



**Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. (ERCOT)
Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group (CIPWG) Charter**

Purpose

The ERCOT CIPWG provides a forum for the sharing of information and experiences related to tools and techniques used for cybersecurity, physical security, compliance, and operational security. The ERCOT CIPWG is considered an “Other Group” and is not directly associated with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) or its subcommittees. The ERCOT CIPWG will coordinate with ERCOT, the Operations Working Group (OWG) under the Reliability and Operations Subcommittee (ROS), and other working groups as appropriate to identify and recommend measures to support reliability standards and critical infrastructure protection. The ERCOT CIPWG will also coordinate with State of Texas Department of Public Safety (TX-DPS) staff, Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) staff, Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), and representatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on matters related to threats, vulnerabilities, and risks associated with protection of critical infrastructure and utility facilities.

Membership

ERCOT CIPWG meetings may include open and/or closed sessions, which may be conducted on a remote or in-person basis. Participation in open sessions is not limited to particular types of individuals.

Except for guests invited by the ERCOT CIPWG Chair or Vice Chair, participation in closed sessions is limited to individuals from particular types of entities who have a current CIPWG Non-Disclosure Agreement (CIPWG NDA) on file with ERCOT Legal. A current version of the CIPWG NDA can be requested from nda@ercot.com. Participation in closed sessions is limited to individuals from the following entities: (1) any Market Participant; (2) the PUCT; (3) the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC); (4) NERC-registered entities; and (5) ERCOT. Individuals from the PUCT and NERC who participate in closed sessions must have no audit, compliance, or enforcement responsibility for any NERC standards or any cybersecurity or physical security rules for the electric sector within their purview, including down their chains of command. Such individuals will certify their compliance with this requirement as part of the CIPWG NDA. Further, any contractor or consultant of an entity with a current CIPWG NDA on file with ERCOT Legal is allowed to participate in closed sessions upon execution of the certification requirements in the CIPWG NDA. Any individual from an eligible entity as listed above with an executed CIPWG NDA on file with ERCOT Legal will be considered an “**ERCOT CIPWG Member**”.

On a case-by-case basis, guests invited by the ERCOT CIPWG Chair or Vice Chair may be permitted to participate in closed sessions for the limited purpose of providing information on a defined topic to the ERCOT CIPWG. Such invited guests may not need to execute the CIPWG NDA for this limited purpose and will be asked to leave the closed session at the conclusion of the discussion on the defined topic.

ERCOT Legal will maintain a list of ERCOT CIPWG Members and coordinate with the ERCOT CIPWG Chair and Vice Chair regarding closed session meetings.



Subgroups

The Chair may create subgroups to discuss specific details, including current practices, standards, tools, or techniques, related to the detection and prevention of advanced persistent threat activity that has the potential to impact the critical infrastructure of the ERCOT System. These subgroups will be closed and limited to participation by ERCOT CIPWG Members necessary to fulfill the objectives of the subgroup. Subgroups will report on their activities at the next subsequent ERCOT CIPWG meeting.

Leadership

Elections will be held yearly to select an ERCOT CIPWG Chair and Vice Chair. Each CIPWG Member shall have one vote for each position. CIPWG Members do not have to be present at the meeting to submit a vote; however, prior to elections, a proxy must be submitted to the Chair. Outcomes of the elections are determined by a simple majority vote.

An election will be held in the 4th Quarter of each calendar year for the next calendar year's term. The Chair and Vice Chair terms run on a calendar year basis – January 1 through December 31. There are no term limits for the Chair and Vice Chair positions. If a vacancy occurs for one of the positions, then an election will be held as needed to fill that position.

Meetings

Meetings will be held monthly or as necessary. The Chair will set the agenda. The Chair may request proposals for agenda items from ERCOT CIPWG Members. The agenda will be distributed to participants prior to the meeting. Agenda topics may be updated by consensus at the start of the meeting.

If the Chair or Vice Chair will be absent from any meetings of the ERCOT CIPWG or any Subgroup, they may delegate their authority to any ERCOT CIPWG Member for the purposes of that meeting.

Reporting

The ERCOT CIPWG Chair or Vice Chair will report to the Texas RE Member Representatives Committee (MRC) on a quarterly basis. ERCOT CIPWG participants who are part of the NERC Reliability and Security Technical Committee (RSTC) may also report to the stakeholder committees and subcommittees as necessary and/or as requested.

Charter Review

This Charter will be reviewed every two years, or as needed, by a team of participants selected by the Chair of the ERCOT CIPWG. Changes to the Charter become effective upon consensus of the participants and upon approval by ERCOT Legal.