

## **12.4 Treatment of Confidential and Transmission System Information**

This section deals with Confidential Information, including Transmission System Information. Confidential Information consists of: (1) data designated as such in NYPP Operating Policy OP-18 (or its successor); (2) any commercially sensitive information including, without limitation, trade secrets, equipment specific information (*e.g.*, Generator specific data such as heat rates, etc.), and business strategies, affirmatively designated as Confidential Information by its supplier or owner; and (3) Transmission System Information (“TSI”) that has not yet been posted on the OASIS or provided in some public forum such as a FERC filing. TSI is information: (1) that is commercially valuable and (2) access to which is necessary to buy, sell or schedule Energy, Capacity, Ancillary Services or Transmission Service. Examples of TSI include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Available Transfer Capability;
- Total Transfer Capability;
- Information regarding physical Curtailments and Interruptions;
- Information regarding Ancillary Services;
- Pricing for Transmission Service; and
- Discounts offered.

In the course of responding to requests for Energy, Capacity, Transmission Services or Ancillary Services, the ISO shall not disclose Confidential Information to any Market Participant. The ISO shall disclose data that is not Confidential Information, and information required to be disclosed by FERC, by posting the information on the OASIS. If an ISO Employee improperly discloses TSI to any Market Participant, the ISO shall immediately post the information on the OASIS and notify the Commission.

ISO Employees shall also report all improper disclosures of Confidential Information to the ISO compliance officer (as described in Section 12.10) or its designee immediately. In the case of an Emergency, the ISO may disclose such TSI, and then notify the Commission, posting the information on the OASIS as soon as practicable but no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the information is disclosed.

The procedures described in this section do not apply to the following:

- (1) communication of TSI between the ISO and the Transmission Owner's control centers, and other power pools or ISOs;
- (2) communication of non-public, operational information concerning natural gas-fueled generation from resources located within the New York Control Area between the ISO and the operating personnel of an interstate natural gas pipeline company for the purpose of promoting reliable service or operational planning;
- (3) communication of non-public, operational information concerning natural gas-fueled generation from resources located within the New York Control Area between the ISO and the operating personnel of natural gas local distribution companies ("LDCs") and/or intrastate natural gas pipeline companies for the purpose of promoting reliable service or operational planning, if such party has acknowledged, in writing, that it is prohibited from disclosing—or using anyone as a conduit for disclosure of—non-public, operational information received from the ISO to: (a) an employee other than operating personnel of that LDC and/or intrastate natural gas pipeline company, (b) a third party, or (c) any affiliate except for (i) the operating personnel of an affiliated interstate natural gas pipeline company, or (ii) the operating personnel of an intrastate pipeline which has a non-

disclosure agreement with the ISO. The operating personnel of an affiliated interstate natural gas pipeline company accepting non-public operational information pursuant to this section shall agree to comply with 18 CFR 284.12(b)(4)(ii). Unless otherwise authorized by the Commission, for purposes of this section LDC or intrastate pipeline “operating personnel” shall exclude employees engaged in marketing functions as defined by 18 CFR 358.3(c) or who make sales of natural gas;

- (4) communication of information from a Market Participant to the ISO;
- (5) information that is no longer Confidential Information because it was made public by posting it on the OASIS; or it was legally disclosed by a third party in good faith and without violating a trade secret, secrecy agreement or employment contract with a non-disclosure clause; or it was made public by a government agency, court or other process of law;
- (6) requests by a Market Participant for a report regarding the status of that Market Participant’s particular contracts or transactions. The ISO shall provide all Market Participants requesting a report the same type and level of detail of information; ~~and~~
- (7) information that is not listed in NYPP OP-18 and has not been designated by the supplier or owner as Confidential Information-; ~~and~~
- (8) disclosures by the ISO that are authorized under ISO Services Tariff Attachment H Section 23.4.5.7 and its subsections (except as restricted in section 23.4.5.7.3.2).

If Confidential Information is required to be divulged in compliance with an order or a

subpoena of a court or regulatory body other than FERC or the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC”), the ISO will seek to obtain a protective order or other appropriate protective relief from the court or regulatory body, provided, however, that the ISO staff shall not be required to do any additional analysis to produce such information. With the exception of requests for Confidential Information submitted to the ISO from FERC or the CFTC, the ISO shall provide advance written or electronic notice to the parties providing the Confidential Information as soon as practicable upon receipt of such an order or a subpoena from a court or regulatory body, and the ISO shall not be held liable for any losses, consequential or otherwise, resulting from the ISO divulging such Confidential Information pursuant to a subpoena or an order of a court or regulatory body.

The ISO is required to provide data and information to the FERC or its staff, pursuant to FERC Order No. 760,<sup>1</sup> that is otherwise required to be maintained in confidence pursuant to this section. FERC Order No. 760 requires the ISO to engage in the ongoing electronic delivery of data related to physical and virtual offers and bids, market awards, resource outputs, marginal cost estimates, shift factors, TCCs, internal bilateral contracts, interchange pricing, capacity markets and uplift charges and credits. The ISO shall provide the data described in FERC Order No. 760 to the FERC or its staff on a continuous basis.

If the FERC or CFTC or their staff, during the course of an investigation or otherwise, requests information, in addition to the ongoing electronic delivery pursuant to FERC Order No. 760, from the ISO that is otherwise required to be maintained in confidence pursuant to this section, the ISO shall provide the requested information to the FERC or CFTC or their staff

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<sup>1</sup> *Enhancement of Electricity Market Surveillance and Analysis Through Ongoing Electronic Delivery of Data From Regional Transmission Organizations and Independent System Operators*, Order No. 760, 139 FERC ¶ 61,053 (2012) (“Order No. 760” or “the Order”).

within the time provided for in the request for information. In providing the ongoing electronic delivery or additional requested information to the FERC or its staff or information requested by the CFTC, the ISO shall, consistent with any FERC or CFTC rules or regulations that may provide for privileged treatment of that information, request that the information be treated as confidential and non-public by the FERC or CFTC and their staff and that the information be withheld from public disclosure. The ISO shall not be held liable for any losses, consequential or otherwise, resulting from the ISO divulging such Confidential Information pursuant to the ongoing electronic delivery or an additional request under this paragraph.

After Confidential Information has been provided to the FERC or CFTC or their staff, the ISO shall immediately notify any affected Market Participant(s) when it becomes aware that a request for disclosure of such Confidential Information has been received by the FERC or CFTC or their staff, or a decision to disclose such Confidential Information has been made by the FERC or CFTC, at which time the ISO and the affected Market Participant(s) may respond before such information would be made public, pursuant to the FERC's and CFTC's rules and regulations that may provide for privileged treatment of information provided to the FERC or CFTC or their staff.

The ISO shall establish procedures for handling Confidential Information that minimize the possibility of intentional or accidental improper disclosure.

#### **12.4.1 Insider Trading**

This section defines insider trading, explain the duties of ISO Employees and describes behavior that is prohibited under securities laws.

##### **12.4.1.1 Insider Information:**

Federal laws prohibit the purchase or sale of any publicly traded security by a person in

possession of important information about the security or its issuer that is not publicly known.

These laws have special significance to the ISO because ISO Employees routinely learn of Confidential Information about Market Participants and others. This circumstance creates two duties for all ISO Employees: (1) a duty not to trade while in possession of “material, nonpublic information,” also known as “inside information” or “insider information,” as defined below, and (2) a duty not to communicate such information to anyone outside of the ISO, also known as “tipping.” It has been and remains the policy of the ISO that there be scrupulous compliance with each of these duties.

**Material:** Much of the information obtained about Market Participants and any of their Affiliates may be material information under the law. Information is material if a reasonable investor would consider it important in determining whether to buy or sell the securities of the company involved. The information may be either positive or negative. If the information would affect the price of the stock, it is material. If the information makes you or anyone else think about wanting to buy or sell the stock, that is probably the best indication that it is material. Some examples of information that could be considered material are key personnel changes, earnings information, fines or assessments that the ISO imposes on the company, and Confidential Information (as described in Section 12.4) including information relating to future generation capacity. If in doubt, one should assume that any information which could have any significance to an investor is material and not purchase or sell or allow anyone else to purchase or sell the securities in question until such information has been made public.

**Nonpublic:** Information that has not been disclosed to the public generally is nonpublic. To show that information is public, one should be able to point to some evidence that it is widely disseminated. Information would generally be deemed widely disseminated if it has been

disclosed, for example, in the Dow Jones broad tape; news wire services such as AP or Reuters; radio or television; newspapers or magazines; the OASIS; or widely circulated public disclosure documents filed with the federal Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), such as prospectuses or proxies.

Although it is natural to "talk shop," no Confidential Information should be given to outsiders; for this purpose "outsiders" include one's immediate family (as defined in Section 12.7), relatives, friends and anyone else other than those working on the matter at the ISO. In general, ISO matters should not be discussed with any outside individuals. Particular care is necessary in discussing ISO matters in elevators, restaurants, taxicabs, trains, commercial aircraft and other public places where names and other scraps of information might be overheard. Care should also be taken not to expose nonpublic papers in such places or leave them lying around in conference rooms or other places even within the ISO.

#### **12.4.1.2 Penalties for Trading on Insider Information**

It is against ISO policy and a violation of law to make use of insider information for personal advantage in securities trading or to disclose such information to an outsider. ISO Employees who have any knowledge of insider trading activities or improper disclosure committed by other ISO Employees must immediately notify the ISO compliance officer (as described in Section 12.10) or his designee. ISO Employees who have engaged in insider trading or have provided insider information to outsiders will be terminated immediately. In addition, both the ISO and the ISO Employee may be subject to severe civil and criminal penalties as a result of insider trading by the ISO Employee or by an outsider who has received insider information from the ISO Employee.