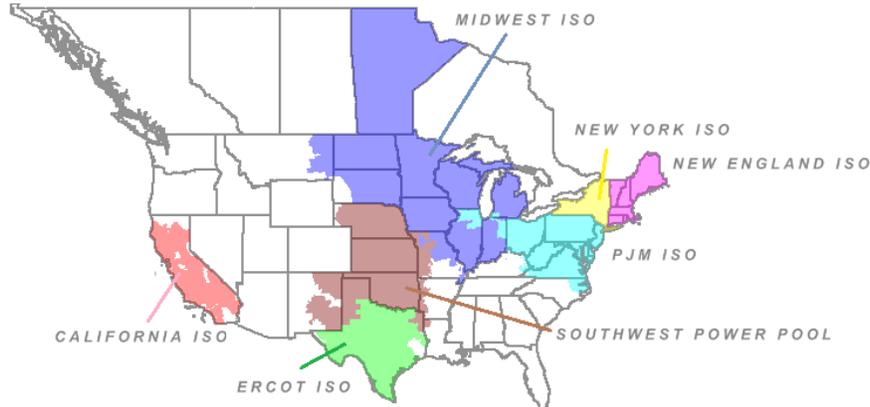




## ISO/RTO Primers Overview

NETL has developed a series of primers on Independent System Operators (ISO) and Regional Transmission Organizations (RTO). The primers primarily explore the history, workings, and types of electricity markets comprising the seven regional transmission organizations in the U.S. (Exhibit 1).

**Exhibit 1 North American regional transmission organizations**



Map created by NETL. Source: ABB Velocity Suite<sup>1</sup>

The primer series includes sixteen documents. A general introduction to ISOs/RTOs is given in *Regional Transmission Organizations and Independent System Operators*. Specific details about the seven existing ISOs/RTOs in the U.S. are given in seven additional primers:

- *California Independent System Operator*
- *ERCOT Independent System Operator*
- *ISO New England Regional Transmission Operator*
- *MISO Regional Transmission Operator*
- *New York ISO Regional Transmission Operator*
- *PJM Regional Transmission Organization*
- *Southwest Power Pool, Inc.*

These primers provide a history of the ISOs/RTOs, short explanations of products and services (different types of electricity markets) offered by the ISOs/RTOs, and the ISO's/RTO's generation mix. Readers who are not familiar with the different types of markets and their mechanisms can find basic information in six additional primers titled:

- *Ancillary Services*
- *Capacity Market*
- *Comparison of Different ISO/RTO Capacity Market Structures*
- *Energy Market*
- *Financial Transmission Rights*
- *Power Markets*

Additionally, the primer *North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC)* introduces the electric reliability organization, which is responsible for reliability of the bulk power system.

All the primers are very short and concise documents. They are accompanied by a *Glossary for Power Market Primers* in which many of the technical terms used in these primers are defined.

<sup>1</sup> ABB Velocity Suite. (2012). *Intelligent Map – US NERC Regions*. Retrieved on November 29, 2012, from <https://velocitysuite.globalenergy.com/Citrix/MetaFrame/auth/login.aspx>