The ERCOT Region

The interconnected electrical system serving most of Texas, with limited external connections

- 91% of Texas electric load; 75% of Texas land
- System peak demand: 71,110 MW (August 11, 2016)
- More than 46,500 miles of transmission lines
- 570+ generation units

ERCOT connections to other grids are limited to ~1,250 MW of direct current (DC) ties, which allow control over flow of electricity

220 MW with SPP
600 MW with SPP
30 MW with CFE at Eagle Pass
100 MW with CFE at Laredo
300 MW with CFE at Mc Allen
Utility-Scale Solar Generation Capacity

ERCOT Solar Additions by Year (as of June 1, 2017)

- Cumulative MW Installed
- IA Signed-Financial Security Posted
- IA Signed-No Financial Security

Year | Cumulative MW Installed | IA Signed-Financial Security Posted | IA Signed-No Financial Security
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2010 | 15 |  |  
2011 | 42 |  |  
2012 | 82 |  |  
2013 | 121 |  |  
2014 | 193 |  |  
2015 | 288 |  |  
2016 | 556 |  |  
2017 | 1,317 | 329 | 781 
2018 |  | 787 |  
2019 | 2,425 | 399 |  
2020 | 2,655 | 399 |  

ERCOT Public
Competitive Renewable Energy Zone Transmission

• As of January 30, 2014, the CREZ transmission projects were complete.
  • The transmission plan is designed to serve approximately 18.5 GW:
    • ~3600 right-of-way miles of 345 kV
    • $6.9 billion project cost
  • Lines are open-access; use not limited to wind
The new CREZ transmission improvements do not extend into the best solar resources in far southwest Texas.
1) The evolution of wholesale electricity markets, including the extent to which Federal policy interventions and the changing nature of the electricity fuel mix are challenging the original policy assumptions that shaped the creation of those markets.

2) Whether wholesale energy and capacity markets are adequately compensating attributes such as onsite fuel supply and other factors that strengthen grid resilience and, if not, the extent to which this could affect grid reliability and resilience in the future.

3) The extent to which continued regulatory burdens, as well as mandates and tax and subsidy policies, are responsible for forcing the premature retirement of baseload power plants.