

Joint Stakeholder Proposal for Reliability Backstop Auction

Constellation, Vistra, AlphaGen, and Earthrise
Reliability Backstop Procurement Workshop

February 17, 2026

Primary Components

- ▶ Create a September Reliability Backstop Auction (RBA) to provide revenue certainty for new generation in response to policymakers' desire to act promptly to address reliability, with guardrails that address:
 - ▶ Potential for over-build in the event load does not grow as expected
 - ▶ Potential for speculative resources to participate and fail to meet COD
- ▶ Continue a price cap in BRAs for a transition period that has been re-set at 100% of the Reliability Requirement or approximately \$420/MW-day and will progressively transition to the top of the VRR curve by the 2031/32 BRA, an approach that balances the interests of incenting new supply and protecting customers while PJM conducts a broader review of the ability of the existing market design to attract new investment.
- ▶ Design the market to encourage and support bilateral arrangements.
- ▶ Incorporate mechanism to ensure long-term market integrity and prevent the premature retirement of existing resources.
- ▶ Support interconnection reforms that increase likelihood that new generation will enter sooner rather than later

Reliability Backstop

- ▶ Trigger: RPM clears below 98% of the reliability requirement.
- ▶ Quantity: Limit the quantity of capacity procured to the quantity associated with the point on the demand curve where the price cap takes effect.
- ▶ Eligible resources: New (including uprates) and reactivated generation, existing generation with an offer cap above the top of the VRR curve, traditional demand response committing for more than a year.
 - ▶ Eligible resources seeking to participate in the RBA for 2028/29 delivery year must meet same requirements as those resources participating in the BRA for 2028/29 delivery year.
 - ▶ Eligible resources for future years (after 2028/29 delivery year) must meet qualification standards [tbd] to verify that they are reasonably likely to perform in the delivery years for which they offer and clear.

Reliability Backstop

- ▶ Term and clearing: Bidders must offer at the clearing price of the June BRA and may offer a minimum commitment term that extends up to 15 years from the 2028/29 BRA but shorter-term offers and offers with terms that begin sooner will clear first. PJM will clear offers as follows:
 - ▶ PJM will clear offers of increasing term from resources that offer availability in 2028/29 until the quantity procured (in addition to the resources committed in the BRA) reaches the shortfall in the June BRA at 100% of the Reliability Requirement.
 - ▶ If a shortfall remains, then PJM will clear offers of increasing term from resources that offer availability for 2029/30 until the quantity procured reaches the quantity of capacity associated with the point on the demand curve where the \$420/MW-day price cap takes effect.
 - ▶ If a shortfall remains, PJM will continue to accept offers of increasing term for availability starting in each subsequent delivery year until the quantity procured reaches the quantity of capacity associated with the point on the demand curve where the \$420/MW-day price cap takes effect or it exhausts offers.
- ▶ If the market clearing price in subsequent BRAs is different than the price at which the multi-year resource cleared the reliability backstop, the resource will receive the RBA price for the term committed plus an inflation adder (e.g., Handy-Whitman).

Safeguard Consumers and Prevent Premature Retirements

- ▶ Address cost considerations while PJM conducts a broader market review by extending a BRA price cap and a price floor or proxy price to protect long-term market integrity.
 - ▶ Add a time-limited price cap that starts at approximately \$420/MW-day (the price on the demand curve where the quantity is 100% of the Reliability Requirement) that could adjust and phase out over four years. By phasing out the price cap over four years, the price cap for year four would be the top of the VRR demand curve, as established by the recent FERC order approving the updated demand curve.
- ▶ Preventing Premature Retirements:
 - ▶ Single auction clearing price for both BRA and RBA; implement Price Floor or Proxy Price
 - ▶ Add a price floor based on either percentage of Net CONE or symmetric quantity (e.g., 101.5% of Reliability Requirement) on the demand curve or a proxy price equal to the cleared offer.
 - ▶ To the extent a multi-year resource does not clear future BRAs, the resource still maintains a capacity obligation based on its commitment from the reliability backstop.
 - ▶ If load grows as expected, neither the floor nor the proxy price will affect market outcomes.

Interconnection Reforms

- ▶ Consider feasibility of accelerating Transition Cycle #2 (including RRI resources), interconnection studies to provide network upgrade cost certainty in advance of the September auction.
- ▶ Implement a second round of RRI and/or reform PJM's EIT proposal so that it better aligns with the RBA (i.e., would be open to resources that clear in the reliability backstop auction, as needed).
- ▶ Evaluate other interconnection reforms (including Eolian BIGPAL proposal) with the goal to facilitate faster interconnections without fundamentally changing load and generator capacity obligations.

Bilateral Contracting and Qualifying Incremental Supply

- ▶ To encourage bilateral contracting, adopt a definition of "Qualifying Incremental Supply" that will receive a deduction from wholesale cost allocation associated with any Reliability Backstop Alternative discussed above. "Qualifying Incremental Supply" shall include the following categories of resources that are "at risk", i.e., those that require a Power Purchase Agreement ("PPA") or similar contractual commitment to:
 - ▶ enable a new generating resource
 - ▶ enable fuel conversion of a resource that would otherwise retire
 - ▶ enable an investment in an uprate or expansion of an existing generating resource equal to or greater than \$300 per kilowatt of the facility's post-uprate/expansion output
 - ▶ enable a generator that did not clear a prior capacity auction
 - ▶ enable a license extension for a generator with a current operating license expiring, or with an application for renewal due, during the PPA period and where there has been a demonstration that the unit has been financially challenged in the past*
 - ▶ enable continued operation of a resource that would otherwise retire early/decommission due to financial constraints/environmental constraints
 - ▶ commit to provide load flexibility consistent with the new or existing DR options

*A generating unit would be deemed to have demonstrated financial challenge if has previously received a State Subsidy (as that term is currently defined in the PJM OATT, but with the sole modification that all default procurement auctions that are conducted in a non-discriminatory manner and competitive bidding process would not be a State Subsidy) or had, prior to 2026, submitted a deactivation request.

Joint Stakeholder Proposal Achieves PJM and White House/Governors' Goals

PJM/SOP Goal	Joint Stakeholder Proposal
Grid Reliability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Incentivize resources that can come online soon by clearing based on COD/termGuard against over-procurement by only procuring known shortfallUse of existing CP penalties incentivizes resources to meet COD
Revenue Certainty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Up to 15 years revenue certainty ensures adequate revenue certainty for resources that need it, while providing a bidding advantage to resources who need less time
Accelerated Interconnection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Support PJM efforts to accelerate TC#2, implement a second round of RRI and/or reform EIT to better align with RBA; consider other interconnection reforms
Prevent premature existing generation retirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Single clearing price for BRA and RBA ensures new and existing resources are valuedPrice floor or proxy price guards against premature retirement by existing resources
Transition to Market Reforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Single auction in September
Collar Extension	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Temporary extension of the BRA price cap at 100% of Reliability Requirement and inclusion of proxy price or floor balances the interests of incenting new supply and protecting customers
New Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Includes greenfield projects, uprates, reactivated generation, uncleared MWs and multi-year DR
Ease of Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Relies closely on existing OATT and capacity market structure allowing September implementation