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| NPRR Number | [1240](https://www.ercot.com/mktrules/issues/NPRR1240) | NPRR Title | Access to Transmission Planning Information |
| Date of Decision | | December 3, 2024 | |
| Action | | Recommended Approval | |
| Timeline | | Normal | |
| Estimated Impacts | | Cost/Budgetary: Between $40k and $60k  Project Duration: 3 to 6 months | |
| Proposed Effective Date | | Upon system implementation | |
| Priority and Rank Assigned | | Priority – 2025; Rank – 4540 | |
| Nodal Protocol Sections Requiring Revision | | 3.1.3.2, Resources  3.1.5.13, Transmission Report  3.1.8, High Impact Transmission Element (HITE) Identification  3.2.2, Demand Forecasts  3.10.2, Annual Planning Model  3.10.4, ERCOT Responsibilities  3.10.9.6, Telemetry and State Estimator Performance Monitoring  3.12, Load Forecasting  3.14.1, Reliability Must Run  3.15, Voltage Support  3.20.1, Evaluation of Chronic Congestion  6.3.1, Activities for the Adjustment Period  6.5.1.2, Centralized Dispatch | |
| Related Documents Requiring Revision/Related Revision Requests | | Nodal Operating Guide Revision Request (NOGRR) 267, Related to NPRR1240, Access to Transmission Planning Information  Planning Guide Revision Request (PGRR) 116, Related to NPRR1240, Access to Transmission Planning Information | |
| Revision Description | | This Nodal Protocol Revision Request (NPRR) moves from the Market Information System (MIS) Secure Area to the public ERCOT website reports that do not contain ERCOT Critical Energy Infrastructure Information (ECEII). ERCOT Staff analyzed reports in the MIS Secure Area, along with existing Protocols for posting requirements, and identified no ongoing basis for holding in the MIS Secure Area reports determined to contain only Transmission planning information for a market audience and not ECEII.  In addition to moving reports that do not contain ECEII to the ERCOT website, this NPRR also conforms rules with current posting practices for maintaining on the MIS Secure Area ECEII lists of equipment in the Outage Scheduler; for making available in the Model On Demand (MOD) application the annual planning model data submittal schedule; and for posting on the ERCOT website weekly Demand forecasts, demand analyses for 36 months and beyond, metrics of forecast error, and assessments of chronic congestion.  This NPRR also clarifies that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) publicly reviews the Major Transmission Elements (MTE) list that isn’t ECEII, rather than the High Impact Transmission Elements (HITE) list that is ECEII; that Private Use Network Load distribution factor data would be redacted from postings on the “ERCOT website” rather than on the “MIS”; and that ERCOT’s monthly evaluations of chronic congestion are posted on the ERCOT website. Finally, this NPRR strikes the requirement to post on the ERCOT website shift schedules for ERCOT Operations Staff – currently, ERCOT posts shift schedules redacted of individuals’ identifying information, making the postings of little or no public use. | |
| Reason for Revision | | [Strategic Plan](https://www.ercot.com/files/docs/2023/08/25/ERCOT-Strategic-Plan-2024-2028.pdf) Objective 1 – Be an industry leader for grid reliability and resilience  [Strategic Plan](https://www.ercot.com/files/docs/2023/08/25/ERCOT-Strategic-Plan-2024-2028.pdf) Objective 2 - Enhance the ERCOT region’s economic competitiveness with respect to trends in wholesale power rates and retail electricity prices to consumers  [Strategic Plan](https://www.ercot.com/files/docs/2023/08/25/ERCOT-Strategic-Plan-2024-2028.pdf) Objective 3 - Advance ERCOT, Inc. as an independent leading industry expert and an employer of choice by fostering innovation, investing in our people, and emphasizing the importance of our mission  General system and/or process improvement(s)  Regulatory requirements  ERCOT Board/PUCT Directive  *(please select ONLY ONE – if more than one apply, please select the ONE that is most relevant)* | |
| Justification of Reason for Revision and Market Impacts | | Reports that are not Protected Information in the MIS Secure Area are available to any registered Market Participant who requests a standard Digital Certificate from ERCOT; and paragraph (1)(j) of Section 1.3.1.2, Items Not Considered Protected Information, treats similarly requirements to post non-Protected Information on the ERCOT website or on the MIS Secure Area. This NPRR moves reports that are not ECEII from the MIS Secure Area to the ERCOT website so the public can directly access reports that are not Protected Information without registering as a Market Participant and requesting ERCOT to issue a Digital Certificate, or without submitting an ERCOT Information Request. | |
| PRS Decision | | On 7/18/24, PRS voted unanimously to table NPRR1240. All Market Segments participated in the vote.  On 9/12/24, PRS voted unanimously to recommend approval of NPRR1240 as submitted. All Market Segments participated in the vote.  On 10/17/24, PRS voted unanimously to table NPRR1240.  On 11/14/24, PRS voted unanimously to endorse and forward to TAC the 10/17/24 PRS Report and 10/29/24 Revised Impact Analysis for NPRR1240 with a recommended priority of 2025 and a rank of 4540. All Market Segments participated in the vote. | |
| Summary of PRS Discussion | | On 7/18/24, ERCOT Staff presented NPRR1240. Some participants expressed concern for unintended consequences and requested additional time to review the language, and to consider use of the ERCOT website.  On 9/12/24, participants noted ROS endorsement of NPRR1240.  On 10/17/24, participants reviewed the 7/2/24 Impact Analysis. ERCOT Staff requested tabling NPRR1240to allow for additional internal review of the Impact Analysis.  On 11/14/24, participants reviewed the 10/29/24 Revised Impact Analysis. | |
| TAC Decision | | On 11/20/24, TAC voted unanimously to recommend approval of NPRR1240 as recommended by PRS in the 11/14/24 PRS Report. All Market Segments participated in the vote. | |
| Summary of TAC Discussion | | On 11/20/24, there was no additional discussion beyond TAC review of the items below. | |
| TAC Review/Justification of Recommendation | | Revision Request ties to Reason for Revision as explained in Justification  Impact Analysis reviewed and impacts are justified as explained in Justification  Opinions were reviewed and discussed  Comments were reviewed and discussed (if applicable)  Other: (explain) | |
| Board Decision | | On 12/3/24, the ERCOT Board voted unanimously to recommend approval of NPRR1240 as recommended by TAC in the 11/20/24 TAC Report. | |

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| **Opinions** | |
| Credit Review | ERCOT Credit Staff and the Credit Finance Sub Group (CFSG) have reviewed NPRR1240 and do not believe that it requires changes to credit monitoring activity or the calculation of liability. |
| Independent Market Monitor Opinion | IMM has no opinion on NPRR1240. |
| ERCOT Opinion | ERCOT supports approval of NPRR1240. |
| ERCOT Market Impact Statement | ERCOT Staff has reviewed NPRR1240 and believes it provides a positive market impact by improving access and transparency by moving reports that are not ECEII from the MIS Secure Area to the ERCOT website so the public can directly access reports without registering as a Market Participant and requesting ERCOT to issue a Digital Certificate, or without submitting an ERCOT Information Request. |

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| Sponsor | |
| Name | Kim Rainwater |
| E-mail Address | [Kimberly.Rainwater@ercot.com](mailto:Kimberly.Rainwater@ercot.com) |
| Company | ERCOT |
| Phone Number | 512-225-7179 |
| Cell Number |  |
| Market Segment | Not Applicable |

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| **Market Rules Staff Contact** | |
| **Name** | Brittney Albracht |
| **E-Mail Address** | [Brittney.Albracht@ercot.com](mailto:Brittney.Albracht@ercot.com) |
| **Phone Number** | 512-225-7027 |

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| **Comments Received** | |
| Comment Author | **Comment Summary** |
| ROS 080224 | Requested PRS continue to table NPRR1240 |
| ROS 091024 | Endorsed NPRR1240 as submitted |

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| **Market Rules Notes** |

Please note the baseline Protocol language in the following section(s) has been updated to reflect the incorporation of the following NPRR(s) into the Protocols:

* NPRR1188, Implement Nodal Dispatch and Energy Settlement for Controllable Load Resources (incorporated 12/1/24)

Section 6.3.1

Please note the following NPRR(s) also propose revisions to the following section(s):

* NPRR1234, Interconnection Requirements for Large Loads and Modeling Standards for Loads 25 MW or Greater
  + Section 3.15
* NPRR1246, Energy Storage Resource Terminology Alignment for Single-Model Era
  + Section 3.1.3.2
  + Section 3.14.1

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| Proposed Protocol Language Revision |

3.1.3.2 Resources

(1) Each Resource Entity shall provide to ERCOT a Planned Outage and Maintenance Outage plan for Generation Resources in an ERCOT-provided format for at least the next 12 months updated monthly. Planned Outage and Maintenance Outage plans must be updated as soon as practicable following any change. Updates, through an electronic interface as specified by ERCOT, must identify any changes to previously proposed Planned Outages or Maintenance Outages and any additional Planned Outages or Maintenance Outages.

(2) ERCOT shall report statistics monthly on how Resource Planned Outages compare with actual Resource Outages, and post those statistics to the ERCOT website.

3.1.5.13 Transmission Report

(1) ERCOT shall post on the MIS Secure Area:

(a) Within one hour of receipt by ERCOT, all Transmission Facilities Outages that have been submitted into the ERCOT Outage Scheduler, excluding Private Use Network transmission Outages;

(b) Within one hour of a change of an Outage, all Transmission Facilities Outages, excluding Private Use Network transmission Outages;

(c) Once each day, Outage Scheduler notes related to the coordination of Outages;

(d) At least annually, an updated list of High Impact Transmission Elements (HITEs) pursuant to Section 3.1.8, High Impact Transmission Element (HITE) Identification;

(e) Once each day, list of HIOs submitted with 90-days or less notice that are accepted or approved; and

(f) An updated list of current and future equipment in the Outage Scheduler by operator.

3.1.8 High Impact Transmission Element (HITE) Identification

(1) ERCOT, with input from Market Participants, shall develop a list of HITEs. ERCOT, with input from Market Participants, shall develop a list of Major Transmission Elements for review and approval at least annually by the TAC.

3.2.2 Demand Forecasts

(1) Monthly, ERCOT shall post on the ERCOT website the weekly peak hour Demand forecast for the ERCOT Region and for the Forecast Zones based on the 36-Month Load Forecast as described in Section 3.12, Load Forecasting, for the following 36 months, starting with the second week. During the development of this forecast, ERCOT may consult with Qualified Scheduling Entities (QSEs), Transmission Service Providers (TSPs), and other Market Participants that may have knowledge of potential Load growth.

(2) ERCOT may, at its discretion, publish on the ERCOT website, additional peak Demand analyses for periods beyond 36 months.

(3) ERCOT shall develop and publish hourly on the ERCOT website, peak Demand forecasts by Forecast Zone for each hour of the next seven days using the Seven-Day Load Forecast as described in Section 3.12.

(4) For purposes of Demand forecasting, ERCOT may choose to use the same forecast as that used for the Load forecast.

(5) ERCOT shall publish procedures describing the forecasting process on the ERCOT website.

3.10.2 Annual Planning Model

(1) For each of the next six years, ERCOT shall develop models for annual planning purposes that contain, as much as practicable, information consistent with the Network Operations Model. The “Annual Planning Model” for each of the next six years is a model of the ERCOT power system (created, approved, posted, and updated regularly by ERCOT) as it is expected to operate during peak Load conditions for the corresponding future year.

(2) By October 15th of each year, ERCOT shall update, for each of the next six years, the ERCOT Planning Model and post it to the MIS Secure Area

(3) ERCOT shall make available to TSPs and/or Distribution Service Provider (DSPs) and all appropriate Market Participants, consistent with the requirements regarding ECEII set forth in Section 1.3, Confidentiality, the transmission model used in transmission planning. ERCOT shall provide model information through the use of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) sponsored CIM and web-based Extensible Markup Language (XML) communications or Power System Simulator for Engineering (PSS/E) format.

(4) ERCOT shall make available to TSPs and/or Distribution Service Provider (DSPs)the schedule for updating transmission information.

(5) ERCOT shall coordinate updates to the Annual Planning Model with the Network Operations Model to ensure consistency of data within and between the Annual Planning Model and Network Operations Model to the extent practicable.

3.10.4 ERCOT Responsibilities

(1) ERCOT shall design, install, operate, and maintain its systems and establish applicable related processes to meet the State Estimator Standards for Transmission Elements that under typical system conditions potentially affect the calculation of Locational Marginal Prices (LMPs) as described in Section 3.10.7.5, Telemetry Standards, and Section 3.10.9, State Estimator Standards. ERCOT shall post all documents relating to the State Estimator Standards on the MIS Secure Area, except where otherwise stated in Section 3.10.9.6, Telemetry and State Estimator Performance Monitoring.

(2) During Real-Time, ERCOT shall calculate LMPs and take remedial actions to ensure that actual flow on a given Transmission Element is less than the Normal Rating and any calculated flow due to a contingency is less than the applicable Emergency Rating and 15-Minute Rating.

(3) ERCOT shall install Network Operations Model test facilities that will accommodate execution of a test Real-Time sequence and preliminary test LMP calculator to demonstrate the correct operation of new Network Operations Models prior to releasing the model to Market Participants for detail testing and verification. The Network Operations Model test facilities support power flow and contingency analyses to test the data set representation of a proposed transmission model update and simulate LMP calculations using typical test data.

(4) ERCOT shall install EMS test and simulation facilities that accommodate execution of the State Estimator and LMP calculator, respectively. These facilities will be used to conduct tests prior to placing a new model into ERCOT’s production environment to verify the new model’s accuracy. The EMS test facilities allow a potential model to be tested before replacing the current production environment model. The EMS test and simulation facilities must perform Real-Time security analysis to test a proposed transmission model before replacing the current production environment model. The EMS State Estimator test facilities must have Real-Time ICCP links to test the state estimation function using actual Real-Time conditions. The EMS LMP test facilities must accept data uploads from the production environment providing Qualified Scheduling Entity (QSE) Resource offers, and telemetry via ICCP. If the production data are unavailable, ERCOT may employ a data simulation tool or process to develop test data sets for the LMP test facilities. For TSPs, ERCOT shall acquire model comparison software that will show all differences between subsequent versions of the Network Operations Model and shall make this information available to TSPs only within one week following test completion. For non-TSP Market Participants, ERCOT shall post the differences within one week following test completion between subsequent versions of the Redacted Network Operations Model on the MIS Secure Area. This comparison shall indicate differences in device parameters, missing or new devices, and status changes.

(5) When implementing Transmission Element changes, ERCOT shall correct errors uncovered during testing that are due to submission of inaccurate information. Each TSP and Resource Entity shall provide reasonably accurate information at the time of the original submission.

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| ***[NPRR857: Replace paragraph (5) above with the following upon system implementation and satisfying the following conditions: (1) Southern Cross provides ERCOT with funds to cover the entire estimated cost of the project; and (2) Southern Cross has signed an interconnection agreement with a TSP and the TSP gives ERCOT written notice that Southern Cross has provided it with: (a) Notice to proceed with the construction of the interconnection; and (b) The financial security required to fund the interconnection facilities:]***  (5) When implementing Transmission Element changes, ERCOT shall correct errors uncovered during testing that are due to submission of inaccurate information. Each TSP, DCTO, and Resource Entity shall provide reasonably accurate information at the time of the original submission. |

(6) ERCOT may update the model on an interim basis, outside of the timeline described in Section 3.10.1, Time Line for Network Operations Model Changes, for the correction of temporary configuration changes in a system restoration situation, such as after a storm, or correction of impedances and ratings.

(7) Interim updates to the Network Operations Model caused by unintentional inconsistencies of the model with the physical transmission grid may be made. If an interim update is implemented, ERCOT shall report changes to the PUCT Staff and the IMM. ERCOT shall provide Notice via electronic means to all Market Participants and post the Notice on the MIS Secure Area detailing the changed model information and the reason for the interim update within two Business Days following the report to PUCT Staff and the IMM.

(8) A TSP and Resource Entity, with ERCOT’s assistance, shall validate its portion of the Network Operations Model according to the timeline provided in Section 3.10.1. ERCOT shall provide TSPs access, consistent with the requirements regarding ECEII set forth in Section 1.3, Confidentiality, to an environment of the ERCOT EMS where the Network Operations Model and the results of the Real-Time State Estimator are available for review and analysis within five minutes of the Real-Time solution. This environment is provided as a tool to TSPs to perform power flow studies, contingency analyses and validation of State Estimator results.

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| ***[NPRR857: Replace paragraph (8) above with the following upon system implementation and satisfying the following conditions: (1) Southern Cross provides ERCOT with funds to cover the entire estimated cost of the project; and (2) Southern Cross has signed an interconnection agreement with a TSP and the TSP gives ERCOT written notice that Southern Cross has provided it with: (a) Notice to proceed with the construction of the interconnection; and (b) The financial security required to fund the interconnection facilities:]***  (8) TSPs, DCTOs, and Resource Entities, with ERCOT’s assistance, shall validate their portion of the Network Operations Model according to the timeline provided in Section 3.10.1. ERCOT shall provide TSPs access, consistent with the requirements regarding ECEII set forth in Section 1.3, Confidentiality, to an environment of the ERCOT EMS where the Network Operations Model and the results of the Real-Time State Estimator are available for review and analysis within five minutes of the Real-Time solution. This environment is provided as a tool to TSPs to perform power flow studies, contingency analyses and validation of State Estimator results. |

(9) ERCOT shall make available to TSPs, consistent with the requirements regarding ECEII, the Network Operations Model used to manage the reliability of the transmission system as well as proposed Network Operations Models to be implemented at a future date. ERCOT shall post on the MIS Secure Area the Redacted Network Operations Model, consistent with the requirements regarding release of ECEII, as well as proposed Redacted Network Operations Models to be implemented at a future date. ERCOT shall provide model information through the use of the EPRI and NERC-sponsored CIM and web-based XML communications.

3.10.9.6 Telemetry and State Estimator Performance Monitoring

(1) ERCOT shall monitor the performance of the State Estimator, Network Security Analysis, SCED, and LMP Calculator. ERCOT shall post a monthly report of these items on the MIS Secure Area, except for reports of State Estimator convergence rates that ERCOT shall post on the ERCOT website. ERCOT shall notify affected TSPs and QSEs of any lapses of observability of the transmission system.

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| ***[NPRR857: Replace paragraph (1) above with the following upon system implementation and satisfying the following conditions: (1) Southern Cross provides ERCOT with funds to cover the entire estimated cost of the project; and (2) Southern Cross has signed an interconnection agreement with a TSP and the TSP gives ERCOT written notice that Southern Cross has provided it with: (a) Notice to proceed with the construction of the interconnection; and (b) The financial security required to fund the interconnection facilities:]***  (1) ERCOT shall monitor the performance of the State Estimator, Network Security Analysis, SCED, and LMP Calculator. ERCOT shall post a monthly report of these items on the MIS Secure Area, except for reports of State Estimator convergence rates that ERCOT shall post on the ERCOT website. ERCOT shall notify affected TSPs, QSEs, or DCTOs of any lapses of observability of the transmission system. |

3.12 Load Forecasting

(1) ERCOT shall produce and use Load forecasts to serve operations and planning objectives.

(a) ERCOT shall update and post hourly on the ERCOT website, a “Seven-Day Load Forecast” as described in Section 3.12.1, Seven-Day Load Forecast, that provides forecasted hourly Load over the next 168 hours for each of the Weather Zones and for each of the Forecast Zones.

(b) ERCOT shall develop and post monthly on the ERCOT website a “36-Month Load Forecast” that provides a daily minimum and maximum Load forecast for the next 36-months for the ERCOT Region, for each of the Weather Zones, and for each of the Forecast Zones. The 36-Month Load Forecast is used in the Outage coordination process and for Resource adequacy reporting.

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| ***[NPRR1004: Insert paragraph (c) below upon system implementation:]***  (c) ERCOT shall generate and post daily on the ERCOT website Load distribution factors that provide hourly distribution for non-Private Use Network Loads by means of the Mid-Term Load Forecast (MTLF). Private Use Network Loads will be generated separately. If ERCOT decides, in its sole discretion, to change the Load distribution factors for reasons such as anticipated weather events or holidays, ERCOT shall select representative conditions as an input reasonably reflecting the anticipated Load in the Operating Day. ERCOT may also modify the Load distribution factors to account for predicted differences in network topology between the Load forecast and Operating Day. ERCOT may set auto error correction settings and apply Load forecast validation to better represent Load Profiles. Private Use Network Load distribution factor data is redacted from the ERCOT website postings and all self-serve Load’s distribution factors are set to zero when the data is used by the downstream applications. |

(2) ERCOT shall produce and post to the ERCOT website an Intra-Hour Load Forecast (IHLF) that provides a rolling two hour five minute forecast of ERCOT-wide Load.

3.14.1 Reliability Must Run

(1) RMR Service is the use by ERCOT, under contracts with Resource Entities, of capacity and energy from Generation Resources that otherwise would not operate and that are necessary to provide voltage support, stability or management of localized transmission constraints under applicable reliability criteria, where market solutions do not exist.

(a) Upon receiving a Notification of Suspension of Operations (NSO) from a Resource Entity as described in Section 3.14.1.1, Notification of Suspension of Operations, ERCOT may begin procurement of RMR Service under this Section.

(b) Before entering into an RMR Agreement, ERCOT shall assess alternatives to the proposed RMR Agreement. ERCOT shall evaluate and present in a written report posted on the Market Information System (MIS) Secure Area the information in items (i) through (iv) below. ERCOT is not limited in the number of additional scenarios it chooses to evaluate. The written report shall include an explanation as to why the items below are insufficient, either alone or in combination, to fill the requirement that will be met by the potential RMR Unit. The report shall be posted in the time frame required under paragraph (5) of Section 3.14.1.2, ERCOT Evaluation Process. The list of alternatives ERCOT must consider includes (as reasonable for each type of reliability concern identified):

(i) Re-dispatch/reconfiguration through operator instruction;

(ii) Automatic Mitigation Plans (AMPs) and Remedial Action Plans (RAPs);

(iii) Remedial Action Schemes (RASs) initiated on unit trips or Transmission Facilities’ Outages; and

(iv) Any other operational alternatives deemed viable by ERCOT.

(c) ERCOT shall minimize the use of RMR Units as much as practicable subject to the other provisions of these Protocols. ERCOT may Dispatch an RMR Unit at any time for ERCOT System security.

(d) Each RMR Unit must meet technical requirements specified in Section 8.1.1.1, Ancillary Service Qualification and Testing.

(e) ERCOT may execute RMR Agreements for no less than one month and no more than one year, with one exception. ERCOT may execute an RMR Agreement for a term longer than 12 months if the Resource Entity must make a significant capital expenditure to meet environmental regulations or to ensure availability to continue operating the RMR Unit so as to make an RMR Agreement in excess of 12 months appropriate, in ERCOT’s opinion. The term of a multi-year RMR Agreement must take into account the appropriate RMR exit strategy discussed in Section 3.14.1.4, Exit Strategy from an RMR Agreement. In the event ERCOT chooses to contract for an RMR Unit for longer than one year, ERCOT shall annually re-evaluate the need for the RMR Unit under the criteria set forth in paragraph (b) above. If ERCOT determines the RMR Unit is no longer needed, ERCOT shall enter into exit negotiations with the contract signatories to attempt to exit the contract early. However, ERCOT shall not enter into such negotiations until a Market Notice is issued providing the anticipated RMR exit time frame. The RMR standard Agreement is included in Section 22, Attachment B, Standard Form Reliability Must-Run Agreement. ERCOT shall post each RMR Agreement in its entirety, including amendments or modifications thereto, within five Business Days of execution on the MIS Secure Area.

(f) A Generation Resource is eligible for RMR status based on criteria established by ERCOT indicating its operation is necessary to support ERCOT System reliability according to the Operating Guides. A combined-cycle generation Facility must be treated as a single unit for RMR purposes unless the combustion turbine and the steam turbine can operate separately. If the steam turbine and combustion turbine can operate separately, and the steam turbine is powered by waste heat from more than one combustion turbine, the combustion turbine accepted for RMR Service and a proportionate part of the steam turbine must be treated as a single unit for RMR purposes. If the combustion turbine accepted for RMR Service can operate separately from the steam turbine, and only the combustion turbine is accepted as an RMR Unit, the RMR energy price will be reduced by the value of the combustion turbine’s waste heat calculated at the Fuel Index Price (FIP), except when the steam turbine is Off-Line. ERCOT shall post to the MIS Secure Area the criteria upon which it evaluates whether an RMR Unit meets the test of operational necessity to support ERCOT System reliability within five Business Days of change and shall issue a Market Notice stating the determination is available. This includes the case where a unit previously identified by ERCOT as potentially needed for RMR Service is no longer needed regardless of whether an RMR Agreement was ever signed.

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| ***[NPRR1183: Replace paragraph (f) above with the following upon system implementation:]***  (f) A Generation Resource is eligible for RMR status based on criteria established by ERCOT indicating its operation is necessary to support ERCOT System reliability according to the Operating Guides. A combined-cycle generation Facility must be treated as a single unit for RMR purposes unless the combustion turbine and the steam turbine can operate separately. If the steam turbine and combustion turbine can operate separately, and the steam turbine is powered by waste heat from more than one combustion turbine, the combustion turbine accepted for RMR Service and a proportionate part of the steam turbine must be treated as a single unit for RMR purposes. If the combustion turbine accepted for RMR Service can operate separately from the steam turbine, and only the combustion turbine is accepted as an RMR Unit, the RMR energy price will be reduced by the value of the combustion turbine’s waste heat calculated at the Fuel Index Price (FIP), except when the steam turbine is Off-Line. |

(g) A Resource Entity cannot be compelled to enter into an RMR Agreement. A Resource Entity that owns or controls a Generation Resource that is uneconomic to remain in service can voluntarily petition ERCOT for contracted RMR status by following the process in this subsection. ERCOT shall determine whether the Generation Resource is necessary for system reliability based on the criteria set forth in this Section.

(h) ERCOT must contract for the entire capacity of each RMR Unit.

(i) ERCOT shall post on the ERCOT website all information relative to the use of RMR Units including energy deployed monthly.

(j) The Resource Entity that owns or controls the RMR Unit may not use the RMR Unit for:

(i) Participating in the bilateral energy market;

(ii) Self-providing of energy except for plant auxiliary Load obligations under the RMR Agreement; and

(iii) Providing of Ancillary Service to any Entity.

(k) ERCOT shall issue a Market Notice on the need for an RMR Unit prior to entering negotiations for the RMR Unit. Such Market Notice shall include the link to the ERCOT final RMR evaluation, the Resource name and unit code, the name of the Resource Entity, the name of the Qualified Scheduling Entity (QSE) for the Resource, the Resource MW rating by Season, and potential duration of the RMR Agreement, including anticipated start and end dates.

(l) ERCOT shall, through the issuance of Market Notices, provide the same information, contemporaneously, about the need for, or elimination of an RMR Unit to all registered Market Participants, including QSEs and Resource Entities with RMR Units.

3.15 Voltage Support

(1) ERCOT, in coordination with the Transmission Service Providers (TSPs), shall establish and update, as necessary, the ERCOT System Voltage Profile and shall post it on the ERCOT website. ERCOT, the interconnecting TSP, or that TSP’s agent, may modify the Voltage Set Point described in the Voltage Profile based on current system conditions.

(2) All Generation Resources (including self-serve generating units) and Energy Storage Resources (ESRs) that are connected to Transmission Facilities and that have a gross unit rating greater than 20 MVA or those units connected at the same Point of Interconnection Bus (POIB) that have gross unit ratings aggregating to greater than 20 MVA, that supply power to the ERCOT Transmission Grid, shall provide Voltage Support Service (VSS).

(3) Except as reasonably necessary to ensure reliability or operational efficiency, TSPs should utilize available static reactive devices prior to requesting a Voltage Set Point change from a Generation Resource or ESR.

(4) Each Generation Resource and ESR required to provide VSS shall comply with the following Reactive Power requirements in Real-Time operations when issued a Voltage Set Point by a TSP or ERCOT:

(a) An over-excited (lagging or producing) power factor capability of 0.95 or less determined at the unit's maximum net power to be supplied to the ERCOT Transmission Grid and for any Voltage Set Point from 0.95 per unit to 1.04 per unit, as measured at the POIB;

(b) An under-excited (leading or absorbing) power factor capability of 0.95 or less, determined at the unit's maximum net power to be supplied to the ERCOT Transmission Grid and for any Voltage Set Point from 1.0 per unit to 1.05 per unit, as measured at the POIB;

(c) For any Voltage Set Point outside of the voltage ranges described in paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the Generation Resource or ESR shall supply or absorb the maximum amount of Reactive Power available within its inherent capability and the capability of any VAr-capable devices as necessary to achieve the Voltage Set Point;

(d) When a Generation Resource or an ESR required to provide VSS is issued a new Voltage Set Point, that Generation Resource or ESR shall make adjustments in response to the new Voltage Set Point, regardless of whether the current voltage is within the tolerances identified in paragraph (4) of Nodal Operating Guide Section 2.7.3.5, Resource Entity Responsibilities and Generation Resource and Energy Storage Resource Requirements;

(e) For Generation Resources, the Reactive Power capability shall be available at all MW output levels and may be met through a combination of the Generation Resource’s Corrected Unit Reactive Limit (CURL), which is the generating unit’s dynamic leading and lagging operating capability, and/or dynamic VAr-capable devices. This Reactive Power profile is depicted graphically as a rectangle. For Intermittent Renewable Resources (IRRs), the Reactive Power requirements shall be available at all MW output levels at or above 10% of the IRR’s nameplate capacity. When an IRR is operating below 10% of its nameplate capacity and is unable to support voltage at the POIB, ERCOT, the interconnecting TSP, or that TSP’s agent may require an IRR to disconnect from the ERCOT System for purposes of maintaining reliability. For ESRs, the Reactive Power capability shall be available at all MW levels, when charging or discharging, and may be met through a combination of the ESR’s CURL, and/or dynamic VAr-capable devices. For any ESR that achieved Initial Synchronization before December 16, 2019, the requirement to have Reactive Power capability when charging does not apply if the Resource Entity for the ESR has submitted a notarized attestation to ERCOT stating that, since the date of Initial Synchronization, the ESR has been unable to comply with this requirement without physical or software changes/modifications, and ERCOT has provided written confirmation of the exemption to the Resource Entity. The exemption shall apply only to the extent of the ESR’s inability to comply with the requirement when the ESR is charging.

(f) For any Generation Resource or Energy Storage Resource (ESR) that is part of a Self-Limiting Facility, the capabilities described in paragraphs (a) and (b) above shall be determined based on the Self-Limiting Facility’s established MW Injection limit and, if applicable, established MW Withdrawal limit.

(5) As part of the technical Resource testing requirements prior to the Resource Commissioning Date, all Generation Resources and ESRs must conduct an engineering study, and demonstrate through performance testing, the ability to comply with the Reactive Power capability requirements in paragraph (4), (7), (8), or (9) of this Section, as applicable. Any study and testing results must be accepted by ERCOT prior to the Resource Commissioning Date.

(6) Except for a Generation Resource or an ESR subject to Planning Guide Section 5.2.1, Applicability, a Generation Resource or an ESR that has already been commissioned is not required to submit a new reactive study or conduct commissioning-related reactive testing, as described in paragraph (5) above.

(7) Wind-powered Generation Resources (WGRs) that commenced operation on or after February 17, 2004, and have a signed Standard Generation Interconnection Agreement (SGIA) on or before December 1, 2009 (“Existing Non-Exempt WGRs”), must be capable of producing a defined quantity of Reactive Power to maintain a set point in the Voltage Profile established by ERCOT in accordance with the Reactive Power requirements established in paragraph (4) above, except in the circumstances described in paragraph (a) below.

(a) Existing Non-Exempt WGRs whose current design does not allow them to meet the Reactive Power requirements established in paragraph (4) above must conduct an engineering study using the Summer/Fall 2010 on-peak/off-peak Voltage Profiles, or conduct performance testing to determine their actual Reactive Power capability. Any study or testing results must be accepted by ERCOT. The Reactive Power requirements applicable to these Existing Non-Exempt WGRs will be the greater of: the leading and lagging Reactive Power capabilities established by the Existing Non-Exempt WGR’s engineering study or testing results; or Reactive Power proportional to the real power output of the Existing Non-Exempt WGR (this Reactive Power profile is depicted graphically as a triangle) sufficient to provide an over-excited (lagging) power factor capability of 0.95 or less and an under-excited (leading) power factor capability of 0.95 or less, both determined at the WGR’s set point in the Voltage Profile established by ERCOT, and both measured at the POIB.

(i) Existing Non-Exempt WGRs shall submit the engineering study results or testing results to ERCOT no later than five Business Days after its completion.

(ii) Existing Non-Exempt WGRs shall update any and all Resource Registration data regarding their Reactive Power capability documented by the engineering study results or testing results.

(iii) If the Existing Non-Exempt WGR’s engineering study results or testing results indicate that the WGR is not able to provide Reactive Power capability that meets the triangle profile described in paragraph (a) above, then the Existing Non-Exempt WGR will take steps necessary to meet that Reactive Power requirement depicted graphically as a triangle by a date mutually agreed upon by the Existing Non-Exempt WGR and ERCOT. The Existing Non-Exempt WGR may meet the Reactive Power requirement through a combination of the WGR’s Unit Reactive Limit (URL) and/or automatically switchable static VAr-capable devices and/or dynamic VAr-capable devices. No later than five Business Days after completion of the steps to meet that Reactive Power requirement, the Existing Non-Exempt WGR will update any and all Resource Registration data regarding its Reactive Power and provide written notice to ERCOT that it has completed the steps necessary to meet its Reactive Power requirement.

(iv) For purposes of measuring future compliance with Reactive Power requirements for Existing Non-Exempt WGRs, results from performance testing or the Summer/Fall 2010 on-peak/off-peak Voltage Profiles utilized in the Existing Non-Exempt WGR’s engineering study shall be the basis for measuring compliance, even if the Voltage Profiles provided to the Existing Non-Exempt WGR are revised for other purposes.

(b) Existing Non-Exempt WGRs whose current design allows them to meet the Reactive Power requirements established in paragraph (4) above (depicted graphically as a rectangle) shall continue to comply with that requirement. ERCOT, with cause, may request that these Existing Non-Exempt WGRs provide further evidence, including an engineering study, or performance testing, to confirm accuracy of Resource Registration data supporting their Reactive Power capability.

(8) Qualified Renewable Generation Resources (as described in Section 14, State of Texas Renewable Energy Credit Trading Program) in operation before February 17, 2004, required to provide VSS and all other Generation Resources required to provide VSS that were in operation prior to September 1, 1999, whose current design does not allow them to meet the Reactive Power requirements established in paragraph (4) above, will be required to maintain a Reactive Power requirement as defined by the Generation Resource’s URL that was submitted to ERCOT and established per the criteria in the ERCOT Operating Guides.

(9) New generating units connected before May 17, 2005, whose owners demonstrate to ERCOT’s satisfaction that design and/or equipment procurement decisions were made prior to February 17, 2004, based upon previous standards, whose design does not allow them to meet the Reactive Power requirements established in paragraph (4) above, will be required to maintain a Reactive Power requirement as defined by the Generation Resource’s URL that was submitted to ERCOT and established per the criteria in the Operating Guides.

(10) For purposes of meeting the Reactive Power requirements in paragraphs (4) through (9) above, multiple units including IRRs shall, at a Resource Entity’s option, be treated as a single Resource if the units are connected to the same transmission bus.

(11) Resource Entities may submit to ERCOT specific proposals to meet the Reactive Power requirements established in paragraph (4) above by employing a combination of the CURL and added VAr capability, provided that the added VAr capability shall be automatically switchable static and/or dynamic VAr devices. A Resource Entity and TSP may enter into an agreement in which the proposed static VAr devices can be switchable using Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA). ERCOT may, at its sole discretion, either approve or deny a specific proposal, provided that in either case, ERCOT shall provide the submitter an explanation of its decision.

(12) A Resource Entity and TSP may enter into an agreement in which the Generation Resource or ESR compensates the TSP to provide VSS to meet the Reactive Power requirements of paragraph (4) above in part or in whole. The TSP shall certify to ERCOT that the agreement complies with the Reactive Power requirements of paragraph (4).

(13) Unless specifically approved by ERCOT, no unit equipment replacement or modification at a Generation Resource or ESR shall reduce the capability of the unit below the Reactive Power requirements that applied prior to the replacement or modification.

(14) Generation Resources or ESRs shall not reduce high reactive loading on individual units during abnormal conditions without the consent of ERCOT unless equipment damage is imminent.

(15) All WGRs must provide a Real-Time SCADA point that communicates to ERCOT the number of wind turbines that are available for real power and Reactive Power injection into the ERCOT Transmission Grid. WGRs must also provide two other Real-Time SCADA points that communicate to ERCOT the following:

(a) The number of wind turbines that are not able to communicate and whose status is unknown; and

(b) The number of wind turbines out of service and not available for operation.

(16) All PhotoVoltaic Generation Resources (PVGRs) must provide a Real-Time SCADA point that communicates to ERCOT the capacity of PhotoVoltaic (PV) equipment that is available for real power and Reactive Power injection into the ERCOT Transmission Grid. PVGRs must also provide two other Real-Time SCADA points that communicate to ERCOT the following:

(a) The capacity of PV equipment that is not able to communicate and whose status is unknown; and

(b) The capacity of PV equipment that is out of service and not available for operation.

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| ***[NPRR1029: Insert paragraph (17) below upon system implementation and renumber accordingly:]***  (17) Each DC-Coupled Resource must provide a Real-Time SCADA point that communicates to ERCOT the capacity of the intermittent renewable generation component of the Resource that is available for real power and/or Reactive Power injection into the ERCOT System. Each DC-Coupled Resource must also provide Real-Time SCADA points that communicate to ERCOT the following:  (a) The capacity of any PV generation equipment that is not able to communicate and whose status is unknown;  (b) The capacity of any PV generation equipment that is out of service and not available for operation;  (c) The number of any wind turbines that are not able to communicate and whose status is unknown; and  (d) The number of any wind turbines out of service and not available for operation. |

(17) For the purpose of complying with the Reactive Power requirements under this Section 3.15, Reactive Power losses that occur on privately-owned transmission lines behind the POIB may be compensated by automatically switchable static VAr-capable devices.

3.20.1 Evaluation of Chronic Congestion

(1) ERCOT shall evaluate chronic congestion monthly and shall report on the ERCOT website the results of its evaluation to the appropriate Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) subcommittee(s). The report must identify the constraint(s) causing the chronic congestion.

6.3.1 Activities for the Adjustment Period

(1) The following table summarizes the timeline for the Adjustment Period and the activities of QSEs and ERCOT. The table is intended to be only a general guide and not controlling language, and any conflict between this table and another section of the Protocols is controlled by the other section:

| Adjustment Period | QSE Activities | ERCOT Activities |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Time = From 1800 in the Day-Ahead up to one hour before the start of the Operating Hour | Submit and update Energy Trades, Capacity Trades, Self-Schedules, and Ancillary Service Trades  Submit and update Output Schedules  Submit and update Incremental and Decremental Energy Offer Curves for Dynamically Scheduled Resources (DSRs)   |  | | --- | | [NPRR1000: Delete the item above upon system implementation.] |   Submit and update Energy Offer Curves and/or RTM Energy Bids   |  | | --- | | ***[NPRR1188: Replace the item above with the following upon system implementation:]***  Submit and update Energy Offer Curves and/or Energy Bid Curves |  |  | | --- | | [NPRR1014: Insert the item below upon system implementation:]  Submit Energy Bid/Offer Curves for Energy Storage Resources (ESRs) |   Update Current Operating Plan (COP)  Request Resource decommitments  Submit Three-Part Supply Offers for Off-Line Generation Resources  Submit offers for any Supplemental Ancillary Service Markets   |  | | --- | | [NPRR1010 and NPRR1014: Replace applicable portions of the item above with the following upon system implementation of the Real-Time Co-Optimization (RTC) project for NPRR1010; or upon system implementation for NPRR1014:]  Submit and update Ancillary Service Offers |   Communicate Resource Forced Outages | Validate Energy Trades, Capacity Trades, Self-Schedules, and Ancillary Service Trades and identify invalid or mismatched trades  Validate Output Schedules  Validate Incremental and Decremental Energy Offer Curves  Validate Energy Offer Curves and/or RTM Energy Bids   |  | | --- | | ***[NPRR1188: Replace the item above with the following upon system implementation:]***  Validate Energy Offer Curves and/or Energy Bid Curves |  |  | | --- | | [NPRR1014: Insert the item below upon system implementation:]  Validate Energy Bid/Offer Curves |   Validate COP including validation of the deliverability of Ancillary Services from Resources for the next Operating Period  Review and approve or reject Resource decommitments  Validate Three-Part Supply Offers  Publish Notice of Need to Procure Additional Ancillary Service capacity if required   |  | | --- | | [NPRR1010 and NPRR1014: Replace applicable portions of the item above with the following upon system implementation of the Real-Time Co-Optimization (RTC) project for NPRR1010; or upon system implementation for NPRR1014:]  Publish Notice of need to update the Ancillary Service Plan if required and update the Ancillary Service Demand Curves (ASDCs) for the affected hours and Ancillary Services |   Validate Ancillary Service Offers  At the end of the Adjustment Period snap-shot the net capacity credits for Hourly Reliability Unit Commitment (HRUC) Settlement  Update Short-Term Wind Power Forecast (STWPF)  Update Short-Term PhotoVoltaic Power Forecast (STPPF)  Execute the Hour-Ahead Sequence  Notify the QSE via the MIS Certified Area that an Energy Offer Curve, RTM Energy Bid or Output Schedule has not yet been submitted for a Resource as a reminder that one of the three must be submitted by the end of the Adjustment Period   |  | | --- | | ***[NPRR1188: Replace the item above with the following upon system implementation:]***  Notify the QSE via the MIS Certified Area that an Energy Offer Curve, Energy Bid Curve or Output Schedule has not yet been submitted for a Resource as a reminder that one of the three must be submitted by the end of the Adjustment Period |  |  | | --- | | [NPRR1010 and NPRR1014: Insert applicable portions of the items below upon system implementation of the Real-Time Co-Optimization (RTC) project for NPRR1010; or upon system implementation for NPRR1014:]  Notify the QSE via the MIS Certified Area that an Ancillary Service Offer has not yet been submitted for a Resource by the end of the Adjustment Period  Notify the QSE via the MIS Certified Area that an Energy Bid/Offer Curve has not yet been submitted for an ESR by the end of the Adjustment Period | |

6.5.1.2 Centralized Dispatch

(1) ERCOT shall centrally Dispatch Resources and Transmission Facilities under these Protocols, including deploying energy by establishing Base Points, and Emergency Base Points, and by deploying Regulation Service, ERCOT Contingency Reserve Service (ECRS), and Non-Spinning Reserve (Non-Spin) to ensure operational security. Responsive Reserve (RRS) shall be self-deployed in response to frequency deviations or as specified in Nodal Operating Guide Section 4.8, Responsive Reserve Service During Scarcity Conditions.

(2) ERCOT shall verify that either an Energy Offer Curve providing prices for the Resource between its High Sustained Limit (HSL) and Low Sustained Limit (LSL) or an Output Schedule has been submitted for each On-Line Resource an hour before the end of the Adjustment Period for the upcoming Operating Hour. ERCOT shall notify QSEs that have not submitted an Output Schedule or Energy Offer Curve through the Market Information System (MIS) Certified Area.

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| [NPRR1014: Replace paragraph (2) above with the following upon system implementation:]  (2) ERCOT shall verify that either an Energy Offer Curve or Energy Bid/Offer Curve providing prices for the Resource between its High Sustained Limit (HSL) and Low Sustained Limit (LSL) or an Output Schedule has been submitted for each On-Line Resource an hour before the end of the Adjustment Period for the upcoming Operating Hour. ERCOT shall notify QSEs that have not submitted an Output Schedule or Energy Offer Curve or Energy Bid/Offer Curve through the Market Information System (MIS) Certified Area. |

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| [NPRR1010 and NPRR1014: Insert applicable portions of paragraph (3) below upon system implementation of the Real-Time Co-Optimization (RTC) project for NPRR1010; or upon system implementation for NPRR1014; and renumber accordingly:]  (3) If a Resource is scheduled to be On-Line and available to provide an Ancillary Service, but does not have any Ancillary Service Offers for which the Resource is qualified to provide, then at the end of the Adjustment Period, ERCOT shall notify the Resource’s QSE through the MIS Certified Area. |

(3) ERCOT may only issue Dispatch Instructions for the Real-Time operation of Transmission Facilities to a TSP, for the Real-Time operation of distribution facilities to a Distribution Service Provider (DSP), or for a Resource to the QSE that represents it.

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| [NPRR857: Replace paragraph (3) above with the following upon system implementation and satisfying the following conditions: (1) Southern Cross provides ERCOT with funds to cover the entire estimated cost of the project; and (2) Southern Cross has signed an interconnection agreement with a TSP and the TSP gives ERCOT written notice that Southern Cross has provided it with: (a) Notice to proceed with the construction of the interconnection; and (b) The financial security required to fund the interconnection facilities:]  (3) In Real-Time operations, ERCOT may only issue Dispatch Instructions for Direct Current Ties (DC Ties) to the appropriate Direct Current Tie Operator (DCTO), for Transmission Facilities to a Transmission Service Provider (TSP), for distribution facilities to a Distribution Service Provider (DSP), or for a Resource to the QSE that represents it. |