Transmission and Distribution Planning Processes for Seawater Desalination Projects

Robert Golen

RPG Meeting
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Introduction

- HB 1500 (88th Leg., R.S.) (2023) amended PURA § 39.203(i) to state:
  - The commission, in cooperation with transmission and distribution utilities and the ERCOT independent system operator, shall study whether existing transmission and distribution planning processes are sufficient to provide adequate infrastructure for seawater desalination projects. If the commission determines that statutory changes are needed to ensure that adequate infrastructure is developed for projects of that kind, the commission shall include recommendations in the report required by Section 12.203

History

- HB 4097 (84th Leg., R.S.) (2015) amended PURA § 39.203 to add subsection (i)
- HB 4097 (84th Leg., R.S.) (2015) added PURA §39.9055
- In 2015, the Legislature passed HB 4097, which directed the Commission and ERCOT to study whether existing transmission and distribution planning processes are sufficient to provide adequate infrastructure for seawater desalination projects, and to study the potential for desalination projects to participate in demand response opportunities in the ERCOT market.
  - Study on the Demand Response Potential for Seawater Desalination Projects (November 18, 2016)
- The 2017 Report on the Scope of Competition in Electric Markets in Texas was delivered to the 85th Leg. in January 2017 (Project No. 45635)

ERCOT Study Process

- ERCOT processes for load interconnection would provide inclusion of seawater desalination loads in the transmission and distribution planning processes sufficiently and reliably
  - Regional Transmission Plan (RTP)
    - Use of Substantiated Load in RTP Analysis
  - Regional Panning Group (RPG) submissions
    - ERCOT Independent Review (EIR)
    - Use of Substantiated Load in RPG Analysis
  - Large Load Integration Process

Thank you!

Stakeholder comments also welcomed through:

Robert.Golen@ercot.com