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| **NPRR Number** | [**1276**](https://www.ercot.com/mktrules/issues/NPRR1276) | **NPRR Title** | **Move OBD to Section 22 – Emergency Response Service Procurement Methodology** |
| **Date of Decision** | | July 31, 2025 | |
| **Action** | | Approved | |
| **Timeline** | | Normal | |
| **Estimated Impacts** | | Cost/Budgetary: Less than $5k (Operations & Maintenance (O&M))  Project Duration: Not applicable | |
| **Effective Date** | | Upon system implementation | |
| **Priority and Rank Assigned** | | Not applicable | |
| **Nodal Protocol Sections Requiring Revision** | | 3.14.3.1, Emergency Response Service Procurement  Section 22, Attachment Q, Emergency Response Service Procurement Methodology (new) | |
| **Related Documents Requiring Revision/Related Revision Requests** | | Emergency Response Service Procurement Methodology (Upon implementation of this Nodal Protocol Revision Request (NPRR), this will be removed from the Other Binding Documents List.) | |
| **Revision Description** | | This NPRR incorporates the Other Binding Document “Emergency Response Service Procurement Methodology” into the Protocols to standardize the approval process. | |
| **Reason for Revision** | | [Strategic Plan](https://www.ercot.com/files/docs/2023/08/25/ERCOT-Strategic-Plan-2024-2028.pdf) Objective 1 – Be an industry leader for grid reliability and resilience  [Strategic Plan](https://www.ercot.com/files/docs/2023/08/25/ERCOT-Strategic-Plan-2024-2028.pdf) Objective 2 - Enhance the ERCOT region’s economic competitiveness with respect to trends in wholesale power rates and retail electricity prices to consumers  [Strategic Plan](https://www.ercot.com/files/docs/2023/08/25/ERCOT-Strategic-Plan-2024-2028.pdf) Objective 3 - Advance ERCOT, Inc. as an independent leading industry expert and an employer of choice by fostering innovation, investing in our people, and emphasizing the importance of our mission  General system and/or process improvement(s)  Regulatory requirements  ERCOT Board/PUCT Directive  *(please select ONLY ONE – if more than one apply, please select the ONE that is most relevant)* | |
| **Justification of Reason for Revision and Market Impacts** | | This NPRR is published for transparency and to standardize the approval process for all binding language. | |
| **PRS Decision** | | On 4/9/25, PRS voted unanimously to recommend approval of NPRR1276 as submitted. All Market Segments participated in the vote.  On 5/14/25, PRS voted unanimously to endorse and forward to TAC the 4/9/25 PRS Report and 3/10/25 Impact Analysis for NPRR1276. All Market Segments participated in the vote. | |
| **Summary of PRS Discussion** | | On 4/9/25, ERCOT Staff provided an overview of NPRR1276.  On 5/14/25, participants reviewed the 3/10/25 Impact Analysis. | |
| **TAC Decision** | | On 5/28/25, TAC voted unanimously to recommend approval of NPRR1276 as recommended by PRS in the 5/14/25 PRS Report. All Market Segments participated in the vote. | |
| **Summary of TAC Discussion** | | On 5/28/25, there was no additional discussion beyond TAC review of the items below. | |
| **TAC Review/Justification of Recommendation** | | Revision Request ties to Reason for Revision as explained in Justification  Impact Analysis reviewed and impacts are justified as explained in Justification  Opinions were reviewed and discussed  Comments were reviewed and discussed (if applicable)  Other: (explain) | |
| **ERCOT Board Decision** | | On 6/24/25, the ERCOT Board voted unanimously to recommend approval of NPRR1276 as recommended by TAC in the 5/28/25 TAC Report. | |
| **PUCT Decision** | | On 7/31/25, the PUCT approved NPRR1276 and accompanying ERCOT Market Impact Statement as presented in Project No. 54445, Review of Protocols Adopted by the Independent Organization. | |

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| **Opinions** | |
| **Credit Review** | ERCOT Credit Staff and the Credit Finance Sub Group (CFSG) have reviewed NPRR1276 and do not believe that it requires changes to credit monitoring activity or the calculation of liability. |
| **Independent Market Monitor Opinion** | The IMM has no opinion on NPRR1276. |
| **ERCOT Opinion** | ERCOT supports approval of NPRR1276. |
| **ERCOT Market Impact Statement** | ERCOT Staff has reviewed NPRR1276 and believes it has a positive market impact by standardizing the approval process for binding language. |

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| **Sponsor** | |
| **Name** | Ann Boren |
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| **Market Segment** | Not Applicable |

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| **Comments Received** | |
| **Comment Author** | **Comment Summary** |
| None |  |

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| **Market Rules Notes** |

To improve transparency, existing Other Binding Document language for new Section 22, Attachment Q, is represented as blackline, with only proposed changes marked as redline.

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| **Proposed Protocol Language Revision** |

**3.14.3.1 Emergency Response Service Procurement**

(1) ERCOT shall issue Requests for Proposals to procure ERS for each Standard Contract Term. The ERS Standard Contract Terms are as follows:

(a) December through March;

(b) April and May;

(c) June through September; and

(d) October and November.

(2) ERCOT shall procure ERS from one or more of the four following ERS service types:

(a) Weather-Sensitive ERS-10

(b) Non-Weather-Sensitive ERS-10

(c) Weather-Sensitive ERS-30

(d) Non-Weather-Sensitive ERS-30

(3) ERS offers shall be submitted only by QSEs capable of receiving Extensible Markup Language (XML) messaging on behalf of represented ERS Resources.

(4) Each site in an ERS Generator must have an interconnection agreement with its TDSP prior to submitting an ERS offer and must have exported energy to the ERCOT System prior to the offer due date. An ERS Resource that cannot inject energy to the ERCOT System can only be offered as an ERS Load.

(5) In order to qualify as weather-sensitive, an ERS Load must meet one of the following criteria:

(a) The ERS Load must consist exclusively of residential sites; or

(b) The ERS Load must consist exclusively of non-residential sites and must qualify as weather-sensitive based on the accuracy of the regression baseline evaluation methodology as described in Section 8.1.3.1.1, Baselines for Emergency Response Service Loads, as an indicator of actual interval Load.

(i) ERCOT shall establish minimum accuracy standards for qualification as an ERS Load under the regression baseline evaluation methodology.

(ii) An ERS Load must have at least nine months of interval meter data to qualify as weather-sensitive under the regression baseline evaluation methodology.

(iii) ERCOT’s determination that an ERS Load qualifies as a weather-sensitive ERS Load is independent of ERCOT’s determination of which baseline methodologies may be appropriate for purposes of evaluating the ERS Load’s performance.

(c) If a site with Distributed Renewable Generation (DRG) has been designated by the QSE to be evaluated by using its native load, the default baseline analysis shall be performed using the calculated native load.

(6) QSEs representing ERS Resources may submit offers for one or more ERS Time Periods within an ERS Standard Contract Term. ERS Time Periods shall be defined by ERCOT in the RFP for that ERS Standard Contract Term. An ERS offer is specific to an ERS Time Period. In submitting an offer, both the QSE and the ERS Resource are committing to provide ERS for that ERS Time Period if selected.

(7) A QSE may submit separate offers for an ERS Resource to provide any or all of the four ERS service types during the same or different ERS Time Periods in the same ERS Standard Contract Term, but ERCOT shall only award offers for one service type for each ERS Resource.

(8) The minimum capacity offer for an ERS Load on the weather-sensitive baseline is one half (0.5) MW; all other ERS capacity offers will have a minimum amount that may be offered of one-tenth (0.1) MW. ERS Resources may be aggregated to reach this requirement.

(9) Offers from ERS Generators must include self-serve capacity and injection capacity amounts greater than or equal to zero for each ERS Time Period offered.

(10) ERCOT may establish an upper limit, in MWs, on the amount of ERS capacity it will procure for any ERS Time Period in any ERS Standard Contract Term.

(11) A QSE’s offer to provide ERS shall include:

(a) The name of the QSE representing the ERS Resource and the name of an individual authorized by the QSE to represent the QSE and its ERS Resource(s);

(b) The name of an Entity that controls the ERS Resource, and an affirmation that the QSE has obtained written authorization from the Entity to submit ERS offers on its behalf and to represent the Entity in all matters before ERCOT concerning the Entity’s provision of ERS;

(c) Any information or data specified by ERCOT, including access to historical meter data, and affirmation by the QSE that it has obtained written authorization from the controlling Entity of the ERS Resource for the QSE to obtain such data;

(d) Affirmation that the controlling Entity of the ERS Resource has reviewed P.U.C. Subst. R. 25.507, Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) Emergency Response Service (ERS), these Protocols and Other Binding Documents relating to the provision of ERS, and has agreed to comply with and be bound by such provisions;

(e) An agreement by the QSE to produce any written authorization or agreement between the QSE and any ERS Resource it represents, as described in this Section, upon request from ERCOT or the PUCT;

(f) Affirmation that no offered capacity from any site in an ERS Resource has been or will be committed to provide any other product, service, or program during any of the hours in the ERS Time Period in the Standard Contract Term for which the offer is submitted.  Such prohibited products, services, or programs include, but are not limited to, Ancillary Services, Security-Constrained Economic Dispatch (SCED), or TDSP standard offer programs. As an exception to the foregoing, a QSE may offer a site to provide ERS for an ERS Time Period in the Standard Contract Term even if the QSE has an offer pending for that same site to serve as an MRA during that ERS Time Period and Standard Contract Term; however, if the site is selected to serve as an MRA it will not be permitted to serve as ERS during any ERS Time Period in the ERS Contract Term in which it is obligated to serve as an MRA;

(g) Affirmation that the QSE and the controlling Entity the ERS Resource are familiar with any applicable federal, state or local environmental regulations that apply to the use of any generator in the provision of ERS, and that the use of such generator(s) to provide of ERS would not violate those regulations. This provision applies to both ERS Generators and to the use of backup generation by ERS Loads; and

(h) Affirmation that each offered ERS Resource satisfies at least one of the conditions set forth in paragraph (9) of Section 3.6.1, Load Resource Participation, and that all of the ERS Resource’s offered Demand response capacity will be available if deployed by ERCOT during an emergency.

(12) Upon request from a QSE, ERCOT shall provide the dates and times for any deployment events or tests of any ERS site during the previous three ERS Standard Contract Terms, provided that the QSE has obtained written authorization from the ERS site to obtain the information from ERCOT. Such QSE requests shall include the following site-specific information: Electric Service Identifier (ESI ID), unique meter identifier (if applicable), or, if the site is in a Non-Opt-In Entity (NOIE) area, site name and site address.

(13) Sites associated with a Dynamically Scheduled Resource (DSR) may not participate in ERS. Offers for Resources containing sites associated with a DSR will be rejected by ERCOT. If ERCOT determines that any participating site is associated with a DSR, that site will be treated as removed from the Resource on the date the determination was made. An ERS Resource’s obligation will not change as a result of any such site removal.

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| ***[NPRR1000: Delete item (13) above upon system implementation and renumber accordingly.]*** |

(14) Each offer submitted by a QSE on behalf of an aggregated ERS Load on a weather-sensitive baseline shall include the QSE’s projection of the maximum number of sites in the aggregation during the ERS Standard Contract Term. ERCOT shall review this projection and the information provided regarding the initial size of each aggregated ERS Load and shall reject any offer on behalf of such an ERS Load if the maximum size of the ERS Load projected by the QSE would violate the limits of site participation growth described in paragraph (15) below.

(15) A QSE may modify the population of an aggregated ERS Load on a weather-sensitive baseline once per month during an ERS Standard Contract Term via a process defined by ERCOT. Such adjustments shall be effective on the first day of each month following the first month. A fully validated ERS Offer form must be received by ERCOT no later than seven Business Days prior to the first day of the month for which is intended to be in effect.

(a) During an ERS Standard Contract Term, a QSE may increase the number of sites in an aggregated ERS Load on a weather-sensitive baseline by no more than the greater of the following:

(i) 100% of the initial number of sites; or

(ii) Two MW times the QSE’s projection of the maximum number of sites in the aggregation during the ERS Standard Contract Term, divided by the maximum MW capacity offered for any ERS Time Period for the aggregation.

(b) Any sites added to an ERS Load on a weather-sensitive baseline are subject to the same requirements for historical meter data as the other sites in the aggregation, as described in paragraph (4) of Section 8.1.3.1.1.

(16) For each of the four ERS service types, an ERS Standard Contract Term may consist of a single ERS Contract Period or multiple non-overlapping ERS Contract Periods, as follows:

(a) If no ERS Resources’ obligations are exhausted for an ERS service type during an ERS Contract Period pursuant to Section 3.14.3.3, Emergency Response Service Provision and Technical Requirements, the ERS Contract Period for that ERS service type shall terminate at the end of the last Operating Day of the ERS Standard Contract Term.

(b) If one or more ERS Resources’ obligations in a given ERS service type are exhausted pursuant to Section 3.14.3.3, the ERS Contract Period for that ERS service type shall terminate at the end of the Operating Day during which the exhaustion occurred. However, if ERS Resources participating in a service type remain deployed at the end of that Operating Day, the ERS Contract Period for that ERS service type shall terminate at the end of the Operating Day on which those ERS Resources are recalled.

(c) If an ERS Contract Period terminates as provided in paragraph (b) above, and one or more ERS Resources’ obligations were not exhausted, a new ERS Contract Period for the ERS service type shall begin at hour ending 0100 on the following Operating Day. This new ERS Contract Period shall terminate as provided in this Section.

(d) If ERCOT elects pursuant to paragraph (b) above to renew the obligations of any ERS Resources whose obligations were entirely exhausted, a new ERS Contract Period for the ERS service type shall begin at hour ending 0100 on the Operating Day after ERCOT has notified QSEs that it has elected to renew the obligation. If a new ERS Contract Period was initiated pursuant to paragraph (c) above on an Operating Day prior to ERCOT issuing a notice of renewal under this paragraph, that ERS Contract Period shall terminate at the end of the Operating Day on which ERCOT notified QSEs that the renewal will take place. This new ERS Contract Period shall terminate as provided in this Section.

(17) An ERS Resource currently obligated to provide an ERS service type during an ERS Time Period and ERS Contract Period may be offered to provide service as an MRA during that same ERS Time Period in the ERS Contract Period. If the ERS Resource is selected to provide service as an MRA during an ERS Time Period in the ERS Contract Period in which it is currently obligated to provide an ERS service type, the ERS Contract Period will be terminated for that ERS service type. The ERS Contract Period for that ERS service type shall terminate at the end of the Operating Day that is five days before the first Operating Day the ERS Resource is obligated to provide service under the MRA Agreement. However, if any ERS Resources participating in that ERS service type are currently deployed at the end of the Operating Day the ERS Contract Period is scheduled to terminate, then the ERS Resource’s ERS Contract Period for that ERS service type shall continue until the end of the Operating Day on which all of the ERS Resources participating in that ERS service type have been recalled, at which time the ERS Contract Period will terminate.

(18) ERS Resources shall be obligated in ERS Contract Periods as follows:

(a) Unless an ERS Contract Period is terminated pursuant to paragraph (17) above, for the first ERS Contract Period in an ERS Standard Contract Term, all ERS Resources awarded by ERCOT shall be obligated.

(b) ERS Resources shall be obligated for 24 hours of cumulative deployment time for any ERS Contract Period during the December through March ERS Standard Contract Term. The obligated cumulative deployment time for any ERS Contract Period during all other ERS Standard Contract Terms shall be 12 hours.

(c) For each of any subsequent ERS Contract Periods for a given ERS service type in an ERS Standard Contract Term, any ERS Resource with remaining obligation due to cumulative deployment time of less than the maximum deployment hours specified for the ERS Standard Contract Term in paragraph (b) above at the end of the last ERS Contract Period shall be obligated for only this remaining deployment time in the new ERS Contract Period.

(d) For each of any subsequent ERS Contract Periods in an ERS Standard Contract Term, ERCOT may renew the obligations of certain ERS Resources as follows:

(i) During the offer submission process, QSEs shall designate on the ERS offer form, which is posted on the ERCOT website, whether an ERS Resource elects to participate in renewal ERS Contract Periods (“renewal opt-in”). Except as provided in paragraph (iv) below, this election is irrevocable once the ERS Resource has been committed for an ERS Standard Contract Term.

(ii) If the obligations of one or more ERS Resources are exhausted before the end of an ERS Standard Contract Term, ERCOT shall determine whether to include renewal opt-ins in the subsequent ERS Contract Period. ERCOT may limit any renewal to one or more ERS Time Periods and/or a specified MW quantity in which obligations have been exhausted.

(iii) If ERCOT decides to include renewal opt-ins in a subsequent ERS Contract Period, ERCOT shall promptly notify all ERS QSEs as to the ERS Time Periods and/or any specified MW quantity that it has elected to renew.

(iv) By the end of the second Business Day in any renewal ERS Contract Period, a QSE may revoke the renewal opt-in status of any of its committed ERS Resources for any subsequent ERS Contract Periods within that ERS Standard Contract Term. ERCOT shall develop a method for QSEs to communicate such information.

(v) By the end of the third Business Day in any ERS Contract Period other than the first ERS Contract Period in an ERS Standard Contract Term, ERCOT shall communicate to QSEs a confirmation of the terms of participation for all of their committed ERS Resources.

(19) In any 12-month period beginning on December 1st and ending on November 30th, ERCOT shall not commit dollars toward ERS in excess of the ERS cost cap, except for the purpose of renewing ERS Resource obligations during a period where ERS has been exhausted. ERCOT may determine cost limits for each ERS Standard Contract Term in order to ensure that the ERS cost cap is not exceeded.

(20) If a QSE offers a Weather-Sensitive ERS Load, selects a control group baseline for that ERS Load, and ERCOT determines that the magnitude of the offer relative to the baseline error will prevent accurate determination of the performance, ERCOT shall reject the offer.

(21) ERCOT shall reduce the available expenditure under the ERS cost cap by the value of the amount of ERS Self-Provision. ERCOT shall value ERS Self-Provision at the clearing price multiplied by the total MW of ERS Self-Provision during each relevant ERS Time Period.

(22) ERCOT shall procure ERS Resources for each ERS Time Period using a clearing price. Section 22, Attachment Q, Emergency Response Service Procurement Methodology, describes the methodology used by ERCOT to procure ERS. ERCOT may consider geographic location and its effect on congestion in making ERS awards. ERCOT may prorate the capacity awarded to an ERS Resource in an ERS Time Period if the capacity offered for that ERS Resource would cost more than Section 22, Attachment Q, allows under the time period expenditure limit. Such proration shall only be done if the QSE indicates on its offer for an ERS Resource that the QSE is willing to have the capacity prorated and also has indicated the lowest prorated capacity limit which is acceptable for that ERS Resource. If proration would result in an award below an ERS Resource’s designated prorated capacity limit or below the minimum MW offer applicable to the ERS service type as specified in paragraph (8) above, the offer will not be awarded.

(23) Payments and Self-Provision credits to QSEs representing ERS Resources are subject to adjustments as described in Section 8.1.3.3, Payment Reductions and Suspension of Qualification of Emergency Response Service Resources and/or their Qualified Scheduling Entities. Deployment of ERS Resources will not result in additional payments other than any payment for which the QSE may be eligible through Real-Time energy imbalance or other ERCOT Settlement process.

(24) QSEs representing ERS Resources selected to provide ERS shall execute a Standard Form Emergency Response Service Agreement, as provided in Section 22, Attachment G, Standard Form Emergency Response Service Agreement.

**ERCOT Nodal Protocols**

**Section 22**

**Attachment Q: Emergency Response Service Procurement Methodology**

**TBD**



# A. Attachment Description

This attachment describes the mechanism for procuring Emergency Response Service (ERS).

**B. ERS Capacity Demand Curve**

ERCOT will develop a capacity demand curve for each ERS Time Period, and all ERS products will be procured together within the limits of that curve. ERCOT shall maximize the MW procured subject to the expenditure limit for the relevant Time Period. Each demand curve is derived from the three following parameters, which ERCOT will specify in the Request for Proposal (RFP) for ERS procurement:

(1) ERS Offer Cap

(2) ERS Time Period Capacity Inflection Point

(3) ERS Time Period Expenditure Limit

MW

$/MW/Hr

Offer Cap

Expenditure Limit

Capacity

Demand

Curve

Capacity

Inflection

Point

**C. ERS Offer Cap**

The ERS offer cap establishes a maximum possible procurement price of $80/MW/hr for every ERS Time Period during the ERS program year. ERCOT will automatically reject any offers above the offer cap.

**D. ERS Expenditure Limit**

P.U.C. Substantive Rule 25.507 restricts ERCOT’s ERS expenditures to a maximum of $75 million in a 12-month period, unless otherwise determined by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT). ERCOT will allocate the $75 million available expenditure within its ERS program year, which starts with the December through March ERS Standard Contract Term and ends with the October through November ERS Standard Contract Term. During that 12-month period, ERCOT may exceed the $75 million maximum by up to an additional $25 million for ERS contract renewals.

No later than 60 days before each new ERS program year, ERCOT will make an initial allocation of the annual expenditure limit to each ERS Time Period in each ERS Standard Contract Term based on the expected risk of deploying ERS in that ERS Time Period, in accordance with the formula detailed below. ERCOT will assign a high (H), moderate (M), or low (L) risk designation to each ERS Time Period and will assign a risk-weighting factor (a value from 1 to 100 with 1 being the lowest risk value and 100 being the highest risk value) for each risk designation. ERCOT’s risk assessment will consider a number of factors, including, but not limited to, forecasted operating reserves, forecasted Load, Resource outage information, and the obligated cumulative deployment time for an ERS Contract Period as specified for the ERS Standard Contract Term in paragraph (18)(b) of ERCOT Section 3.14.3.1, Emergency Response Service Procurement.

Prior to issuing an RFP for an upcoming ERS Standard Contract Term, ERCOT will update the ERS Time Period Expenditure Limits for each remaining ERS Time Period in the ERS program year to reflect updated forecasts and ERS Expenditure Limits for the remaining ERS Standard Contract Terms within the same ERS program year. Any unused funds from previous ERS Standard Contract Terms in the ERS program year may be reallocated among ERS Contract Periods, including ERS contract renewals, during the same program year at ERCOT’s sole discretion. Unless the offer submission deadline for the upcoming ERS Standard Contract Term has passed, ERCOT may update the ERS Time Period Expenditure Limits and issue a revised RFP if funds originally allocated to the upcoming ERS Standard Contract Term must be reallocated to fund an ERS renewal Contract Period in the current ERS Standard Contract Term. ERCOT may revise and reissue the RFP for other reasons if the offer submission date has not yet passed. Any funds remaining at the end of an ERS program year will not be carried forward into a new ERS program year.

For each ERS Time Period, the expenditure limit is calculated as follows:

Where

**E. Capacity Inflection Point**

The capacity inflection point establishes the point on the capacity demand curve where capacity can only be procured at an offer price less than the ERS Time Period offer cap while respecting the expenditure limit for that ERS Time Period. The capacity inflection point for each time period is calculated as follows:

Table A below provides hypothetical calculations of the expenditure limits and capacity inflection point for each ERS Time Period in each ERS program year.



**Table A. ERS Time Period Expenditure Limit Allocation and Capacity Inflection Point Calculations**

**F. Clearing Price**

The highest offer accepted for an ERS Time Period from will set the clearing price for all ERS Resources cleared in that ERS Time Period. All ERS service types specified in the Protocols will be procured using a common ERS capacity demand curve for each ERS Time Period and the highest offer accepted for an ERS Time Period will set the clearing price for all ERS service types.

If the procurement of all offers at the same price for an ERS Time Period would exceed the ERS Expenditure Limit for that ERS Time Period, ERCOT shall consider each such offer in an order established at random.

If awarding an offer would not exceed the ERS Expenditure Limit that offer will be awarded for the full capacity offered.

If awarding an offer for the full amount of the offered capacity would exceed the ERS Expenditure Limit, the following steps will be taken:

(1) If awarding an offer for the full amount of the offered capacity would exceed the ERS Expenditure Limit, the following steps will be taken: If the QSE has indicated on its offer that capacity proration is not allowed for that ERS Resource, the offer will be rejected.

(2) If the QSE has indicated on its offer that capacity proration is allowed for that ERS Resource, and if the capacity following proration is greater than or equal to the Proration Lower Limit specified on the offer, the offer will be accepted and the prorated capacity will be awarded.

(3) If the QSE has indicated on its offer that capacity proration is allowed by the QSE for that ERS Resource, and if the prorated capacity is less than the Proration Lower Limit specified on the offer, the offer will be rejected.

**G. ERS Capacity provided through ERS Self Provision**

For any ERS self-provision, ERCOT will reduce the Time Period expenditure limit for any offers to self-provide part or all of a QSE’s ERS Obligation by the clearing price for ERS.