

Attachment A

Parking Deck Concept for NPRRs

(as recommended by the 08/06/09 TAC)

As the Texas Nodal Market Implementation Date (TNMID) nears, there will inevitably be Nodal Protocol Revision Requests (NPRRs) that cannot be implemented prior to the market go-live date. The following process is intended to be an interim vehicle for managing items for post go-live consideration and to be used as a bridge to the post go-live project prioritization process.

Per Protocol Section 21.11.3.1, Review and Posting of Nodal Protocol Revision Requests, the ERCOT CEO will evaluate submitted NPRRs to determine if each NPRR is necessary prior to the TNMID. If the ERCOT CEO determines that the NPRR is not necessary prior to the TNMID, PRS will still consider the language and vote on the merits of the NPRR. [Note: due to the ERCOT CEO's determination that an NPRR is not necessary for go-live, ERCOT resources will not be devoted to developing a formal Impact Analysis (IA) until some date in the future when resources become available.]

If PRS approves the NPRR language, they will also suggest a rank for the NPRR on the Nodal tab of the Project Prioritization List (PPL) maintained by ERCOT's PMO. This tab is essentially the "parking deck" for revisions that cannot be completed prior to the TNMID. Only stakeholder approved items can be placed on the Nodal parking deck tab which will highlight the market's most important projects. This approach will utilize current processes and allow items to be prioritized as they come through the stakeholder process.

Once PRS makes a recommendation for an NPRR, the recommended language and parking deck rank will be sent to TAC. Subsequently, TAC's recommendation will be sent to the Board of Directors. This approach will allow for removal of NPRRs that do not have support from the stakeholder process. If the Board approves the NPRR, the NPRR language will be incorporated into the Nodal Protocols as boxed language with a header that identifies the revised language will be effective upon system implementation pending funding of a future release. The boxed language will provide maximum transparency to the process as it results in approved language which also allows for synchronization with subsequent language changes. The proposed rank for the item will also be added to the Nodal parking deck tab on the PPL. This approach will provide the maximum flexibility for planning purposes as there will be a prioritized list of approved change requests when the market and ERCOT are ready to begin planning future Nodal software releases.

At a specified date (to be determined), ERCOT will begin completing IAs for the NPRRs placed in the parking deck. Ideally, this effort will begin in the 3rd quarter of 2010. If ERCOT resources to perform the IAs are not available, this work will continue into early 2011 so the results are available for budget year 2012 project planning.

From a Nodal system perspective, 2011 project planning will anticipate a period of system software application stabilization lasting several months followed by a planning effort for the first post-go-live Nodal market software release.

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The 2012 project prioritization process will include the selection of parking deck items for inclusion in the first post-go-live nodal release. Once ERCOT has completed the IAs for the parking deck items, TAC will review the IAs and make a recommendation to the Board for the items which should be funded for implementation. Remaining parking deck items will be merged into the appropriate program areas on the PPL for future consideration. If TAC or the Board determines that a parking deck item is no longer desired or its cost to implement exceeds its benefit, ERCOT will initiate an NPRR on behalf of the group to remove the boxed language from the Nodal Protocols.

Key Dates

April – July 2010	2011 Project Prioritization (Includes funding for planning of first post-go-live release)
Q3 – Q4 2010	Begin Impact Analysis of parking deck items
December 2010	Texas Nodal Market Implementation Date (stabilization begins)
Q1 2011	Complete Impact Analysis of parking deck items
April – July 2011	2012 Project Prioritization (Includes funding for remainder of planning and execution of first post-go-live release)