



ERCOT Update

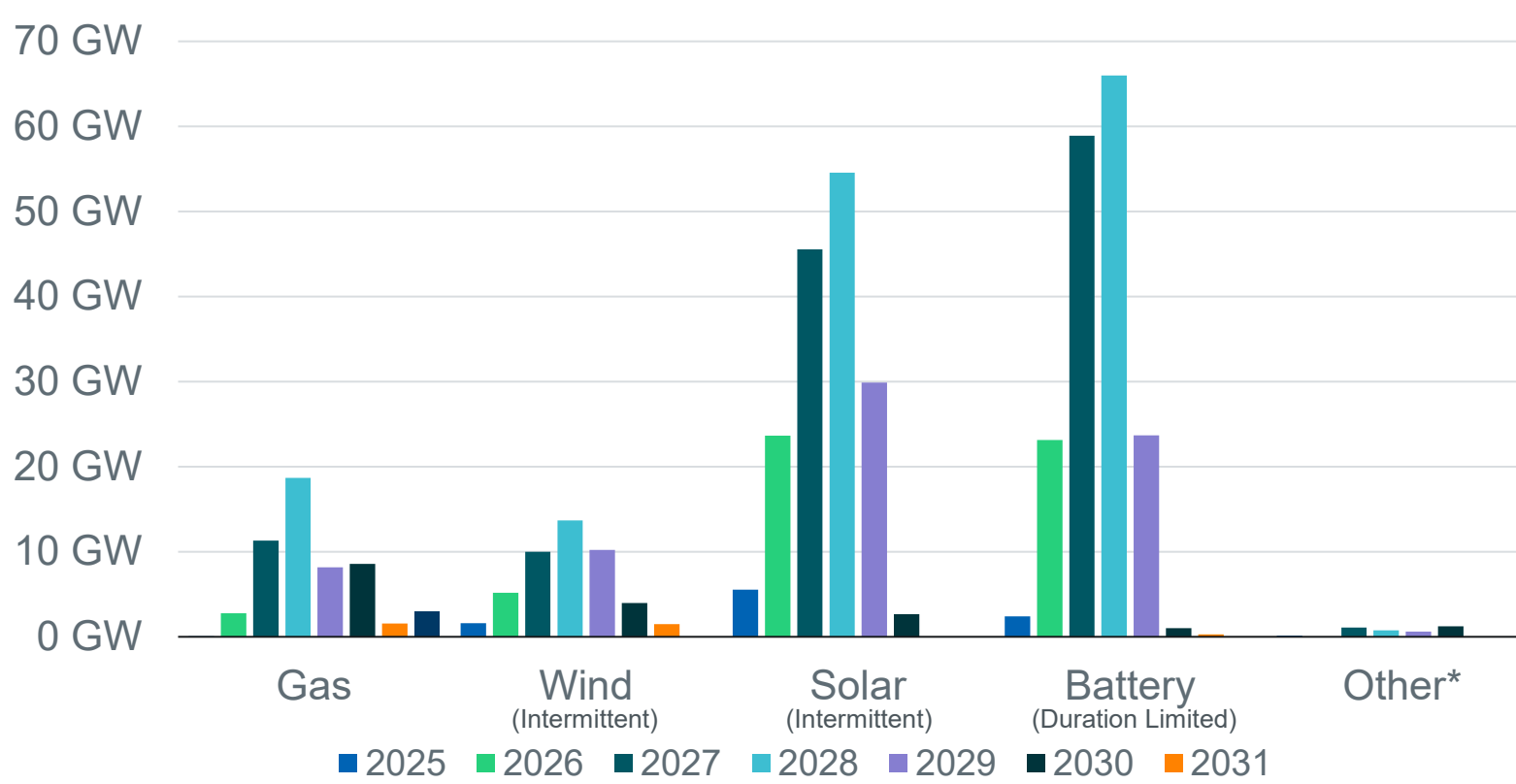
**Senate Committee on
Business & Commerce
April 1, 2026**

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:

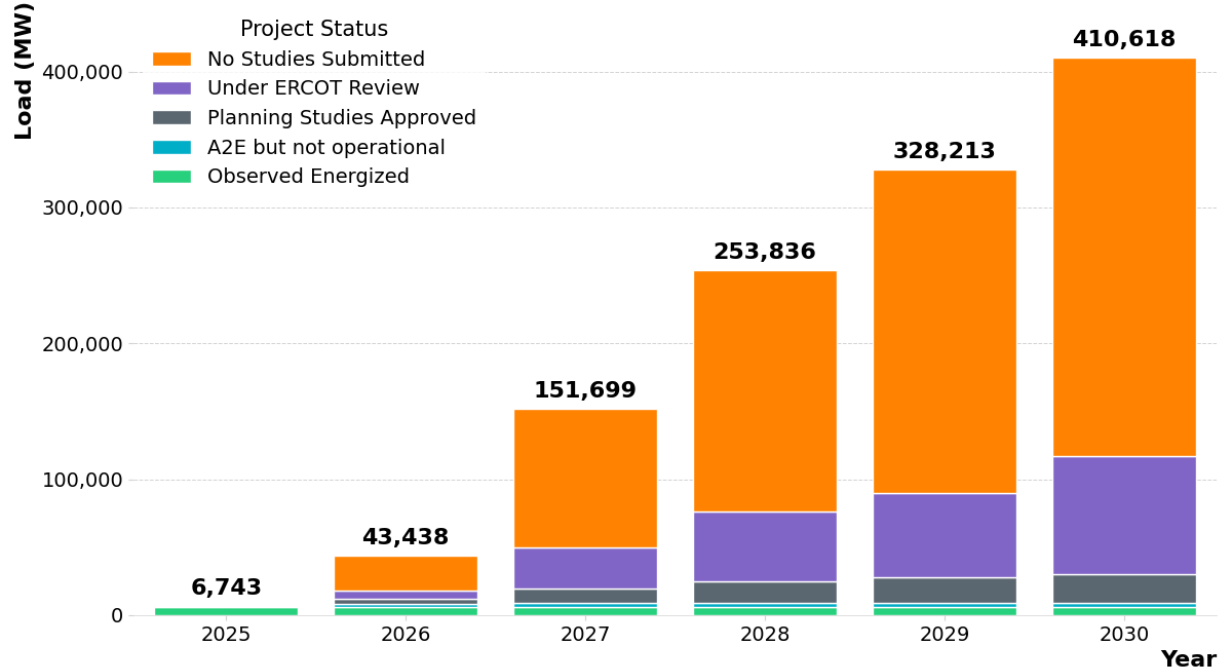
- **Energy Storage** 177,642 MW
- **Solar** 162,927 MW
- **Wind** 47,793 MW
- **Gas** 60,715 MW

*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.

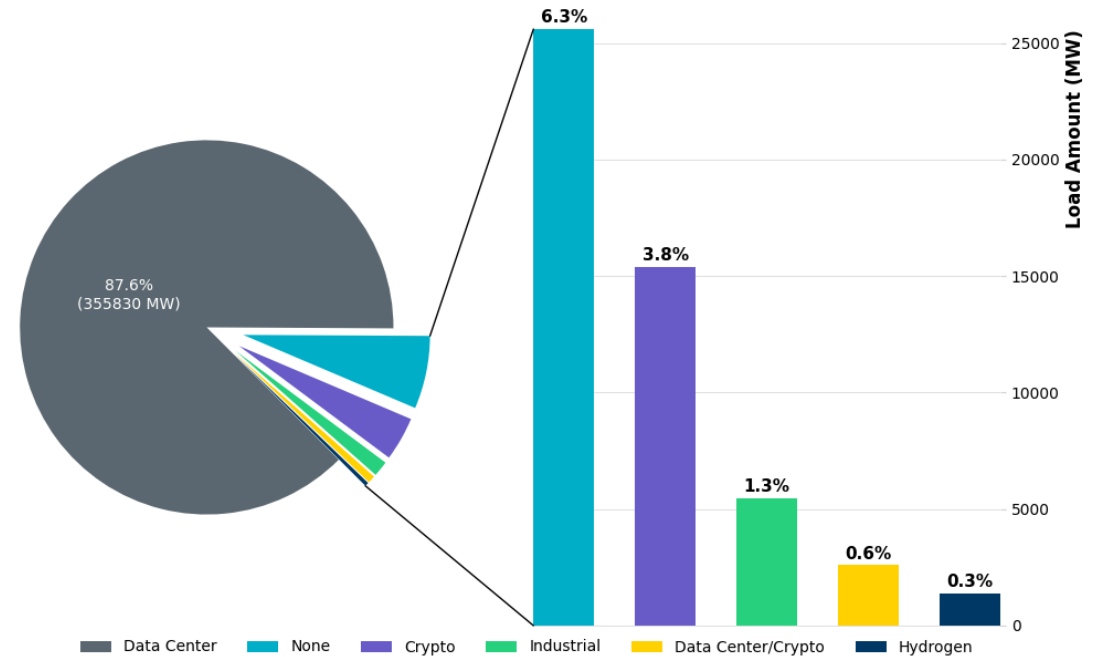
Large Load Interconnection Requests (as of March 26, 2026)

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
Total (MW)	6,743	43,438	151,699	253,836	328,213	410,618

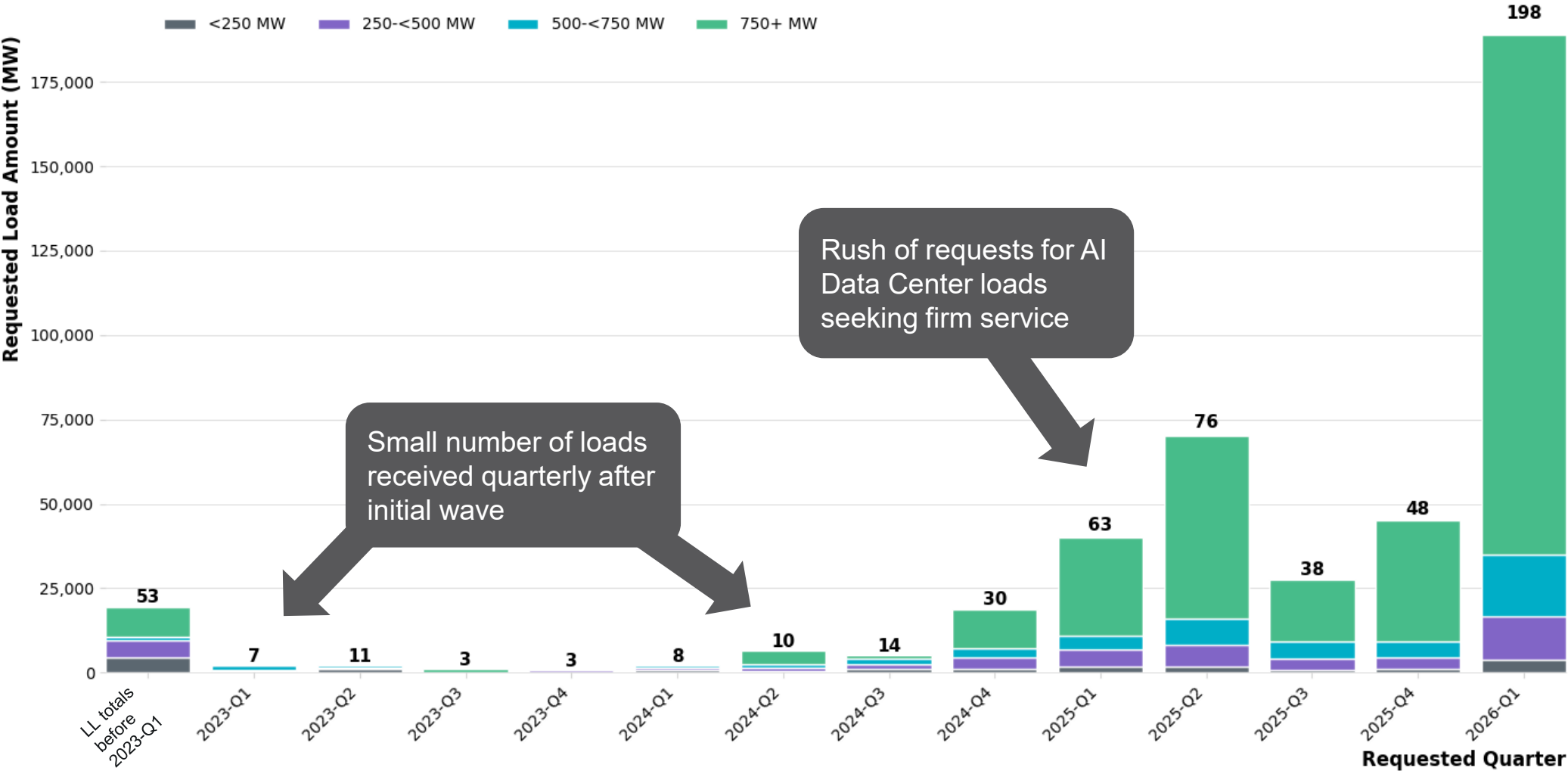
Large Loads by Project Type



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

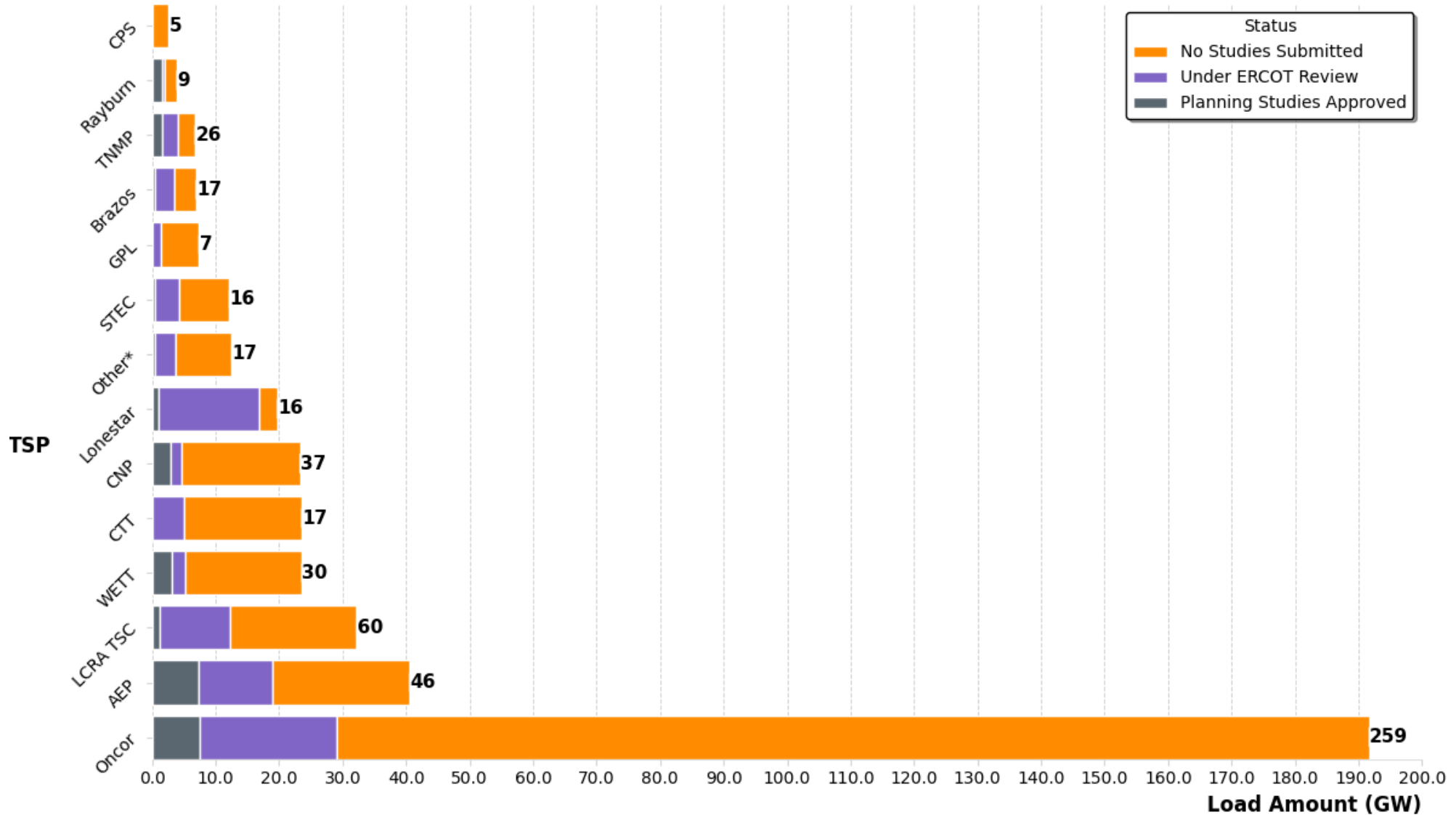
Large Load Interconnection Requests – By Submitted Quarter

(as of March 26, 2026)



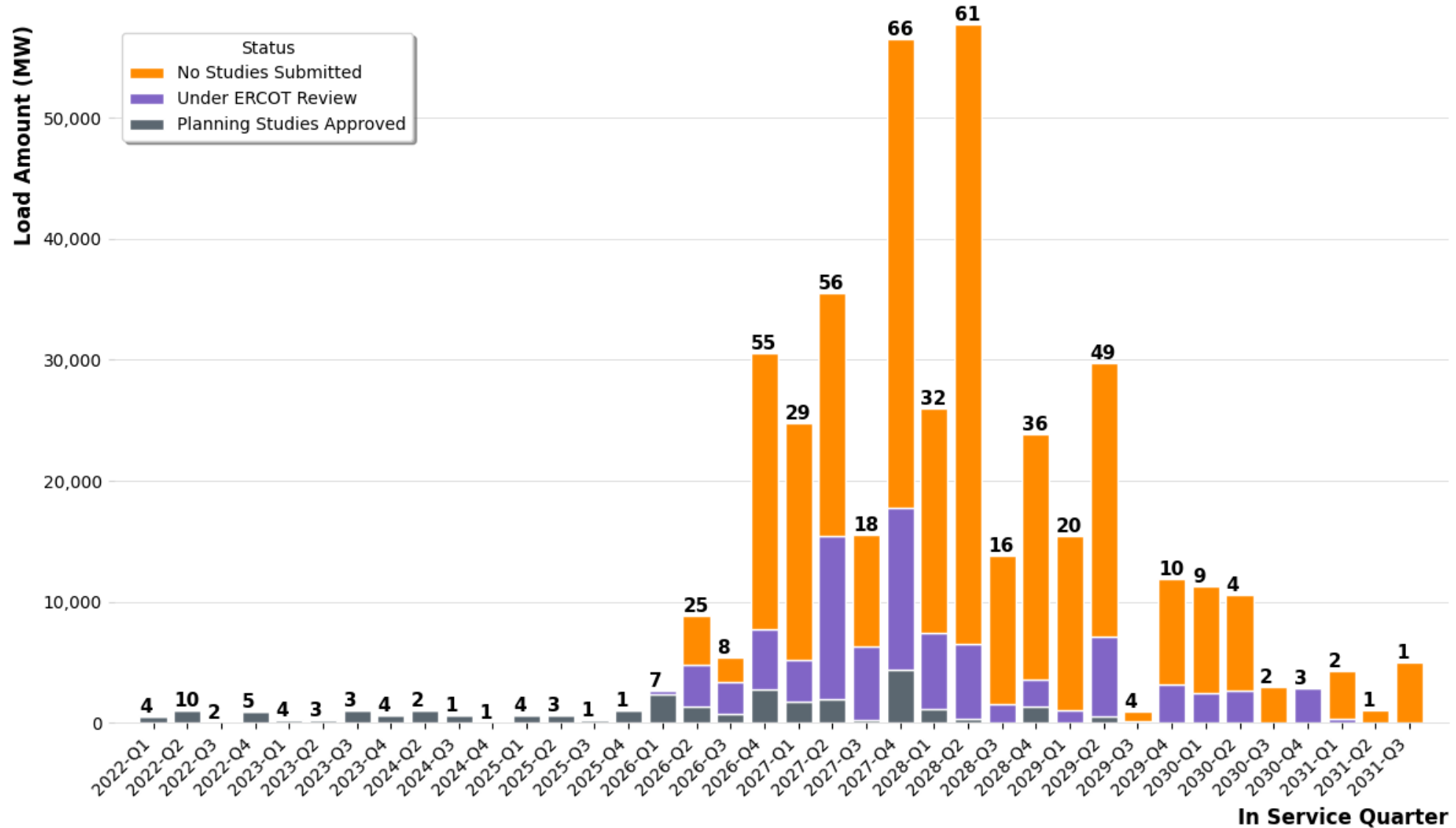
Large Load Interconnection Requests – By Transmission Service Provider (TSP)

(as of March 26, 2026)






Large Load Interconnection Requests – By Project In Service Date

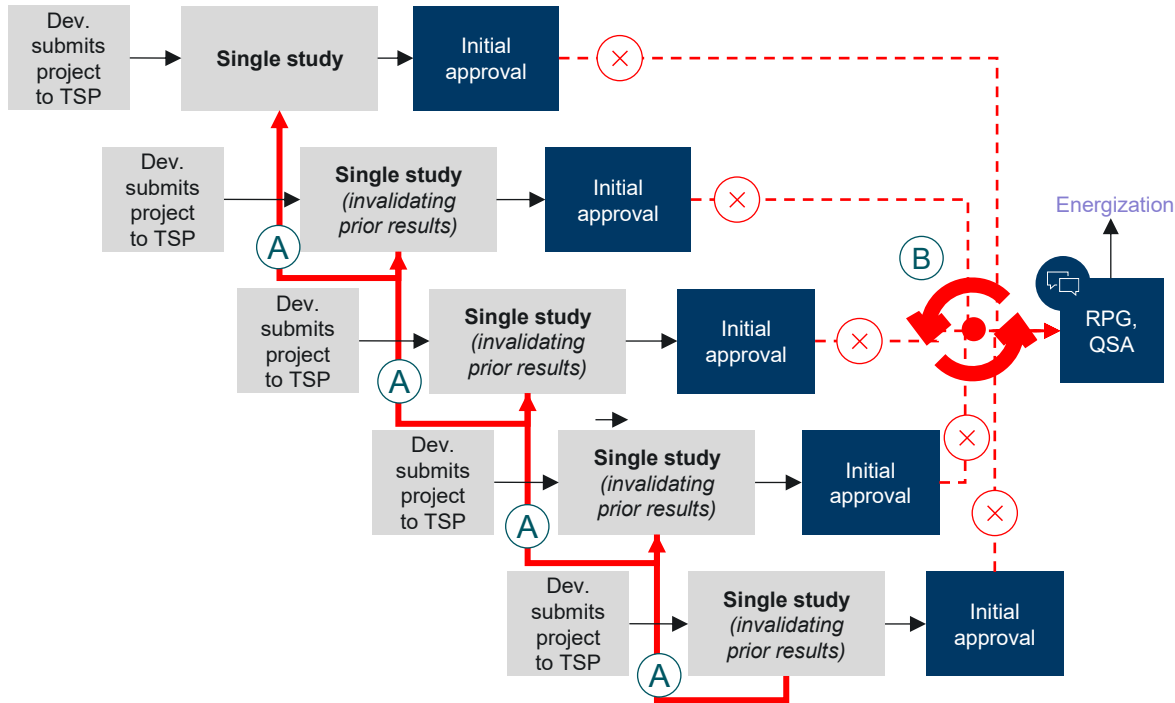
(as of March 26, 2026)



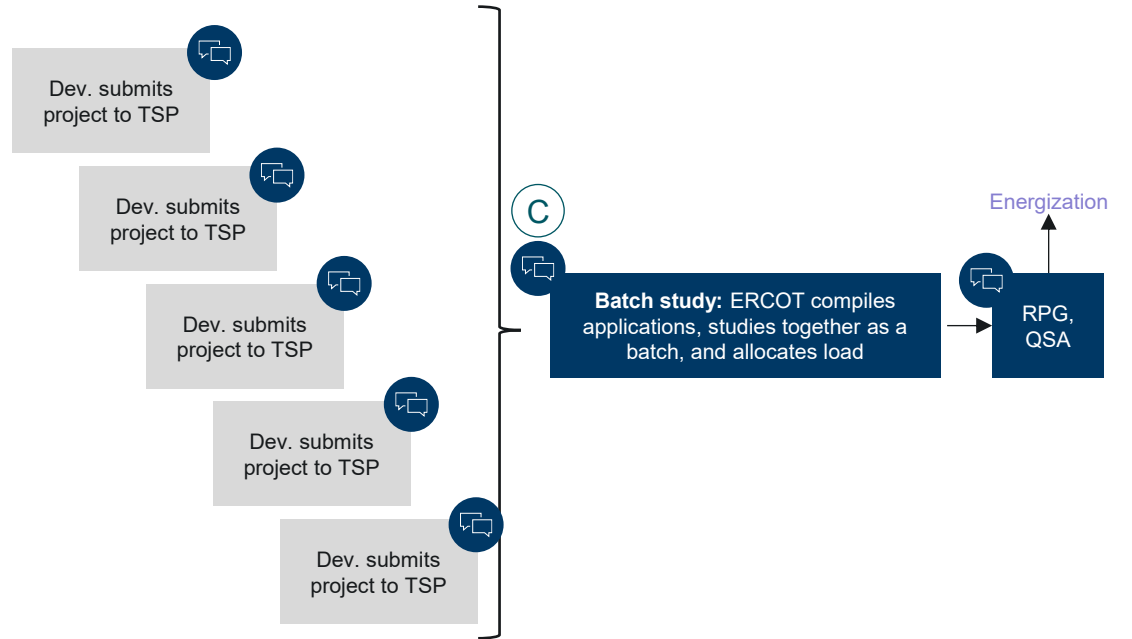
Large Load Interconnection: Moving to a Batch Study Framework

-  Communication point
-  Non-ERCOT action
-  ERCOT action

From the existing single study process...



...to the new batch study process

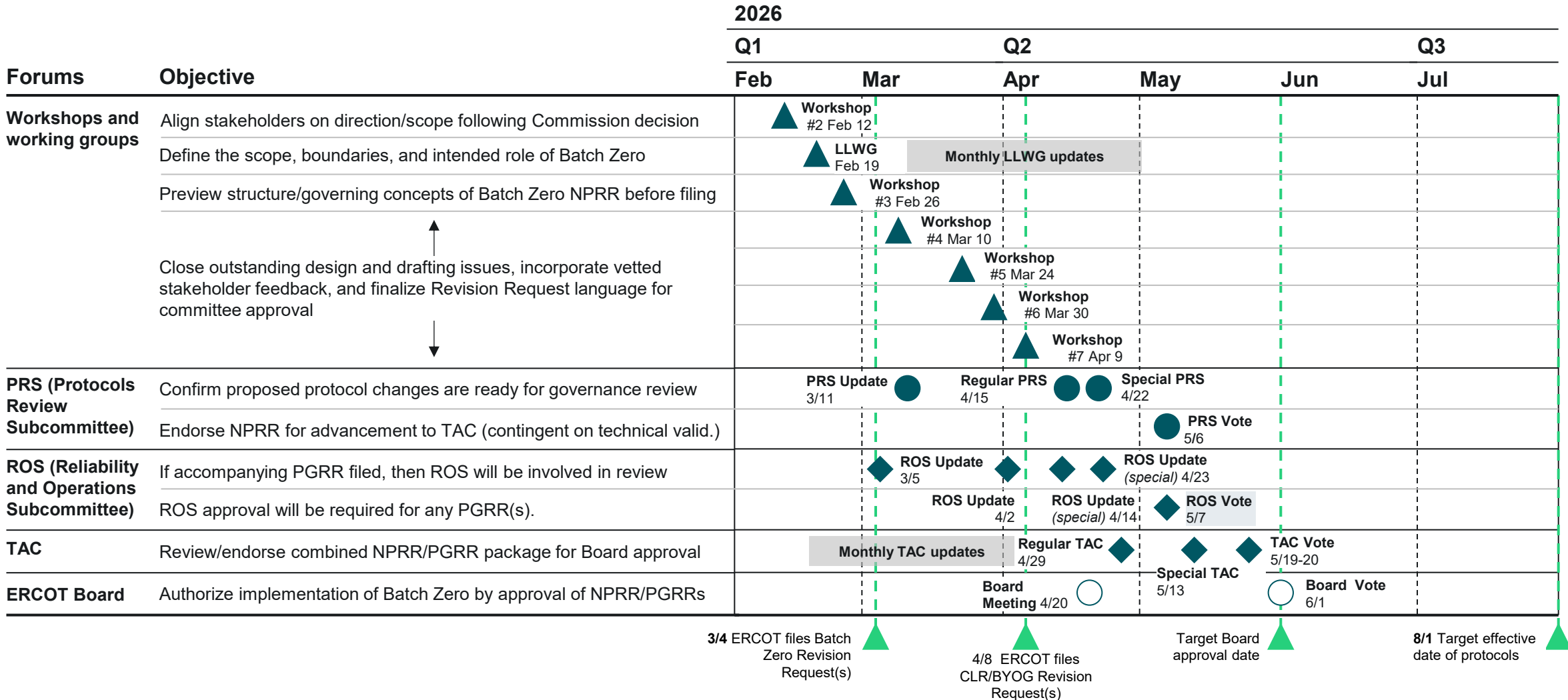


- A Frequent restudies required**
If another project impacts the same transmission zone, all previous studies are invalidated and impacted projects which haven't yet energized must be restudied
- B Restudy loop**
In the absence of capacity reservation, projects can be repeatedly pulled into restudies 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.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC UTILITY COUNSEL



Representing residential and small commercial consumers in utility proceedings since 1983

What do we do?

The statutory mission of the Office of Public Utility Counsel (OPUC) is to represent residential and small commercial consumers as a class in utility proceedings, ensuring electric and water utility rates in Texas are just and reasonable. OPUC is a specialized Texas state agency composed primarily of attorneys, a data team, and support staff. Our priorities are affordability, reliability, and transparency in the rate-setting process. The Public Counsel, appointed by the Governor, serves as a voting member of the ERCOT Board of Directors, designated as the consumer-advocate.

FY 2025 by the numbers:

- Contested Case Interventions: 85
- Policymaking Projects: 39
- Customer Inquiries Answered: 344
- Staff: 23

Bill Savings for Texas Residential and Small Commercial Consumers:
\$2,082,743,805

OPUC's Advocacy for Affordable and Reliable Energy

Rate Reduction Through Litigation

Examine utility rate proposals and identify potential impacts on consumers.

Intervene in cases to ensure that rates are affordable from electric and water utilities operating in Texas.

Voice for Consumers

When participating in rulemaking projects, our #1 objective is making power more affordable and reliable for consumers.

Customer Assistance

Promote information to help consumers with utility billing issues, contesting rates, power outages and disconnections.

Connect consumers with resources for financial and other assistance.

Transmission Cost Allocation

Four Coincident Peak, or 4CP, is the current methodology for assigning wholesale transmission costs to all consumers within ERCOT. This is calculated based on 15-minute peak demand intervals in each of the four summer months: June, July, August, and September.

- Households generally use more energy during peak hours, so they pay a higher share of transmission costs.
- Large load customers, especially those with demand reduction capabilities during the four peak intervals, can avoid paying thousands, if not millions, in transmission costs, thereby shifting the burden of paying for transmission to residential consumers.

OPUC recommendation: Based on preliminary findings, OPUC believes energy consumption cost allocation is the best approach for residential consumers, which would allocate transmission investment costs based on a customer's actual energy use. If PUC chooses to continue with a CP-type model, 365CP would be the best for residential consumers, which would allocate transmission costs based on 15-minute intervals during peak demand every day of the year.

Benjamin Barkley, Chief Executive & Public Counsel