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ADER Transition from Pilot to Protocols

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Key Takeaways

ERCOT will continue improving the Pilot while working through the design, operational, and implementation items needed for a Protocol-based ADER program.

Current ADER Pilot Baseline and Direction

Current Pilot baseline

Energy participation limit

500 MW

Ancillary Services limit (Non-Spin and ECRS)

100 MW

Per-QSE participation limit

90%

ERCOT Direction

- ERCOT plans to stay in the ADER Pilot this year while targeted improvements continue.
- ERCOT is working toward a NPRR package rather than rushing a filing that simply recreates today's Pilot.
- The focus this year is on resolving the key design, operations, and implementation questions that will shape a sustainable Protocol-based program.

Key message: ERCOT is using the Pilot to mature the program before locking in Protocol design.

Rationale for the Pilot

- **Growth has accelerated.** Recent ADER growth is larger than what was originally envisioned in the Pilot and is driving new design questions.
- **Key questions still need to be worked through.** Resource type, modeling, dispatch, settlement, telemetry, registration, and DSP impacts all need more definition before Protocol language is drafted.
- **Operations alignment matters.** Future participation limits will continue to depend on what ERCOT Operations and affected DSPs are comfortable supporting under a sustainable design.
- **Better to write once.** ERCOT wants a durable NPRR package, not a quick Protocol filing that has to be repeatedly revised.

What needs to be clearer first

- Long-term resource construct
- Modeling and geographic footprint rules
- Operational envelope, reliability constraints, and limit framework
- DSP role, system impacts, and registration workflow.

ADER Pilot Work Plan

Phase 1

Continue the Pilot

- Keep the Pilot baseline in place
- Make targeted process/admin improvements
- Track performance, qualification results, and operational issues
- Continue stakeholder discussions in dedicated working sessions, with DSP participation.

Phase 2

Work through design questions

- Narrow options for resource design, modeling, and telemetry
- Work through limits, footprint, settlements, and DSP system questions
- Continue analysis of zonal vs nodal concepts
- Identify minimum process/system changes needed

Phase 3

Build the NPRR package

- Draft and socialize a NPRR package
- Pull together justification, impacts, and transition approach
- Refine Protocol language once the key design items are clearer
- Prepare for broader stakeholder review

Work continues inside the Pilot while ERCOT and stakeholders define the design that should ultimately move into Protocols. Targeting a NPRR package in Q4, subject to ongoing design work, internal alignment, and ERCOT priorities.

Key Work Areas

1 Registration workflow

Define a cleaner RE, QSE, DSP and ERCOT submission, approval, and update process that can scale beyond spreadsheet/email handoffs.

2 Operational envelope

Work with Operations on sustainable participation limits, reliability constraints, performance checks, and guardrails as ADER growth continues.

3 Resource design and modelling

Clarify the long-term resource construct, technology attributes, and how aggregation footprint should be handled over time.

4 Dispatch and settlement

Keep assessing both zonal and nodal models to inform any future design changes.

5 Performance metrics

Continue monitoring qualification and operational results so they can be factored into upcoming design decisions.

Examples of issues being worked through with stakeholders

Issue raised	Near-term ERCOT focus
How ADER registrations and DOTA updates are submitted, reviewed, and approved	Improve the workflow, timing rules, and approval/version controls while evaluating a more scalable registration process.
How mixed-resource aggregations (for example, solar + storage) should be registered and represented	Clarify how mixed resources should be listed in DOTA, represented in the aggregation, and validated for participation.
What metering configurations qualify today, including premise-level and front-of-meter arrangements	Define what fits within the current metering and validation boundary and what would require additional design or rule changes.
How to add new devices as aggregation growth outpaces current registration timelines	Assess whether limited headroom and clearer update rules can reduce repeated filings while protecting operational awareness.
Whether a NOIE can use a third-party aggregator/QSE that is not the serving LSE	Clarify the authorization, accountability, and customer protection requirements for any delegated or third-party participation model.
Whether ADER should stay under current zonal treatment or move toward nodal / quasi-nodal design	Continue analysis of nodal/quasi-nodal concepts, including node count, thresholds, and operational impacts, before proposing a design change.

Examples above reflect issues raised by stakeholders as ERCOT works through the Pilot-to-Protocol transition.

ADER Work Plan Summary

During the Pilot

- **Continue participation under the current baseline.** Keep the Pilot operating while ERCOT addresses targeted improvements and open design questions.
- **Use the Pilot to learn.** Review qualification results, operational observations, and performance metrics as participation grows.
- **Keep improving the process.** Pursue registration improvements where ERCOT can reduce manual churn without changing the core design.
- **Include all stakeholders**. DSP input is required where workflow, local limits, or system changes are being worked through.

Toward Protocols

- **Use WMS and/or working group.** ERCOT expects to keep discussing the core design topics with stakeholders before drafting final language.
- **Work through the bigger design questions.** That includes resource construct, modeling, geographic footprint, telemetry, dispatch, settlement, and DSP impacts.
- **Build a NPRR package.** The working target is Q4, with timing dependent on design work, internal alignment, and ERCOT priorities.

Feedback ERCOT is looking for: which issues need near-term Pilot clarifications, which topics need dedicated workshops, and what examples/data would help evaluate the design options?

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Questions

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