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| NPRR Number | [1180](http://www.ercot.com/mktrules/issues/NPRR1180) | NPRR Title | Inclusion of Forecasted Load in Planning Analyses |
| Date Posted | May 11, 2023 |
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| Requested Resolution  | Normal |
| Nodal Protocol Sections Requiring Revision | 3.11.4.1, Project Submission3.11.4.6,Processing of Tier 2 Projects3.11.4.7, Processing of Tier 1 Projects3.11.4.9, Regional Planning Group Acceptance and ERCOT Endorsement |
| Related Documents Requiring Revision/Related Revision Requests | Planning Guide Revision Request (PGRR) 107, Related to NPRR 1180, Inclusion of Forecasted Load in Planning Analyses |
| Revision Description | This Nodal Protocol Revision Request (NPRR) revises the Protocols to address recent amendments to P.U.C. Subst. R. 25.101, Certification Criteria, which became effective on December 20, 2022.Specifically, NPRR1180 incorporates the requirement in P.U.C. Subst. R. 25.101(b)(3)(A)(ii)(II) for any reliability-driven transmission project review conducted by ERCOT to incorporate the historical Load, forecasted Load growth, and additional Load seeking interconnection, in the ERCOT independent review.NPRR1180 also requires a Regional Planning Group (RPG) project submitter to provide such information to ERCOT, when available, for inclusion in ERCOT’s project analysis. |
| 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 | The inclusion of historical Load, forecasted Load growth, and additional Load seeking interconnection in transmission project reviews conducted by ERCOT is required by PUCT Rule, and will help ensure ERCOT’s transmission project recommendations support long-term system and Customer needs. |

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| Proposed Protocol Language Revision |

***3.11.4 Regional Planning Group Project Review Process***

3.11.4.1 Project Submission

(1) Any stakeholder may initiate an RPG Project Review through the submission of a document describing the scope of the proposed transmission project to ERCOT. Projects should be submitted with sufficient lead-time to allow the RPG Project Review to be completed prior to the date on which the project must be initiated by the designated TSP.

(2) Stakeholders may submit projects for RPG Project Review within any project Tier. All transmission projects in Tiers 1, 2 and 3 shall be submitted. TSPs are not required to submit Tier 4 projects for RPG Project Review, but shall include any Tier 4 projects in the cases used for development of the Regional Transmission Plan.

(3) All system improvements that are necessary for the project to achieve the system performance improvement, or to correct the system performance deficiency, for which the project is intended should be included into a single project submission.

(4) Any relevant historical Load information, or quantifiable evidence supporting the forecasted Load growth and additional Load seeking interconnection in the project area, should be provided with the RPG project submission, if applicable. Confidential information provided by Customers can be incorporated by reference and made available for inspection by ERCOT upon request.

(5) Facility ratings updates are not considered a project and are not subject to RPG Project Review.

3.11.4.6 Processing of Tier 2 Projects

(1) ERCOT shall conduct an independent review of a submitted Tier 2 project as follows:

(a) ERCOT’s independent review shall consist of studies and analyses necessary for ERCOT to make its assessment of whether the proposed project is needed and whether the proposed project is the preferred solution to the identified system performance deficiency and any long-term Load growth that the project is intended to resolve or address;

(b) ERCOT shall consider all comments received during the project comment process and factor reasonable comments into its independent review of the project;

(c) ERCOT will attempt to complete its independent review for a project in 120 days or less. If ERCOT is unable to complete its independent review based on RPG input within 120 days, ERCOT shall notify the RPG of the expected completion time;

(d) ERCOT may, at its discretion, discuss submitted transmission projects at meetings of the RPG in order to obtain additional input into its independent review; and

(e) ERCOT shall prepare a written report documenting the results of its independent review and recommendation on the project and shall distribute this report to the RPG.

3.11.4.7 Processing of Tier 1 Projects

(1) ERCOT shall conduct an independent review of a submitted Tier 1 project as follows:

(a) ERCOT’s independent review will consist of studies and analyses necessary for ERCOT to make its assessment of whether the proposed project is needed and whether the proposed project is the preferred solution to the identified system performance deficiency and any long-term Load growth that the project is intended to resolve or address;

(b) ERCOT will consider all comments received during the project comment process and factor reasonable comments into its independent review of the project;

(c) ERCOT will attempt to complete its independent review for a project in 150 days or less. If ERCOT is unable to complete its independent review based on RPG input within 150 days, ERCOT shall notify the RPG of the expected completion time;

(d) ERCOT may, at its discretion, discuss submitted transmission projects at meetings of the RPG in order to obtain additional input into its independent review; and

(e) ERCOT shall prepare a written report documenting the results of its independent review and recommendation on the project and shall distribute this report to the RPG.

(2) Tier 1 projects require ERCOT Board endorsement.

3.11.4.9 Regional Planning Group Acceptance and ERCOT Endorsement

(1) For Tier 3 projects, successful resolution of all comments received from ERCOT and stakeholders during the project comment process will result in RPG acceptance of the proposed project. An RPG acceptance letter shall be sent to the TSP(s) for the project, the project submitter (if different from the TSP(s)), and posted on the MIS Secure Area. For Tier 2 projects, ERCOT’s recommendation as a result of its independent review of the proposed project will constitute ERCOT endorsement of the need for a project except as noted in paragraph (4) below. For Tier 1 projects, ERCOT’s endorsement is obtained upon affirmative vote of the ERCOT Board except as noted in paragraph (4) below. An ERCOT endorsement letter shall be sent to the TSP(s) for the project, the project submitter (if different from the TSP(s)), and the PUCT, and posted on the MIS Secure Area upon receipt of ERCOT’s endorsement for Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects except as noted in paragraph (4) below.

(2) Following the completion of its independent review, ERCOT shall present all Tier 1 projects for which it finds a need to the ERCOT Board and shall provide a report to the ERCOT Board explaining the basis for its determination of need. Prior to presenting the project to the ERCOT Board, ERCOT shall present the project to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for review and comment. Comments from TAC shall be included in the presentation to the ERCOT Board. ERCOT will make a reasonable effort to make these presentations to TAC and the ERCOT Board at the next regularly scheduled meetings following completion of its independent review of the project.

(3) If the asserted need for a Tier 1 or Tier 2 project is based on:

(a) A service request from a specific Customer, a TSP may submit the project for RPG Project Review prior to that Customer signing an agreement for the financial security of the necessary upgrades. However, ERCOT shall not issue an independent review recommending such a project until the Customer signs any required agreement, provides any required notice to proceed, and provides the full amount of any financial security required for the upgrades needed to serve that Customer.

(b) Multiple Customer service requests in a specific geographical area, ERCOT’s independent review of such projects shall incorporate and consider any information provided by TSP(s) regarding the historical Load, and quantifiable evidence of the forecasted Load growth and any additional Load seeking interconnection in the project area, that may not have signed an agreement.

(4) If a TSP asserts a need for a proposed Tier 1 or Tier 2 project based in part or in whole on its own planning criteria, then ERCOT's independent review shall also consider whether a reliability need exists under the TSP’s criteria.  If ERCOT identifies a reliability need under the TSP’s criteria, then ERCOT shall recommend a project that would address that need as well as any reliability need identified under NERC or ERCOT criteria, but shall explicitly state in the independent review report that ERCOT has assumed the TSP’s criteria are valid and that an assessment of the validity of the TSP’s criteria is beyond the scope of ERCOT’s responsibility.  ERCOT or the ERCOT Board may provide a qualified endorsement of such a project if ERCOT determines that it is justified in part under ERCOT or NERC criteria, as described in paragraph (1) above.  However, neither ERCOT nor the ERCOT Board shall endorse a project that is determined to be needed solely to meet a TSP’s criteria.