

**Problem Statements:**

**Data Product Change Management**

**Version 0.2**

Document Revisions

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Version | Description | Author(s) |
| 6/7/16 | 0.1 | Initial Draft | Damon Stewart |
| 6/8/16 | 0.2 | Revisions | Aubrey Hale |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**Table of Contents**

[1. Overview 4](#_Toc453155855)

[1.1. Background 4](#_Toc453155856)

[1.2. Stakeholders 4](#_Toc453155857)

[1.3. Problem Statements 4](#_Toc453155858)

# Overview

## Background

Modifications to ERCOT data products (reports and extracts) can have unintended downstream consequences on the process that download and ingest that data and can impact stakeholder business processes and analysis. Process modifications can be hindered by short timeframes and a lack of specifications and sample data that can be used to for design and testing. This is compounded by a lack of transparency and Market Participant involvement in the early stages of planning.

This document is an attempt to capture and validate the problem statements related to the impacts created by changes to data products so that we can begin to explore potential solutions.

## Stakeholders

Consumers of ERCOT data product

## Problem Statements

The following problem statements reflect impacts to consumers of ERCOT data products. Not all problem statements are present in all cases and don’t necessarily impact all stakeholders equally. The problem statements do not capture any constraints that may impact potential solutions to the problem statements.

* A 30 day notice of data product changes creates an insufficient window within which to assess and address downstream technical impacts.
* Inconsistent availability of sample data and/or data definitions accompanying 30 day notices can impact the design, development and testing of changes made to accommodate data product changes.
* The lack of data definitions can require stakeholders to make assumptions about the data contained in data products can impact how the data is used in downstream systems.
* The frequency and fragmentation of data product change notices results in the lack of centralized location to find information about upcoming changes, why changes are being made and a history of previous changes.
* There is a lack transparency in the determination of downstream impacts processes
* Release Notices sometimes lack maintenance windows (see most recent R3 release)