



## ERCOT Update

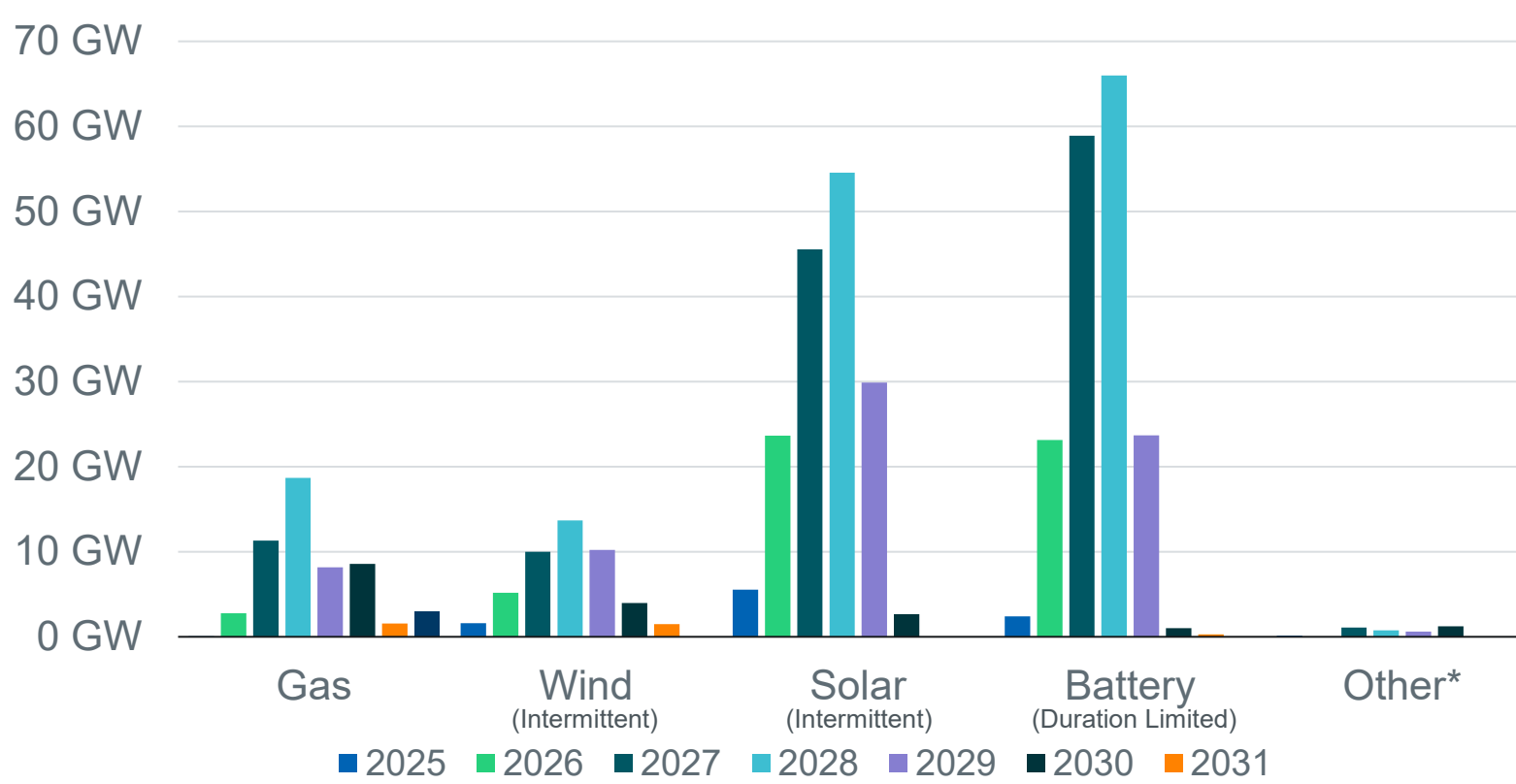
**Senate Committee on  
Business & Commerce  
April 1, 2026**

*Pablo Vegas*  
ERCOT President and Chief Executive Officer

### Key Takeaways

- Solar and Energy Storage account for more than 76% of the amount of generation seeking interconnection in the ERCOT grid.
- 271% growth of gas project capacity in the queue since the Texas Energy Fund (TEF) was passed in 2023.
- ERCOT is tracking approximately 410 GW of Large Loads seeking interconnection of which ~87% are data centers.
- The Stakeholder Process is underway for a transition to a *Batch Process* for the reliable interconnection of Large Loads.

# Generation Interconnection Requests (as of February 2026)



**2,008** active generation interconnection requests totaling **453,562 MW** as of February 28.

Queue totals:

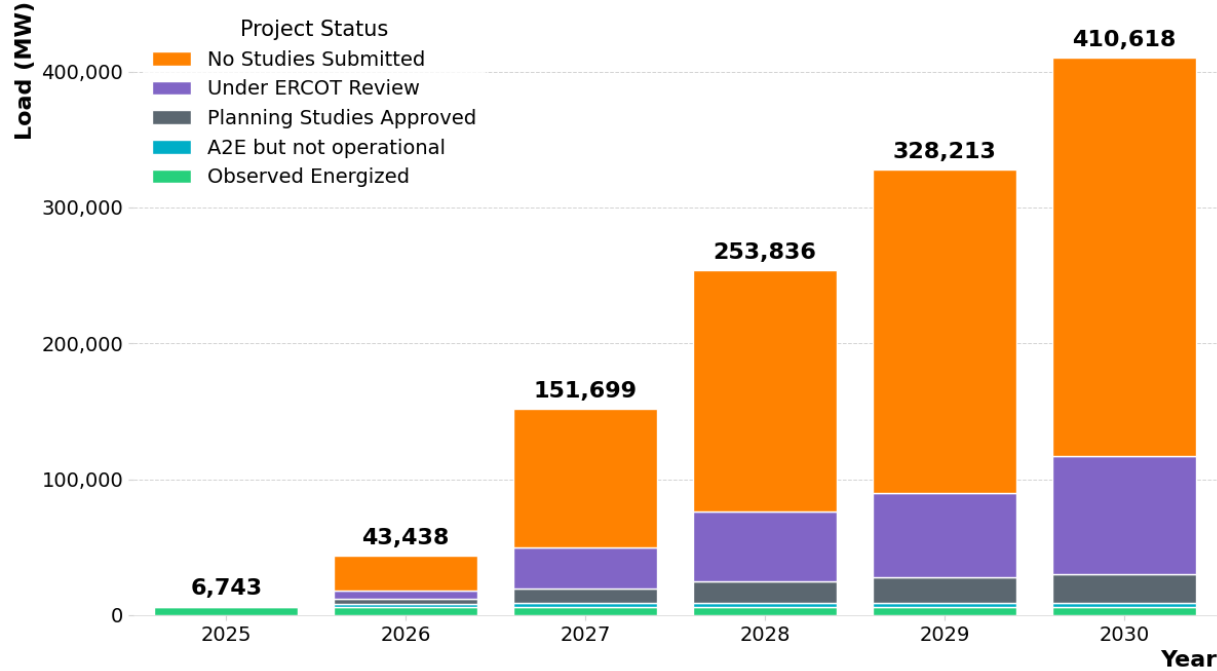
- **Energy Storage** 177,642 MW
- **Solar** 162,927 MW
- **Wind** 47,793 MW
- **Gas** 60,715 MW

\*Other includes petroleum coke (pet coke), hydroelectric, fuel oil, geothermal energy, other miscellaneous fuels reported by developers, and fuel cells that use fuels other than natural gas. (Numbers exclude capacity associated with projects designated as Inactive per Planning Guide Section 5.2.5).

**Key Takeaway:** Solar and Energy Storage account for more than 76% of the amount of generation seeking interconnection in the ERCOT grid. 271% growth of gas project capacity in the queue since the Texas Energy Fund (TEF) was passed in 2023.

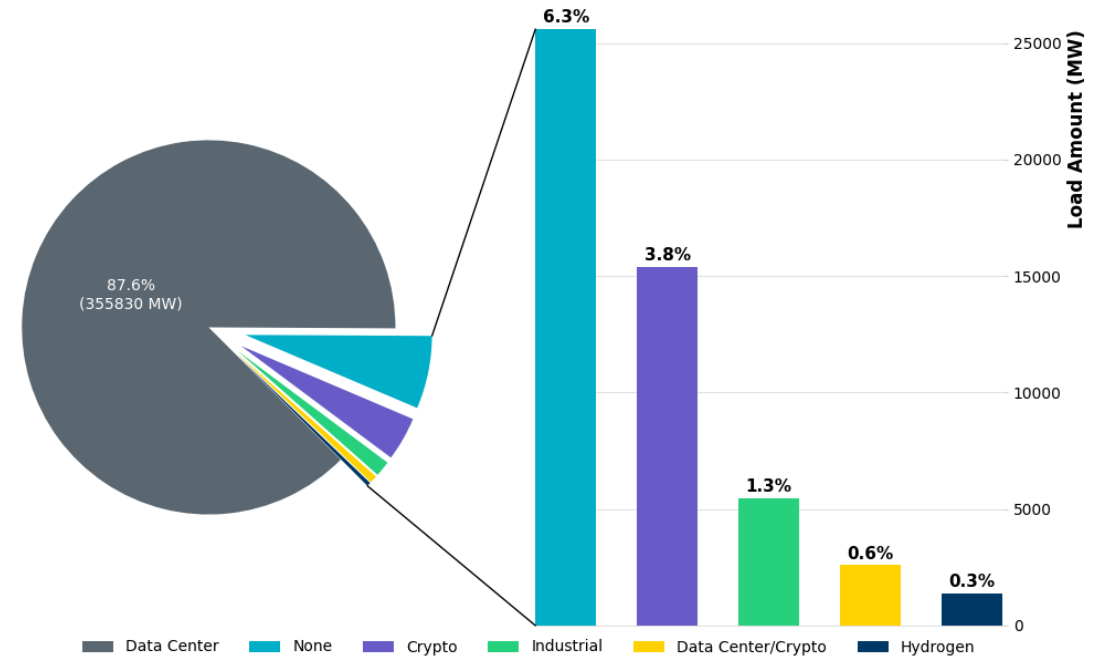
# Large Load Interconnection Requests (as of March 26, 2026)

## Actual and Projected Large Loads Growth 2022-2030



Project Status	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
No Studies Submitted	0	25,253	101,702	177,879	238,188	293,651
Under ERCOT Review	0	6,478	30,539	51,315	61,966	86,605
Planning Studies Approved	30	3,181	10,739	15,923	19,040	21,343
A2E but not operational	935	2,748	2,941	2,941	3,241	3,241
Observed Energized	5,778	5,778	5,778	5,778	5,778	5,778
<b>Total (MW)</b>	<b>6,743</b>	<b>43,438</b>	<b>151,699</b>	<b>253,836</b>	<b>328,213</b>	<b>410,618</b>

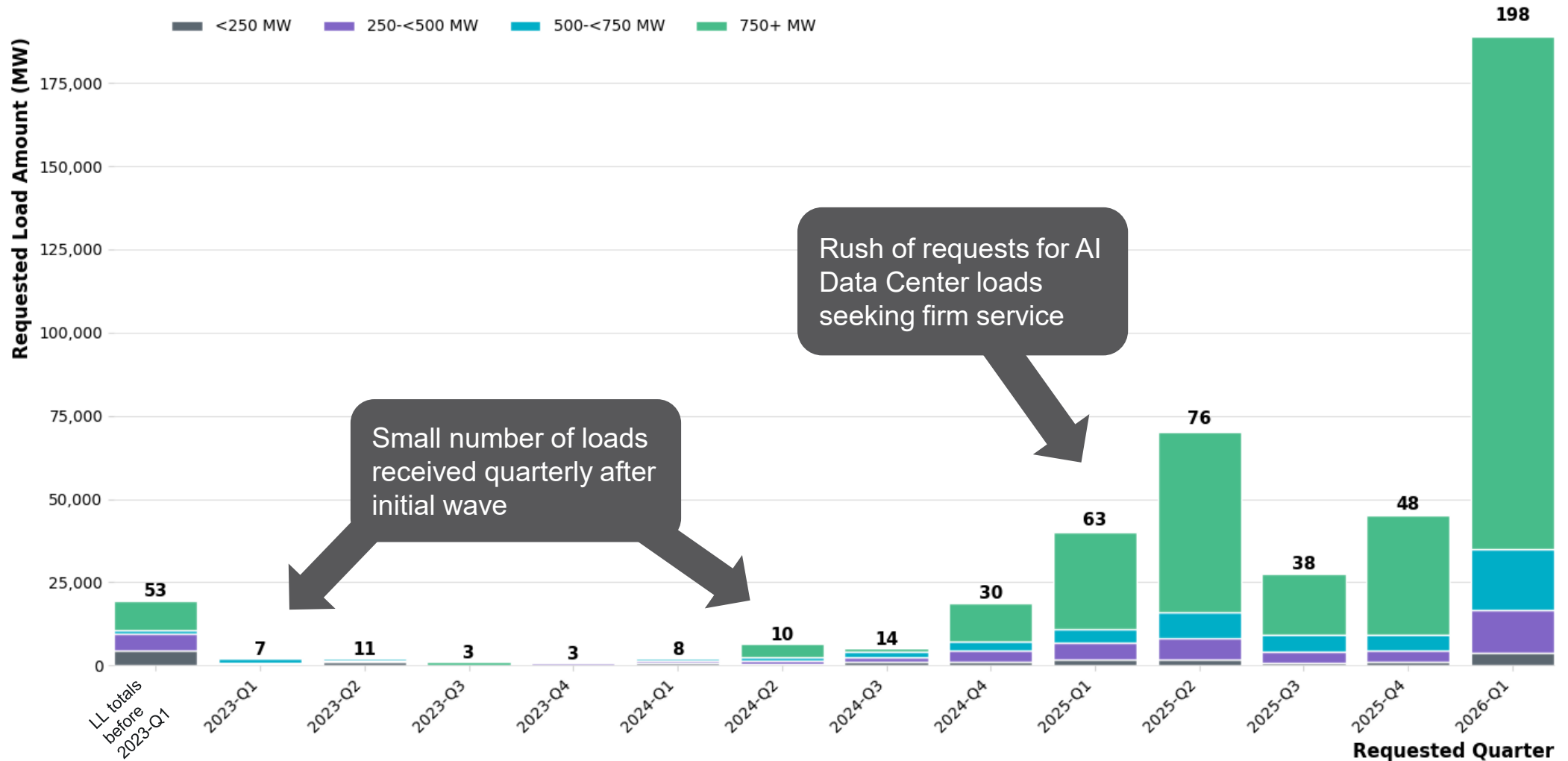
## Large Loads by Project Type



**Key Takeaway:** ERCOT is tracking approximately 410 GW of Large Loads seeking interconnection of which ~87% are data centers.

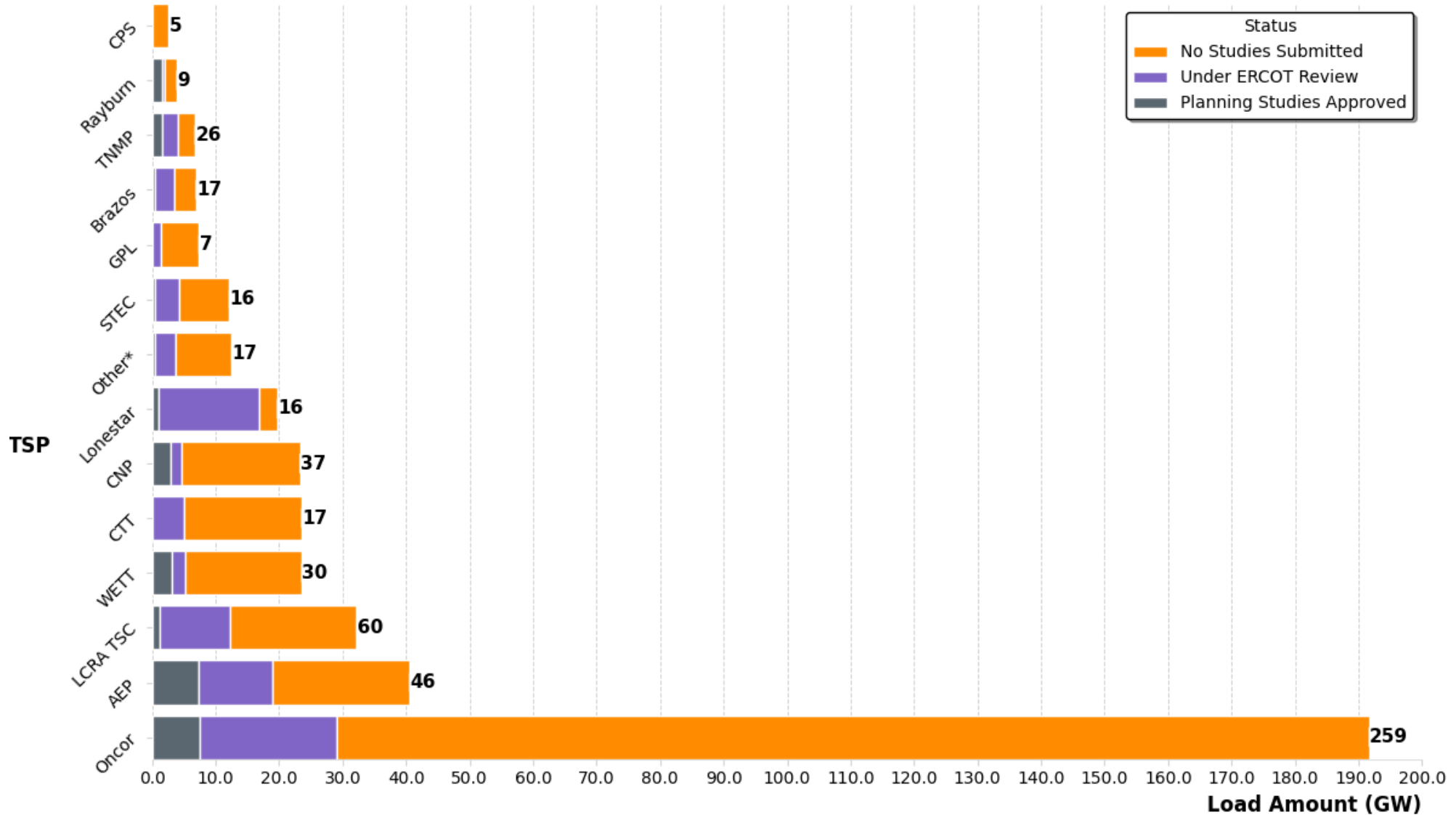
# Large Load Interconnection Requests – By Submitted Quarter

(as of March 26, 2026)



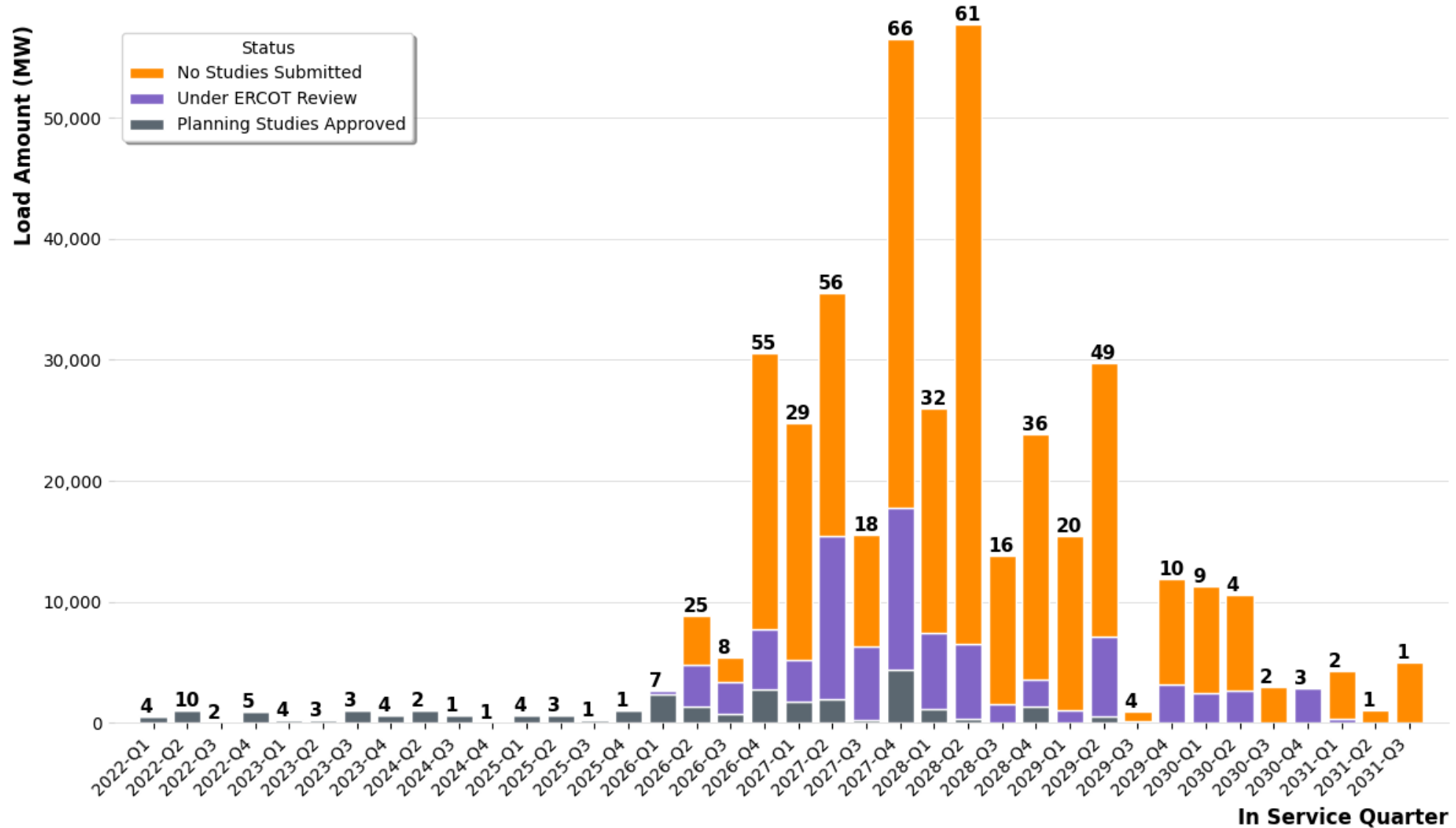
# Large Load Interconnection Requests – By Transmission Service Provider (TSP)

(as of March 26, 2026)



# Large Load Interconnection Requests – By Project In Service Date

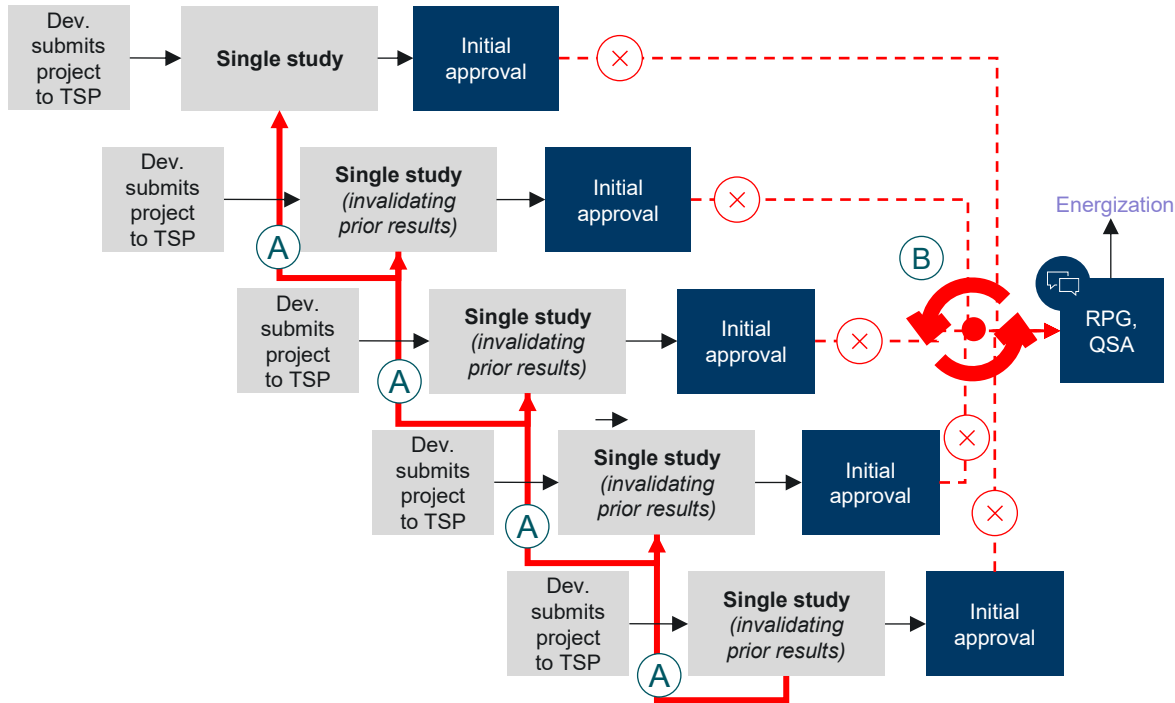
(as of March 26, 2026)



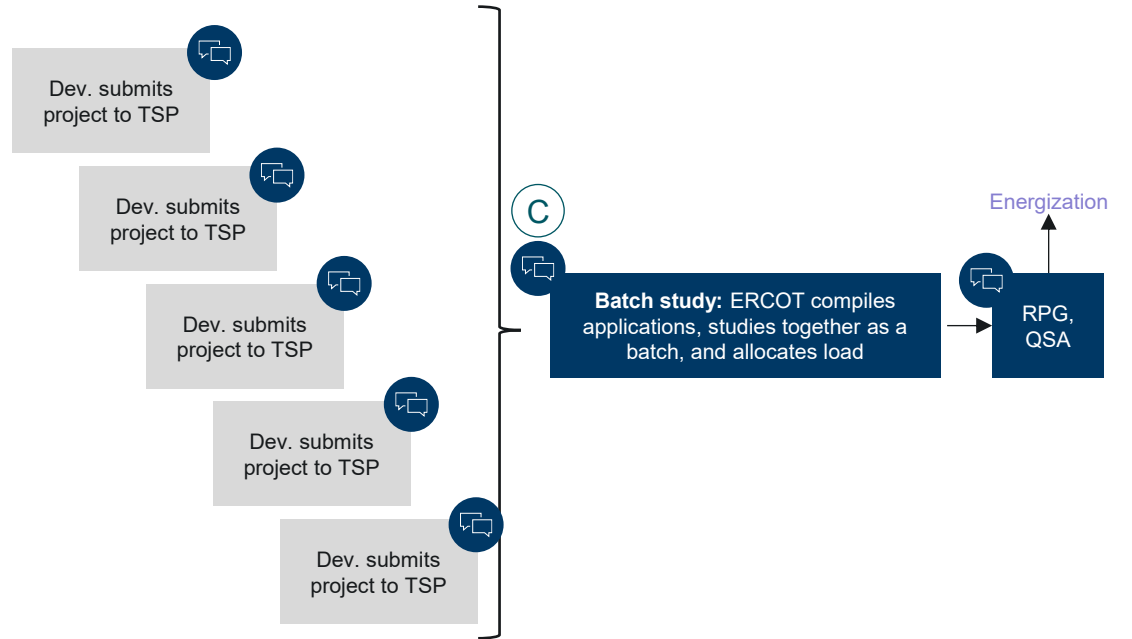
# Large Load Interconnection: Moving to a Batch Study Framework

- Communication point
- Non-ERCOT action
- ERCOT action

## From the existing single study process...



## ...to the new batch study process

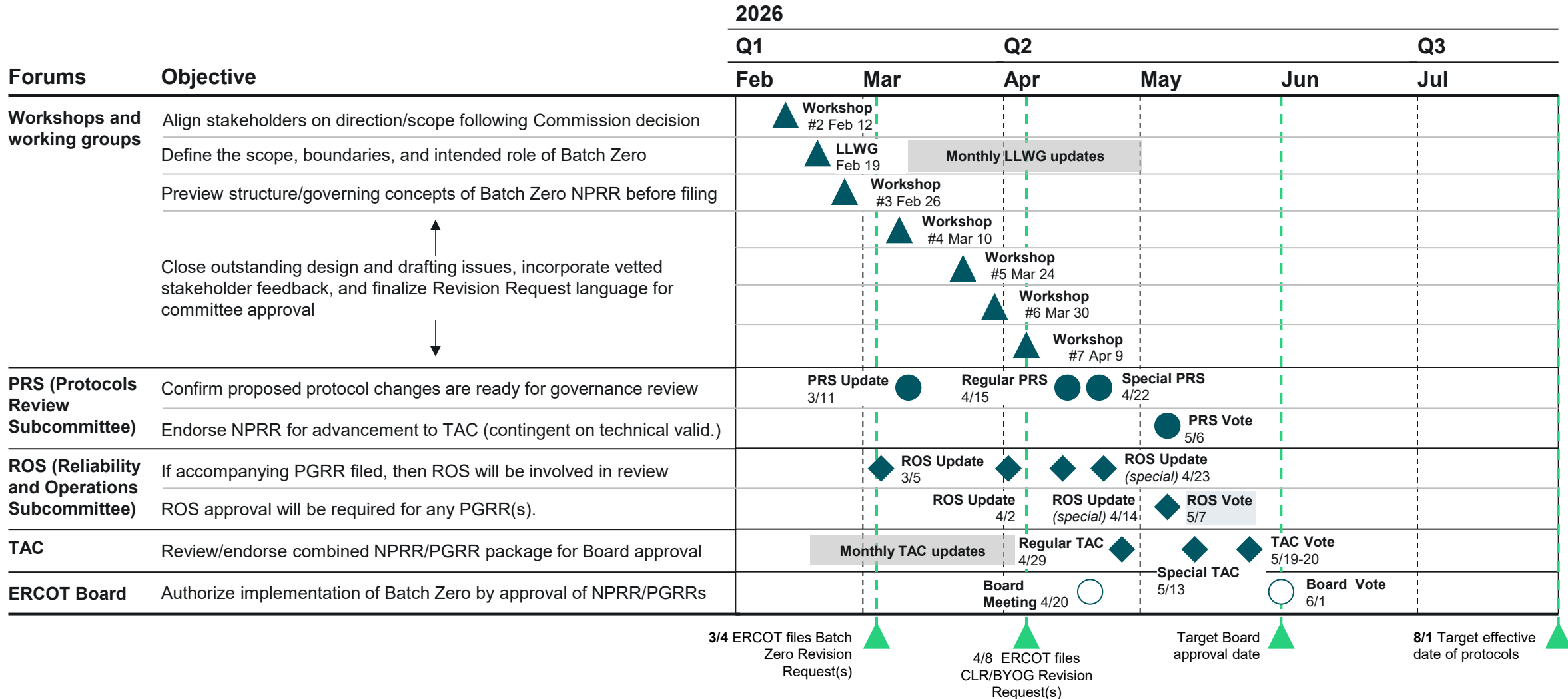


- A Frequent restudies required**  
If another project impacts the same transmission zone, all previous studies are invalidated and impacted projects which haven't yet energized must be restudied
- B Restudy loop**  
In the absence of capacity reservation, projects can be repeatedly pulled into restudies as new requests enter the system, delaying approvals and potentially extending timelines by years

- C Batching process**  
Every ~6 months, all submitted requests are clustered and studied together; allocated capacity coming out of the study is "reserved" to prevent restudies
- Transparent communications**  
Along with the new batch study process, ERCOT is redesigning the study communication process to have clearly defined touchpoints and transparent information handovers

# Batch Zero Revision Request Timeline

Note that TAC/PRS/ROS leadership are actively considering options to ensure successful review and approval



## Related PUCT Activities

### PUC Project 58480, 16 TAC § 25.370, Large Load Forecasting Rule (Adopted & Effective March 1, 2026)

- After 2026, only Large Loads that have executed an interconnection agreement that satisfies the requirements in PUC Project 58481 will be included in the Large Load forecast. These requirements will be reflected in future revision requests.
- Establishes alternative gating criteria for Large Loads to be included in the 2026 Large Load Forecast, which is used in planning assessments until new cases are constructed in 2027 using new rule criteria.

### PUC Project 58481, proposed to be 16 TAC § 25.194, Large Load Interconnection Standards (Proposal for Publication published March 12, 2026)

- Intermediate Agreement Requirements:
  - Site control
  - Financial Security (\$50,000/MW, 20% refundable)
  - Disclosures
  - Option to pay for significant equipment or services
- Interconnection Agreement Requirements:
  - Site control
  - Financial security
  - Interconnection fee (\$50,000/MW converts to non-refundable)
  - CIAC
- Other Provisions
  - Reallocation
  - Withdrawal Consequences
  - Refund Eligibility and Timing

## Status Communications with Large Loads

- Enhancing technical communications to better support stakeholder questions on current interconnection process and future state Batch Process impacting Large Load projects.
- In the near future, will provide periodic status reports to Transmission Service Providers (TSPs) about Large Load projects in their service area. Allows Large Load customers to have more dynamic information about their specific projects.
- Developing a *Large Load Portal* that will allow Large Load customers to access their project information directly through an ERCOT system. Targeting end of year implementation.