GridStrong

CLIENT GUIDANCE · OCTOBER 2026

THE REAL COST OF MISSING A QSA DEADLINE IN ERCOT

Investors often focus on NERC fines as the primary compliance risk. In reality, the far greater financial exposure comes from operational delays. A generator that misses the prerequisites for an ERCOT Quarterly Stability Assessment (QSA), such as an accepted final dynamic model, is left out and cannot synchronize in that three-month window. The delay can cost millions.

$2.5M	100 MW	3 Mo	38%	$30	83K
LOST REVENUE	REFERENCE PLANT	SYNC WINDOW MISSED	ASSUMED WIND CF	ASSUMED $/MWH	MWH LOST OUTPUT

REVENUE IMPACT CALCULATION

ITEM	VALUE
Installed capacity	100 MW
Capacity factor (assumed, wind)	38%
Annual energy production	333,000 MWh
3-month production (÷ 4)	~83,000 MWh
Energy price (assumed; ERCOT 2024 avg. $31.91)	$30 / MWh
Lost Revenue (3-month delay)	**~$2.5 Million**

Beyond Lost Revenue

This figure covers energy revenue only. Fixed operating costs continue during the delay. Missed production tax credit (PTC) windows and contractual penalties from offtake agreements may push the real financial impact significantly higher.

HOW QSA DELAYS HAPPEN

A Gate Before Synchronization

In ERCOT, a generator must be included in a Quarterly Stability Assessment (QSA) before Initial Synchronization. To be included, it must meet Planning Guide prerequisites, including a final dynamic model submitted at least 45 days before the QSA deadline and reviewed by ERCOT.

1. **Prerequisites in place.** The generator meets Planning Guide Section 6.9 and has provided its full generator data, including stability models.
2. **Final model, 45 days out.** The developer submits the final dynamic model at least 45 days before the QSA prerequisite deadline.
3. **ERCOT reviews the model.** If ERCOT cannot complete its review before the QSA deadline, the resource is not included.
4. **Comments cut into the window.** Issues ERCOT raises late in its review leave little time to resolve them before the deadline.
5. **Next window.** The plant is not eligible for Initial Synchronization in that three-month window and must meet the next QSA's prerequisites.

$2.5M	$1.7M	$32	Quarterly
WIND (PER 100 MW DELAY)	SOLAR PV (PER 100 MW DELAY)	ERCOT 2024 AVG $/MWH (IMM)	FIXED QSA CYCLES

Pre-Validated MQT Packages

GridStrong checks PSCAD models and MQT submissions for completeness and quality before the QSA prerequisite deadline, which reduces the risk of late ERCOT comments.

Compliance-First Engineering

Our platform maps every ERCOT planning requirement to your project timeline, ensuring nothing is missed in the interconnection study process.

Operational Risk Intelligence

Move the conversation from "what are the fines?" to "what does a delay actually cost?" This gives investors and boards clarity on the real financial exposure.