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| NPRR Number | [1181](https://www.ercot.com/mktrules/issues/NPRR1181) | NPRR Title | Submission of Seasonal Coal and Lignite Inventory Declaration |
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| Date | | 06/29/2023 | |
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| Submitter’s Information | | | |
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| Company | | CPS Energy, NRG Texas Power LLC, South Texas Electric Coop (Joint Commenters) | |
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| Market Segment | | Municipal, Independent Generator, Cooperative | |

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| Comments |

Joint Commenters support additional notification requirements to alert ERCOT of low coal and lignite inventory levels that may impact Generation Resource availability. Based on the extensive collective experience of Joint Commenters owning and operating coal and lignite resources, an inventory level of 15 days or below is a reasonable threshold to signal potential reliability risks. If the inventory level decreases below 10 days, Joint Commenters support daily notifications to ERCOT. In both instances, a requirement to provide an explanation of any supply issues to increase awareness for ERCOT is appropriate. Joint Commenters do not support a seasonal declaration of coal and lignite inventory. A seasonal declaration will not provide ERCOT with useful information because it will immediately become stale, and it will not consider scheduled deliveries or pending inventory replenishment activities.  The purpose of any notification to ERCOT should be to enhance ERCOT’s awareness of risks to operational reliability and identify risks of low inventory levels where potential Generation Resource availability issues could arise. Joint Commenters incorporate the above recommendations in these comments on top of ERCOT’s May 16, 2023, as filed NPRR.

Joint Commenters also clarify that the notification is for real-time operations to avoid unnecessary disclosure of long-term planning inventory levels years out in the future and that the days of inventory assumes operation at the High Sustained Limit (HSL).

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| Revised Cover Page Language | | | |
| NPRR Number | [1181](https://www.ercot.com/mktrules/issues/NPRR1181) | NPRR Title | Submission of Coal and Lignite Inventory Notifications |
| Nodal Protocol Sections Requiring Revision | | 1.3.1.1, Items Considered Protected Information  3.24, Notification of Low Coal and Lignite Inventory Levels (new) | |
| Revision Description | | This Nodal Protocol Revision Request (NPRR) adds the requirement for QSEs to notify ERCOT if the coal or lignite inventory level available for real-time operations is projected to fall below 15 days of operation at High Sustained Limit (HSL). If the coal or lignite inventory level available for real-time operations is projected to fall below 10 days of operation at HSL, QSEs will be required to provide ERCOT daily inventory updates until the inventory level projection increases above 15 days.. | |
| Business Case | | Coal and lignite provided nearly 17% of the energy used in ERCOT in 2022. ERCOT currently has no visibility into coal and lignite inventory levels at power plants, and the only way for ERCOT to obtain this information is through an ad hoc process of contacting individual QSEs or Resource Entities . Such an ad hoc process is prone to errors and inconsistent reporting. This NPRR will remedy this information gap by establishing a notification process that will provide ERCOT vital information on coal and lignite inventory levels. This information will allow ERCOT to have better awareness of coal and lignite inventory levels so that ERCOT can assess associated risks and inform state leadership and regulators as needed. | |

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| Revised Proposed Protocol Language |

**1.3.1.1 Items Considered Protected Information**

(1) Subject to the exclusions set out in Section 1.3.1.2, Items Not Considered Protected Information, and in Section 3.2.5, Publication of Resource and Load Information, “Protected Information” is information containing or revealing any of the following:

(a) Base Points, as calculated by ERCOT. The Protected Information status of this information shall expire 60 days after the applicable Operating Day;

(b) Bids, offers, or pricing information identifiable to a specific Qualified Scheduling Entity (QSE) or Resource. The Protected Information status of part of this information shall expire 60 days after the applicable Operating Day, as follows:

(i) Ancillary Service Offers by Operating Hour for each Resource for all Ancillary Services submitted for the Day-Ahead Market (DAM) or any Supplemental Ancillary Services Market (SASM);

(ii) The quantity of Ancillary Service offered by Operating Hour for each Resource for all Ancillary Service submitted for the DAM or any SASM; and

(iii) Energy Offer Curve prices and quantities for each Settlement Interval by Resource. The Protected Information status of this information shall expire within seven days after the applicable Operating Day if required to be posted as part of paragraph (5) of Section 3.2.5 and within two days after the applicable Operating Day if required to be posted as part of paragraph (7) of Section 3.2.5;

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| ***[NPRR1013: Replace paragraph (b) above with the following upon system implementation of the Real-Time Co-Optimization (RTC) project:]***  (b) Bids, offers, or pricing information identifiable to a specific Qualified Scheduling Entity (QSE) or Resource. The Protected Information status of part of this information shall expire 60 days after the applicable Operating Day, as follows:  (i) Ancillary Service Offers by Operating Hour or Security-Constrained Economic Dispatch (SCED) interval for each Resource for all Ancillary Services submitted for the Day-Ahead Market (DAM) or Real-Time Market (RTM);  (ii) The quantity of Ancillary Service offered by Operating Hour or SCED interval for each Resource for all Ancillary Service submitted for the DAM or RTM; and  (iii) A Resource’s Energy Offer Curve prices and quantities by Operating Hour or SCED interval. The Protected Information status of this information shall expire within seven days after the applicable Operating Day if required to be posted as part of paragraph (5) of Section 3.2.5 and within two days after the applicable Operating Day if required to be posted as part of paragraph (7) of Section 3.2.5; |

(c) Status of Resources, including Outages, limitations, or scheduled or metered Resource data. The Protected Information status of this information shall expire as follows:

(i) For each Forced Outage, Maintenance Outage, or Forced Derate of a Generation Resource or Energy Storage Resource (ESR) that occurs during or extends into an Operating Day, the Protected Information status of the following information shall expire three days after the applicable Operating Day:

(A) The name and unit code of the Resource affected;

(B) The Resource’s fuel type;

(C) The type of Outage or derate;

(D) The start date/time and the planned and actual end date/time;

(E) The Resource’s applicable Seasonal net maximum sustainable rating;

(F) The available and outaged MW during the Outage or derate; and

(G) The entry in the “nature of work” field in the Outage Scheduler and any other information concerning the cause of the Outage or derate;

(ii) For each Resource Outage or Forced Derate that occurs during, or that extends into, any time period in which ERCOT has declared an Energy Emergency Alert (EEA), ERCOT may immediately disclose the information identified in paragraph (i) above to a state Governmental Authority, the office of the Governor of Texas, the office of the Lieutenant Governor of Texas, or any member of the Texas Legislature, if requested; and

(iii) For all other information, the Protected Information status shall expire 60 days after the applicable Operating Day;

(d) Current Operating Plans (COPs). The Protected Information status of this information shall expire 60 days after the applicable Operating Day;

(e) Ancillary Service Trades, Energy Trades, and Capacity Trades identifiable to a specific QSE or Resource. The Protected Information status of this information shall expire 180 days after the applicable Operating Day;

(f) Ancillary Service Schedules identifiable to a specific QSE or Resource. The Protected Information status of this information shall expire 60 days after the applicable Operating Day;

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| ***[NPRR1013: Replace paragraph (f) above with the following upon system implementation of the Real-Time Co-Optimization (RTC) project:]***  (f) Ancillary Service awards identifiable to a specific QSE or Resource. The Protected Information status of this information shall expire 60 days after the applicable Operating Day; |

(g) Dispatch Instructions identifiable to a specific QSE or Resource, except for Reliability Unit Commitment (RUC) commitments and decommitments as provided in Section 5.5.3, Communication of RUC Commitments and Decommitments. The Protected Information status of this information shall expire 180 days after the applicable Operating Day;

(h) Raw and Adjusted Metered Load (AML) data (demand and energy) identifiable to:

(i) A specific QSE or Load Serving Entity (LSE). The Protected Information status of this information shall expire 180 days after the applicable Operating Day; or

(ii) A specific Customer or Electric Service Identifier (ESI ID);

(i) Wholesale Storage Load (WSL) data identifiable to a specific QSE. The Protected Information status of this information shall expire 60 days after the applicable Operating Day;

(j) Settlement Statements and Invoices identifiable to a specific QSE. The Protected Information status of this information shall expire 180 days after the applicable Operating Day;

(k) Number of ESI IDs identifiable to a specific LSE. The Protected Information status of this information shall expire 365 days after the applicable Operating Day;

(l) Information related to generation interconnection requests, to the extent such information is not otherwise publicly available. The Protected Information status of certain generation interconnection request information expires as provided in Section 1.3.1.4, Expiration of Protected Information Status;

(m) Resource-specific costs, design and engineering data, including such data submitted in connection with a verifiable cost appeal;

(n) Congestion Revenue Right (CRR) credit limits, the identity of bidders in a CRR Auction, or other bidding information identifiable to a specific CRR Account Holder. The Protected Information status of this information shall expire as follows:

(i) The Protected Information status of the identities of CRR bidders that become CRR Owners and the number and type of CRRs that they each own shall expire at the end of the CRR Auction in which the CRRs were first sold; and

(ii) The Protected Information status of all other CRR information identified above in item (n) shall expire six months after the end of the year in which the CRR was effective.

(o) Renewable Energy Credit (REC) account balances. The Protected Information status of this information shall expire three years after the REC Settlement period ends;

(p) Credit limits identifiable to a specific QSE;

(q) Any information that is designated as Protected Information in writing by Disclosing Party at the time the information is provided to Receiving Party except for information that is expressly designated not to be Protected Information by Section 1.3.1.2 or that, pursuant to Section 1.3.1.4, is no longer confidential;

(r) Any information compiled by a Market Participant on a Customer that in the normal course of a Market Participant’s business that makes possible the identification of any individual Customer by matching such information with the Customer’s name, address, account number, type of classification service, historical electricity usage, expected patterns of use, types of facilities used in providing service, individual contract terms and conditions, price, current charges, billing record, or any other information that a Customer has expressly requested not be disclosed (“Proprietary Customer Information”) unless the Customer has authorized the release for public disclosure of that information in a manner approved by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT). Information that is redacted or organized in such a way as to make it impossible to identify the Customer to whom the information relates does not constitute Proprietary Customer Information;

(s) Any software, products of software, or other vendor information that ERCOT is required to keep confidential under its agreements;

(t) QSE, Transmission Service Provider (TSP), and Distribution Service Provider (DSP) backup plans collected by ERCOT under the Protocols or Other Binding Documents;

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| ***[NPRR857: Replace item (t) above with the following upon system implementation and satisfying the following conditions: (1) Southern Cross provides ERCOT with funds to cover the entire estimated cost of the project; and (2) Southern Cross has signed an interconnection agreement with a TSP and the TSP gives ERCOT written notice that Southern Cross has provided it with: (a) Notice to proceed with the construction of the interconnection; and (b) The financial security required to fund the interconnection facilities:]***  (t) QSE, Transmission Service Provider (TSP), Direct Current Tie Operator (DCTO), and Distribution Service Provider (DSP) backup plans collected by ERCOT under the Protocols or Other Binding Documents; |

(u) Direct Current Tie (DC Tie) Schedule information. The Protected Information status of this information shall expire 60 days after the applicable Operating Day;

(v) Any Texas Standard Electronic Transaction (TX SET) transaction submitted by an LSE to ERCOT or received by an LSE from ERCOT. This paragraph does not apply to ERCOT’s compliance with:

(i) PUCT Substantive Rules on performance measure reporting;

(ii) These Protocols or Other Binding Documents; or

(iii) Any Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)-approved reporting requirements;

(w) Information concerning a Mothballed Generation Resource’s probability of return to service and expected lead time for returning to service submitted pursuant to Section 3.14.1.9, Generation Resource Status Updates;

(x) Information provided by Entities under Section 10.3.2.4, Reporting of Net Generation Capacity;

(y) Alternative fuel reserve capability and firm gas availability information submitted pursuant to Section 6.5.9.3.1, Operating Condition Notice, Section 6.5.9.3.2, Advisory, and Section 6.5.9.3.3, Watch, and as defined by the Operating Guides;

(z) Non-public financial information provided by a Counter-Party to ERCOT pursuant to meeting its credit qualification requirements as well as the QSE’s form of credit support;

(aa) ESI ID, identity of Retail Electric Provider (REP), and MWh consumption associated with transmission-level Customers that wish to have their Load excluded from the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) calculation consistent with Section 14.5.3, End-Use Customers, and subsection (j) of P.U.C. Subst. R. 25.173, Goal for Renewable Energy;

(bb) Emergency operations plans submitted pursuant to P.U.C. Subst. R. 25.53, Electric Service Emergency Operations Plans;

(cc) Information provided by a Counter-Party under Section 16.16.3, Verification of Risk Management Framework;

(dd) Any data related to Load response capabilities that are self-arranged by the LSE or pursuant to a bilateral agreement between a specific LSE and its Customers, other than data either related to any service procured by ERCOT or non-LSE-specific aggregated data.  Such data includes pricing, dispatch instructions, and other proprietary information of the Load response product;

(ee) Status of Settlement Only Generators (SOGs), including Outages, limitations, or scheduled or metered output data, except that ERCOT may disclose output data from an SOG as part of an extract or forwarded TX SET transaction provided to the LSE associated with the ESI ID of the Premise where the SOG is located. The Protected Information status of this information shall expire 60 days after the applicable Operating Day;

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| ***[NPRR829 and NPRR995: Replace applicable portions of paragraph (ee) above with the following upon system implementation:]***  (ee) Status of Settlement Only Generators (SOGs) and Settlement Only Energy Storage System (SOESS), including Outages, limitations, schedules, metered output and withdrawal data, or data telemetered for use in the calculation of Real-Time Liability (RTL) as described in Section 16.11.4.3.2, Real-Time Liability Estimate, except that ERCOT may disclose metered output and withdrawal data from an SOG or SOESS as part of an extract or forwarded TX SET transaction provided to the LSE associated with the ESI ID of the Premise where the SOG is located. The Protected Information status of this information shall expire 60 days after the applicable Operating Day; |

(ff) Any documents or data submitted to ERCOT in connection with an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) proceeding. The Protected Information status of this information shall expire upon ERCOT’s issuance of a Market Notice indicating the disposition of the ADR proceeding pursuant to paragraph (1) of Section 20.9, Resolution of Alternative Dispute Resolution Proceedings and Notification to Market Participants, except to the extent the information continues to qualify as Protected Information pursuant to another paragraph of this Section 1.3.1.1;

(gg) Reasons for and future expectations of overrides to a specific Resource’s High Dispatch Limit (HDL) or Low Dispatch Limit (LDL). The Protected Information status of this information shall expire 60 days after the applicable Operating Day;

(hh) Information provided to ERCOT under Section 16.18, Cybersecurity Incident Notification, except that ERCOT may disclose general information concerning a Cybersecurity Incident in a Market Notice in accordance with paragraph (5) of Section 16.18 to assist Market Participants in mitigating risk associated with a Cybersecurity Incident;

(ii) Information disclosed in response to paragraphs (1)-(4) of the Natural Gas Pipeline Coordination section of Section 22, Attachment K, Declaration of Natural Gas Pipeline Coordination, submitted to ERCOT in accordance with Section 3.21, Submission of Declarations of Natural Gas Pipeline Coordination. The Protected Information status of Resource Outage information shall expire as provided in paragraph (1)(c) of Section 1.3.1.1;

(jj) Information concerning weatherization activities submitted to, obtained by, or generated by ERCOT in connection with P.U.C. Subst. R. 25.55, Weather Emergency Preparedness, if such information allows the identification of any Resource or Resource Entity; and

(kk) Information concerning coal or lignite inventory provided by a QSE under Section 3.24, Notification of Low Coal and Lignite Inventory Levels.

**3.24** **Notification of Low Coal and Lignite Inventory Levels**

(1) Each Qualified Scheduling Entity (QSE) representing a Generation Resource that uses coal or lignite as its primary fuel shall notify ERCOT of the following:



(a) If the coal or lignite inventory level available for real-time operations is projected to fall below 15 days of operation at the High Sustained Limit (HSL), the QSE shall notify ERCOT within five Business Days of such a projection and provide an explanation of any disruption to the coal or lignite supply. Notifications to ERCOT should be via email, sent to FuelSupply@ERCOT.com.

(b) If the coal or lignite inventory level available for real-time operations is projected to fall below 10 days of operation at the HSL, the QSE shall notify ERCOT immediately of such a projection, provide an explanation of any disruption to the coal or lignite supply, and provide daily inventory updates to ERCOT until the inventory level projection increases above 15 days. Notifications to ERCOT should be via email, sent to FuelSupply@ERCOT.com.