ERCOT MONTHLY

A RECAP OF KEY INFORMATION FROM THE PREVIOUS MONTH, A LOOK AT THE UPCOMING MONTH, AND A SNAPSHOT OF ADDITIONAL KEY ITEMS

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May 2025 Look Back



May solar generation record May 12 max May wind generation May 23 max May battery generation May 30

May 2025 vs. 2024 Energy Generation Comparison



August Outlook

Monthly Outlook for Resource Adequacy (MORA) Report

The probabilistic modeling in the August MORA report shows a less than 1% chance of having to declare an Energy Emergency Alert (EEA). The expected addition of 924 MW in new battery storage capacity during July also helps to mitigate the August EEA risk. Additionally, the model accounts for the risk of coastal wind curtailment needed to avoid overloads on lines that make up the South Texas export interface. The highest-risk hour is from 8 to 9 p.m. CDT. Under typical grid conditions, there should be sufficient generating capacity available. The full report can be found on the <u>Resource Adequacy</u> page of ERCOT's website.

Additional Items of Note

Large Load Ride-Through

On Friday, June 13, ERCOT stakeholders met for a <u>Large Load Workshop</u>. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss how to continue to facilitate the addition of new large electronic loads while maintaining the reliability of the grid.

During the workshop, ERCOT Director of Operations Planning Jeff Billo presented concerns surrounding large load voltage ride-through, which is needed in times of voltage drops impacting a given area of the system due to a transmission fault (i.e., a lightning strike). Billo explained that while strengthening the grid can reduce the size of the area affected by these drops, that benefit may be diminished if there are more large loads and voltage-sensitive equipment in that area.

According to an ERCOT study, this risk is currently noticed in the West Texas and Panhandle areas of the state, where a single fault can trigger voltage dips, resulting in significant trips of large loads in the region. Similar issues could be experienced in other regions if the density of large loads that cannot ride through is high enough. It is unlikely that this issue can be mitigated solely through transmission system improvements; it will also require improvements to the ride-through capabilities of large loads. If the amount of large loads that cannot ride to implement operational procedures to posture the grid to be able to withstand a high amount of load loss and have the potential to lower the amount of load, if necessary, through curtailment of the consumption of large loads. To better address this issue, participants discussed potential solutions, including large load interconnection study process changes, transmission upgrades, synchronous condensers, improving large load voltage ride-through capabilities, and development of ancillary service products designed to address frequency response due to large load reductions.

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One of the key elements of developing these mitigations is to appropriately reflect the ridethrough capability of the large loads in studies. ERCOT Senior Manager of Grid Planning Sun Wook Kang also presented on the <u>Large Load Dynamic Model and Survey</u>, a questionnaire on protection settings, backup generation, and other basic information that will help ERCOT to assess the ride-through capability of large loads. ERCOT will also be initiating a Request for Information (RFI) process for Transmission Service Providers (TSPs) to gather data from their large load customers via a questionnaire. ERCOT Director of Operations Support Fred Huang provided a presentation describing how ERCOT will evaluate the ride-through capability of large loads.

ERCOT is currently seeking feedback and technical presentations from vendors to continue exploring options. These presentations will be discussed at the July 11 Large Load Working Group meeting. ERCOT issued a <u>market notice</u> on June 23 to summarize the workshop's content and clarify its discussions.

Legislative Update

The 89th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature officially ended sine die on June 2, ending 140 days of lawmaking that takes place every two years.

General themes covering electricity policy this session included greater resiliency for the distribution system, grid cybersecurity, and large load interconnections. Senate Bill 6 addresses concerns surrounding large load interconnections to the ERCOT grid and sets a policy framework surrounding the integration of these loads onto the system. Additional grid-related legislation includes Senate Bill 75, which seeks to improve the electric grid's strength and security, and Senate Bill 2368, which strengthens the existing statutes of the Lone Star Infrastructure Protection Act (LSIPA).

ERCOT will transition to the implementation of pertinent legislation from the 89th Legislative Session in partnership with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) and stakeholders. Additionally, ERCOT continues to implement the various provisions from previous legislative sessions. A full listing of the legislative provisions currently undergoing the implementation process can be found in the most recent edition of the <u>88th ERCOT Legislative Status Report</u>.

Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

• The Board of Directors approved seven revisions to the ERCOT Nodal Protocols along with three revisions to the Nodal Operating Guide, a revision to the Planning Guide, a System Change Request, and a revision to an Other Binding Document. These revision requests were all recommended for approval by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

The revisions are now pending final approval at the PUCT for consideration at the July 31 Open Meeting. Information regarding recently approved rules and the revision request process is available on the <u>Market Rules section</u> of the ERCOT website.

| Revision Request | Title |
|-------------------------|--|
| <u>NPRR1226</u> | Estimated Demand Response Data |
| <u>NPRR1229</u> | Real-Time Constraint Management Plan Cost Recovery Payment |
| <u>NPRR1238</u> | Voluntary Registration of Loads with Curtailable Load Capabilities |
| <u>NPRR1267</u> | Large Load Interconnection Status Report |
| <u>NPRR1271</u> | Revision to User Security Administrator and Digital Certificates Opt-out Eligibility |
| <u>NPRR1276</u> | Move OBD to Section 22 – Emergency Response Service Procurement Methodology |
| <u>NPRR1282</u> | Ancillary Service Duration under Real-Time Co-Optimization |
| NOGRR265 | Related to NPRR1238, Voluntary Registration of Loads with Curtailable Load Capabilities |
| NOGRR275 | Eliminate Scheduling Center Requirements for QSEs That Are Not WAN Participants |
| NOGRR277 | Related to NPRR1282, Ancillary Service Duration under Real-Time Co-Optimization |
| PGRR125 | Update of LSIPA Compliance Attestation |
| <u>SCR830</u> | Expose Limited API Endpoints Using Machine-to-Machine Authentication |
| OBDRR054 | TDSP(s) Pre-Production Verification Testing |

- ERCOT Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and Chief Risk Officer Richard Scheel presented the <u>recommendation</u> regarding ERCOT's 2026-2027 Biennial Budget and System Administration Fee (SAF). Budget highlights include:
 - Expenditure and headcount increases to address known and estimated

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requirements

- o Total uses of funds of \$485.9 million in 2026 and \$585.0 million in 2027
- $_{\odot}$ $\,$ Conservative energy forecast of 519.0 TWhs in 2026 and 584.5 TWhs in 2027 $\,$
- \circ $\;$ Reduced SAF rate from current \$0.63 per MWh to \$0.61 per MWh for 2026-2027 $\;$

After due consideration, the Board of Directors accepted the recommendations of ERCOT staff and the Finance and Audit Committee to approve the recommended budget, including operating expenses, project spending, and debt service obligations. The budget will be submitted for PUCT review in August, and, if approved, the new SAF rate would be effective January 1, 2026.

• The Board's Technology and Security Committee received an overview on "Global Energy Trends and Transitions" from Dr. Michael Webber. The <u>presentation</u> continued a series of emerging technology speakers at the committee that launched last year. Dr. Webber is the Sid Richardson Chair in Public Affairs and John J. McKetta Centennial Energy Chair in the Walker Department of Mechanical Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin, where he leads the Webber Energy Group research cohort.

Dr. Webber's overview highlighted six demographic trends, three technology trends, and one grand challenge to manage the global energy transition. Population growth, economic growth, urbanization, industrialization, electrification, and motorization are driving the need for increased energy access, while decarbonization, digitalization, and decentralization are transforming how the grid has traditionally operated. The challenge will be to increase energy access while decreasing energy impacts globally as these factors continue to evolve.

- ERCOT market participants presented a session on transmission planning as part of a new stakeholder engagement initiative to provide the Board additional perspective and insight on how selected key issues in the ERCOT Region impact different types of Market Participants. Representatives from the Industrial Consumer, Investor-Owned Utility, and Independent Generator segments provided thoughts on the fundamentals of transmission planning, how their respective segments interact with the ERCOT planning process, and policy issues for Board awareness. The presentations provided a well-rounded overview of transmission development and opportunities to evolve in ERCOT.
- The Independent Market Monitor (IMM) provided and overview of the <u>2024 State of the</u> <u>Market Report</u>. Jeff McDonald of Potomac Economics' <u>presentation</u> provided recommendations along with key highlights, including the impacts of increased energy storage on the system, an evaluation of competition and market power indicators, and an update that all-in cost decreased in 2024 as the system was less stressed as indicated by low shortage pricing.

ERCOT Vice President of Commercial Operations Keith Collins provided a <u>preliminary</u> <u>response</u> to the IMM's report. While ERCOT is aligned with the IMM in several areas and has addressed or proposed solutions for other concerns, there were additional areas of concern identified by ERCOT, including IMM-related descriptions of ERCOT Contingency Reserve Service (ECRS), comparisons of reserve levels with other Independent System Operators (ISOs), and Non-Spinning Reserve Service duration. ERCOT staff will present a more thorough and detailed response to the IMM recommendations at the September Board meeting.