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| **SO-03 : Wind-powered Generation Response to Down Balancing Instructions**  When wind-powered generators receive a down balancing instruction, it became apparent that ERCOT did not have a consistent reference point to base their calculation of the effect of their order. This problem is a result of the zonal market design and specific software limitations that do not exist in the nodal market. A process has been completed requiring all WGRs to update their resource plan every hour and to use the best forecast available. As time goes on, it is expected that the AWS TrueWind forecast provided by ERCOT will be the best forecast available. At the present time, some WGRs have forecasting methods with good track records which are better than the ERCOT forecast for their facility. During this transition process, the WGR is allowed to use its own forecast unless the ERCOT forecast is better. Thus the new procedures will improve ERCOT’s ability to calculate the effect of their down balancing instructions in the zonal market without the need for substantial zonal software changes. | |
| **Priority** | Medium |
| **Considerations** | Policy: None |
| Reliability: ERCOT operations routinely calculates a balancing offset to account for the differences between what the software thinks WGRs are doing and what they are actually doing. Extreme errors in calculating the effects of down balancing instructions can lead to reliability issues. |
| Technical: There is no real technical issue; the solution that has been proposed is the most cost effective way to improve results without spending considerable time and money to change software that is about to be replaced. The nodal software completely resolves this issue. |
| Market: No market impacts. |
| Performance/Compliance: This new process imposes new requirements on WGRs. The requirements are clear and enforceable. |
| Cost Allocation: No cost allocation issues. |
| **Strategy** | Develop a workable solution and wait for the nodal market for the full resolution of the issue.  Recommendation : Require all WGRs to update their resource plan every hour using the best available forecast. |
| **Activities** | ERCOT (E X): Monitor the accuracy of WGR forecasts as needed. |
| Market Participants (MP X):  WGRs change procedures to insure hourly updates and to insure that the most accurate forecast is being used. |
| **Follow-Up** | None |
| **Schedule** | 9/15/2009 Protocol Revision Request 812 was approved |