



NERC Computational Load Standards

August 2026 Proposal Summary

8/27/2026 NSRF Public Meeting

Thomas Brinckman, CenterPoint Energy



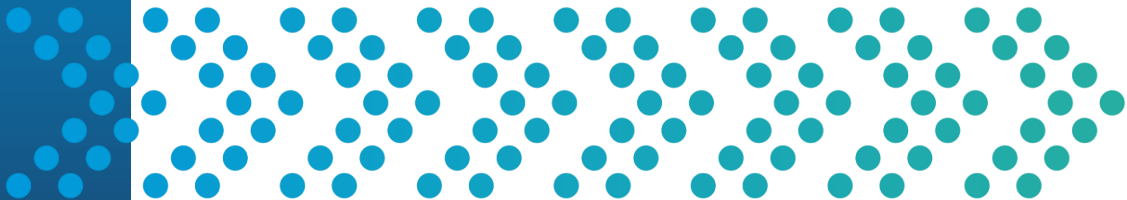
AGENDA

NERC COMPUTATIONAL LOAD REFRESHER

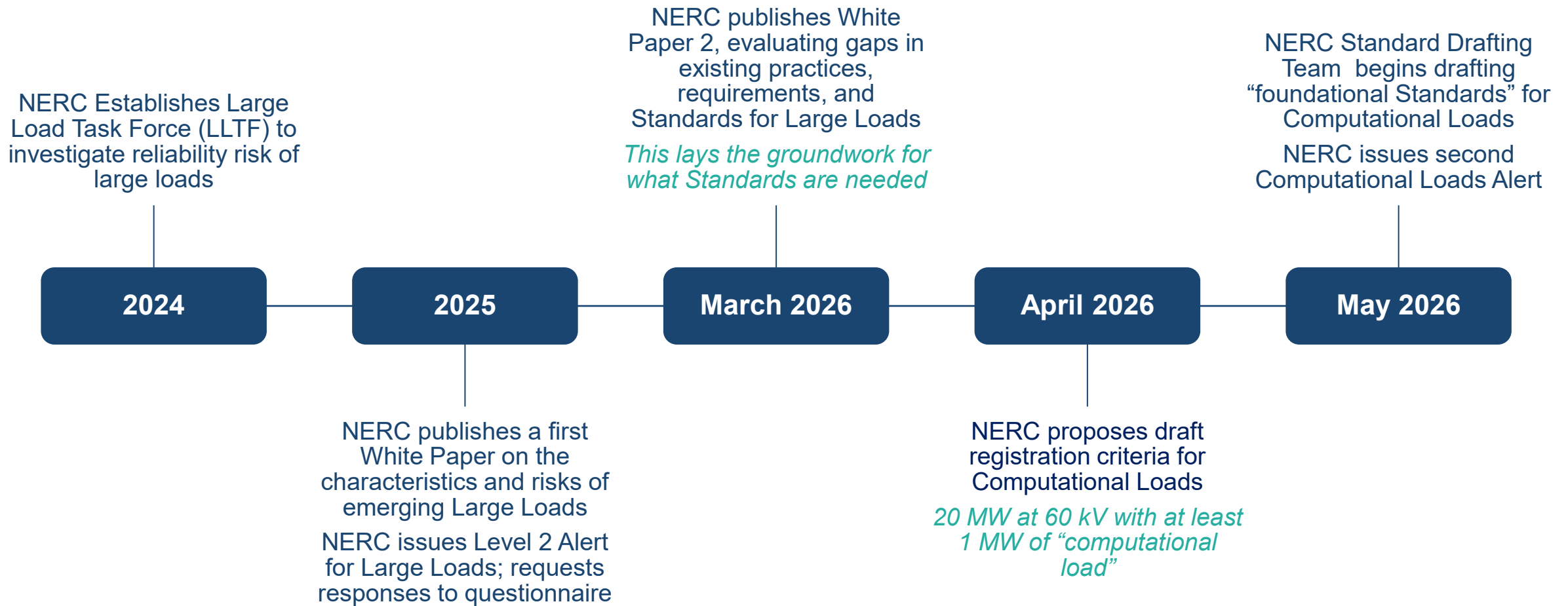
PROPOSED REGISTRATION CRITERIA

PROPOSED FOUNDATIONAL STANDARDS

PUBLIC COMMENT/BALLOT & NEXT STEPS



NERC Actions on Computational Loads Up to August 2026



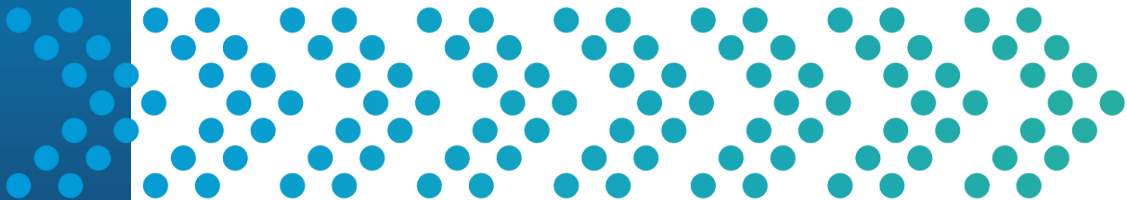
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NERC Registration Criteria for Computational Loads

New Definitions Used in the NERC Rules of Procedure

“Computational Load Operator” [CLOP] means the entity that operates a Computational Load Site.

“Computational Load Owner” [CLO] means the entity that owns and maintains a Computational Load Site.

“Computational Load Site” means one or more buildings, structures, or installations at a single location that

1) Primarily contains information technology infrastructure used for:

- creating, executing, and delivering software applications and services;
- artificial intelligence training, deployment, and delivery;
- cryptocurrency mining; or
- other computational activities at a data center; and

2) is supplied through electrical equipment that is connected to the BPS.

Rules of Procedure Appendix 2
Emphasis Added

NERC Registration Criteria for Computational Loads

Computational Load Registration Threshold

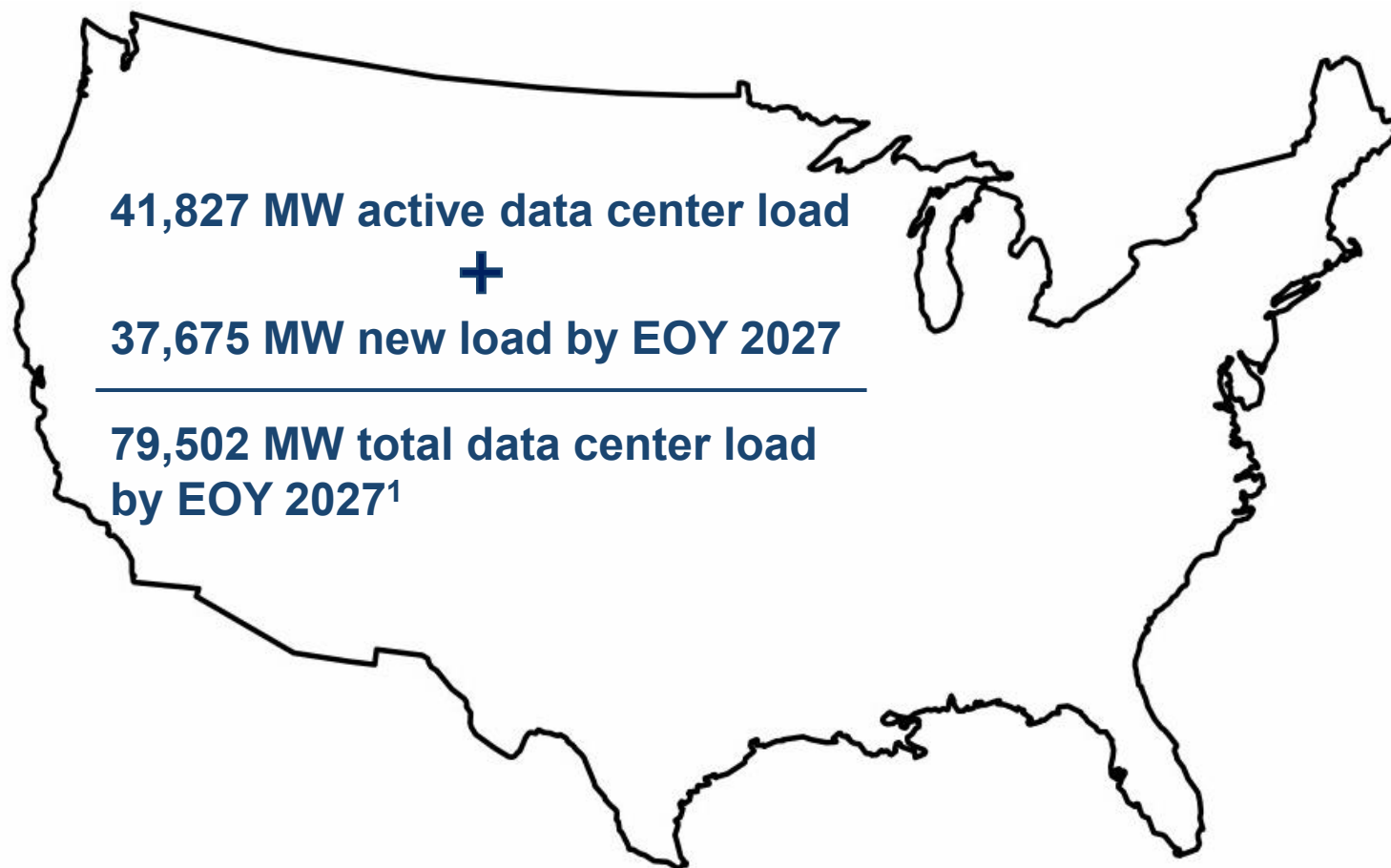
“**Computational Load Owner or Operator** of a Computational Load Site with a **total connected Load** greater than or equal to **50 MW** that is supplied through electrical equipment connected at a voltage level greater than or equal to **100 kV from one or more points of connection.**”

Rules of Procedure Appendix 5B
Emphasis Added

Criteria (cumulative)	April NERC Proposal ¹	August Revised NERC Proposal ²	ERCOT (effective) ³
Demand Threshold	≥ 20 MW	≥ 50 MW	≥ 75 MW
Voltage Threshold	≥ 60 kV	≥ 100 kV	None
Facility Type	Computational Large Loads only with at least 1 MW of computational load	Computational Large Loads only; narrative definition ⁴	No distinction made between industrial or computational Large Loads

¹Proposed by NERC on April 1, 2026.
²Proposed by NERC on August 19, 2026.
³The 75 MW threshold established in ERCOT through ERCOT Nodal Protocol Revision Request (NPRR) 1234, approved by the Texas Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on May 15, 2025. Additionally, Texas Senate Bill 6 codified the 75 MW threshold in statute, effective June 20, 2025 (in Section 37.0561 of the Texas Utilities Code).
⁴The site “[p]rimarily contains information technology infrastructure used for: (a) creating, executing, and delivering software applications and services; (b) artificial intelligence training, deployment, and delivery; (c) cryptocurrency mining; or (d) other computational activities at a data center

Why Did NERC Set the Threshold at ≥ 50 MW and ≥ 100 kV?



Using a 50 MW, 100 kV threshold,

86%
68,228 MW

...is captured

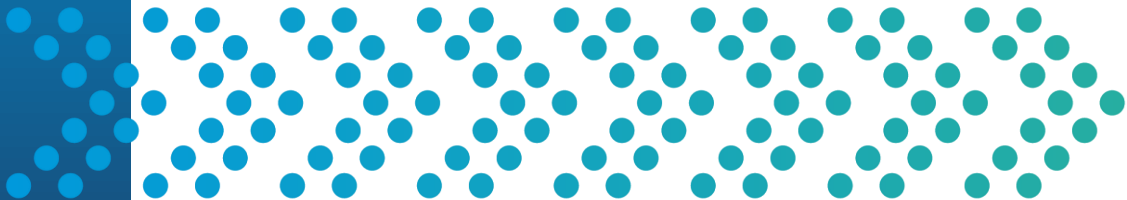
But increasing the threshold to
75 MW only captures

80%
63,960 MW

¹Figures are based on data collected by NERC via the Large Load Alerts and the "US Data Center Locations and Power Demand" data set maintained by Aterio, a third-party energy data provider.

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CLO Standards Rely Heavily on Existing Requirements

Existing Key Requirement

e.g. FAC-002 interconnection study procedures



“Computational Load Owner/Operator/Site”



New CLO Requirement

Gray = Provides the reference to existing, comparable standard requirements,

Black = Existing language already in comparable standard requirements that can be leveraged,

Blue = New, unique language to specifically address Computational Loads and Phase 1 essential actions,

Red = Specific Requirement references where numbering may change during future development.

Interconnection Requirements & Process

- R1. [FAC-001 R1] Each Transmission Owner and Distribution Provider shall document **Computational Load Site** interconnection requirements, update them as needed, and make them available upon request. [Violation Risk Factor: Lower] [Time Horizon: Long-term Planning]
- 1.1. Transmission Owners and Distribution Providers without an existing Computational Load Site interconnection must document and make its Computational Load Site interconnection requirements available upon request within 45 calendar days of full execution of an Agreement to conduct a study on the reliability impact of interconnecting a new Computational Load Site.
- M1. Each Transmission Owner and Distribution Provider shall have evidence (such as dated, documented **Computational Load Site** interconnection requirements) that it met all requirements in Requirement R1.

CLO-001-1 | Interconnection, Studies, and Modeling

Borrows language from:

FAC-001
 Facility Interconnection Requirements

FAC-002
 Facility Interconnection Studies

MOD-032
 Data for Power System Modeling and Analysis

MOD-026
 Verification and Validation of Dynamic Models and Data

	Applicability	Requirements	Implementation
Interconnection Process & Requirements	TO, DP, GO	R1, R2, R3	Reg Approval → Next Quarter → +6 Months
Qualified Change & Modeling Data Specifications	TP, PC	R7, R8	Reg Approval → Next Quarter → +3 Months
Study Coordination	TP, PC, TO, DP, GO, CLO	R4, R5, R6	Reg Approval → Next Quarter → +9 Months
Provision of Modeling Data & Data Verification	CLO	R9, R10, R11	Reg Approval → Next Quarter → +9 Months

FAC-001 & 2 will be concurrently modified to remove Computational Load Sites from the “end-user facilities” definition

Eliminates possibility of “double jeopardy” for compliance violations

CLO-002-1 | Operational Data and Communications

Borrows language from:

TOP-001

Transmission Operations

TOP-003

Transmission Operator and BA
Data & Info. Specs. & Collection

IRO-001

Reliability Coordination
Responsibilities

IRO-010

Reliability Coord. Data and Info.
Specs. and Collection

COM-001

Communications

COM-002

Operating Personnel
Communication Protocols

	Applicability	Requirements	Implementation		
Operational Data Specifications	RC, BA, TOP	R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6	Reg Approval	Next Quarter	+6 Months
Provision of Operational Data	CLO, CLOP	R7	Reg Approval	Next Quarter	+12 Months
Adherence to Operating Instructions*	CLOP	R8, R9	Reg Approval	Next Quarter	+12 Months
Interpersonal Communications*	TOP, BA, CLOP	R10, R11, R12, R13	Reg Approval	Next Quarter	+12 Months
Oral Communication Protocol & Training*	CLOP	R14, R15	Reg Approval	Next Quarter	+12 Months

*Deadline extension possible under certain circumstances for R8-R15

CLO-003-1 | Protection Coordination and Disturbance Monitoring

Borrows language from:

PRC-027

Coordination of Protection Systems

PRC-028

Disturbance Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

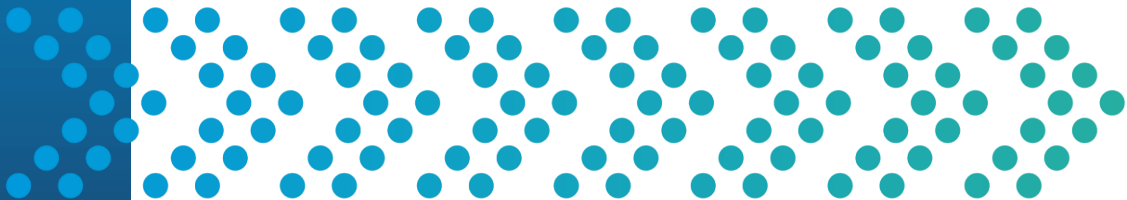
	Applicability	Requirements	Implementation
Protection Coordination	CLO	R9, R10	Reg Approval Next Quarter +9 Months
SER, FR, and DDR Monitoring Equipment**	CLO, TO, GO, DP	R1* – R8	Reg Approval Next Quarter (Effective Date) Sites In-Service Prior to Effective Date +36 Months Sites In-Service After Effective Date +15 Months

*SER data in R1 is only applicable to CLO

** Deadline extension possible under certain circumstances for R1-R8

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Public Comment & Balloting Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
17 <i>August</i>	18	19 NERC Publication	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 August NSRF Meeting	28	29	30
31	1 <i>September</i>	2 EEI Roundtable	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Comment & Ballot Deadline	19	20

Looking Ahead – FERC Approval & Additional Standards

