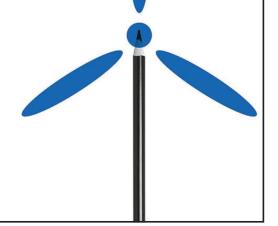
E V E R S H E D S S U T H E R L A N D 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Renewable Energy Law Conference Renewable Energy Law Essentials

Texas Regulatory Considerations in Renewable Power Purchase Agreements



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## **Overview**

# **Key Components of PPA Impacted by Regulatory Considerations**

- Transaction Structure
  - Wholesale or Retail Sale
  - In Front or Behind of the Meter
- Development and Operation of the Project
  - Interconnection
  - Permitting and Reporting
  - Scheduling
- Pricing
  - Fixed Price
  - Floating Price for VPPAs
  - Future Attributes
  - · Change in Law



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### **Overview**

# **Applicable Laws**

- Texas Public Utility Regulatory Act ("PURA"):
  - Title II, Texas Utilities Code §§ 11.001 66.017 (last amended in 2021)
- Public Utility Commission of Texas ("PUCT") Substantive Rules
  - 16 Tex. Admin. Code ("TAC") Chapter 25
- ERCOT Nodal Protocols, Guides and Other Binding Documents
  - Published on ERCOT website: www.ercot.com/mktrules
- Also note the new Lone Star Infrastructure Protection Act
  - SB 2116, codified in Tex. Bus. & Comm. Code § 113.001 -113.003 and Tex. Gov't Code 2274.0101- 2274.0103
  - See also TX. Atty Gen Opinion KP-0388 and Opinion Request RQ-0443-KP

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# **PPA Transaction Structure**

Who is selling to whom and where is the power generated and delivered?

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# **Transaction Structure**

#### Wholesale or Retail Sale?

As a general matter, PURA requires that generators sell energy only at wholesale. Entities that sell to retail, enduse customers must be certified as Retail Electric Providers (REPs) and REPs cannot own generation in ERCOT. (See PURA § 31.002(10),(17); § 39.351(a))

- There are a few, limited exceptions that typically would not apply in a renewable PPA
- Questions to Ask
  - Is the Buyer a Retail Customer? If yes:
    - Is the energy financially settled (i.e. VPPA)? If yes, then no sale and delivery of energy at retail and complies with PURA
    - If the energy is physically delivered, what is the delivery point? If delivered to a trading hub, the energy must be scheduled to the Buyer's Wholesale Market Participant.
    - If the Buyer wants the energy delivered to its consuming facility, then need a retail sleeve.

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### **Transaction Structure**

# **Retail Sleeve Transaction**

- Because of PURA restrictions, if Buyer wants the energy delivered to its consuming facility, there will be both a wholesale and a retail transaction:
  - Sale at wholesale from Generator to REP, energy delivered to defined Node or Hub
  - Sale at retail from REP to Buyer, energy delivered from Node or Hub to Buyer's Meter
- Contract Structures
  - Back-to-Back Agreements
  - Three-party Agreement with Generator, REP and Buyer for purchase of the Generated Quantity and separate Retail Agreement between REP and Buyer for full requirements retail service
  - Hybrid of both

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