Critical Issue Fast Path – Reliability Backstop Procurement PJM Proposal

This version of PJM's proposal paper reflects updates since the Critical Issue Fast Path (CIFP) Stage 3 meetings on June 10/11, 2026, and is aligned with the executive summary posted for the CIFP Stage 4 meeting scheduled for June 30, 2026. A summary of the design changes can be found in an Appendix at the end of this paper.

Reliability Backstop Procurement – PJM Proposal

This paper outlines PJM's updated proposal to address the need for a Reliability Backstop Procurement. PJM's proposal serves as a mechanism to safeguard resource adequacy and advance reforms to be discussed in the investment incentive work planned for later this year.

PJM has received a tremendous amount of feedback from stakeholders on this topic. PJM and Charles River Associates (CRA) received close to 450 submissions on the Request for Information (RFI), PJM has received written comments from many stakeholders, and considered the many proposals presented in the CIFP meetings. With that information, and consultation with Charles River Associates (CRA), PJM's framework will allow for a parallel path approach: a proposal to initiate a central procurement to acquire the 2028/2029 Delivery Year expected shortfall and to facilitate bilateral matchmaking to encourage contracting between direct parties to address continued load growth.

PJM is viewing the Reliability Backstop Procurement as a one-time procurement of capacity designed to begin to address the unprecedented load growth in the region. PJM does not believe the Reliability Backstop Procurement is a long-term fix for its resource adequacy issues. Therefore, in parallel with the Reliability Backstop Procurement, PJM is also undertaking a review of its markets as mentioned in the National Energy Dominance Council within the White House and PJM Governor's principles[1] that articulate a longer-range desire to "Return PJM to Market Fundamentals" and the PJM Board letter[2] from January 16th that also instructs PJM staff to undertake a holistic review of investment incentives in PJM's markets. PJM launched this effort to rethink the future of its wholesale electricity markets with the publication of Powering Reliability Through Market Design[3] on May 6th, 2026.

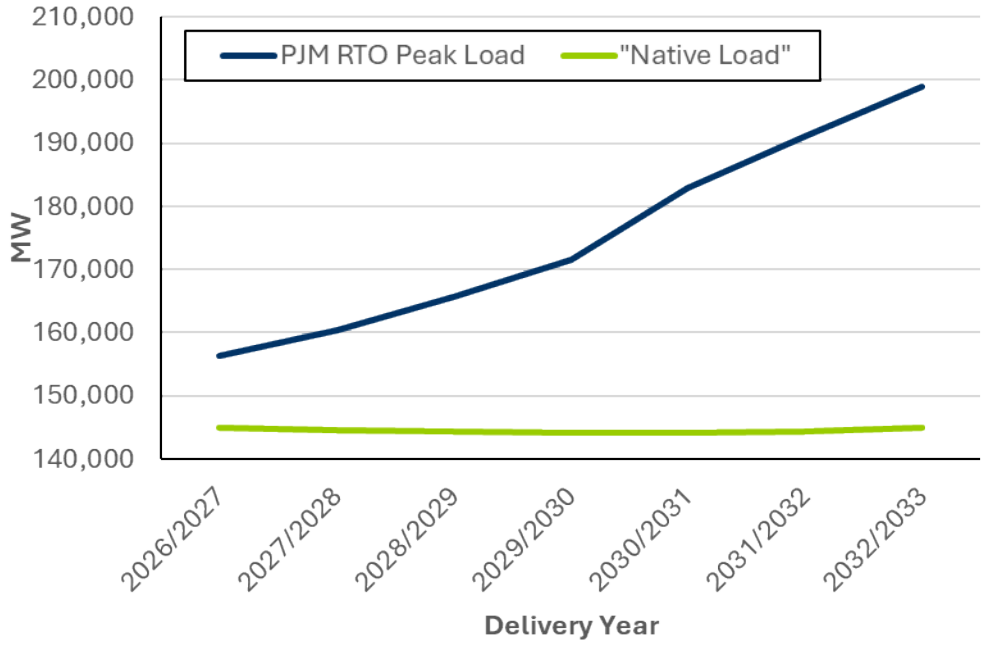
The Reliability Backstop Procurement should not subsume this larger review of market fundamentals. PJM believes this proposal for the Reliability Backstop Procurement is in-line with the White House and Governor's principles as it seeks to get net-new supply online in the PJM footprint, allocate wholesale costs to the load that is purchasing the capacity so states can appropriately allocate retail costs, and establishes a one-time procurement to allow for a broader review of investment incentives in PJM with a focus on returning to competitive markets for resource adequacy as soon as possible.

[1] https://www.energy.gov/documents/statement-principles-regarding-pjm
[2] https://www.pjm.com/-/media/DotCom/about-pjm/who-we-are/public-disclosures/2026/20260116-pjm-board-letter-re-results-of-the-cifp-process-large-load-additions.pdf
[3] 20260506-powering-reliability-through-market-design.pdf

Resource Adequacy in PJM – Background

Over the next decade, the PJM region is forecasted to experience an unprecedented need for net-new supply to connect to the system. For the first time in its history, PJM cleared short of the Reliability Requirement in the 2027/2028 Base Residual Auction (BRA). This shortfall is projected to continuously grow over the next decade as new large loads come on to the system. Current projections show a potential capacity shortfall of 50 GW to 60 GW in the next decade, primarily driven by large load growth but also forecasted conventional load growth. With longer construction times for some technologies, needed transmission build-out and other infrastructure needs (e.g., natural gas infrastructure), the PJM system needs to prepare for the net-new supply needed to maintain resource adequacy in the region.

Figure 1: PJM RTO Peak Load and Estimated Native Load: 2026/2027 through 2032/2033 Delivery Years



Roles and Responsibilities

Designing and executing a Reliability Backstop Procurement (RBP) that will have meaningful impact in resolving PJM's anticipated capacity shortfall will require a cooperative and collaborative effort between PJM, the states and the stakeholders. In this proposal, PJM identifies the impacted parties and where there are roles and responsibilities outside of PJM in this process.

The use of the term "EDC" in PJM's Reliability Backstop proposal refers to Electric Distributor as defined in the PJM Reliability Assurance Agreement (RAA) Electric Distributor:

> "Electric Distributor" shall mean a Member that 1) owns or leases with rights equivalent to ownership of electric distribution facilities that are used to provide electric distribution service to electric load within the PJM Region; or 2) is a generation and transmission cooperative or a joint municipal agency that has a member that owns electric distribution facilities used to provide electric distribution service to electric load within the PJM Region

Request for Information

PJM, through CRA, issued an RFI to industry from April 13 to May 6. This RFI was confidential and sought information on terms, conditions and criteria in which parties would: (1) enter bilateral contracting and/or (2) participate in a PJM central procurement.

There was a robust response to this RFI. Approximately 450 responses across the supply, demand, and regulatory sectors were received. There was strong preference for bilateral matchmaking, with an overwhelming majority of supply and demand respondents ready to engage in the process now.[4]

Reliability Backstop Procurement Design

Proposed Backstop Mechanism: A Parallel Path Approach

PJM is proposing a two-path mechanism for the RBP: A **Central Procurement** path, with PJM as the central administrator and a **Facilitated Bilateral Matchmaking** path. The Central Procurement will look to commit supply to cure the observed MW shortfall of the reliability requirement in the 2028/2029 BRA, while the facilitated bilaterals, to be run in parallel with the central procurement will look to streamline direct contracting between supply and demand to address the growing load. The Bilateral Contracting path was highly preferred among members and RFI respondents and PJM supports bilateral activity to bring new load and supply on to the system.

Bilateral contracting can and does exist successfully outside of PJM today. The value PJM believes it can bring in facilitating bilateral contracting is one of timing with the introduction of the Reliability Backstop Procurement, and a value-add of enabling potential many-to-one contracts for a total load or total generation need.

Facilitated Bilateral Matchmaking

PJM and Charles River Associates (CRA) will act as confidential intermediaries to match buyers (load) and sellers (new generation, storage, and demand resources). Unlike the existing capacity posting functionality in Capacity Exchange, which is underutilized due to its public and decentralized nature, this stage will be "hands-on," providing a secure environment for independent negotiation and many-to-one or one-to-many contracting.

Once potential matching is identified, it will be up to the parties to set terms and conditions and execute a contract. PJM and CRA will not be party to these negotiations and do not intend on developing pro formas for this process. PJM and CRA believe that giving parties the flexibility to form their own contractual terms will support more bilateral activity.

The matching process is intended to be dynamic and will include time for re-matching if initial matches do not proceed to contract.

PJM will not be playing a formal role in bilateral contract negotiations. There is no requirement from PJM to finalize contracting agreements, and any party not successfully contracted can participate in the central procurement phase.

PJM will not be adjusting the existing interconnection queue process timelines for any project contracted through this effort, or for the RBP in general. Projects currently under study will have the most recent study results consistent with

[4] See, PJM Reliability Backstop Bilateral Matchmaking Process Overview, Charles River Associates, May 27, 2026, https://www.pjm.com/-/media/DotCom/committees-groups/cifp-rbp/2026/20260527/20260527-item-06---bilateral-matchmaking-process-overview---charles-river-associates-presentation.pdf.

the appropriate phase that has been completed to inform their potential contracts. Projects not under study would need to rely on independent analysis, which can be achieved using the planning models provided by PJM.

Request for Proposals (RFP)

A bilateral matchmaking RFP was issued on June 9, 2026. RFP responses will be due July 21, 2026, 12pm ET. Any party interested in the bilateral matchmaking process will need to respond. Upon closing the RFP window, CRA will commence the bilateral matchmaking process, with the first window to have initial matches expected in August 2026. This process is intended to be iterative and will continue for ~6 to 9 months.

This process will run parallel to the central procurement. Projects in the bilateral matching process that do not form agreements may bid into the central procurement. However, bidding into the central procurement reflects a willingness to take on a binding commitment. Bidders will not be permitted to exit the central procurement process to enter bilateral arrangements. Projects that are not selected in the central procurement may re-engage in bilateral matching.

Roles and Responsibilities	**Participate in Bilateral Contracting:** LSEs, large load participants, hyperscalers, generation and storage developers, DR/DER Aggregators

The RFP for Bilateral Matching was issued on June 9, 2026. Responses are due July 21, 2026, 12pm ET.

Central Procurement

PJM will conduct a central procurement to function as a safety net to close the reliability gap, calculated as the shortfall MW from the 2028/2029 Base Residual Auction. PJM will finalize commitments prior to the 2029/2030 BRA scheduled for December 2026.

The proposed timeline will be:

1 | Window for bid solicitation and procurement target adjustment: **September 10 – October 9, 2026**.

2 | Selection process and release of results: **October 10 – November 20, 2026**.

This timeline is based upon an anticipated FERC filing date of July 10, 2026. If the filling date is later, the timeline will shift commensurate with the delay. The RBP will be complete no later than December 8, 2026 so results of the RBP are known prior to the opening of the 2029/2030 BRA.

PJM will allow for 5 business days to cure any deficiencies in the information provided before not passing a project through to selection. The cure period will begin once PJM notifies the project applicant of a deficiency.

The design of the central procurement is detailed in the following section.

Central procurement will run September 10, 2026 through November 20, 2026.

Central Procurement Design

Procurement Target Methodology

PJM is proposing a structured method for establishing the procurement targets for the RBP associated with the expected 2028/2029 BRA shortfall, consistent with the Board's direction to procure for the full reliability requirement for the footprint[5]. The initial target will be determined based on the 2028/2029 BRA and calculated as the MW UCAP quantity PJM clears short of the RTO Reliability Requirement.

This procurement will be at the RTO level with cost allocation to Load Serving Entities (LSEs) in a manner structurally consistent with RPM cost allocation. PJM will set the initial allocation at the zone-area level based on the megawatts of load additions each area is forecasted to serve, using the 2026 Load Forecast for the estimated 2028 summer load forecasts minus the 2026 summer load forecasts.[6] PJM is excluding Fixed Resource Requirement (FRR) entities from these targets and from the Reliability Backstop Procurement.

The initial procurement targets will be lowered by new supply showings. Net-new supply that may be used to decrement the procurement target includes supply meeting the RBP eligibility criteria as described in the following section, incremental MW from resources utilizing Surplus Interconnection Service (SIS), and resources that undergo fuel-switching to another more efficient fuel type that results in a higher UCAP and/or CIR uprate (incremental only). This will account for contracts for new supply and load in a zone area, an approved IRP for new supply in a zone area, and/or new large load that will participate as a demand side resource:

1 | Signed contracts for new supply

- An Energy Service Agreement (ESA)/Transmission Service Agreement (TSA) for load coming online in the 2028/2029 DY and a demonstrated finalized Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) compliant with new supply eligibility as described above.

2 | Approved Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) supply

- An ESA/TSA for load coming online in the 2028/2029 DY and identified Self-Supply Generation that is in a State approved IRP and has associated generation in the PJM interconnection queue or a demonstrated finalized PPA compliant with new supply eligibility as described above.

3 | Large load site committed to demand side participation

- A signed contract between the large load and a Curtailment Service Provider (CSP), and a sell offer plan for the 2028/2029 BRA must be provided. Identified load that is committed to offer in the 2028/2029 2nd IA as a Demand Response resource and will continue to be a DR resource through the 2032/2033 DY (or until the load demonstrates a finalized PPA compliant with new supply eligibility as described above).
- For purposes of reducing the RTO target MW amount, the large load MW committed to demand side participation will be converted to UCAP using the Demand Resource ELCC Class Rating for the 2028/2029 BRA. For purpose of subtracting from the initial zone area load to arrive at a zonal share of the target, the ICAP equivalent large load MW will be used.

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[5] See page 6 of the PJM Board Decisional Letter on Critical Issue Fast Path - Large Load Additions; https://www.pjm.com/-/media/DotCom/about-pjm/who-we-are/public-disclosures/2026/20260116-pjm-board-letter-re-results-of-the-cifp-process-large-load-additions.pdf

[6] PJM is proposing the load forecast for 2028 to align with the 2028/2029 Delivery Year.

PJM will adjust the procurement target, and the zonal share of the target down to account for these showings. These contracts can originate from the facilitated matchmaking phase of the Reliability Backstop or from independently arranged bilateral agreements, but they must be complete ahead of the showing. These contracts will need to be presented by the EDC (or underlying LSE or large load) and demonstrate the load is expected to come online in the 2028/2029 DY and the generation associated with the contract will be net-new UCAP to the PJM system. The total amount of target adjustment allowed for each zone area will be capped at the Load Forecast Table B-9b zone area amount for summer 2028 demand – in other words, if an area has more new supply than demand, the additional supply will not be used to decrement the target for other areas. A large load may not submit a sell offer as a supply-side demand response resource in the RBP.

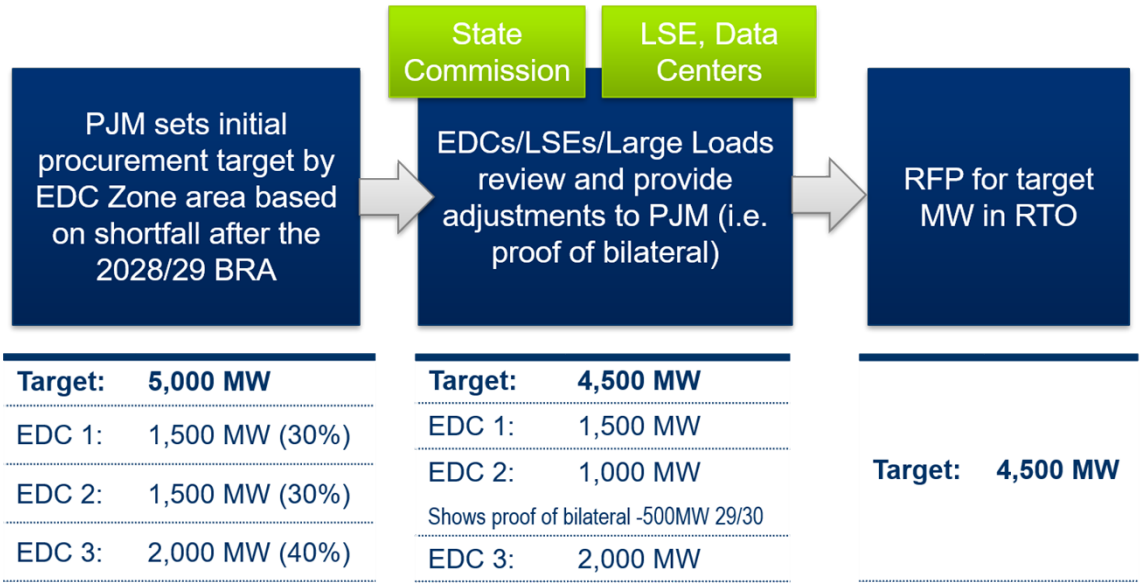
The finalized pro-rata share allocation of the procurement target will remain fixed for the entire 15-year RBP commitment term for purposes of cost allocation. The MW amounts ultimately allocated will depend on the MW delivered.

The proposed timeline for the target development will be:

- PJM will set the initial target following the 2028/2029 BRA.
- Adjustments to the target will be accepted in parallel with the RBP central procurement bidding window from September 10, 2026 through October 9, 2026.

This workflow, with an example, is illustrated in Figure 2:2.

Figure 2: Procurement Target Workflow



The driver for the RBP central procurement is the resource adequacy shortfall at the RTO level. Therefore, the central procurement construct aims to pool the supply and demand at the RTO level to address this shortfall. PJM does not propose to match specific supply to specific demand or to apply locational constraints in the central procurement.

PJM does recognize there are locational considerations at large for resource adequacy, and PJM recognizes these constraints in RPM. RPM is an annual 3-year forward framework, which allows PJM to model the necessary

locational parameters – Capacity Emergency Transfer Objectives (CETO) and Capacity Emergency Transfer Limits (CETL) – to accurately capture the locational needs in the capacity market. PJM does not project and calculate these parameters 15 years out, which is the eligible term of the RBP. At this time, PJM does not have the information needed to determine such locational parameters for 15-year term capacity commitments.

PJM's interconnection process ensures the initial deliverability of new capacity to the RTO. Going forward, the PJM RTEP process annually studies and addresses any transmission upgrades needed to ensure the ongoing deliverability of capacity resources. Load deliverability is also assessed as part of the RTEP process, which will identify transmission needs as load patterns change.

Locational considerations and risks should be considered by the large loads. If the central procurement results in generation additions that do not fully support more specific locational requirements, set by the state for example, relative to the load that is interconnecting, that load may be at higher risk of a locational load-shedding situation.

Roles and Responsibilities	**Setting Procurement Targets:** PJM will set targets based on expected 2028/2029 Base Residual Auction shortfall**.** TOs/EDCs/LSEs/Large Load will provide PJM adjustments to the target.

Eligible Supply

"New" resources will be eligible to participate in the central procurement phase of the Reliability Backstop Procurement. PJM is proposing to define "new" as resources that:

- Demonstrate new ICAP and new MFO are being brought to the system;
- Demonstrate CIRs that are new or transferred from a deactivated resource or a resource that has announced deactivation as of April 10, 2026;
- Have not received an RPM commitment for a future delivery year where the BRA has already been run, which – at the time of the central procurement – will be up to and including the 2028/2029 Delivery Year, or have not submitted a binding notice of intent to offer (NOI) in the 2028/2029 BRA. Resources with NOIs for 2028/2029 BRA and offers that do not clear the BRA, would still be eligible. For resources that are transferring CIRs from an announced deactivation, the deactivating resource cannot have a 2028/2029 RPM commitment; and
- Have a commercial operation date (COD) no later than June 1, 2032, inclusive of network upgrades.

For generation and energy storage resources, this can include new build, uprates or repowering of currently deactivated generators. Pseudo-tie resources would be eligible to participate if they are new resources meeting the criteria above, being interconnected to the system.

New Annual Demand Response and DER are eligible, with locations that have not previously participated in PJM's RPM or new demonstrated capability from generation or storage at a pervious site. Aggregators (CSPs or DERAs) who bid DR or DER into the Reliability Backstop Procurement will be required to show the identified sites and associated contracts for participation for the length of the fixed 15-year term.

Based on this definition, delayed retirements, re-licensing, fuel switching, CIR-only uprates and resources utilizing Surplus Interconnection Service (SIS) would be excluded. Existing resources operating under either a Reliability Must Run (RMR) agreement or a Federal Power Act, Section 202(c) Order for continued operation beyond a planned retirement date will also not be eligible.

As stated in eligibility criteria #3 above, resources that have submitted NOIs for the 2028/2029 BRA scheduled for June 2026, will not be eligible. This determination of eligibility based on submitted NOIs is to prevent double counting supply to address the shortfall. Given the shortfall target is a direct representation of the shortfall in the 2028/2029 BRA, allowing these resources to participate in the RBP would either (1) increase the shortfall target if they did not offer and get committed in the BRA or (2) count on supply that is already committed to serve load and minimize the net-new commitments to the system.

Resources can submit an NOI for the 2029/2030 BRA scheduled for December 2026 and still be eligible for the central procurement, subject to the eligibility criteria above. Resources that receive an RBP commitment with a 2029/2030 BRA NOI will be expected to offer in the RBP commitment in that auction, since the RBP is scheduled to occur prior to the 2029/2030 BRA. Resources that receive an RBP commitment with a 2029 COD, and have not submitted an NOI for the 2029/2030 BRA, will be expected to submit an NOI and offer into the 2029/2030 2nd IA, in line with the updated planning parameters accounting for this resource. A resource that is committed in the RBP would still be eligible to participate in the 2027/2028 3rd IA, scheduled for February 2027.

PJM is proposing a firm in-service date of no later than June 1, 2032, to be eligible for the central procurement participation. With the selection process prioritizing COD and the term length being set to 15 calendar years (2028/2029 – 2042/2043), in the event PJM will need to commit longer lead supply to meet the target MW shortfall, that supply can be committed. The resulting commitment would be for the remainder of the 15-year term of the RBP commitment timeframe.

Interconnection Review

There will be no restriction to participate in the Reliability Backstop Procurement imposed by the interconnection process, and PJM will not create a "special" interconnection track for the RBP. If the Reliability Backstop Procurement offer is accepted for a generation project, the project must proceed through the standard cycle process to obtain the appropriate interconnection agreement that permits commercial operation consistent with the offered parameters. The project will be required to either reach commercial operation or seek interim deliverability, to obtain CIRs, for its first delivery year and all applicable subsequent delivery years.

The developer is responsible for the actual Network Upgrade costs of the project and is expected to offer in the Network Upgrade costs with the Reliability Backstop Procurement offer. If an RBP offer is underpriced relative to actual upgrade costs determined in the queue process, the developer bears the shortfall costs. For projects that do not yet have a signed interconnection agreement with PJM, these estimated upgrade costs will need to be obtained by the developer. A project currently under study – in Transition Cycle 2 (TC2), Cycle 1, or the Expedited Interconnection Track (EIT) – would have the most recent study results consistent with the appropriate phase that has been completed. A project not under study would need to rely on independent analysis, which can be achieved using the planning models provided by PJM.

Roles and Responsibilities	**Evaluation of Network Upgrades and Associated Costs:** Suppliers

Central Procurement Structure

Product Definition

The Reliability Backstop Procurement will procure long-term commitments for capacity-only UCAP for a fixed 15-year term.

The term will be set from the 2028/2029 DY to the 2042/2043 DY. Resources with a COD later than 2028/2029 will result in a shorter commitment, as RBP commitments will not extend past the 2042/2043 DY which aligns with the end of the fixed 15-year term.

PJM weighed the tradeoffs of a central procurement for capacity-only versus "all-in" capacity, energy and ancillary services commitments. Although long-term commitments aimed at capturing all-in costs may provide more revenue certainty, this type of construct would add complexity and extend impacts across PJM markets to implement and manage the commitments. Containing commitments to the capacity space still provides an amount of revenue certainty to new resources while simplifying implementation and avoiding unintended consequences, such as degraded performance incentives, in other market areas.

A structure that commits for UCAP carries a level of uncertainty risk related to resource accreditation over the term of the commitment. However, PJM believes that aiming to meet the Reliability Backstop Procurement target considering resources' anticipated reliability value will be most effective. The risk of accreditation changes over the term of the commitment will be on suppliers, who will have the opportunity to manage this risk through their offers into the central procurement.

Offers

Suppliers will represent offers in $/MW-day UCAP from the 2028/2029 DY to the 2042/2043 DY.

Suppliers will carry the Effective Load Carrying Capability (ELCC) risk for the commitment and will be expected to provide the offered UCAP on an annual basis. Each resource's maximum bid in UCAP will be limited to no greater than 20% more than the resource type's most recent maximum Preliminary ELCC Class Ratings for 2028/2029 through the last posted Delivery Year[7].

Clearing Structure

The RBP central procurement will be pay-as-bid. Resources that pass through the gating criteria assessment will receive commitments based on their COD, offer prices, and UCAP quantities – this is further detailed in the Selection Process section.

The central procurement will have a single representation of the willingness to pay, and individual large loads wanting to express a unique willingness to pay will have the opportunity to do so in the bilateral contracting stage. A max willingness to pay will be set at $555/MW-day UCAP for all delivery years and any offers above this value will not be considered in selection. The $555/MW-day price cap is the Point 1 value for the 2028/2029 Delivery Year BRA Variable Resource Requirement curve.

The RBP central procurement will be pay-as-bid for the committed resources. PJM evaluated several variations of pay-as-bid and uniform price auction styles when designing the RBP. Given the one-time nature of the proposed RBP and the procurement framework, the values of a single clearing price design, allowing price discovery and long-

[7] https://www.pjm.com/planning/resource-adequacy-planning/effective-load-carrying-capability

term incentive signals, are reduced. A pay-as-bid procurement with a price cap is better suited to model a process similar to a bilateral contract process and to minimize the complexity of this effort.

PJM is not proposing market power screening or mitigation in the RBP. Given the proposal of a pay-as-bid procurement, the primary incentive for supply resources will be to bid their estimate of the market-clearing price rather than their marginal cost, as their compensation is tied directly to their specific offer. Since pay-as-bid by design does not have a uniform clearing price that can be inflated by a single supply offer, the traditional mechanism for exercising horizontal market power is significantly diminished. The RBP is also a voluntary, bilateral-style procurement for a specific subset of load, which calls into question how effectively PJM would be able to mitigate economic withholding if the supply can simply not offer.

Settlement Structure

Each committed RBP resource will be settled as a contract for differences (CfD) based on the individual resource's offered price (which is equal to the RBP commitment price), against the resource's weighted average resource clearing price of applicable RPM auctions, in which it shall offer as a price taker, for all committed RPM megawatts. If an RBP commitment is for a delivery year in which PJM has already conducted the BRA, the CfD will only be against the weighted average resource clearing price in the applicable Incremental Auction(s).

The CfD will only be assessed for megawatts that are committed in the RPM and delivered and will be capped at RBP committed megawatts. If a resource offers additional megawatts beyond its RBP commitment into RPM, those megawatts would be settled under the existing RPM rules.

Table 1 and Table 2 provide illustrative examples of a contract for differences.

Table 1: Contract for Differences Example When RPM Clearing Price < RBP Commitment Price

RBP Commitment Price	$400	$/MW-day (UCAP)
RBP Commitment	100	MW (UCAP)
RBP Commitment Value	$40,000	
RPM Commitment	100	MW (UCAP)
RPM Resource Clearing Price	$300	$/MW-day (UCAP)
DY Available (Owned)	100	MW (UCAP)
RPM Settlement	$30,000	100 MW @ $300/MW-day
RBP Settlement	$10,000	100 MW @ $100/MW-day ($400–$300)
Net CfD Settlement	$40,000	

Table 2: Contract for Differences Example When RPM Clearing Price > RBP Commitment Price

RBP Commitment Price	$400	$/MW-day (UCAP)
RBP Commitment	100	MW (UCAP)
RBP Commitment Value	$40,000	
RPM Commitment	100	MW (UCAP)
RPM Resource Clearing Price	$500	$/MW-day (UCAP)
DY Available (Owned)	100	MW (UCAP)
RPM Settlement	$50,000	100 MW @ $500/MW-day

RBP Settlement	($10,000)	100 MW @ $100/MW-day ($400–$500)
Net CfD Settlement	$40,000	

When considering the RBP central procurement's interaction and integration with the existing RPM construct, PJM evaluated an alternative approach to carve RBP supply and demand out of RPM. Both approaches have pros, cons, and complexities. PJM anticipates the capacity cost outcomes of either approach to be largely the same, and neither approach would materially change the costs to remaining PJM load in RPM.

PJM's primary concern with the carve-out approach is that it starts to set up bifurcating large load from other loads, which would chart a new path forward for RPM. In line with PJM's objective for the RBP to be a one-time procurement of capacity, PJM's design aims to require minimal changes to the existing RPM construct. PJM intends to address broader changes to the RPM construct in its forthcoming work with stakeholders on investment incentives in PJM's markets[8].

Selection Process

The selection of projects in the Reliability Backstop Procurement will be conducted in a two-stage approach. The first will be a gating criteria evaluation that projects will pass or fail. The second, for projects that pass the gating criteria, will be a COD-prioritized price-based selection.

Stage 1: Gating Criteria Evaluation

To validate the required COD of June 1, 2032 or earlier, the following threshold criteria will be used. Resources that cannot produce the following evidence of project feasibility will not pass through the gating stage.

Generation and energy storage resources must provide:

- Critical path construction schedule showing how COD will be achieved, with attestation.
  - A project in TC2 and earlier must provide study information and timeline from its most current PJM study.
  - A project in Cycle 1, the Expedited Interconnection Track, or not under study must provide study information and timeline from an independent consultant report.
- Evidence of site control consistent with PJM Tariff Part VII, Subpart A, Section 302, and PJM Tariff Part VIII, Subpart A, Section 402.
- Financing plan – provide identification of financing sources (e.g., project finance, balance sheet, tax equity, sponsor equity), the current status of any financing commitments or term sheets, and a general description of the capital structure and expected timeline to financial close.
- Permitting plan – provide a list of all applicable permits, current status, and timeline to obtain each.
- Signed memorandum for the acquisition of major equipment, invoices or agreements to acquire major equipment, or other documentary evidence that major equipment has been procured.
- Evidence of experience having constructed a previous project of similar size and technology, or contract with an Engineering, Procurement, and Construction partner with such experience.

[8] 20260506-powering-reliability-through-market-design.pdf

- For natural gas resources, evidence of delivery infrastructure arrangements in the form of a notice of intent or attestation of pipeline capacity expansion to support the new project.
- Project must be electrically located in or have firm transmission into PJM.
  - Projects located outside of PJM must provide evidence of (a) a completed facilities study or equivalent under the host RTO's or utility's interconnection process, and (b) long-term firm point-to-point transmission service, or a confirmed transmission service request with a completed system impact study, sufficient to deliver capacity to the PJM border.

Demand Response (DR) and Distributed Energy Resources (DER) must provide:

- Identified locations by Zone / Sub-Zone and aggregate capacity for DR or DER bids that are electrically located within PJM.
- For DER, identification of applicable EDC interconnection/distribution impact study requirements and a plan to initiate on a timeline consistent with the proposed delivery date. For DR, identification of EDC coordination requirements for metering, telemetry, and baseline measurement infrastructure.
- Evidence of prior DR/DER registration and performance in PJM or an equivalent organized market, including historical performance during PJM Performance Assessment Intervals (PAIs) or equivalent dispatch events.
- Enrollment & deployment schedule showing milestones for customer acquisition, equipment installation, metering/telemetry activation, EDC coordination, and PJM registration.
- Executed customer agreements or binding commitments (not LOIs) covering the proposed MW commitment, with identified locations, customer names, and expected curtailment/injection capability per site.
- Equipment procurement plan or evidence of deployed enabling infrastructure (metering, telemetry, load control, SCADA/dispatch systems, or DER major equipment as applicable).

Stage 2: Selection Assessment

All supply offers that pass the gating criteria evaluation will move on to Stage 2. Offers will then be selected based on earliest COD, and then in least cost order based on the levelized cost of capacity (UCAP) over the term, up to the defined RTO target procurement.

PJM is proposing to prioritize COD as the MWs that can come online closer to the 2028/2029 shortfall will best support short-term reliability needs.

The levelized cost of each offer will be calculated as

$$Levelized\ Cost = \frac{Net\ Present\ Value(Cost\ Offer\ \times\ MW, \$)}{Net\ Present\ Value(Capacity, MW)},$$

with a discount rate equal to 9.5% after-tax average weighted average cost of capital (ATWACC)[9].

Table 3: provides an example of how resource offers that pass the gating criteria will be evaluated for selection. Although Supply 5 has a lower levelized cost than Supply 6, Supply 6 clears first as it has an earlier COD. Supply 5 does not clear, as the 8,000 MW target is met when clearing Supply 6.

[9] ATWACC is consistent with the calculated value used in the 2025 Periodic Review of Variable Resource Requirement Curve Shape and Key Parameters, https://www.pjm.com/pjmfiles/directory/etariff/FercDockets/9248/20251107-er25-455-000.pdf.

Table 3: Offer and Selection Example with 8,000 MW Target

Sell offers consist of **UCAP MW** and **price** for each **delivery year.**	**Target = 8,000 MW**			
Example	29/30	30/31	31/32	**Levelized Offer Cost for Selection**
Supply 1:	550 MW @ $200	500 MW @ $200	500 MW @ $200	$200
Supply 2:		2,150 MW @ $280	2,150 MW @ $280	$280
Supply 3:	1,800 MW @ $290	1,800 MW @ $290	1,800 MW @ $290	$290
Supply 4:	3,000 MW @ $300	3,000 MW @ $300	3,000 MW @ $300	$300
Supply 5:			550 MW @ $310	$310
Supply 6:	550 MW @ $320	550 MW @ $320	550 MW @ $320	$320
Total	5,900 MW @ $289.49	8,000 MW @ $287.50	8,000 MW @ $287.50	

PJM is not proposing to partially clear resources. The RBP commitment will be for all offered UCAP. Assuming PJM cannot meet the targeted MW with the available offers, PJM will clear short of the RBP the target rather than long. PJM will also skip over lower priced resources to maximize procurement to meet the target MW value.

Supply Obligations

Resources with a Reliability Backstop Procurement commitment are required to be PJM capacity resources[10] and take on the following obligations:

1 | **RPM Must-Offer Obligation at $0 (price taker):** Resources with an RBP commitment have a capacity must-offer requirement for all RPM auctions conducted after the RBP procurement for all Delivery Years within the resource's backstop commitment period (RBP term).

- The must-offer MW quantity will be based on the lesser of the resource's Accredited UCAP at the time of the RPM auction and the UCAP committed in the RBP.
- The price at which those MW will be required to offer is $0 (price taker) in the RPM auctions. Any available UCAP offered in excess of the RBP committed UCAP will be subject to normal offer cap rules.
- The megawatts committed through RPM auctions will be subject to all capacity market rules, including applicable obligations on committed capacity (e.g., energy must offer), non-performance evaluations (e.g., PAI, deficiency charges) and options for replacement capacity.

Exceptions to the RPM Must-Offer Obligation

- In limited circumstances, an exception to the capacity must-offer requirement for RBP resources will be accepted. Specifically, a resource that is no longer expected to be physically available or in-service for a Delivery Year in which they received an RBP commitment may be granted an exception to the must-offer requirement with supporting documentation. This is intended to help ensure the supply in RPM auctions continues to reflect physical resources. An RBP resource that is granted an exception to the RPM must-offer obligation may still be subject to the RBP Shortfall Charge for failing to deliver on its RBP commitment, as

[10] RBP committed resources will be required to be PJM capacity resources, even under reforms on the existing RPM design, and will have commensurate requirements for participation.

further described below. An RBP resource would not be eligible for a must offer exception based on a financially and physically firm agreement to sell off system.

2 | RBP Shortfall Charge

- A shortfall charge shall be assessed daily, beginning in the first Delivery Year of the RBP commitment, until the resource achieves COD. The shortfall charge shall equal the RBP committed UCAP MW for the Delivery Year times a shortfall charge rate equal to 20% of the RBP commitment price of such resource.
- After the RBP resource reaches commercial operation, no shortfall charge will be assessed.
- There will be an exception to the shortfall charge for resources that are unable to meet the COD solely due to network upgrades. In this case, the supply resource will need to demonstrate readiness through test energy and seeking interim deliverability to be absolved of the shortfall charge.
- PJM proposes to subject a resource to both a shortfall charge under the RBP commitment and a deficiency charge under RPM commitment in order to maintain performance expectations under both tariff commitments.

In addition to the above, if a resource is delayed meeting COD for three years after the first applicable RBP committed Delivery Year, the RBP commitment will be rescinded for the remainder of the term.

Cost and Risk Allocation

Costs of the Reliability Backstop Procurement commitments will first be allocated to zone areas based on their pro-rata share of the procurement target MW. Zone area costs will then be allocated pro-rata to the LSEs based on Large Load Contribution (LLC).[11].

- EDCs will be responsible for allocating assigned Zonal RBP Target MW to customers via introduction of new Large Load Contribution (LLC) Obligation MW assignment in Capacity Exchange (similar to existing Peak Load Contribution (PLC) and Network Service Peak Load (NSPL) processes).
- If states have not established frameworks to appropriately allocate costs to new data center loads, it is unclear to which customers those costs would be assigned. As a backstop, if the EDC does not allocate via LLC Obligation, PJM will allocate to all load in the zone (including non-large loads) using existing PLC assignments.

PJM is excluding Fixed Resource Requirement (FRR) Entities from the Reliability Backstop Procurement and associated cost allocation. If an area has an RBP commitment and later transitions to a FRR Service Area, the FRR Entity for the area would not be able to use the RBP commitments to satisfy their FRR Plan and the EDC for the area will still be accountable for the RBP commitment. The reason the RBP commitment cannot be used to satisfy the FRR Plan is because the RBP commitments are designed as a pool of MWs, not as specific resources for individual loads.

In the event a load does not materialize or shuts down before the end of the RBP term, the corresponding large load obligation must be reassigned. There are three options:

1 | The EDC can directly assign the large load obligation to another LSE, if the original LSE does not retain responsibility for those costs per the rules for that state jurisdiction.

[11] This will be a new defined term exclusively for the RBP.

2 | If the EDC does not leave the large load obligation with the original LSE or assign it to another LSE, and there are other LSEs that were already assigned LLCs in the zone, then the obligation will be allocated pro-rata amongst the remaining LSEs based on their zonal LLC share.

3 | If the EDC does not assign LLCs in the zone, the costs will be reallocated across all load in the zone on a pro rata basis using the Obligation Peak Load Contribution MW (the same methodology used to allocate RPM costs).

Credit Requirement and Default Allocation

Credit Requirement

For supply, credit and collateral requirements for planned resources for taking on a RBP commitment will follow the existing RPM framework (Attachment Q, VI., B) with adjustments to address RBP market design.

Prior to bid RBP Phase II (central procurement) credit is required to be posted equal to the Max ($20, 0.2 x bid/clearing price) x MW UCAP committed x 365 x 3 (years).

Collateral is required to be posted in form of cash or letter.

RBP Phase II credit requirement for the supplier may be reduced or returned once the supplier achieves COD following PJM's assessment after the one year look back.

PJM is proposing to require credit to support the RBP central procurement market design shortfall framework. The credit and collateral requirement covers three years of the RBP short fall charges while maintaining the stability and credibility of the central procurement process.

Credit requirement for Load Serving Entities - Upon notification by the Load Serving Entity (LSE) of the known changes to its load, credit, and collateral requirements for LSEs are expected to be managed by the current credit processes. These processes include, but are not limited to, credit evaluation, PMA recalculation and use of other mitigation tools, such as posting of credit support and/or UCRs.

Notification will be required, the earlier of the time of the known load change or 60 days in advance of the delivery year. Notification shall include:

- Name of EDC
- Contact Name /Mobile Number
- Name of LSE
- LSE Contact Name/Mobile number
- Contract start (delivery) date and end date
- Number of MWs (RBP peak load MW and total load MWh by month)
- Price - Avg price

Default Allocation

If a default occurs by the supply because of a nonpayment of an RBP shortfall charge or deficiency charge, the EDCs/LSEs will be short those corresponding credits. This is consistent with the RPM market today.

If a default occurs because of a nonpayment of a RBP charge by a LSE, the default amount would be allocated to all remaining LSEs receiving a share of the RBP charges based on their pro-rata share of the total RBP charges.

Transmission Owner RBP Withdrawal Responsibilities

Given the long-term nature of RBP commitments, it is necessary to address the risks presented by a Transmission Owner (TO) leaving PJM at some point over the 15-year term.[12] Consistent with FERC precedent that a TO leaving PJM is obligated to pay for the capacity that PJM has acquired for its load[13], PJM is proposing the following solutions by each scenario presented by a potential TO exit. These solutions are intended to mitigate any impacts of a TO leaving PJM to all other parties.

1 | TO leaves with net generation that was part of RBP

- TO pays all costs for RBP generation to pseudo-tie if generation is able to be pseudo-tied and PJM elects to retain such resource (waiving electrical distance requirement for impacted existing generation).
- If RBP committed resource is not able to be pseudo-tied back into PJM, prior to exiting, TO must (1) pay PJM the remainder of RBP value (MW x Rate x Remaining Years) on an accelerated basis. Collected revenue will be allocated to RBP resources in the TO's service territory or (2) execute a contract or TO tariff amendment that assumes the obligation to pay RBP charges to the relevant RPB resource(s) for the remainder of the RPB term. Justification is that the RBP resource was developed and financed with the expectation of a fixed 15-year term so such resource needs to be made whole to this expectation.

2 | TO leaves with net load that was allocated an RBP charge

- Prior to exiting, the TO must pay all forward obligations on an accelerated basis.– Obligation would be calculated as the remaining value of the RBP allocation. Revenue collected will be credited to remaining new large loads in PJM to offset increased costs to such loads necessary to support the committed RPB resources through the remaining term of the RBP commitment. Justification is that remaining load cannot be harmed by the member leaving and RBP generation will need to continue to be paid through the term of the commitment.

Nothing precludes the TO from seeking recovery of such costs from large loads.

[12] 20260527-transmission-owner-separation-risk---pjm-presentation.pdf
[13] *See PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.*, 124 FERC ¶ 61,307 at PP 83-93 (2008).

Appendix: Summary of Proposal Changes

Design Area	May 27th Meeting	June 10/11th Meeting	Stage 4 Proposal
Procurement Target	Initial Target set as the 2028/2029 BRA shortfall to the Reliability Requirement PJM will make adjustments for BYONC showings or forecast updates	Provided additional details on the evidence needed to reduce the target for the central procurement, and on the zone area allocation	Clarified what new supply may be used to decrement the target Provided additional clarification for how large load MW that elect to be a demand resource until corresponding new supply comes online will be decreased from target.
Max Willingness to Pay	Price cap equal to the mean plus two standard deviations $(\mu + 2\sigma)$ of the RBP offer distribution.	PJM received numerous feedback on the proposed price cap, and is continuing to evaluate options	Point 1 (absent the collar) of the RTO VRR Curve for the BRA ($555/MW-Day UCAP)
Connect & Manage Interactions	RBP MW count toward BYONC for purposes of Connect & Manage	No change	No longer applicable due to changes in PJM Connect & Manage proposal
Shortfall Charge	If Connect and Manage is triggered and in effect for the Delivery Year, the Reliability Backstop resource is subject to deficiency charges for not delivering the RBP committed UCAP.	No change	RBP Shortfall Charges will be assessed until the resource achieves COD.
Replacement MW for RBP	Replacement MW eligible to cure a RBP shortfall, Replacement MW will need to meet the BYONC definition		No replacement, given related changes to Connect & Manage interaction and Shortfall Charge only until COD
Credit Requirement and Default Allocation		Updated to include a credit requirement step down	Updated to reflect changes to Shortfall Charge
TO Separation Risk	N/A	Added details on RBP Charges/Resources for areas that may exit PJM	Updated and added clarity to approach