ERCOT MONTHLY

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

January 2026

ercot

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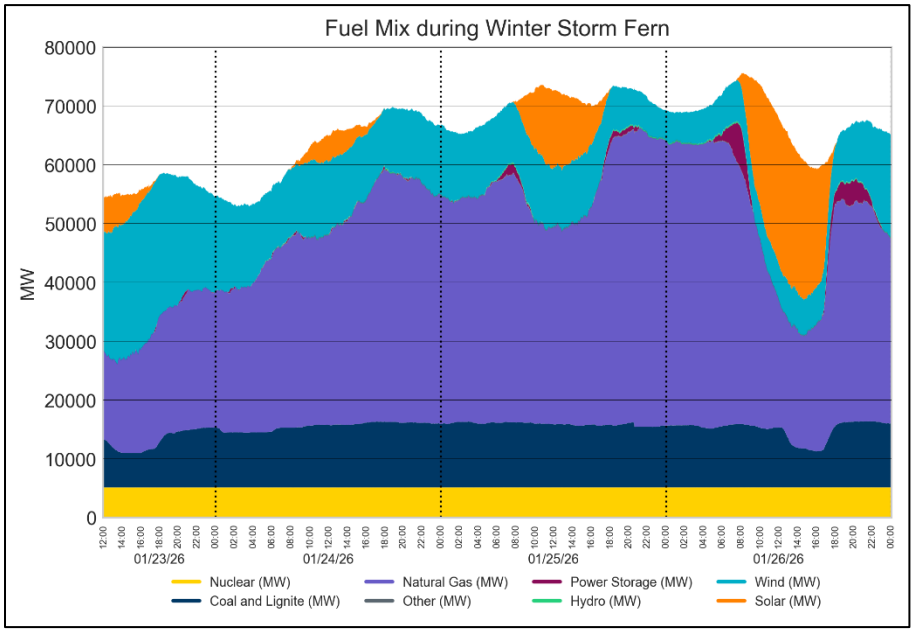
Winter Storm Fern

Look Back

During Winter Storm Fern, which occurred from January 23 through January 26, ERCOT reported that the Texas electric grid remained stable, with sufficient generation and reserve capacity available throughout the event. Power supply was adequate to meet customer demand, and no widespread service interruptions occurred. Energy storage resources, such as grid scale batteries, maintained adequate state of charge and were prepared to support both morning and evening peak demand periods.

All resource types contributed to meeting system demand during the storm. Approximately 13.5 gigawatts of installed wind capacity were unavailable due to icing conditions; however, the actual reduction in generation was lower because wind speeds were also reduced. Lower overall demand and stronger wind output during the evening of January 25 through the morning of January 26 reduced the need to discharge energy storage for the January 25 evening peak, leaving more stored energy available to support the January 26 morning peak.



In preparation for the storm, ERCOT took proactive steps to ensure operational flexibility. These actions included seeking regulatory relief such as enforcement discretion from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and a Section 202(c) emergency order from the U.S. Department of Energy.

ERCOT also explored the potential utilization of backup generation at facilities, such as data centers, under a separate 202(c) order. ERCOT did not enter Emergency Conditions and did not need to implement the backup generation 202(c) order; however, it developed and tested internal processes and is enhancing those procedures for potential future events.

ERCOT managed a localized transmission issue during the storm. From the evening of January 25 through the morning of January 26, a transmission emergency occurred in the San Antonio-to-Houston area following the unexpected outage of a large generation unit in Central Texas. This resulted in a brief exceedance of the South Texas Export Interconnection Reliability Operating Limit (IROL). ERCOT's Real Time Co-optimization plus batteries (RTC+B) systems redistributed Ancillary Services to relieve the overload, minimizing the need for

manual operator actions.

During this transmission emergency, ERCOT committed both the Braunig Unit 3 and Life Cycle Power mobile generation facilities to support system reliability. Repairs to Braunig Unit 3 under its Reliability Must-Run contract were completed just prior to the storm, allowing ERCOT to rely on this generation throughout the event.

The Braunig and Life Cycle resources provided critical local support to relieve transmission overloads and manage the South Texas Export constraint, which was binding for much of the storm. Together these resources provided sufficient support to operate the system reliably until the tripped unit returned to service.

From an operations planning perspective, ERCOT forecasted a potential peak demand of approximately 84,500 megawatts (MW) during Winter Storm Fern, assuming no demand reductions. Actual demand was lower than expected on Monday, January 26 and Tuesday, January 27. ERCOT is continuing analysis to better understand the factors that contributed to the difference and to apply those insights to improve future winter weather load forecasts.

ERCOT's post storm analysis estimated demand reductions from several large customer types. These reductions included approximately 4,200 MW from oil and gas operations, about 4,100 MW from cryptocurrency mining, 420 MW from steel manufacturing, 170 MW from data centers, and 75 MW from hydrogen and electrofuel facilities. When these reductions are added back, the adjusted Monday morning peak was estimated at 84,558 MW. Additional impacts from school closures and other business shutdowns were not available.

The ERCOT System performance during Winter Storm Fern demonstrated improved preparedness and system weatherization, improved system operations through RTC+B, and progress in understanding both supply performance and customer demand behavior during severe winter conditions.

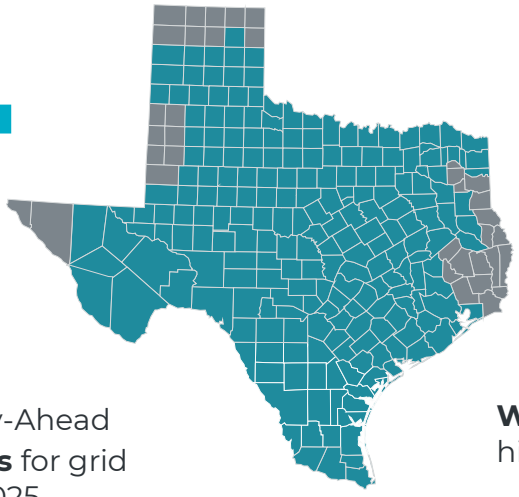
December 2025

Look Back

63,131* MW

December 2025 peak demand

(December 15, 2025)



74,525 MW

December peak record for comparison

(December 2022, W.S. Elliott)

ERCOT procured **$21.37** million in Day-Ahead Market **Ancillary Services** for grid reliability in December 2025

Wholesale pricing was slightly higher than this time last year

*unofficial until final settlements

29,877 MW

December solar generation peak

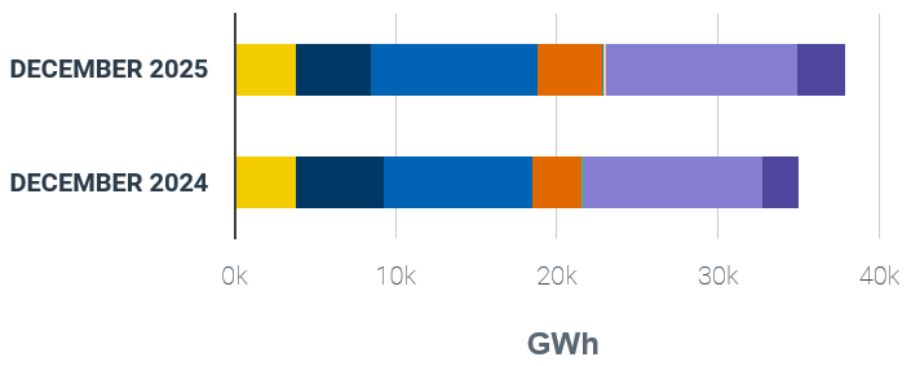
28,550 MW

December wind generation peak

9,737 MW

discharge record (December 23, 2025)

December 2025 vs. 2024 Energy Generation Comparison



	December 2024	December 2025
Nuclear	3,787	3,793
Coal	5,443	4,664
Wind	9,258	10,313
Solar	3,026	4,064
Hydro	28	18
Biomass	31	54
Other	-74	-117
Net DC/BLT	27	123
Gas-CC	11,172	11,919
Gas	2,221	2,942

Monthly Outlook for

Resource Adequacy

February

In looking at the February Monthly Outlook for Resource Adequacy (MORA) report, probabilistic modeling results indicate a low risk of having to declare an Energy Emergency Alert (EEA).

- Shown at right, in February 2026, the probabilistic modeling supporting the February MORA report shows a 1.13% chance of having to declare an EEA.

In the winter months, reserve shortage risks include the morning hours and are highest from 6 a.m. through 9 a.m. Central Standard Time (CST) and evening hours from 6:00 p.m. through 9:00 p.m. CST. These morning and evening risk periods correspond to hours with the highest loads and low or no solar production. Under typical grid conditions, the deterministic scenario indicates that there should be sufficient generating capacity available. The full report can be found on the Resource Adequacy page of ERCOT's website.

February 2026 MORA

Hour Ending (CST)	Chance of Normal System Conditions	EMERGENCY LEVEL	
		Chance of an Energy Emergency Alert	Chance of Ordering Controlled Outages
	Probability of CAFOR being above 3,000 MW	Probability of CAFOR being less than 2,500 MW	Probability of CAFOR being less than 1,500 MW
1 a.m.	99.71%	0.15%	0.10%
2 a.m.	99.72%	0.14%	0.10%
3 a.m.	99.77%	0.11%	0.10%
4 a.m.	99.82%	0.12%	0.09%
5 a.m.	99.77%	0.13%	0.11%
6 a.m.	99.68%	0.23%	0.16%
7 a.m.	99.58%	0.28%	0.18%
8 a.m.	98.21%	1.13%	0.97%
9 a.m.	99.04%	0.58%	0.44%
10 a.m.	99.84%	0.09%	0.09%
11 a.m.	99.93%	0.04%	0.03%
12 p.m.	99.98%	0.00%	0.00%
1 p.m.	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
2 p.m.	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
3 p.m.	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
4 p.m.	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
5 p.m.	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
6 p.m.	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
7 p.m.	99.75%	0.10%	0.08%
8 p.m.	99.67%	0.20%	0.16%
9 p.m.	99.68%	0.18%	0.14%
10 p.m.	99.80%	0.09%	0.06%
11 p.m.	99.92%	0.04%	0.03%
12 a.m.	99.94%	0.03%	0.02%

Note: Probabilities are not additive.

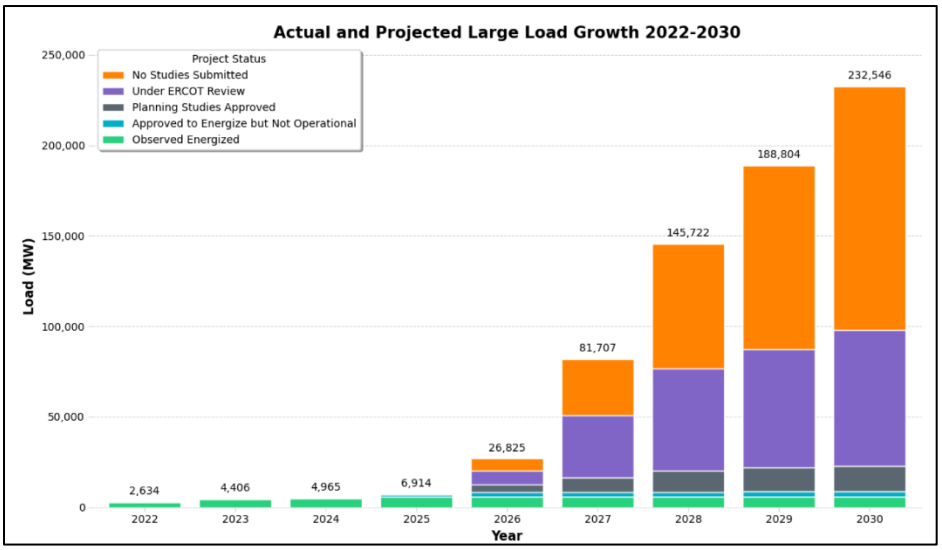
Additional

Items of Note

Large Load Interconnection Status Update

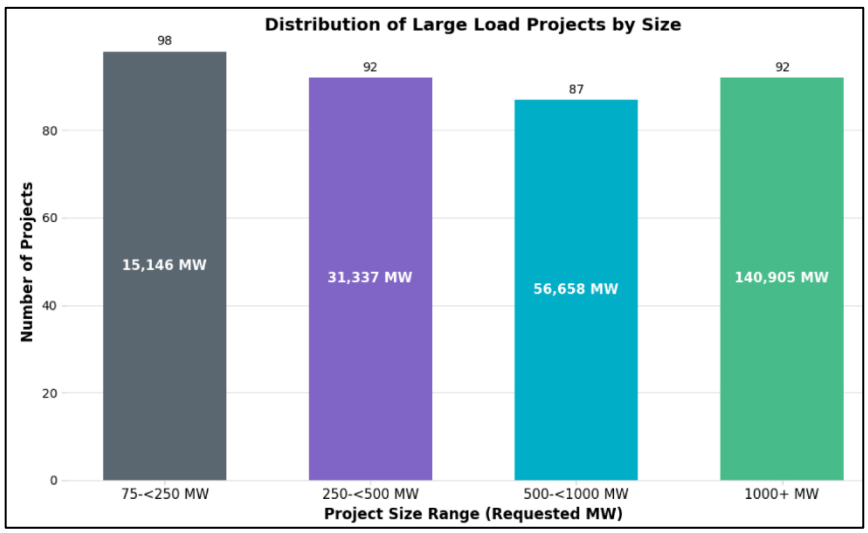
ERCOT continues to monitor and manage an unprecedented level of interest from large electricity users seeking to connect to the Texas grid.

As of January 21, 2026, ERCOT's Large Load Integration Team reported a modest decline in the overall large load queue due to project cancellations in December. Even with that reduction, proposed large load projects tracked by ERCOT total approximately 232,500 megawatts, highlighting the significant scale of potential new demand.



To date, 8,786 MW of large load demand has received approval to energize. Actual consumption remains well below approved levels, reflecting both the non-simultaneous nature of large loads and the fact that many approved projects are still in early stages of operation.

In January 2026, ERCOT observed a non-simultaneous peak demand of 3,977 MW and with an additional 4,809 MW approved to energize but not yet observed operational.

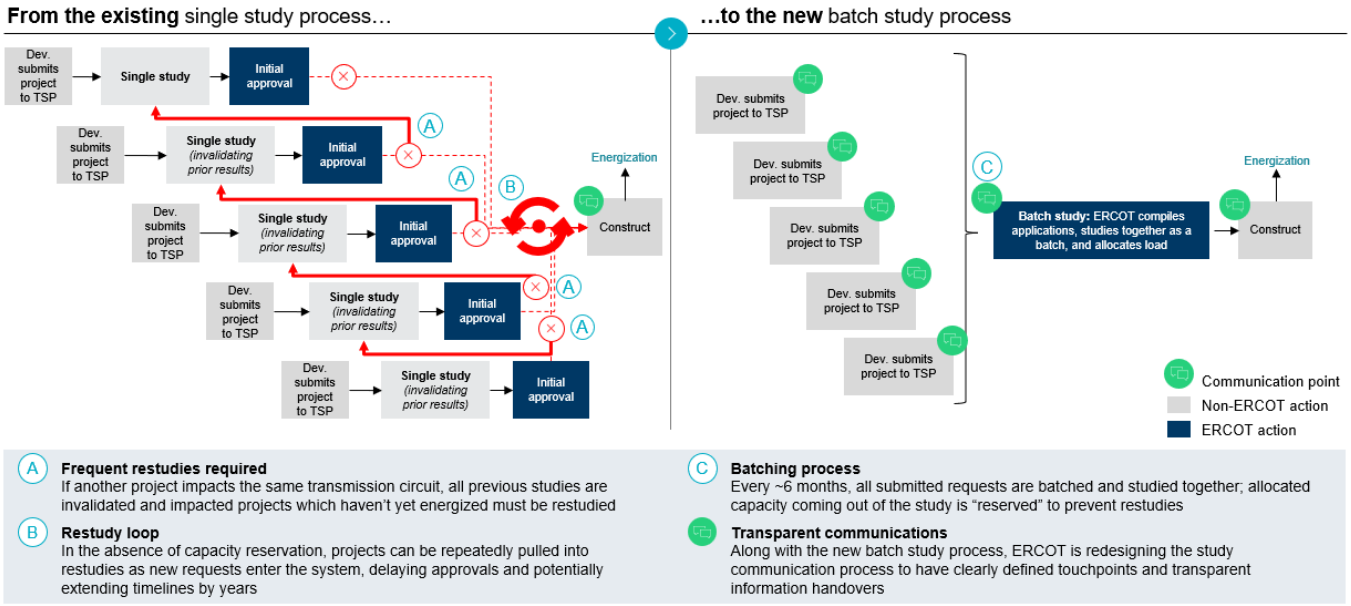


The distribution of project sizes further underscores the magnitude of the loads seeking interconnection. The largest category includes 92 projects exceeding 1,000 MW each, representing more than 140,000 MW of proposed demand. Another 87 projects fall between 500 and 1,000 MW, with additional projects in the 250-to-500 MW and 75-to-250 MW ranges.

In response to the rapid growth in large load interconnection requests, ERCOT is continuing

to refine its interconnection process to ensure that loads seeking interconnection to the grid can be planned and energized in a timely and reliable manner. As part of this effort, ERCOT is working with stakeholders to transition toward a “batch study” approach for studying large load interconnection requests.

Under the proposed batch process, large load requests are grouped and studied together rather than evaluated individually as they are submitted. Studying projects in batches allows ERCOT to better assess cumulative impacts on the transmission system, identify common infrastructure needs, and improve coordination with transmission service providers. This shift is in response to the scale and pace of current large load interconnection requests and aligns with system-wide reliability considerations.



The batch process is expected to provide a more streamlined and predictable framework for both grid planners and large load customers. By evaluating groups of projects at the same time, ERCOT can more efficiently allocate engineering resources, reduce duplicative analysis, and provide clearer timelines for planning and interconnection decisions. This approach also helps ensure that transmission upgrades are planned in a coordinated manner that supports long-term system reliability.