UT Renewable Energy Law Conference
Comparison of Interstate Grids' Regulatory Treatment of Large Loads
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Introduction

Texas has been and is experiencing unprecedented load growth. In 2022 and 2023 Texas was wrestling with how to deal with the new crypto loads moving into the state. Latest load forecasts now show crypto loads completed dwarfed by data center and hydrogen/industrial loads. Looking forward, ERCOT predicts power demand will grow from 86 GW to 148 GW by 2030.

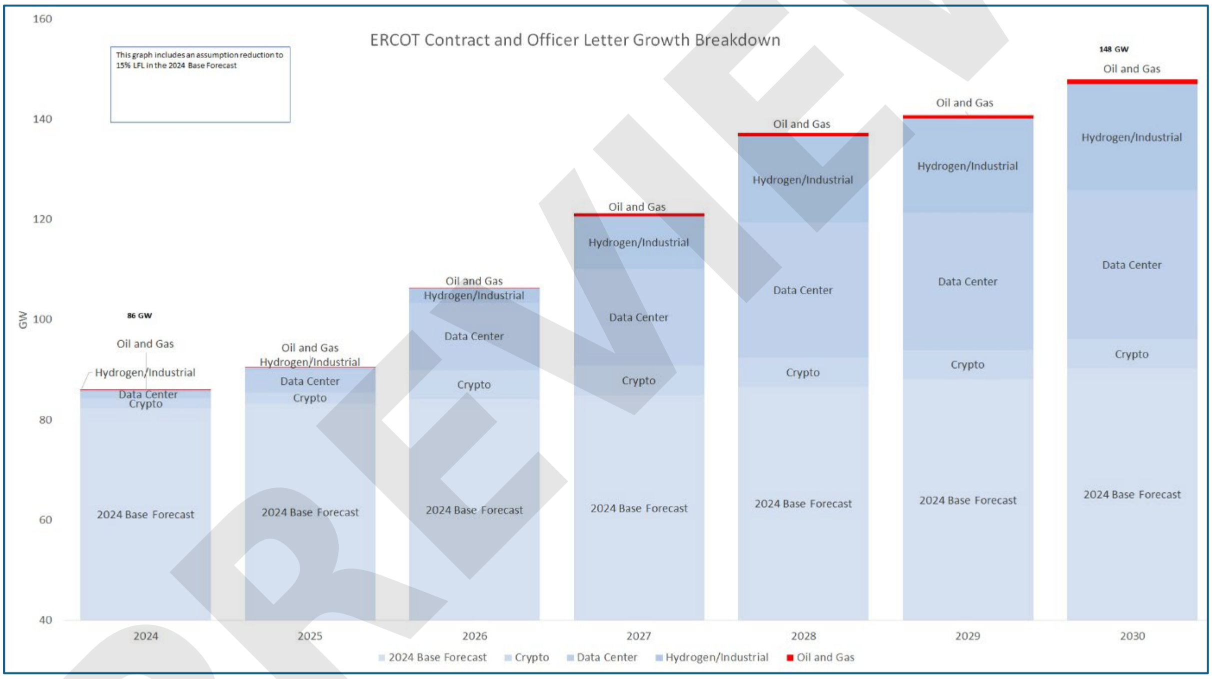

Figure 1: ERCOT Long Term Load Forecast[1]

Southwest Power Pool (SPP) is also grappling with large load growth after a long period of sustained electricity demand. Each subsequent load forecast has far exceeded the expectations of the previous year's load forecast.

[1] https://www.ercot.com/gridinfo/load/forecast

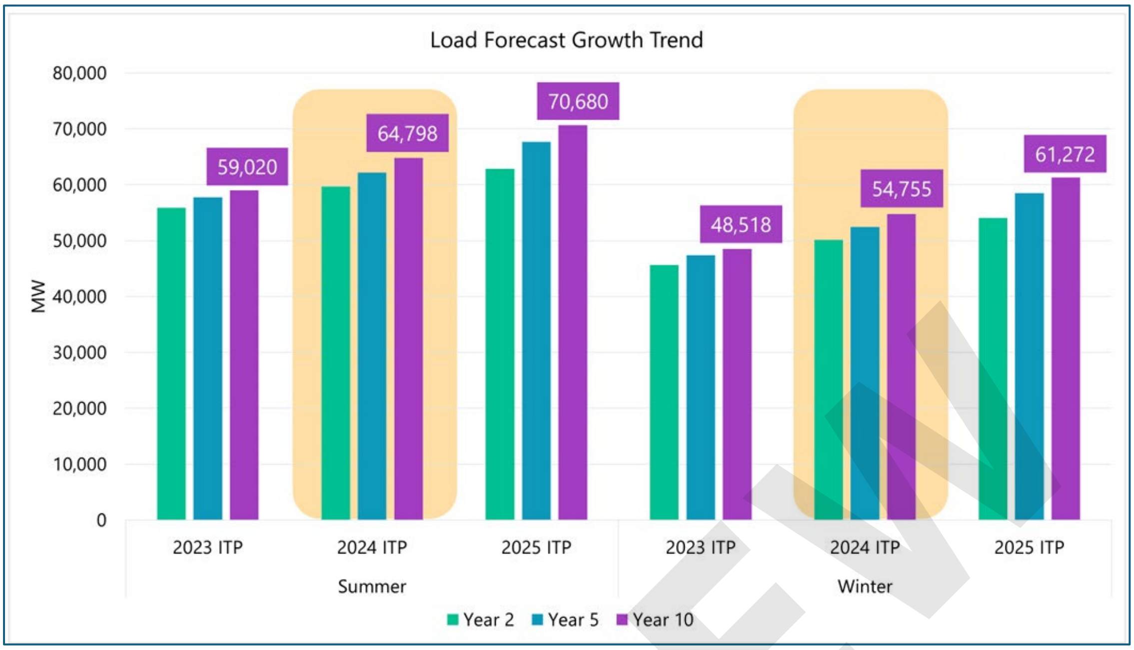

Figure 2: SPP's 2024 ITP Load Forecast Growth Trend[2]

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In an environment where electricity demand grows exponentially, resources retire, and new inverter based technologies are the replacement, the operators and regulators have to start thinking creatively, build accurate models, create efficient planning and operations processes, and continue to ensure reliability and availability of resources.

Load Forecasting – what counts and where will it be?

Historically, ERCOT was only allowed to count loads with an interconnection agreement already signed in their Regional Transmission Plan (RTP). In the 88th legislature, the state passed HB 5066[3] which set ERCOT up for better long term planning by allowing ERCOT to include more expected loads. The consequence of this is an unprecedented amount of forecasted demand included in the 2024 RTP. ERCOT is estimating more than $30B in investments for the next 6 years if the plan is approved.

[2] https://www.spp.org/media/2229/2024-itp-assessment-report-v10.pdf
[3] https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/88R/billtext/pdf/HB05066F.pdf#navpanes=0

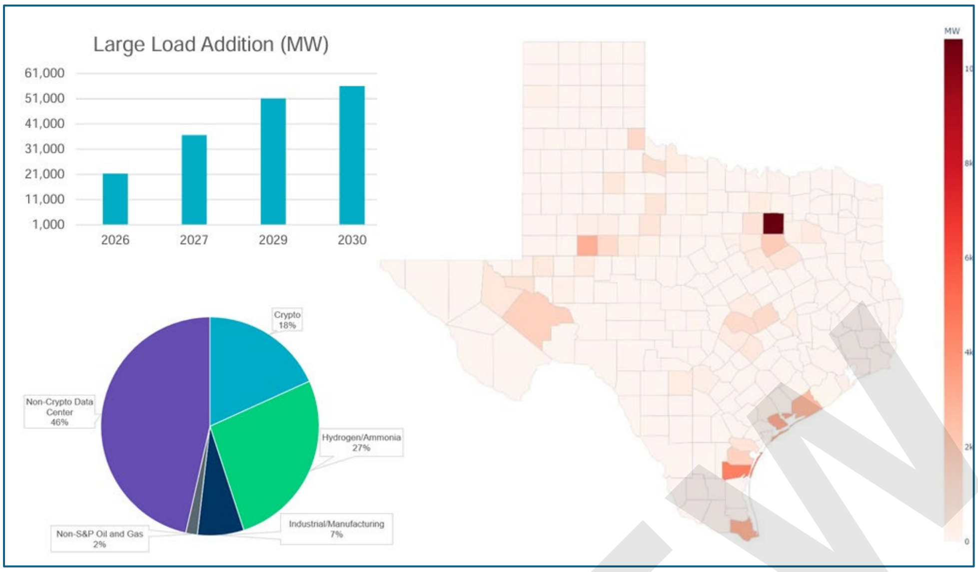

Figure 3: ERCOT 2024 Regional Transmission Plan Large Load Summary[4]

In SPP, load growth is also a major driver of the transmission needs recommended in their 2024 Integrated Transmission Plan (ITP). The 2024 ITP is also constrained by requirements for what loads can be included in the planning process and may not yet accurately represent the amount of load waiting to interconnect.

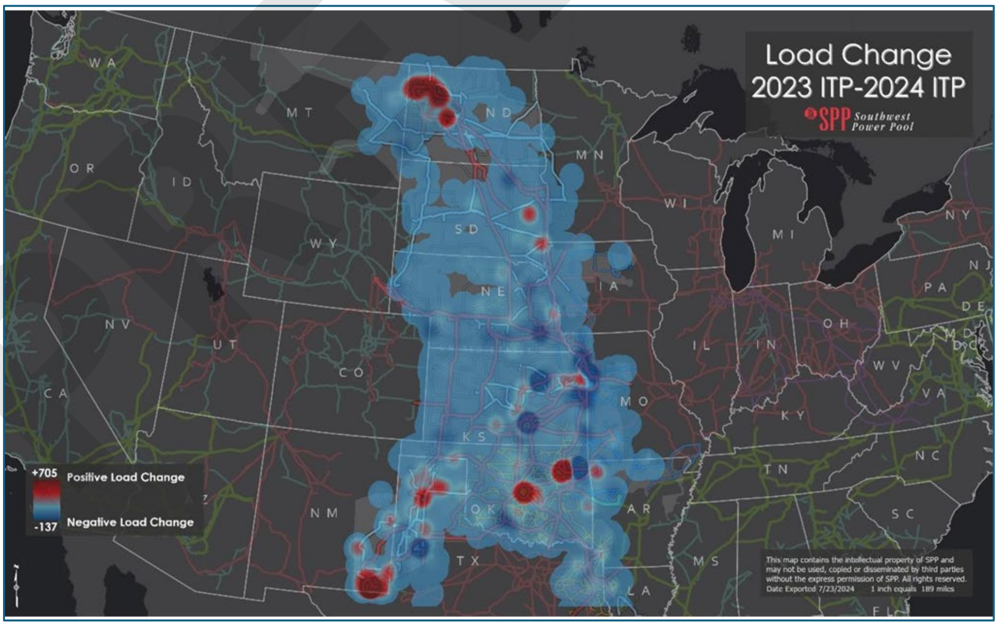

Figure 4: SPP 2024 ITP Load Change from 2023 ITP[5]

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[4] https://www.ercot.com/files/docs/2025/01/28/2024_RTP_Final_Update_January_2025_RPG.pdf
[5] https://www.spp.org/media/2229/2024-itp-assessment-report-v10.pdf

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