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Item 9: System Operations Update

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Board of Directors Meeting

September 14-15, 2026

Purpose

- Provide an update on key operational metrics to the Board of Directors
- Provide information on hot topics

For information only

No action is requested; for discussion only.

Key Takeaways

- All key operational metrics are trending well.
- Far West Texas Load RFI has illustrated a need for a more operations planning time horizon view of consumption growth within sites which may not be tied to the requirements and obligations for facilities planning.
- Approval of NOGRR 282 will decrease Large Load loss and help mitigate the risk of frequency instability. Additional operating limits will be implemented as necessary to support real-time stability by utilizing mitigation plans and tools to curtail affected Large Loads when required.

Far West RFI

Far West IROL Study: RFI Data Request

- ERCOT sent a Request for Information (RFI) to Transmission Service Providers (TSPs) in the Far West Region on April 27th to fine tune near-term operational load growth.
- Goal: Support the need to develop operating plans and other operations planning activities over the next 24-30 months.
- ERCOT asked for responses for each load that falls into the following categories:
  - Planned to interconnect within 30 months
  - Interconnected in the last 12 months
  - Interconnected but not fully ramped
- For each load, ERCOT requested the following criteria:
  - Planned interconnection date
  - Load type (customer segment)
  - Maximum quarterly MW usage (day/night) from June 2026 to December 2028
  - Ramp projections
- When Q3 RFI values are incorporated into the load forecast for the Far West region, there is a significant discontinuity between the actual load that has been seen in that region through July and the values that were reported as being expected in August in the RFI submissions.
  - This step change is likely accurate in terms of obligations and commitments used for facilities planning, but it indicates a need for different criteria to be used for forecasts used for operational assessments (more on next slide).

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Far West Load Forecast: Status Update

Key issue: Aggregate responses diverge from recent actuals. TSP-reported RFI values reflect contracted interconnection agreements needed for facilities planning, not estimates of near-term consumption timing.

RFI TSP-Reported RFI Values

- Reflect signed, contracted interconnection agreements between TSPs and Large Load customers
- Represent the full contracted MW position, not a probability-weighted timing estimate
- Necessary for facilities planning

OP Also Needed: Operational Forecast

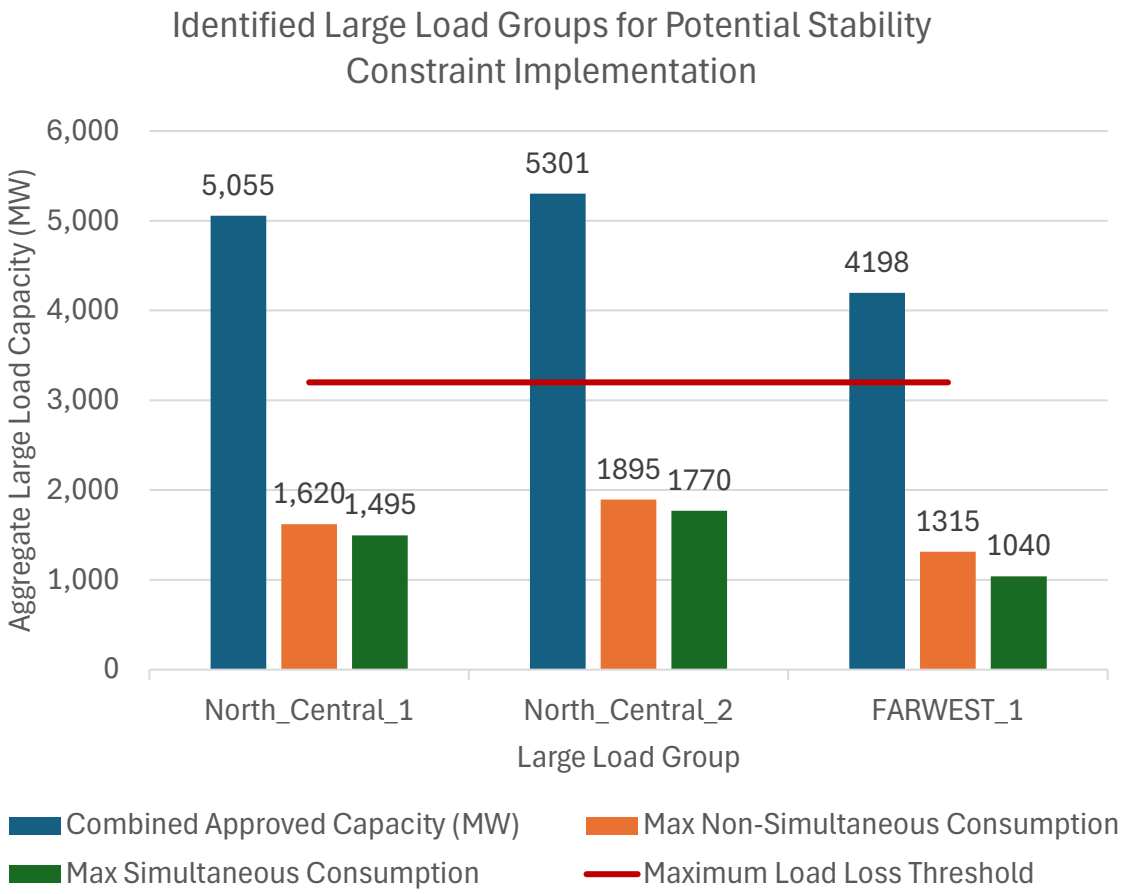
- Reflects latest information on how consumption will actually ramp up over time to contracted amounts
- Grounded in expected buildout progress, such as permitting, construction milestones, and equipment procurement, rather than contract status alone
- Distinct from MW magnitude or transmission facilities development timing

Next steps: ERCOT will continue to engage with TSPs, who will likely need to follow-up with end users, to secure more operationally-focused data to support these near-term analyses.

Large Load IROLs and Current Consumption

Large Load Voltage-Ride Through and Stability Management

- ERCOT studies have identified a load loss limit of 3,200 MW to ensure frequency stability and reliable grid operations.
- New Large Loads must be included in the quarterly stability assessment (QSA) to qualify for Initial Energization.
- The most recent QSA results identified three Large Load groups (one in Far West and two in North Central Texas) where a disturbance may result in a loss in excess of 3,200 MW of Large Loads that do not have ride-through capability when these loads are at or near full consumption. However, none of these groups currently operate at this level.
- ERCOT will implement constraints for these groups as the actual consumption approaches the limit. Concurrently, ERCOT is coordinating with TSPs and QSEs to develop mitigation plans for managing these constraints real time operations.
- ERCOT continues to assess system impact, including updates and ride-through improvements made by the Interconnection Large Load Entity (ILLE), and update Large Load groups as needed.
- Initial Energization for new Large Load will be considered only after mitigation plans are in place.



Key Takeaway: The approval of NOGRR 282 will decrease future Large Load loss and help mitigate the risk of frequency instability. Additional IROLs will be implemented as necessary to support real-time stability by utilizing mitigation plans and tools to curtail affected Large Loads when required.

Appendix

Appendix slides will now be located within the *Monthly Operational Overview* on the Board of Directors page on the ERCOT website.