

CHAPTER 25. SUBSTANTIVE RULES APPLICABLE TO ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDERS.

Subchapter I. TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION.

DIVISION 1. OPEN-ACCESS COMPARABLE TRANSMISSION SERVICE FOR ELECTRIC UTILITIES IN THE ELECTRIC RELIABILITY COUNCIL OF TEXAS.

§25.192. Transmission Service Rates.

- (a) **Tariffs.** Each transmission service provider (TSP) shall file a tariff for transmission service to establish its rates and other terms and conditions and shall apply its tariffs and rates on a non-discriminatory basis. The tariff shall apply to all distribution service providers (DSPs) and any entity scheduling the export of power from the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) region. The tariff shall not apply to any entity engaging in wholesale storage as described by §25.501(m) of this title (relating to Wholesale Market Design for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas) (storage entity).
- (b) **Charges for transmission service delivered within ERCOT.** DSPs, excluding storage entities, shall incur transmission service charges pursuant to the tariffs of the TSP.
- (1) A TSP's transmission rate shall be calculated as its commission-approved transmission cost of service divided by the average of ERCOT coincident peak demand for the months of June, July, August and September (4CP), excluding the portion of coincident peak demand attributable to wholesale storage load. A TSP's transmission rate shall remain in effect until the commission approves a new rate. The TSP's annual rate shall be converted to a monthly rate. The monthly transmission service charge to be paid by each DSP is the product of each TSP's monthly rate as specified in its tariff and the DSP's previous year's average of the 4CP demand that is coincident with the ERCOT 4CP.
- (2) Payments for transmission services shall be consistent with commission orders, approved tariffs, and §25.202 of this title (relating to Commercial Terms for Transmission Service).
- (c) **Transmission cost of service.** The transmission cost of service for each TSP shall be based on the expenses in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) expense accounts 560-573 (or accounts with similar contents or amounts functionalized to the transmission function) plus the depreciation, federal income tax, and other associated taxes, and the commission-allowed rate of return based on FERC plant accounts 350-359 (or accounts with similar contents or amounts functionalized to the transmission function), less accumulated depreciation and accumulated deferred federal income taxes, as applicable.
- (1) The following facilities are deemed to be transmission facilities:
- (A) power lines, substations, reactive devices, and associated facilities, operated at 60 kilovolts or above, including radial lines operated at or above 60 kilovolts, except the step-up transformers and a protective device associated with the interconnection from a generating station to the transmission network;
- (B) substation facilities on the high side of the transformer, in a substation where power is transformed from a voltage higher than 60 kilovolts to a voltage lower than 60 kilovolts;
- (C) the portion of the direct-current interconnections with areas outside of the ERCOT region (DC ties) that are owned by a TSP in the ERCOT region, including those portions of the DC tie that operate at a voltage lower than 60 kilovolts; and
- (D) capacitors and other reactive devices that are operated at a voltage below 60 kilovolts, if they are located in a distribution substation, the load at the substation has a power factor in excess of 0.95 as measured or calculated at the distribution voltage level without the reactive devices, and the reactive devices are controlled by an operator or automatically switched in response to transmission voltage.
- (E) As used in subparagraphs (A) - (D) of this paragraph, reactive devices do not include generating facilities.

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- (2) For municipally owned utilities, river authorities, and electric cooperatives, the commission may permit the use of the cash flow method or other reasonable alternative methods of determining the annual transmission revenue requirement, including the return element of the revenue requirement, consistent with the rate actions of the rate-setting authority for a municipally owned utility.
 - (3) For municipally owned utilities, river authorities, and electric cooperatives, the return may be determined based on the TSP's actual debt service and a reasonable coverage ratio. In determining a reasonable coverage ratio, the commission will consider the coverage ratios required in the TSP's bond indentures or ordinances and the most recent rate action of the rate-setting authority for the TSP.
 - (4) A municipally owned utility that is required to apply for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct, install, or extend a transmission facility within ERCOT pursuant to §25.101 of this title (relating to Certification Criteria) is entitled to recover, through the utility's wholesale transmission rate, reasonable payments made to a taxing entity in lieu of ad valorem taxes on that transmission facility, provided that:
 - (A) The utility enters into a written agreement with the governing body of the taxing entity related to the payments;
 - (B) The amount paid is the same as the amount the utility would have to pay to the taxing entity on that transmission facility if the facility were subject to ad valorem taxation;
 - (C) The governing body of the taxing entity is not the governing body of the utility; and
 - (D) The utility provides the commission with a copy of the written agreement and any other information that the commission considers necessary in relation to the agreement.
 - (5) The commission may adopt rate-filing requirements that provide additional details concerning the costs that may be included in the transmission costs and how such costs should be reported in a proceeding to establish transmission rates.
- (d) **Billing units.** No later than December 1 of each year, ERCOT shall determine and file with the commission the current year's average 4CP demand for each DSP, or the DSP's agent for transmission service billing purposes, as appropriate, excluding the portion of coincident peak demand attributable to wholesale storage load. This demand shall be used to bill transmission service for the next year. The ERCOT average 4CP demand shall be the sum of the coincident peak of all of the ERCOT DSPs, excluding the portion of coincident peak demand attributable to wholesale storage load, for the four intervals coincident with ERCOT system peak for the months of June, July, August, and September, divided by four. As used in this section, a DSP's average 4CP demand is determined from the total demand, coincident with the ERCOT 4CP, of all customers connected to a DSP, including load served at transmission voltage, but excluding the load of wholesale storage entities. The measurement of the coincident peak shall be in accordance with commission-approved ERCOT protocols.
- (e) **Transmission rates for exports from ERCOT.** Transmission service charges for exports of power from ERCOT will be assessed to transmission service customers for transmission service within the boundaries of the ERCOT region, in accordance with this section and the ERCOT protocols.
- (1) A transmission service customer shall be assessed a transmission service charge for the use of the ERCOT transmission system in exporting power from ERCOT based on the megawatts that are actually exported, the duration of the transaction and the rates established under subsections (c) and (d) of this section. Billing intervals shall consist of a year, month, week, day, or hour.

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- (2) The monthly on-peak transmission rate will be one-fourth the TSP's annual rate, and the monthly off-peak transmission rate will be one-twelfth its annual rate. The peak period used to determine the applicable transmission rate for such transactions shall be the months of June, July, August, and September.
 - (3) The DSP or an entity scheduling the export of power over a DC tie is solely responsible to the TSP for payment of transmission service charges under this subsection.
 - (4) A transmission service customer's charges for use of the ERCOT transmission system for export purposes on a monthly basis shall not exceed the annual transmission charge for the transaction.

- (f) **Transmission revenue.** Revenue from the transmission of electric energy out of the ERCOT region over the DC ties that is recovered under subsection (e) of this section shall be credited to all transmission service customers as a reduction in the transmission cost of service for TSPs that receive the revenue.

- (g) **Revision of transmission rates.** Each TSP in the ERCOT region shall periodically revise its transmission service rates to reflect changes in the cost of providing such services. Any request for a change in transmission rates shall comply with the filing requirements established by the commission under this section.

- (h) **Interim Update of Transmission rates.**
 - (1) **Frequency.** Each TSP in the ERCOT region may apply to update its transmission rates on an interim basis not more than once per calendar year to reflect changes in its invested capital. Upon the effective date of an amendment to §25.193 pursuant to an order in Project Number 37909, *Rulemaking Proceeding to Amend P.U.C. Subst. R. 25.193, Relating to Distribution Service Provider Transmission Cost Recovery factors (TCRF)*, that allows a distribution service provider to recover, through its transmission cost recovery factor, all transmission costs charged to the distribution service provider by TSPs, each TSP in the ERCOT region may apply to update its transmission rates on an interim basis not more than twice per calendar year to reflect changes in its invested capital. If the TSP elects to update its transmission rates, the new rates shall reflect the addition and retirement of transmission facilities and include appropriate depreciation, federal income tax and other associated taxes, and the commission-authorized rate of return on such facilities as well as changes in loads. If the TSP does not have a commission-authorized rate of return, an appropriate rate of return shall be used.
 - (2) **Reconciliation.** An update of transmission rates under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be subject to reconciliation at the next complete review of the TSP's transmission cost of service, at which time the commission shall review the costs of the interim transmission plant additions to determine if they were reasonable and necessary. Any amounts resulting from an update that are found to have been unreasonable or unnecessary, plus the corresponding return and taxes, shall be refunded with carrying costs determined as follows: for the time period beginning with the date on which over-recovery is determined to have begun to the effective date of the TSP's rates set in that complete review of the TSP's transmission cost of service, carrying costs shall be calculated using the same rate of return that was applied to the transmission investments included in the update. For the time period beginning with the effective date of the TSP's rates set in that complete review of the TSP's transmission cost of service, carrying costs shall be calculated using the TSP's rate of return authorized in that complete review.

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- (3) **Future consideration of effect on TSP's financial risk and rate of return.** For a TSP that has increased its rates pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection, the commission may, in setting rates in the next complete review of the TSP's transmission cost of service, expressly consider the effects of reduced regulatory lag resulting from the interim updates to the TSP's rates and the concomitant impact on the TSP's financial risk and rate of return.
- (4) **Commission processing of application.** The commission shall process an application filed pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection in the following manner.
 - (A) **Notice and intervention deadline.** The applicant shall provide notice of its application to all parties in the applicant's last complete review of the applicant's transmission cost of service and all of the distribution service providers listed in the last docket in which the commission set the annual transmission service charges for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. The intervention deadline shall be 21 days from the date service of notice is completed.
 - (B) **Sufficiency of application.** A motion to find an application materially deficient shall be filed no later than 21 days after an application is filed. The motion shall be served on the applicant by hand delivery, facsimile transmission, or overnight courier delivery, or by e-mail if agreed to by the applicant or ordered by the presiding officer. The motion shall specify the nature of the deficiency and the relevant portions of the application, and cite the particular requirement with which the application is alleged not to comply. The applicant's response to a motion to find an application materially deficient shall be filed no later than five working days after such motion is received. If within ten working days after the deadline for filing a motion to find an application materially deficient, the presiding officer has not filed a written order concluding that material deficiencies exist in the application, the application is deemed sufficient.
 - (C) **Review of application.** A proceeding initiated pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection is eligible for disposition pursuant to §22.35(b)(1) of this title (relating to Informal Disposition). If the requirements of §22.35 of this title are met, the presiding officer shall issue a notice of approval within 60 days of the date a materially sufficient application is filed unless good cause exists to extend this deadline or the presiding officer determines that the proceeding should be considered by the commission.
- (5) **Filing Schedule.** The commission may prescribe a schedule for providers of transmission services to file proceedings to revise the rates for such services.
- (6) **DSP's right to pass through changes in wholesale rates.** A DSP may expeditiously pass through to its customers changes in wholesale transmission rates approved by the commission, pursuant to §25.193 of this title (relating to Distribution Service Provider Transmission Cost Recovery Factors (TCRF)).
- (7) **Reporting requirements.** TSPs shall file reports that will permit the commission to monitor their transmission costs and revenues, in accordance with any filing requirements and schedules prescribed by the commission.