and inclusive.

Voting

Only one representative of each Voting Entity may vote. Voting Entities are limited to their Representative or their designated Alternate Representative as indicated on their RBB application form.

The Reliability Standards Manager (RSM) shall send a notice to every entity in the RBB to establish a Registered Ballot Pool (RBP) for a Regional Standard or a Regional Variance to a NERC Reliability Standard action at least 30 days prior to the start of a ballot. The purpose of this notice is to establish a ballot pool to participate in the consensus development process and ballot the proposed action. The RBP may be established earlier in the development process to encourage active participation in the development process.

Any member of the RBB may join or drop out of a ballot pool until the ballot period begins (Step 5 of Texas Regional Entity (RE) Standards Development Process). No RBB member may join or leave the ballot pool once the first ballot starts, including between the first ballot and a recirculation ballot (Step 6B of Texas Regional Entity Standards Development Process). The RSM shall coordinate changes to the membership of the ballot pool and publicly post the ballot pool for each action.

At least one (1) representative from six (6) of the eight (8) Texas RE Segments must vote to constitute a quorum of the ballot pool.

If a quorum of the ballot pool is not established, the Regional Standard or Regional Variance to a NERC Reliability Standard will be balloted a second time, allowing a 15-business day period for the ballot. If a quorum is not established with the second ballot, the RSM shall re-survey the RBB to establish interest in participating in a ballot in accordance with the procedures for forming a ballot pool. A re-ballot will take place with the revised ballot pool.

Members of the ballot pool should submit any comments on the proposed Regional Standard or Regional Variance to a NERC Reliability Standard during the public comment period. If any comments are received during the ballot period, they shall be addressed in accordance with Step 4 of Texas Regional Entity Standards Development Process and included with the recirculation ballot.

The RSM shall facilitate the Standard Drafting Team (SDT), assisted by the SAR Originator, in preparing a response to all votes submitted with comments. The member submitting a vote with comments will determine if the response provided satisfies the comment. If the member is not satisfied, the member may object. Each objector shall be informed that an appeals process exists within the Texas Regional Entity Standards Development Process (Appendix B, Section VII)

A negative vote that does not contain a comment does not require a response.

If there are no negative votes with comments from the first ballot, then the results of the first ballot shall stand.

The above section is in accordance with the NERC Standards Development Process.

On all voting items, each Market Participant Segment shall have one (1) Segment Vote. The ERCOT ISO shall have 1/4 vote. For Texas RE Segments with more than one Voting Entity participating in the vote, each Voting Entity representative shall receive an equal fraction of its Segment's Vote.

The Consumer Segment vote shall be divided into three sub-segments (Residential, Commercial, and Industrial) that receive one third of the Consumer Segment Vote. If no representative from a Consumer sub-segment is present; such sub-segment's fractional vote is allocated equally to the participating sub-segment(s). If a representative from a sub-segment abstains from a vote, the fraction of the Consumer Segment Vote allocated to such representative is not included in the vote tally.

In the event that a representative of any other Voting Segment abstains from a vote, the Segment Vote is allocated among the members casting a vote within the segment; except for the Consumer Segment.

If a draft Standard receives 4.83 or greater affirmative (2/3 of 7.25) segment votes during the 15-day voting period, the RSC will forward the Standard to the Texas RE BOD for action (Step 7 of the Texas RE Standards Development Process).

If a draft Standard does not receive 4.83 or greater affirmative (2/3 of 7.25) segment votes during the 15-day voting period, the RSC may take several steps at its own discretion based on Step 6B of the Texas RE Standards Development Process.