

# PJM Public Interest and Environmental Organization Users Group Charter

~~(Approved 1.5.2021)~~ Suggested Revision – April March 2025

## Section I: Purpose and Mission

1. Operating Agreement (OA) section 8.7-(b) requires the PJM Members Committee to create a User Group composed of representatives of bona fide public interest and environmental organizations that are interested in the activities of the LLC and are willing and able to participate in such a User Group. Such group shall be called the “Public Interest and Environmental Organization User Group” (PIEOUG). ~~The OA requires that PIEOUG be composed of representatives of “bona fide” public interest and environmental organizations that are interested in PJM activities and able to participate.~~<sup>1</sup>
2. The purpose of the PIEOUG shall be to:
  - a. Provide an open forum for discussion of policy issues that are pertinent to the PJM region and to the members of this users group;
  - b. Address PJM policy issues, actions and recommendations that members of the ~~User Group~~ PIEOUG find to be important;
  - c. Provide access to the PJM stakeholder process for organizations not eligible ~~for membership to become PJM Members;~~
  - d. Provide a venue for PJM staff to educate and solicit input from the environmental and public interest community;
  - e. Organize environmental and public interest group communications with the PJM Board of Directors and PJM Members.

## Section 2: Governance, Voting and Rules of Procedure

### Governance

3. The PIEOUG shall have an Environmental and Public Interest Chair, a Consumer Advocates Chair, and a Secretary. Each Chair (collectively, “Officers”) must be a representative of a PIEOUG ~~Member~~ member.
- ~~4. The Chairs and the Secretary each serve one-year terms.~~
- ~~5.4.~~ PIEOUG ~~Members~~ members may nominate candidates for the Officer position to be held by their PIEOUG Member Type as defined in Section 3. at the first PIEOUG meeting of the calendar year. Should there be multiple nominees for a position, the individual receiving the greatest number of votes from Active Members of their PIEOUG Member ~~type~~ Type shall hold the position.

5The PIEOUG Secretary must be a representative of a PIEOUG member, PJM staff, or other individual subject to approval by a vote of Active ~~PIEOUG Members~~members. Any PIEOUG ~~Member~~member

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<sup>1</sup> PJM Operating Agreement Section 8.7(b)

may nominate a candidate for the Secretary position. Should there be multiple nominees for Secretary, the individual receiving the greatest number of votes from Active PIEOUG Members-members shall hold the position.

6. The Chairs and the Secretary each serve one-year terms.
7. Prior to approval of the initial is charter, the Acting Chair for the Consumer Advocates shall be William Fields, the Acting Chair for the Environmental and Public Interest Organizations shall be Tom Rutigliano, and the Acting Secretary shall be Greg Poulos. Their terms will end after the first PIEOUG meeting following approval of this charter, at which time they shall oversee the nomination and voting for the two Chairs and Secretary. The charter must be approved by at least half the Active Consumer Advocate and half the Active Environmental and Public Interest Organization members.
8. In the event that a prolonged lapse of quorum or other circumstance causes both PIEOUG Chairs to be vacant, the Executive Director of CAPS may assume the Acting Chair position until a vote to fill the vacant position is held.

## **Voting**

9. PIEOUG votes shall generally be held during PIEOUG meetings and administered by the Secretary. PIEOUG may hold non-binding polls outside of PIEOUG meetings. There must be a quorum to hold a vote. See Rules of Procedure below for the quorum requirements.
10. Absent objection by any Active PIEOUG Membermember as defined in Section 3, the presiding Chair may direct a vote to be held by electronic means outside of PIEOUG meetings. Such direction shall be limited to extraordinary circumstances, or when the schedule of PIEOUG meetings prevents a timely vote on matters where the schedule is determined outside of the PIEOUG. There must be a quorum of Active PIEOUG members to hold an electronic vote. (e.g. active membership would be obtained from attendance at the last scheduled PIEOUG meeting.)
11. Only Active PIEOUG Members-members may participate in a PIEOUG vote. This includes PIEOUG Members-members that have become Active during the meeting in which any vote is taken. Every Member Organization shall receive one vote. Should the representative of a Member-PIEOUG member organization be unable to attend a PIEOUG meeting, they may designate an alternative representative by prior communication with the Secretary.
- ~~12.~~ All PIEOUG votes shall be counted and recorded on the basis of the number of Active PIEOUG Members-members at the time of the vote. To pass, an item must receive at least fifty percent of the vote from both the Consumer Advocates members and fifty percent from the Environmental and Public Interest

members.

## Rules of Procedure

~~13.~~12. The following rules of order and expected User Group meeting protocols were established and agreed to:

- a. Meetings of the PIEOUG shall be open to all PIEOUG ~~Members~~members, PIEOUG applicants, and any participant otherwise eligible to attend a PJM stakeholder meeting. Notices and agendas of meetings shall be provided to all PIEOUG ~~Members~~members and PJM Members that ask to receive them.
- b. The Secretary shall post meeting notes and future meeting agendas on the PJM website for review and notify all PIEOUG members who have listed an active email address on the roster.
- c. The Chairs shall alternate in presiding over meetings. Meeting protocol will be generally informal. When necessary, Roberts Rules of Order will be followed.
- d. Disputes over points of order shall be resolved by the presiding Chair.
- e. A quorum shall consist of no less than ten PIEOUG members, including at least five from each Consumer Advocate and five from the Environmental/Public Interest Organization PIEOUG Member Type.
- f. Proposed modifications to the Charter must be publicly circulated no later than two weeks (14 days) prior to the meeting at which they will be voted upon. All other subject matters requiring a vote must be made available for review for at least one week in advance of the meeting or electronic vote. This requirement may be met through posting materials on the PJM website and notifying by email all PIEOUG members who have listed an active email address on the roster.
- g. Unless otherwise discussed in this charter, any recommendation or proposal for action must receive a simple majority support from the Consumer Advocate and the Environmental/ Public Interest organization ~~PIEOUG~~ Member Type to pass.
- h. Recommendation(s) or proposal for action proposed by the PIEOUG for the PJM stakeholder body shall follow ~~the~~ rules similar to those in effect for PJM User Groups and PJM Standing Committees, Operating Agreement, sections 8.7(d) and (e), but modified to accommodate the unique membership of the PIEOUG.:

Any recommendation or proposal for action adopted by affirmative vote of three-fourths or more of the Active members of the PIEOUG can be submitted to the Chair of the Members Committee. As described in section 8.7 of the PJM Operating Agreement: the Chair of the PJM Members Committee shall refer the matter for consideration by the applicable Standing Committee as appropriate for consideration at that Committee's next regular meeting, occurring not earlier than 30 days after the referral, for a recommendation to the Members Committee for consideration at its next regular meeting.

If the Members Committee does not adopt a recommendation or proposal submitted by the PIEOUG, upon vote of nine-tenths or more of the Active members of the PIEOUG the recommendation or proposal may be submitted to the PJM Board for its consideration in accordance with Operating Agreement, section 7.7(v).

~~h.i.~~ Participation by members of the press and attribution of comments made during PIEOUG Meetings shall follow the rules in effect for PJM Standing Committees contained in PJM Manual 34.

### **Section 3: Membership**

~~14.13.~~ PIEOUG membership is open to bona fide environmental organizations ~~and~~ other bona fide public interest groups, including the consumer advocates of the PJM states. Each PIEOUG member organization shall be designated as belonging to one of two types: 1) Consumer Advocates or 2) Environmental and Public Interest Organizations (the “PIEOUG Member Types”).

~~15.~~ Organizations wishing to join PIEOUG after the initial charter is approved ~~after the date of this charter~~ shall submit a PIEOUG membership request to the PIEOUG ~~S~~ecretary, designating which PIEOUG Member Type they wish to be designated. PIEOUG ~~Membership-membership~~ requests shall be reviewed by the serving

~~16.~~ PIEOUG Officer representing that Member Type, with a determination of eligibility and membership to be communicated to the applicant. Organizations deemed ineligible to

~~17.~~14. join the PIEOUG may appeal the PIEOUG Officer's decision to the full PIEOUG at any scheduled meeting. Current PIEOUG members may also appeal Officers' acceptances of new PIEOUG members. A two-thirds vote, including no less than two-thirds of the Active PIEOUG ~~Members-members~~ of the PIEOUG Member Type the applicant wishes to join, shall override the PIEOUG Officer's decision.

~~18.~~15. Approved new PIEOUG ~~m~~Members shall add themselves to the roster in advance of the next PIEOUG meeting.

~~19.~~16. All PIEOUG members may designate representatives, alternate representative, and substitute representatives following rules for PJM Standing Committees as provided for in Manual 34.

~~20.~~17. The following organizations are ineligible for PIEOUG membership:

- PJM Members, other than consumer advocates;
- Any organization eligible for PJM Mmembership or PJM Affiliate Membership, except consumer advocates, Consumer Advocates of the PJM States, Inc. (CAPS), and those who are eligible for membership in the End Use Customer sector or as an Affiliate Member only as an incidental result of their status as a retail electric consumer;
- Organizations substantially funded by a PJM Member; and
- Organizations whose primary mission is furthering the interests of other PJM ~~members~~Members, except CAPS.

~~21.~~18. All PIEOUG ~~Member-member~~ organizations become Active PIEOUG Members immediately upon attendance at any PIEOUG meeting. An Active PIEOUG Member shall become an Inactive PIEOUG Member whenever they are not present for the roll call of a PIEOUG meeting; such Inactive PIEOUG Members may return to Active status by attending a future PIEOUG meeting.

~~22.~~19. The PIEOUG Secretary shall commence a meeting with a roll call, and include this roll call in meeting minutes. This roll call shall determine attendance for the purpose of PIEOUG membership status.

## Section 4: Meetings

### Regular Meetings

~~23.~~20. The PIEOUG holds meetings open to attendance by PIEOUG members and anyone eligible to attend other PJM stakeholder meetings. Discussion at PIEOUG meetings is intended to be primarily among PIEOUG members. While relevant perspectives from non-PIEOUG -members are often appreciated, the presiding Chair reserves the right to restrict discussion to PIEOUG members and guest speakers

invited by the Chairs.

## PJM Annual Meeting (Meeting with the PJM Board of Managers)

~~24.21.~~ Each PEOUG ~~member~~ Member type-Type shall be allotted an equal portion of the time formally scheduled to meet with the PJM Board of Managers at the PJM Annual Meeting.

## Section 5: Amendment of this Charter

~~25.22.~~ This Charter may be amended by a two-thirds vote of Active PEOUG Members, provided that no less than one half of the Active PEOUG Members of each PEOUG Member Type support the amendments. Proposed modifications to this Charter must be publicly circulated no later than ~~two~~four weeks (~~14~~28 days) prior to the meeting at which they will be voted on.

## ~~Appendix (not a part of the charter)~~

### ~~1. OA Language (NOTE: DOES NOT REFLECT SUGGESTED EDITS)~~

#### ~~User Groups.~~

~~(a) Any five or more Members sharing a common interest may form a User Group, and may invite such other Members to join the User Group as the User Group shall deem appropriate. Notification of the formation of a User Group shall be provided to all members of the Members Committee.~~

~~(b) The Members Committee shall create a User Group composed of representatives of bona fide public interest and environmental organizations that are interested in the activities of the LLC and are willing and able to participate in such a User Group.~~

~~(c) Meetings of User Groups shall be open to all Members and the Office of the Interconnection. Notices and agendas of meetings of a User Group shall be provided to all Members that ask to receive them.~~

~~(d) Any recommendation or proposal for action adopted by affirmative vote of three-fourths or more of the members of a User Group shall be submitted to the Chair of the Members Committee. The Chairman shall refer the matter for consideration by the applicable Standing Committee as appropriate for consideration at that Committee's next regular meeting, occurring not earlier than 30 days after the referral, for a recommendation to the Members Committee for consideration at its next regular meeting.~~

~~(e) If the Members Committee does not adopt a recommendation or proposal submitted by a User Group, upon vote of nine-tenths or more of the members of the User Group the~~



~~recommendation or proposal may be submitted to the PJM Board~~ for its consideration in accordance with Section 7.7(v).“

## 2. 3. Manual 34 Language

### 8.6.5 User Groups

A User Group is a stakeholder group formed by any five or more Voting Members (this does not include Affiliate, Associate or Special Members) sharing a common interest. Operating Agreement 8.7 delineates the requirements related to User Groups. Membership is limited to the forming Members, provided that they may invite such other Members to join the User Group as the User Group shall deem appropriate. Notification of the formation of a User Group shall be provided to all Members of the Members Committee. **All stakeholders may attend and participate in meetings of User Groups.** Notices and agendas of meetings of a User Group shall be provided to all Members that ask to receive them. Meeting notes should be posted on PJM.com for all meetings of a User Group. For all votes taken by a User Group regarding making a recommendation directly to the PJM Board of Managers, a record shall be posted on PJM.com including the names of all User Group Members and their individual votes (for, against or **abstain**). As required by the operating Agreement section 8.7 (b), the Members Committee has created a User Group, called the Public Interest, Environmental Organization User Group, composed of representatives of bona fide public interest and environmental organizations that are interested in the activities of PJM and are willing and able to participate in the User Group. Any recommendation or proposal for action adopted by affirmative vote of three fourths or more of the Members of a User Group shall be submitted to the Chair of the Members Committee. The Members Committee Chair shall refer the matter to the applicable Standing Committees appropriate for consideration at that Standing Committee's next regular meeting, occurring not earlier than 30 days after the referral. That Standing Committee shall develop and provide to the Members Committee a recommendation for consideration at the Members Committee's next regular meeting. If the Members Committee does not adopt a recommendation or proposal submitted by a User Group, upon vote of nine tenths or more of the Members of the User Group the recommendation or proposal may be submitted to the PJM Board for its consideration in accordance with Section 7.7(v) of the Operating Agreement

8.6.1 "Quick Fix" From time to time, there may be issues identified by PJM, FERC, the Market Monitor, or Stakeholders that are urgent and/or very simple or straightforward to correct, and require no stakeholder engagement. Issues that meet these criteria may be brought before the appropriate committee in the form of a Problem Statement and Issue Charge along with a documented solution and implementation schedule, and may be voted upon at first read if timing requires it.