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| NPRR Number | [1124](https://www.ercot.com/mktrules/issues/NPRR1124) | NPRR Title | Recovering Actual Fuel Costs through RUC Guarantee |
| Date Posted | | March 9, 2022 | |
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| Requested Resolution | | Urgent – Urgent status is necessary to ensure Generation Resources are made whole to their actual fuel costs when they receive a Reliability Unit Commitment (RUC) instruction. | |
| Nodal Protocol Sections Requiring Revision | | 9.14.7, Disputes for RUC Make-Whole Payment for Fuel Costs | |
| Related Documents Requiring Revision/Related Revision Requests | | None | |
| Revision Description | | This Nodal Protocol Revision Request (NPRR) proposes a change to ensure Generation Resources recover their actual fuel costs when instructed to start due to a RUC. Specifically, this NPRR recommends that the Startup Price per start (SUPR) and the Minimum-Energy Price (MEPR), as defined in paragraph (6) of Section 5.7.1.1, RUC Guarantee, will be set to the Startup Cap (SUCAP) and the Minimum-Energy Cap (MECAP), respectively, utilizing the actual approved fuel price paid. | |
| Reason for Revision | | Addresses current operational issues.  Meets Strategic goals (tied to the [ERCOT Strategic Plan](http://www.ercot.com/content/wcm/lists/144926/ERCOT_Strategic_Plan_2019-2023.pdf) or directed by the ERCOT Board).  Market efficiencies or enhancements  Administrative  Regulatory requirements  Other: (explain)  *(please select all that apply)* | |
| Business Case | | Section 9.14.7 allows a Qualified Scheduling Entity (QSE) for a Generation Resource to file a dispute to recover its actual Startup and Minimum Energy fuel costs for natural gas or fuel oil consumed due to a RUC. Currently, the SUPR used in determining the RUC Guarantee is calculated as the minimum of the Startup Offer per start (SUO) and SUCAP. Similarly, the MEPR is calculated as the minimum of the Minimum-Energy Offer (MEO) and MECAP. The SUO and the MEO submitted in the Day-Ahead Market (DAM) are capped by 200% of the SUCAP and MECAP, respectively. In both cases, the SUCAP and MECAP use the Fuel Index Price (FIP) or Fuel Oil Price (FOP) available during the DAM as proxy fuel costs. The SUCAP and MECAP do not consider actual fuel costs incurred when a Resource owner has to purchase fuel intraday or same day to comply with the RUC instruction. Therefore, the QSE representing a Resource may not be able to reflect actual fuel costs incurred in both the SUO and MEO since these are capped by the SUCAP and MECAP, respectively.  Given that the RUC Guarantee is determined using the minimum of the offers and costs as described above, and that the offers may not reflect actual fuel cost incurred, Generation Resources might not be able to recover their actual fuel costs, even when the Resource’s actual fuel costs are approved under Section 9.14.7. Hence, by setting the SUPR and MEPR to the SUCAP and MECAP, respectively, utilizing actual approved fuel prices, Generation Resources should be able to recover fuel costs to Start and operate the Resource at the minimum energy level. | |

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| Market Segment | Not Applicable |

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| **Market Rules Notes** |

None

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| Proposed Protocol Language Revision |

9.14.7 Disputes for RUC Make-Whole Payment for Fuel Costs

(1) If the actual price paid for delivered natural gas for a specific Resource during a Reliability Unit Commitment (RUC)-Committed Interval is greater than Fuel Index Price (FIP) adjusted by the proxy fuel adder, X, defined in the Verifiable Cost Manual (i.e., FIP \* (1+X)), then the QSE may file a Settlement dispute for that Resource’s RUC Make-Whole Payment. The maximum amount that may be recovered through this dispute process is the difference between the RUC Guarantee based on the actual price paid and the fuel price of FIP \* (1+X). The QSE must provide documentation (invoices) that identifies intra-day costs of natural gas consumed during the RUC-Committed Interval. Such documentation is necessary to justify recovery of natural gas costs, which is limited to the actual fuel amount (MMBtus) consumed during RUC-Committed Intervals. All documentation submitted by the QSE for natural gas costs incurred intra-day must show a nexus from the seller or distributor of natural gas products to the QSE, Resource Entity or Generation Entity as the ultimate buyer. The QSE must demonstrate that the seller or distributor has procured natural gas fuel intra-day. A Power Purchase or Tolling Agreement (PPA) filed as documentation of proof of fuel costs will not be accepted unless the PPA was signed prior to July 16, 2008, and is not between Affiliates, subsidiaries, or partners.

(2) If the actual price paid for the delivered fuel oil used to replace oil consumed during a RUC-Committed Interval is greater than Fuel Oil Price (FOP) adjusted by the proxy fuel adder, X, defined in the Verifiable Cost Manual (i.e., FOP \* (1+X)), then the QSE may file a Settlement dispute for the Resource’s RUC Make-Whole Payment. The maximum amount that may be recovered through this dispute process is the difference between the RUC Guarantee based on the actual price paid and the adjusted price, FOP \* (1+X).

(3) If the QSE representing the Generation Resource made a Three-Part Supply Offer into the DAM based on FIP and had to run on fuel oil in a RUC-Committed Hour with an active Three-Part Supply Offer based on the adjusted FIP, the QSE may file a Settlement dispute to recover the difference between the RUC Guarantee based actual price paid for delivered fuel oil and the fuel price of FIP \* (1+X).

(4) When filing a Settlement dispute under paragraph (2) or (3) above, the QSE must provide documentation (invoices) that identifies purchases of fuel oil by the QSE, Resource Entity, or Generation Entity to replace oil consumed for a RUC-Committed Interval. In addition, the QSE must provide proof that the Resource actually consumed fuel oil during the RUC-Committed Interval. Proof of actual consumption may be based on the Resource’s technical specifications or flow meters as appropriate. Documentation of fuel oil purchases must show that these were made no later than seven Business Days after the end of the last consecutive RUC-Committed Interval. Replacement fuel oil costs are limited to the actual gallons/barrels of fuel oil consumed during RUC-Committed Intervals.

(5) ERCOT may, in its sole discretion, consider documentation types other than those specifically listed in paragraphs (1) and (4) above when offered by a QSE in support of its recovery of fuel costs for RUC deployments.

(6) When calculating the RUC Guarantee as described in paragraph (1), (2) or (3) above, the Startup Price per start (SUPR) and the Minimum-Energy Price (MEPR), as defined in paragraph (6) of Section 5.7.1.1, RUC Guarantee, will be set to the Startup Cap (SUCAP) and Minimum-Energy Cap (MECAP), respectively, utilizing the actual fuel price paid.