



## Filing Receipt

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**PUC PROJECT NO. 53401**

**ELECTRIC WEATHER  
PREPAREDNESS STANDARDS –  
PHASE II**

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**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF TEXAS**

**BROAD REACH POWER LLC’S COMMENTS TO COMMISSION  
STAFF’S PROPOSAL FOR PUBLICATION OF REPEAL OF 16 TAC §  
25.55 AND REPLACEMENT WITH PROPOSED NEW 16 TAC § 25.55**

Broad Reach Power LLC (“Broad Reach”) is a Houston-based Independent Power Producer focused on standalone battery storage (“ESR”). The company currently owns and operates 350 MW of ESR in ERCOT, with over 9,000 MW of additional projects currently in the ERCOT queue. One hundred fifty (150) MW of our operational assets are each -10 MW sites built on the distribution grid. Our remaining two ERCOT projects are 100 MW and interconnected at the transmission level. All these units complied with their Phase I weatherization obligations. We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback regarding Commission Staff’s proposal for publication of the new 16 Texas Administrative Code (“TAC”) § 25.55 related to Phase II of Electric Weather Preparedness Standards. As these comments are filed on or before June 23, 2022, they are timely submitted.

**I. General Comments**

Broad Reach Power appreciates the need to verify that Resources are ready to operate during the extreme weather conditions that have more frequently begun to occur in the ERCOT region. This kind of reliability is vital to the functioning of the Texas electric system, as weather patterns become more extreme. Broad Reach Power is ready and willing to support this initiative and work towards implementing reasonable standards designed to protect the system against extreme weather.

## **II. Response to Commission Staff's Questions**

- 1. For Transmission Service Providers (TSPs) that provide comment on proposed § 25.55, provide information related to wind-loading design criteria for the 345 kV network.**

Broad Reach is not a TSP and therefore has no response to this question.

- 2. Does proposed 25.55(e) and proposed 25.55(h) appropriately define “repeated or major weather-related forced interruption of service”?**

Broad Reach does not comment on this question.

## **III. Comments to Discussion Draft of new 16 TAC § 25.55**

### **A. Subsection (d)(1)**

The proposed rule would require that every resource interconnected to ERCOT be inspected at least once every three years. Broad Reach appreciates the need to ensure that all resources are prepared to operate during summer and winter conditions, and that frequency of inspections is a key component of this analysis. However, in effort to reduce the administrative burden on ERCOT, Commission Staff, and resource owners, Broad Reach proposes that an exception to the three-year inspection schedule be allowed upon a showing that selected resources in a Resource Entity's fleet are identical in design and build, allowing inspection of only a sample. This way, ERCOT could save time and resources by only inspecting a select few units within an identical fleet. If issues are identified, ERCOT could then choose to inspect more or all of the Resource Entity's fleet. Therefore, Broad Reach recommends the following addition to the proposed draft rule subsection (d)(1):

- (d)(1) ERCOT must conduct inspections of resources and may prioritize inspections based on factors such as whether a resource is critical for electric grid reliability; has experienced a forced outage, forced derate, or failure to start related to weather emergency conditions; or has other vulnerabilities related to weather emergency conditions. ERCOT must determine, in consultation with commission staff, the number, extent, and content of inspections, provided that every resource interconnected to the ERCOT power region must be inspected at least once every three years, unless multiple resources within a Resource Entity's fleet are identical in design and build. If a resource makes a showing sufficient to ERCOT that it is identical in design and build to other resources belonging to the same

Resource Entity, ERCOT may choose to inspect a sample of resources rather than the entire fleet of resources. ERCOT must develop, in consultation with commission staff, a winter weather inspection checklist and a summer weather inspection checklist for use during resource inspections. Inspections may be conducted by ERCOT's employees or contractors.

**B. Subsection (d)(1)(A)**

As is the case for many generation resources in ERCOT, Broad Reach's battery energy storage system ("BESS") facilities are located in remote areas that are largely, if not entirely, unmanned on a daily basis. BESS facilities do not require on-site personnel the majority of the time for daily management of these assets. Personnel are dispatched to our sites periodically and reactively for various maintenance activities as needed. To facilitate an ERCOT inspection, including granting access to ERCOT and Commission Staff of a BESS facility, Broad Reach will need sufficient notice to dispatch a technician to meet the inspector. To allow adequate time to coordinate such dispatch, provision of 72-hours' notice would be more manageable than 48-hours' notice. Therefore, Broad Reach recommends the following changes to the proposed draft rule subsection (d)(1)(A):

- (A) ERCOT must provide each generation entity at least ~~48 hours'~~ 72 hours' notice of an inspection unless otherwise agreed by the generation entity and ERCOT. Upon provision of the required notice, a generation entity must grant access to its facility to ERCOT and to commission staff, including an employee of a contractor designated by ERCOT or the commission.

**C. Subsection (e)**

Broad Reach's existing operating fleet in ERCOT is comprised of seventeen BESS facilities and is continuing to expand. Broad Reach will continue to undertake all prudent measures to ensure its resources do not experience repeated or major weather-related forced interruptions of service (or any other kinds of forced interruptions or outages); however, the best-suited professional engineers to assess Broad Reach resources' weather emergency preparation measures, plans, procedures, and operations are those who are familiar with BESS systems, including those that Broad Reach operates. Because only a limited number of professional engineers today possess energy storage knowledge

and experience, particularly the relatively new battery storage technologies that Broad Reach's fleet utilizes, the proposed rule's prohibition on use of a professional engineer to perform such post-event assessments if such engineer participated in previous assessments for the resource(s) in the last five years presents a significant burden to Broad Reach (and likely many other Resource Entities) in finding a qualified engineer. This search could also be costly and time-consuming, with the resulting delay thwarting the overall goal of the Resource Entity quickly undertaking an investigation of its interruptions. Additionally, while the proposed rule allows for an exception where a generation entity provides documentation that "no other qualified professional engineers are reasonably available," this provision does not contain parameters or any other guidance on what constitutes a "qualified" engineer. While some professional engineers might be qualified to assess wind or solar facilities, for example, they may not be knowledgeable as to the specifics and technologies of a BESS facility. To avoid confusion and assure that the assessment required under subsection (e) is timely and accurately conducted, Broad Reach recommends the following changes to the proposed draft rule subsection (e):

- (e) **Weather-related failures by a generation entity to provide service.** A generation entity with a resource that experiences repeat or major weather-related forced interruptions of service must contract with a qualified professional engineer to assess its weather emergency preparation measures, plans, procedures, and operations. The qualified professional engineer must not be an employee of the generation entity or its affiliate. ~~The qualified professional engineer must not have participated in previously assessments for the resource for at least five years, unless the generation entity provides documentation that no other qualified professional engineers are reasonably available for engagement.~~ The qualified professional engineer must conduct a root cause analysis of the failure. The generation entity must submit the qualified professional engineer's assessment to the commission and ERCOT. A generation entity to which this subsection applies may be subject to additional inspections by ERCOT. ERCOT must refer to commission staff for investigation any generation entity that does not comply with a provision of this subsection.

## **Conclusion**

Broad Reach appreciates the opportunity to provide input on these important issues and looks forward to continuing to participate in this proceeding and additional weatherization discussions.

Dated: June 23, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Steve Vavrik

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**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE FOR  
BROAD REACH POWER, LLC**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- Subsection 25.55(d)(1): In effort to reduce the administrative burden on ERCOT, Commission Staff, and resources, Broad Reach proposes including an exception to the three-year inspection schedule, upon a showing that all resources in a Resource Entity’s fleet are identical in design and build. This would allow ERCOT to save time and resources by only inspecting a select few resources within an identical fleet. If issues are identified, ERCOT could then choose to inspect more or all of the Resource Entity’s fleet.
- Subsection 25.55(d)(1)(A): Due to Broad Reach having several BESS facilities in remote locations, granting access to ERCOT and Commission Staff for inspections requires dispatching a technician to meet the inspector. To allow adequate time to coordinate such dispatch, Broad Reach proposes that generation entities be provided 72-hours notice would rather than 48-hours notice of an inspection.
- Subsection 25.55(e): If a Broad Reach BESS experiences repeated or major weather-related forced interruptions of service, the best-suited professional engineer to assess the resource’s weather emergency preparation measures, plans, procedures, and operations is one who is familiar with the Broad Reach BESS systems. Because professional engineers having this knowledge are limited, the rule’s prohibition on use of a professional engineer if such engineer participated in previous assessments for the resources in the last five years presents a significant burden to Broad Reach in finding a qualified engineer. Broad Reach proposes eliminating this limitation.