



# PJM Black Start Reliability Backstop Process

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- PJM Black Start (BS) Fuel Assurance (FA) business rules approved by FERC in December 2023
- Requires a minimum of one FA BS unit for each transmission zone
- PJM is working to meet FA BS requirements through the 2023 RTO Wide and 2024 Incremental BS RFP
- The Reliability Backstop process may be needed if FA needs are not fulfilled

## Fuel Assured Black Start Unit

A single generator that is able to start without an outside electrical supply and running 16 hours or more at full load and either stores at least 16 hours of fuel on site, can operate independently on 2 or more interstate pipelines, is directly connected to a natural gas gathering system or is an intermittent or hybrid resource that has been evaluated by the Transmission Provider to be capable of providing 16 hours of full load operation with 90% confidence and meets all other requirements for Black Start Units.

- 2013 System Restoration Strategy Task Force (SRSTF) revised PJM's restoration strategy to prepare for the coal to gas transition
- Reliability Backstop RFP
  - Last resort tool to fulfill BS needs
  - Transmission Owner is required to submit a proposal
  - Never been used

## Key SRSTF Changes

Black Start (BS)  
and Critical Load  
(CL) Criteria

Cross-zonal BS  
Support

Five Year RTO  
Wide BS RFP

Reliability  
Backstop RFP

Minimum of two  
BS units per  
transmission  
zone

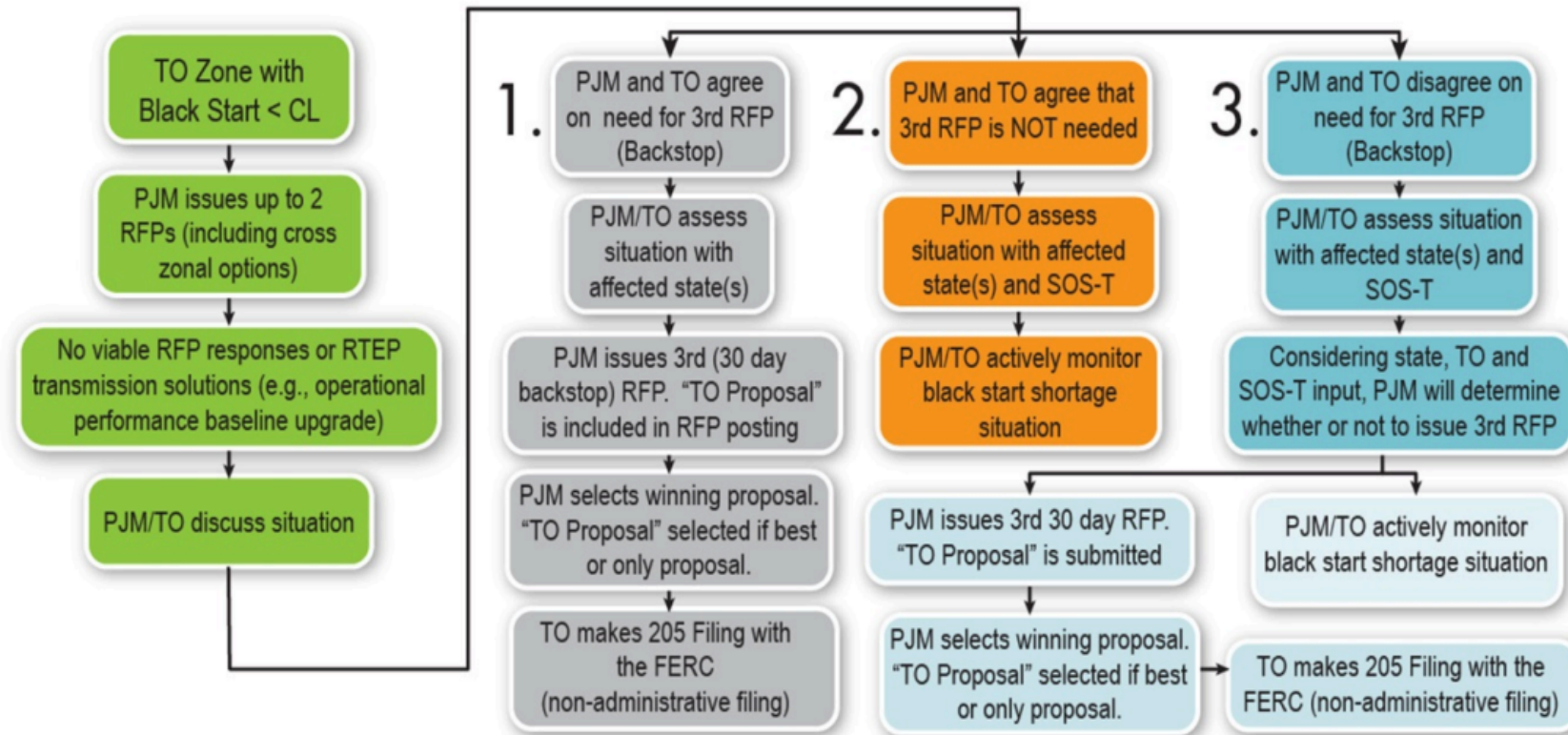
Sufficient BS to crank  
110% of Critical Load  
cranking requirement

1. Generator start-up power
2. Nuclear safe shutdown power
3. Power for electric gas compressors

Minimum of one  
Fuel Assured  
BS unit per  
transmission  
zone

[M36 Attachment A: Minimum Critical Black Start Requirement](#)

## 10.3.5 Reliability Backstop Process Flow Chart



- Reliability Backstop RFP may be needed to meet minimum Fuel Assured Black Start requirement
- PJM and Transmission owners will assess the Fuel Assurance deficiency and coordinate with affected states
- Additional education sessions will be scheduled if Reliability Backstop process is needed

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- [M12 Section 4.5: Black Start Service](#)
- [M14D Section 10: Black Start Generation Procurement](#)
- [M36 Attachment A: Minimum Critical Black Start Requirement](#)
- [Schedule 6A of PJM OATT](#) – Black Start Service Requirements and revenue calculations