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November 6, 2024

PJM Nominating Committee
c/o Jeanine Johnson, Chair
PJM Interconnection LLC
2750 Monroe Boulevard
Audubon, Pennsylvania 19408

Dear Nominating Committee,

Subject: PJM Board Candidate Selection

The OPSI Board¹ again writes to recommend that the open position in the PJM Board be filled by an individual who has experience serving on a state public utility commission in the PJM region. Adding this state level experience to the existing Board is essential to ensure PJM can achieve its vision to be an industry leader in reliable operations, efficient wholesale markets, and infrastructure development. There are two particular missing qualities that stand out to OPSI as reasons for including a former state commissioner on the PJM Board.

First, the most important and complex problems currently facing PJM—planning, siting, and paying for transmission and resource adequacy—are inextricably intertwined with state jurisdictional issues. The unique perspective of a former state regulator who understands the concerns and viewpoints of the state utilities commissions within PJM’s territory would be of great benefit to PJM. State utility commissioners have unique perspectives and experiences that would allow them to contribute in a meaningful way. Second, utility commissioners are accustomed to balancing the disparate interests of stakeholders to ensure reliable utility service at reasonable rates. The focus on reliability, affordability and sustainability will be important considerations as PJM strives to maintain the confidence of the states as it deals with the pressures of resource adequacy during a period of explosive load growth. The participation of an individual with state regulatory commission experience – whether a former regulator or regulator acting in an ex officio member capacity – has been the standard at most RTOs in the country. At least four RTOs currently have former state officials on their boards and the Chair of the Texas Public Utilities Commission is an ex officio member of ERCOT. In addition, the FERC currently has two former state regulators as Commissioners.

¹ This letter was approved unanimously by the by the OPSI Board on November 6, 2024.

While OPSI understands that one person or background does not necessarily drive ultimate policy decisions, it would be a welcome change to have a state policy voice in the room when the PJM Board is making decisions. As always, OPSI is open to discussing this issue in person or assisting in any way. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Thompson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Emile Thompson
President, Organization of PJM States