

Public Interest and Environmental Organization User Group Charter

Suggested Revision – September 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).¹
2. The purpose of the PIEOUG shall include:
 - a. Provide an open forum for discussion of policy issues that are pertinent to the PJM region and to the organizations identified as part of this users group;
 - b. Address PJM policy issues, actions and recommendations that Organizations on the the PIEOUG roster find to be important;
 - c. Provide a venue for PJM staff to educate and solicit input from the environmental and public interest communities;
 - d. Organize PIEOUG communications with the PJM Board of Directors and PJM Members.

Section 2: Membership

3. PIEOUG membership is open to bona fide environmental organizations and other bona fide public interest groups, including the state appointed consumer advocates of the PJM states. PJM membership is not required to be a member of the PIEOUG. Each approved PIEOUG organization shall be added to the roster and designated as belonging to one of two PIEOUG Member Classifications: 1) A specific public interest - State appointed Consumer Advocate Office (“State Appointed Consumer Advocate”) or 2) Environmental and all other Public Interest Organizations.

Organizations wishing to join PIEOUG shall submit a request to the PIEOUG Secretary, designating which PIEOUG Member Classification they wish to be designated. PIEOUG membership requests shall be reviewed by the serving PIEOUG Chair representing that Member Classification, with a determination of eligibility and membership classification to be communicated to the applicant. Organizations deemed ineligible to join the PIEOUG – and be included on the PIEOUG roster - may appeal the PIEOUG Chair’s decision to the Active PIEOUG Members at any scheduled meeting. Current Active PIEOUG Members may also appeal the Chair’s acceptance of new PIEOUG organizations to the PIEOUG roster. A two-thirds vote, including no less than two-thirds of PJM the Active PIEOUG members of the PIEOUG Member Classification the applicant wishes to join, shall override the PIEOUG Chair’s decision.

4. Approved new PIEOUG organizations shall add themselves to the roster in advance of the next PIEOUG meeting.
5. All organizations on the PIEOUG roster may designate representatives, alternate representative, and substitute representatives following rules for PJM Standing Committees as provided for in Manual 34.
6. The following bona fide public interest and environmental organizations are ineligible for eligibility on the PIEOUG roster:
 - PJM Members or affiliates, other than State appointed consumer advocate offices;
 - Organizations substantially funded by a PJM Member; and
 - Organizations whose primary mission is furthering the interests of other PJM Members, except CAPS.
7. All PIEOUG organizations on the official roster become Active PIEOUG Members immediately upon attendance at any PIEOUG meeting. An Active PIEOUG Member shall become an Inactive PIEOUG organization – or simply an organization on the PIEOUG roster - whenever they are not present for the roll call of a PIEOUG meeting; such Inactive PIEOUG organization may return to Active PIEOUG Member status by attending a future PIEOUG meeting.
8. 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 and quorum of the minimum number of Active PIEOUG Members from each of the two identified classifications: (1) Public interest state appointed consumer advocate offices or (2) Environmental organization and general public interest organizations.

Section 3: Governance, Voting and Rules of Procedure

Governance

9. The PIEOUG shall have:
 - a. An Environmental and all other Public Interest Organization Chair;
 - b. State-Appointed Consumer Advocates Chair; and
 - c. and a Secretary.

Each Chair must be a representative of an organization on the PIEOUG roster.

10. Organizations on the PIEOUG roster may nominate candidates for the Chair position to be held by their PIEOUG Member Classification 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 shall hold the position.
11. The Chairs and the Secretary each serve one-year terms.

12. The PIEOUG Secretary must be a representative of an organization on the PIEOUG roster, PJM staff, or other individual subject to approval by a vote of Active PIEOUG members. Any organization on the PIEOUG roster

¹ 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 shall hold the position.

13. Prior to approval of this charter, the Acting Chair for the Consumer Advocates shall be William Fields, the Acting Chair for the Environmental and all other 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 all other Public Interest Organization members.
14. 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

15. 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.
16. Absent objection by any Active PIEOUG Member 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.)
17. Only Active PIEOUG Members may participate in a PIEOUG vote. This includes organizations on the PIEOUG roster that have become Active PIEOUG Members during the meeting in which any vote is taken. Every Active PIEOUG Member Organization shall receive one vote. Should a representative of an Organization on the PIEOUG roster be unable to attend a PIEOUG meeting, they may designate an alternative representative by prior communication with the Secretary to vote as an Active PIEOUG Member on their behalf.
 - a. All votes shall be counted and recorded on the basis of the number of Active PIEOUG Members at the time of the vote. Unless otherwise specifically stated in this charter.
 - b. Unless otherwise discussed in this charter, any recommendation or proposal for action must receive a simple majority support from the Active Members of the State Appointed

- Consumer Advocate in addition to a simple majority of the Environmental and all other Public Interest organizations PIEOUG Member Classification to pass.
- c. Recommendation(s) or proposal(s) voted upon by the PIEOUG for the PJM stakeholder body as described in PJM Operating Agreement Section 8.7 shall follow the voting percentages in effect for PJM User Groups and PJM Standing Committees. Specifically, any O.A. Section 8.7 recommendation or proposal for action adopted by affirmative vote of three-fourths or more of the Active PIEOUG Members shall be submitted to the Chair of the Members Committee. Note: In addition to the overall three-fourths support from Active PIEOUG Members requirement above, Any PIEOUG proposal or recommendation still must receive at least fifty percent of the vote from each of the PIEOUG Membership Classifications: State Appointed Consumer Advocate Member Classification Active PIEOUG Members, and fifty percent from the Environmental and all other Public Interest Member Classification Active PIEOUG Members.
- d. Furthermore, If the Members Committee does not adopt a recommendation or proposal submitted by the PIEOUG identified in paragraph (b) directly above, 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 Section 7.7(v). Note: In addition to the overall three-fourths support from Active PIEOUG Members requirement above, Any PIEOUG proposal or recommendation still must receive at least fifty percent of the vote from each of the PIEOUG Membership Classifications: State Appointed Consumer Advocate Member Classification Active PIEOUG Members, and fifty percent from the Environmental and all other Public Interest Member Classification Active PIEOUG Members.

Rules of Procedure

18. 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 organizations on the PIEOUG roster, PIEOUG applicants, and any participant otherwise eligible to attend a PJM stakeholder meeting. Notices and agendas of meetings shall be provided to all organizations on the PIEOUG roster 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 organizations on the PIEOUG roster 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 Active PIEOUG Members, including at least five from each the State Appointed Consumer Advocate and five from the Environmental and other Public Interest Organization PIEOUG Member Classifications.
 - 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 organizations on the PIEOUG roster who have listed an active email address on the roster.
 - g. 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 4: Meetings

Regular Meetings

19. The PIEOUG holds meetings open to attendance by organizations on the PIEOUG roster and anyone eligible to attend other PJM stakeholder meetings. Discussion at PIEOUG meetings is intended to be primarily among organizations on the PIEOUG roster. While relevant perspectives from non-PIEOUG members are often appreciated, the presiding Chair reserves the right to restrict discussion to Active Members of the PIEOUG and guest speakers invited by the Chairs.

Meeting with the PJM Board of Managers

20. Each PIEOUG Member Type shall be allotted an equal portion of the time formally scheduled to meet with the PJM Board of Managers annually.

Section 5: Amendment of this Charter

21. This Charter may be amended by a two-thirds vote of Active PIEOUG Members, provided that no less than one half of the Active PIEOUG Members of each PIEOUG Member Type support the amendments. 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.