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| NPRR Number | [1321](https://www.ercot.com/mktrules/issues/NPRR1321) | NPRR Title | Batch Alpha |
| Date Posted | | February 3, 2026 | |
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| Requested Resolution | | Urgent - Urgent status is necessary for this Nodal Protocol Revision Request (NPRR) to be considered alongside other batch study proposals. | |
| Nodal Protocol Sections Requiring Revision | | 3.11.4.12, Batch Alpha (New) | |
| Related Documents Requiring Revision/Related Revision Requests | | Planning Guide Revision Request (PGRR) 141, Large Load Interconnection Study Reform for Substantiated Load | |
| Revision Description | | This NPRR enables ERCOT to perform a “Batch Alpha” interconnection study for Large Loads by using an existing process (the Regional Planning Group (RPG) process) with clearly defined timelines and inclusion criteria. Importantly, this will allow ERCOT to achieve aggressive timelines for implementation without requiring the need for a good cause exception to the Protocols. | |
| 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 | | As has been widely discussed in the last several months, there is an urgent need to reform the Large Load interconnection process. ERCOT’s market design, the open for business policies of the state of Texas, and the abundant natural resources of the State have led to a sustained interest in substantial new investment in ERCOT that will have enormous demands for electricity.  A serialized approach to interconnections is no longer sustainable, and before making a formal switch to a batch based study process an initial batch alpha is necessary to set the stage and firm up approvals and enabling transmission for projects that have already met the requirements of critical checkpoints resulting in significant financial commitments (a key principle of the future batch process). Doing so will allow Large Load approvals to continue while an overall approach to batches is being developed concurrently, and will ensure that the transition will not result in financial damages to existing projects.  Utilizing the existing RPG process will enable this to be completed, and repeated if necessary, the fastest and on a transparent timeline without requiring a good cause exception to the Protocols. Incorporating stakeholder input directly through the NPRR process will help prevent a scenario that sacrifices getting Batch Alpha right for getting it right now.  The deadlines in this NPRR presume urgency and extraordinary procedural support to move quickly through the stakeholder process, put before the ERCOT Board, and prompt Commission consideration of the endorsed NPRR for approval. That is not intended to imply a requirement for the Commission, the Board, or even stakeholders to act on such a timeline – but rather presented to demonstrate a potential path through which a Batch Alpha transitional batch study process could be timely implemented through ERCOT Protocols, with the timeline considered in the Batch Zero process that ERCOT is currently presenting to stakeholders and the Commission under the presumption of a good cause exception to the PGRR115/NPRR1234 process as the even more extraordinary competing timeline. This is intended to be a temporary measure, to be sunsetted and eventually replaced following Batch Alpha.  Joint Sponsors also recognize that there are several different paths opened to address changes to the Large Load Interconnection process; Joint Sponsors are open to incorporating the concepts from this NPRR into another NPRR or process, but wanted to present this option to stakeholders concurrently with ERCOT’s proposed Batch Zero process. | |

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| Sponsor | |
| Name | Evan Neel / Ned Bonskowski / Haynes Strader |
| E-mail Address | [Evan.neel@lancium.com](mailto:Evan.neel@lancium.com) / [Ned.bonskowski@vistracorp.com](mailto:Ned.bonskowski@vistracorp.com) / [Haynes@skyboxdatacenters.com](mailto:Haynes@skyboxdatacenters.com) |
| Company | Lancium LLC, Vistra Operations Company LLC, and Skybox Datacenters LLC (“Joint Sponsors”) |
| Phone Number |  |
| Cell Number | 828-774-2426 / 214-288-2456 |
| Market Segment | Consumer Industrial / Independent Generator |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Market Rules Staff Contact** | |
| **Name** | Cory Phillips |
| **E-Mail Address** | [cory.phillips@ercot.com](mailto:cory.phillips@ercot.com) |
| **Phone Number** | 512-248-6464 |

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| Proposed Protocol Language Revision |

**3.11.4.12 Batch Alpha**

(1) “Batch Alpha” is an activity to initiate batch studies for Large Load interconnection while a longer-term approach to batch studies is being developed.

(2) Within 10 Business Days of implementation of this Section, ERCOT must submit a transmission plan to the Regional Planning Group (RPG) that includes all Large Load interconnection requests that meet the qualifications outlined in paragraph (3) below. ERCOT must not include any Large Load interconnection request that does not meet these criteria.

(3) In order for a Large Load to be included in Batch Alpha it must meet the following qualifications:

(a) Have demonstrated site control by owning, leasing, or possessing an option to own or lease a sufficient amount of land to build the proposed Customer facilities, as determined by the Distribution Service Provider (DSP), or showing an agreement for the exclusive use of an electrical substation at the proposed point of interconnection with a co-located generator;

(b) Meet the definition of Substantiated Load, as defined in sub-paragraph (a) of Section 2.1, Definitions, including an existing Generation Resource Standard Generation Interconnection Agreement (SGIA) or an executed facilities extension agreement; and

(c) Satisfaction of one of the following:

(i) The necessary non-refundable financial commitment and additional security for construction of new interconnection facilities or modification of existing interconnection facilities, including the procurement or reservation of material and equipment, as determined to be necessary by the TSP in accordance with the included payment schedule in the interconnection agreement or other agreement, unless the Transmission Service Provider (TSP) determines there is no cost to interconnection. The agreement may allow the TSP to refund unspent funds after construction has concluded; or

(ii) An exclusivity agreement, or other commercially binding documentation acceptable to parties with an existing Generation Resource on or before December 1, 2025.

(4) The Batch Alpha transmission plan should be constructable. If it is not, then the plan should identify clear phasing in order to allow the Large Loads in the batch to interconnect as soon as feasible.

(5) ERCOT must make all reasonable efforts to bring the proposal to a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting by May 2026, and for endorsement by the ERCOT Board by its June 2026 meeting.

(6) Substantial coordination between TSPs and ERCOT is necessary to meet this timeline. Therefore, ERCOT should share preliminary information and plans with TSPs in a secure manner in order to facilitate collaboration.