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 Market Information System (MIS) Secure Area. 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) that have a gross generating unit rating greater than 20 MVA or those units connected at the same Point of Interconnection (POI) that have gross generating unit ratings aggregating to greater than 20 MVA, that supply power to the ERCOT Transmission Grid, shall provide Voltage Support Service (VSS).

(3) Each Generation Resource required to provide VSS shall comply with the following Reactive Power Requirements:

(a) An over-excited (lagging or producing) power factor capability of 0.95 or less determined at the generating unit's maximum net power to be supplied to the ERCOT Transmission Grid for any Voltage Set Point between .95 pu and 1.00 pu measured at the POI;

(b) An under-excited (leading or absorbing) power factor capability of 0.95 or less, determined at the generating unit's maximum net power to be supplied to the ERCOT Transmission Grid for any Voltage Set Point between 1.00 pu and 1.05 pu measured at the POI;

(c) Reactive Power capability shall be available at all MW output levels and may be met through a combination of the Generation Resource’s Unit Reactive Limit (URL), 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 POI, ERCOT may require an IRR to disconnect from the ERCOT System for purposes of maintaining reliability; and

(d) As part of the technical Resource testing requirements prior to the Resource Commissioning Date, all Generation Resources must conduct an engineering study, or demonstrate through performance testing, compliance with the Reactive Power capability requirements of this section. Any study or testing results must be accepted by ERCOT prior to the Resource Commissioning Date.

(e) For any Voltage Set Point outside of the voltage ranges described in paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the Generation Resource shall produce or absorb the maximum amount of Reactive Power within its inherent capability under those conditions and the capability of any VAr-capable devices as necessary to achieve the Voltage Set Point.

(f) The changes in paragraphs (3)(a) and (3)(b) of Section 3.15, would apply only to a Generation Resource commissioned after January 1, 2019 or to a Repowered Facility that has completed its repowering activities after January 1, 2021.

(4) 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 (3) 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 (3) 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 POI.

(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 (4)(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 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 (3) 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.

(5) 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 (3) 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.

(6) 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 (3) 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.

(7) For purposes of meeting the Reactive Power requirements in paragraphs (3) through (6) above, multiple generation units including IRRs shall, at a Generation Entity’s option, be treated as a single Generation Resource if the units are connected to the same transmission bus.

(8) Generation Entities may submit to ERCOT specific proposals to meet the Reactive Power requirements established in paragraph (3) above by employing a combination of the URL and added VAr capability, provided that the added VAr capability shall be automatically switchable static and/or dynamic VAr devices. A Generation Resource 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.

(9) A Generation Resource and TSP may enter into an agreement in which the Generation Resource compensates the TSP to provide VSS to meet the Reactive Power requirements of paragraph (3) above in part or in whole. The TSP shall certify to ERCOT that the agreement complies with the Reactive Power requirements of paragraph (3).

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

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

(12) 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/or 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.

(13) 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/or 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.

(14) 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 POI may be compensated by automatically switchable static VAr capable devices.