

System Planning

**Monthly Status Report**

Report Highlights

* ERCOT is currently reviewing proposed transmission improvements with a total estimated cost of $1,270.01 Million as of August 31, 2021.
* Transmission Projects endorsed in 2021 total $640.95 Million as of August 31, 2021.
* All projects (in engineering, routing, licensing, and construction) total approximately $7.44 Billion[[1]](#footnote-1) as of June 1, 2021.
* Transmission Projects energized in 2021 total about $999.2 Million[[2]](#footnote-2) as of June 1, 2021.

Regional Planning Group Reviews

RPG Projects under Review:

* AEPSC has submitted the LRGV Import Project (RPG Project ID: 18RPG001). This is a Tier 1 project that is estimated to cost $73.4 million. AEPSC has also requested that ERCOT provide a conditional endorsement for an additional $357.2 million project.  ERCOT’s independent review has been conducted in accordance with Protocol Section 3.11.4.9(3), and this project is currently placed on hold until the LNG loads are confirmed.
* STEC has submitted the Lower Rio Grande Valley Transmission Expansion Project (RPG Project ID: 19RPG009). This is a Tier 1 project that is estimated to cost $511 million. ERCOT’s independent review has been conducted in accordance with Protocol Section 3.11.4.9(3), and this project is currently placed on hold until the LNG loads are confirmed.
* Oncor has submitted the Nacogdoches Southeast Switch – Redland Switch – Lufkin Switch 345-kV Loop Project (RPG Project ID: 20RPG019). This is a Tier 2 project that is estimated to cost $71.26 million. This project is currently under ERCOT’s independent review.
* AEPSC has submitted the Port Lavaca Area Improvement Project (RPG Project ID: 21RPG002). This is a Tier 2 project that is estimated to cost $97.8 million. This project is currently under ERCOT’s independent review.
* Oncor has submitted the Flat Iron – Barr Ranch – Pegasus South 138 kV Line Project (RPG Project ID: 21RPG010). This is a Tier 2 project that is estimated to cost $50.7 million. This project is currently under ERCOT’s independent review.
* Oncor has submitted the Andrews North – Mustang – Paul Davis Tap 138-kV Line Section Project (RPG Project ID: 21RPG012). This is a Tier 3 project that is estimated to cost $37 million. The RPG review of this project was completed on August 26. Pursuant to the Protocol Section 3.11.4.3.1 (d), this project has been reclassified as a Tier 4 neutral project.
* CNP has submitted the WA Parish to Nash 138-kV Ckt 02 Rebuild Project (RPG Project ID: 21RPG013). This is a Tier 3 project that is estimated to cost $71.75 million. This project is currently in the RPG comment period.
* AEPSC has submitted the Mason Switch to Yellowjacket 69-kV Line Transmission Project (RPG Project ID: 21RPG014). This is a Tier 3 project that is estimated to cost $36.9 million. This project is currently in the RPG comment period.

RPG Project Reviews Completed in 2021:

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| RPG Project ID | RPG Project Name | Submitted Entity | Tier | Estimated Cost ($ Millions) | Review Completion Month |
| 20RPG022 | Hamilton Road to Maxwell 138-kV Line Rebuild Project | AEPSC | Tier 3 | 34.0 | January |
| 20RPG023 | Royse - Commerce 69-kV Line Conversion to 138-kV | Oncor | Tier 3 | 72.1 | January |
| 1RPG003 | Midland East Area Projects | Oncor | Tier 3 | 88.5 | March |
| 21RPG004 | Venus Switch-Cedar Hill Switch 345-kV Line Project | Oncor | Tier 3 | 10.3 | March |
| 21RPG005 | Angleton to West Columbia 138-kV ckt 04 Rebuild Project | CNP | Reclassified from Tier 3 to Tier 4 per Protocol | 38.7 | April |
| 21RPG006 | Algoa Corner to La Marque 138 138-kV ckt 93 Rebuild Project | CNP | Reclassified from Tier 3 to Tier 4 per Protocol | 34.56 | May |
| 21RPG007 | Holliday - Seymour 69-kV Line Project | Oncor | Reclassified from Tier 3 to Tier 4 per Protocol | 44.3 | May |
| 21RPG008 | Burnett – Bowie 69 kV Line Upgrade Project | Oncor | Tier 3 | 79.7 | June |
| 21RPG009 | Waterfowl Substation Addition | CNP | Tier 3 | 42.4 | June |
| 21RPG001 | Bakersfield to Big Hill 345‐kV Second Circuit Addition Project | STEC & LCRA TSC | Tier 2 | 83.2 | June |
| 21RPG011 | Flewellen to Peters 138 kV ckt 25 Rebuild | CNP | Tier 3 | 76.2 | July |
| 21RPG012 | Andrews North – Mustang – Paul Davis Tap 138 kV Line Section | Oncor | Reclassified from Tier 3 to Tier 4 per Protocol | 37 | August |

More information on current and past RPG projects can be found on the ERCOT MIS Secure (digital certificate required): <https://mis.ercot.com/public/data-products/grid/regional-planning>

Past email communication on RPG projects can be found on the ERCOT listserv by signing up for the REGPLANGROUP list: <http://lists.ercot.com/scripts/wa-ERCOT.exe?A0=REGPLANGROUP>

Planning Model Activities

The short-term calendar of major planning model events is as follows:

* By Oct 15, 2021 21SSWG Update cases, in PSS/E 35, and TPIT are posted
* By Nov 4, 2021 21SSWG Contingency definitions and Planning Data Dictionary are posted

The following table shows interconnection projects that met Planning Guide section 6.9(1) and 6.9(2) and were modeled in the SSWG cases as a full model or as a simple model in accordance with Planning Guide section 6.9.

 

Permian Basin Oil Rig Count[[3]](#footnote-3)



Other Notable Activities

* ERCOT presented initial results for 2021 Regional Transmission Plan (RTP) economic analysis at the August 17, 2021 Regional Planning Group (RPG) meeting.
* ERCOT presented plans for 2021 RTP on-peak reliability sensitivity analysis at the August 17, 2021 RPG meeting.
* ERCOT presented an update on the 2022 Long-Term System Assessment (LTSA) at the August 17, 2021 RPG meeting.
* ERCOT is conducting the West Texas Export Study and plans to complete the study in Q4, 2021.
* ERCOT is conducting the South Texas Stability Study and plans to complete the study in Q4, 2021.
* ERCOT is conducting the Permian Basin Load Integration Study and plans to complete the study in Q4, 2021.
* The SPWG has completed and posted 2021 FY base cases.
* The DWG flat start process for development of the 2021/2022 dynamics base cases is underway. ERCOT staff serves as the flat start coordinator as specified in the DWG Procedure Manual. The initial flat start schedule proposes completion of the cases by the end of the year.

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1. Based on the Total Project Estimated Cost for all future projects listed in the Transmission Project Information and Tracking (TPIT) report. TPIT is updated three times each year based on information TSPs provide in Model on Demand (MOD) as specified in the ERCOT Steady State Working Group Procedure Manual. The latest TPIT is available at http://www.ercot.com/gridinfo/planning. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Based on the Total Project Estimated Cost for all completed projects with Projected In-Service Dates in 2021 listed in the TPIT. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. +/- symbol indicates the increase or decrease from the previous month in oil rigs present in each county. There are 168 rigs, including an increase of 1 oil rig, in the Permian Basin from July to August 2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)