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TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



BRAD BUCKLEY, D.V.M.



State Representative • District 54

September 22, 2026

Woody Rickerson
Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer
Electric Reliability Council of Texas
8000 Metropolis Drive (Building E), Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78744

Dear Mr. Rickerson,

I appreciate your response on August 12 to the questions from Representative Geren, and I'm writing to ask a couple of follow-up questions that I hope will better inform myself regarding ERCOT's determination of the need for the three 765-kV lines running from Central Texas to the Permian Basin.

My primary question concerns the use of different load forecasts in the PBRP modeling compared to the 2024 and 2025 Regional Transmission Plans (RTPs). In your response to Representative Geren, you state ERCOT used load levels in the Permian Basin "consistent with HB 5066 requirements" and that later in the 2024 RTP you "focused on the entire system ... and increased the 2030 load assumption to approximately 150 GW based on HB 5066 requirements." These statements lead me to three questions:

1. Was the PBRP developed using a subset of the same statewide models you use for the RTPs, or did you develop a separate system model specifically for the PBRP?
2. Were the same systemwide existing and planned transmission projects, with the same assumed in-service dates, included in both the PBRP and 2024 RTP models?
3. What load forecasts for the other load zones did you use in the PBRP, and how did those forecasts change from the PRBP to the 2024 RTP?

New information brought to my attention (see attachment) indicates that the 2024 RTP contained approximately 59,200-MW of new generation needed to meet the 2030 load, yet the 2024 PBRP only required approximately 17,170-MW of new generation to meet its 2030/2038 load demand. This is 42,000-MW increase is so drastic that it is difficult to imagine that both models are using anywhere near the same load forecast. It appears that the original need for the import lines in the PBRP was due to adding the new TSP-attested load in the Permian Basin region only and not doing so in the remainder of the state, while also adding new generation outside the Permian Basin to supply the import power.

If ERCOT developed the original need for the three Permian import lines from a model with an outdated representation of expected future demand and generation, then the Legislature and my constituents need to understand how the current RTPs justify the import lines, given their dramatically different demand and generation assumptions from the PBRP. To that end, I kindly request your response to several more questions:

1. ERCOT's most recent Capacity, Demand, and Reserves Report indicates the statewide planning reserve margin will be sharply negative by 2030. Where do the current RTPs show the extra generation needed to supply the import lines coming from? At what times does ERCOT expect West Texas to be short of power when other parts of the state are sufficiently supplied to export power to West Texas?
2. My understanding is that the 765-kV lines will each carry about 2-3 GW of power across each of their 350 to 400 miles, for a total of 7 GW of transfer capacity. Is that correct? Given that the west load zone currently has less than 5 GW of natural gas generation, where does the extra dispatchable generation come from to supply the 23 GW of load forecast for the Permian Basin? Why does ERCOT assume that some dispatchable generation will be built in West Texas but that more generation would not be built in the absence of the import lines?

The location and magnitude of both load and generation directly affects modeled power flows, and despite my best efforts over the past several months, I still do not have a clear understanding of the demand and generation assumptions in ERCOT's models. I look forward to a prompt answer so that I may better understand the your reasoning supporting these 765-kV transmission projects and potential future 765-kV lines.

Sincerely,



Brad Buckley
State Representative | HD 54

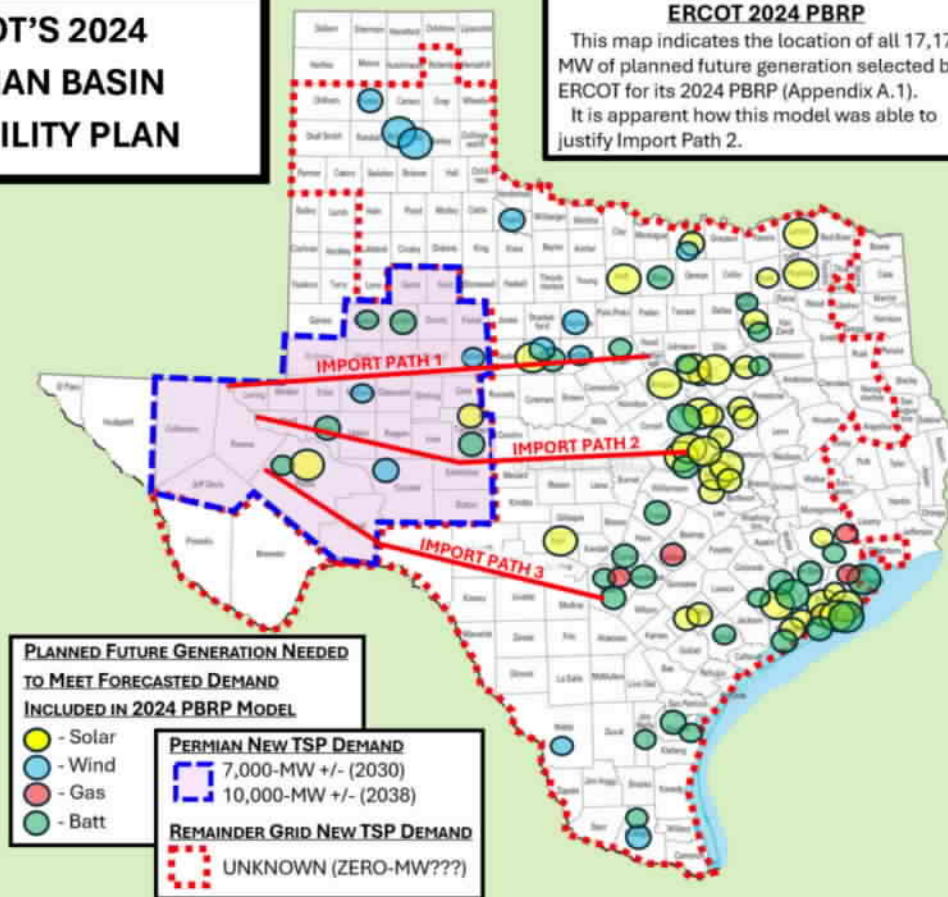
cc: Hon. Thomas J. Gleeson, Chairman
Hon. Kathleen Jackson, Commissioner
Hon. Courtney K. Hjaltman, Commissioner
Hon. Morgan Johnson, Commissioner
Hon. Patrick Rhode, Commissioner
Mr. Pablo Vegas, ERCOT President & CEO

ATTACHMENT

ERCOT'S 2024 PERMIAN BASIN RELIABILITY PLAN

ERCOT 2024 PBRP

This map indicates the location of all 17,170-MW of planned future generation selected by ERCOT for its 2024 PBRP (Appendix A.1). It is apparent how this model was able to justify Import Path 2.



ERCOT'S 2024 REGIONAL TRANSMISSION PLAN

ERCOT 2024-RTP

This map indicates the location of all 59,200-MW of planned future generation selected by ERCOT for its 2024-RTP (Appendix B). It is apparent this model is dramatically different than model used for the 2024 PBRP.

