

On my web page https://egpreston.com/ERCOT_phasing_out_gas.pdf is a sophisticated Excel spreadsheet that has ERCOT 2021 hourly profiles for demand, wind, and solar. Nuclear is treated as a fixed reliable capacity. All the nameplate capacities can be adjusted as well as storage energy. Battery capacity is entered as a MWh value and the program automatically uses it in an optimal manner to take maximum advantage of all sources except fossil fuels which are handled as peaking after the nuclear, wind, and solar are optimally dispatched with the battery storage. Gas is the slack variable automatically added as a minimum needed to serve load. The phasing out of fossil generation is achieved by adding other resources so both the fossil fuel capacity and energy go to zero. You will find it's not easy to totally eliminate fossil fuels and be affordable.

<https://egpreston.com/ERCOT22A.xlsx> is the 2021 ERCOT historical profiles with the wind and solar resources added in 2022. The load is set to 78 GW peak and 67 GW peak winter. The winter load has an extra 100 hours of extreme cold weather during Uri. Wind icing is retained in the data although gas is treated as reliable when we know it's not completely reliable during a Uri event unless oil backup is assumed. Consider this base case as an idealization for gas reliability and that wind cannot afford de-icing add on equipment. The cases below are decarbonizing scenarios.

<https://egpreston.com/ERCOT22B.xlsx> is a scaling up of wind and solar and storage capacities until the gas capacity and energy drops out. Its cost is quite high. The next page gives a table of the results. This is not a feasible plan because there is too much wind and solar in the plan to be supported by new transmission. The cost of the battery storage is also too costly. This case shows that a 100% wind and solar and battery plan is not feasible unless there is considerable advancement in energy storage. A green hydrogen scenario case needs to be added to these cases.

<https://egpreston.com/ERCOT22C.xlsx> is an interesting application of Charles Forsberg's nuclear and thermal energy storage concept.

<http://xylenepower.com/Solar%20Paces%20Sept%202020%20Forsberg%20Final.pdf> 25 GW of thermal only nuclear drives 61.2 GW of electric generators deriving their power from 5,500 GWh of thermal storage. The plan is optimized for wind and solar with an energy cost of 11.3 cents/kWh. This is the lowest cost plan and is the only valid plan for getting completely off the reliance on fossil fuels while holding down costs and making good use of renewables. Case ERCOT22C has no electrical batteries and no need for maintaining capacity in fossil fuels.

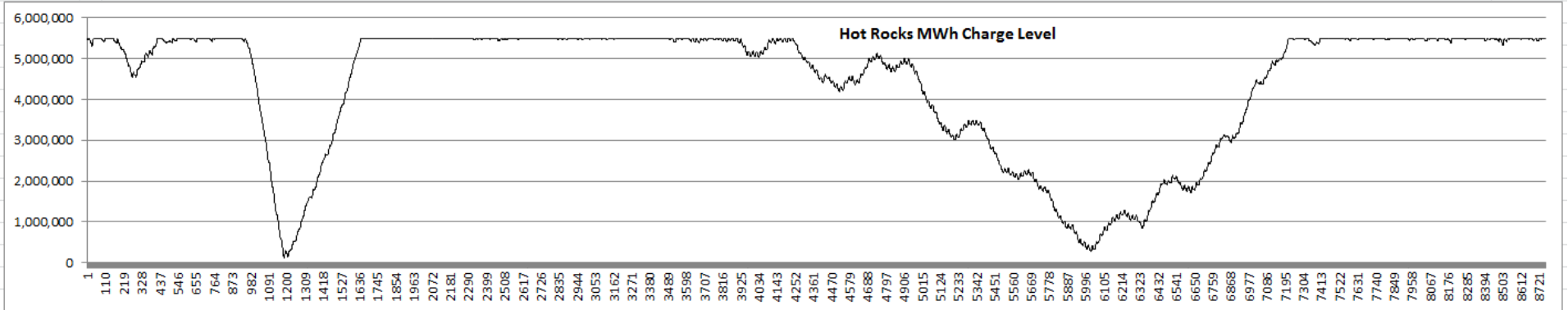
<https://egpreston.com/ERCOT22D.xlsx> is a Per Peterson concept called MK1 PB-FHR. <https://fhr.nuc.berkeley.edu/pb-fhr-technology/> The high temperature nuclear reactor drives twelve 100 MW electrical turbines as a 1200 MW nuclear generator. 20 of these could provide 24 GW of nuclear power. The turbines have an interesting feature. Being rated at 243 MW each and running hot on nuclear power an additional boost of 140 MW could be had from each of the 100 MW turbines by injecting natural gas. This might allow very low gas capacity factors used only during emergencies. However the ability of emergency gas to be provided with very low capacity factors might not be very reliable.

<https://egpreston.com/ERCOT22E.xlsx> is a balanced resource plan with 40 GW each of wind, solar, and nuclear and a 26.8 GW gas with capacity factor of 2.63%. These resources minimize the amount of transmission and battery storage needed. The energy cost is a fairly low 11.7 cents/kWh. In this simulation gas is not allowed to participate in charging up the battery which results in the need to have an additional 6.8 GW of gas capacity.

<https://egpreston.com/ERCOT22.xlsx> tab 404040 is the same case with gas capacity allowed to charge up the same 63 GWh battery. This allows the battery to be cycled less frequently and a smaller 20 GW of gas capacity is needed. However, now the gas capacity factor is 6.33%. The energy cost is 11.3 cents/kWh so there is a slight economic penalty for not allowing gas to be used to charge up the battery. More CO2 is emitted though.

File ERCOT22C.xlsx is a min energy cost plan using 25 GW nuclear, 30 GW wind, and 58 GW solar. Storm Uri is served in this design without gas.

This is minimum energy cost no CO2 emissions plan of 11.3 cents/kWh with 30 GW wind, 58 GW solar, and 25 GW nuclear feeding 5500 GWh thermal storage with 61 GWe generation.

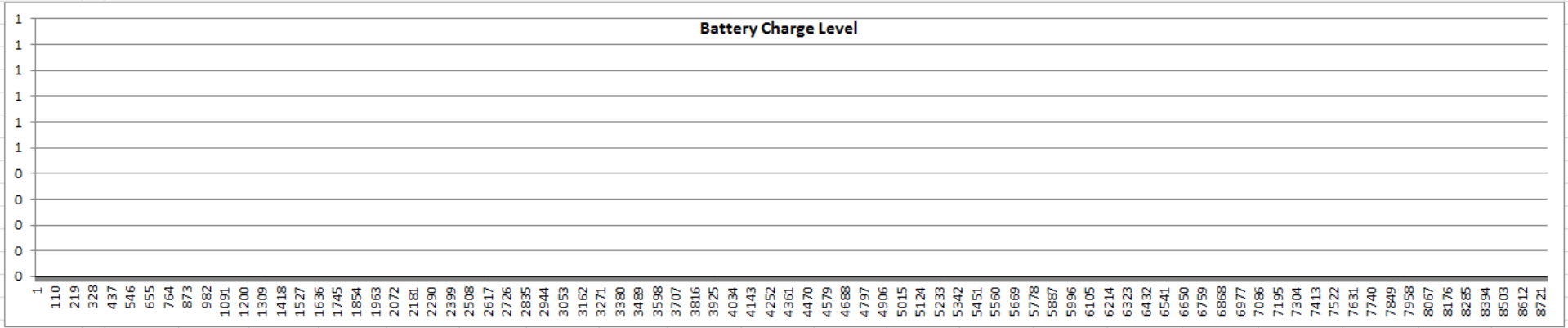


Base Nucl MW = 5,268		this needs to be > 0 >>> 122,426 for no fossil energy										Nucl Thermal MW= 25,000 220 hours		8,000 \$/kW nucl		200.0 5,500 GWh		Peaking Max/Min			
Uri is blue	PeakMW= 78,000	WinPmx= 30,000	SolPmax= 58,000	Nuclear	Wind	Solar	Peaking	Ramp	HR MWh	HotRocks	GasPeak	2,000 \$/kW	4 \$/kWh	50.0	25.0 GW	30,139 MW/hr					
YYYYMMDDHH	D	load pu	loadMW	wind pu	windMW	solar pu	solarMW	MW	MW	MW	MW/hr	5,500,000	MW	MW	Hot Rocks Cost:	272.0 \$Bn	annual	Annual	uplifted		
2021010101	6	0.59901	46,723	0.44812	13,444	0.00000	0	5,268	13,444	0	28,011	0	5,496,989	28,011	0						
2021010102	6	0.59032	46,045	0.45204	13,561	0.00000	0	5,268	13,561	0	27,216	-795	5,494,773	27,216	0						
2021010103	6	0.58603	45,710	0.46578	13,973	0.00000	0	5,268	13,973	0	26,469	-747	5,493,304	26,469	0	78,000 MW Peak	48 GW Avg				
2021010104	6	0.58411	45,561	0.45250	13,575	0.00000	0	5,268	13,575	0	26,718	249	5,491,587	26,718	0	61,210 MW Rock	4444 \$/kW	0.100	27,200	6.518	
2021010105	6	0.58684	45,774	0.40520	12,156	0.00000	0	5,268	12,156	0	28,350	1,632	5,488,237	28,350	0	58,000 MW Solar	1500 \$/kW	0.100	8,700	2.085	
2021010106	6	0.59231	46,200	0.38662	11,599	0.00000	0	5,268	11,599	0	29,334	984	5,483,903	29,334	0	30,000 MW Wnd	2500 \$/kW	0.100	7,500	1.797	
2021010107	6	0.60638	47,298	0.35249	10,575	0.00000	0	5,268	10,575	0	31,455	2,121	5,477,449	31,455	0	5,268 MW Nucl	7000 \$/kW	0.100	3,688	0.884	
2021010108	6	0.61933	48,308	0.34405	10,322	0.00000	0	5,268	10,322	0	32,718	1,263	5,469,730	32,718	0	0 MW Foss	1000 \$/kW	0.100	0	0.000	
2021010109	6	0.62467	48,724	0.32052	9,616	0.01074	623	5,268	9,616	623	33,218	499	5,461,513	33,218	0	0 Avg MW	2000 \$/MWh fuel cost		0	0.000	
2021010110	6	0.62375	48,653	0.31196	9,359	0.23206	13,459	5,268	9,359	13,459	20,566	-12,652	5,465,946	20,566	0			total	47,088	11.283	
2021010111	6	0.62197	48,514	0.33748	10,124	0.41209	23,901	5,268	10,124	23,901	9,220	-11,346	5,481,726	9,220	0		verify	total	47,088		
2021010112	6	0.61621	48,064	0.35892	10,768	0.49138	28,500	5,268	10,768	28,500	3,529	-5,691	5,500,000	3,529	0						
2021010113	6	0.60681	47,331	0.34553	10,366	0.49228	28,552	5,268	10,366	28,552	3,145	-384	5,500,000	3,145	0		max % CF	act % CF	unused%	cent/kWh	AnnualM\$
2021010114	6	0.59405	46,336	0.29690	8,907	0.50975	29,566	5,268	8,907	29,566	2,595	-550	5,500,000	2,595	0	Solar	23.14	21.08	2.06	8.123	8,700
2021010115	6	0.58100	45,318	0.26109	7,833	0.44201	25,637	5,268	7,833	25,637	6,581	3,985	5,500,000	6,581	0	Wind	33.56	33.56	0.00	8.504	7,500
2021010116	6	0.57209	44,623	0.20971	6,291	0.45661	26,483	5,268	6,291	26,483	6,580	0	5,500,000	6,580	0	Nuclear	100.00	100.00	0.00	7.991	3,688
2021010117	6	0.56998	44,458	0.16199	4,860	0.43382	25,162	5,268	4,860	25,162	9,169	2,589	5,500,000	9,169	0	Fossil	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.000	0
2021010118	6	0.58544	45,664	0.11547	3,464	0.14767	8,565	5,268	3,464	8,565	28,367	19,198	5,496,633	28,367	0	Hot Rocks	100.00	80.31	19.69	15.47	27,200
2021010119	6	0.62145	48,473	0.10655	3,197	0.00000	0	5,268	3,197	0	40,009	11,641	5,481,624	40,009	0		verify total annual cost in M\$			47,088	

This plan uses 5,500 GWh of thermal storage charged up by 25 GW of nuclear power not connected to the grid. There is no battery storage. Wind and solar are optimized capacities of 30 and 58 GW respectively. There is very little curtailment of the resources. This is a fossil fuel free plan with an energy cost of 11.3 cents per kWh. Case ERCOT22C has no electrical batteries and no need for maintaining capacity in fossil fuels.

File ERCOT22D.xlsx adds 24 GW nuclear using Per Peterson's MK1 PB-FHR concept. Separate gas fired generators may not be needed.

ERCOT22D has 24 GW Per Peterson nuclear (37 GW gas boost) as low CF gas generation. Storm Uri is in the hourly data shown as a sustained high load level of 67 GW for over 100 hours.

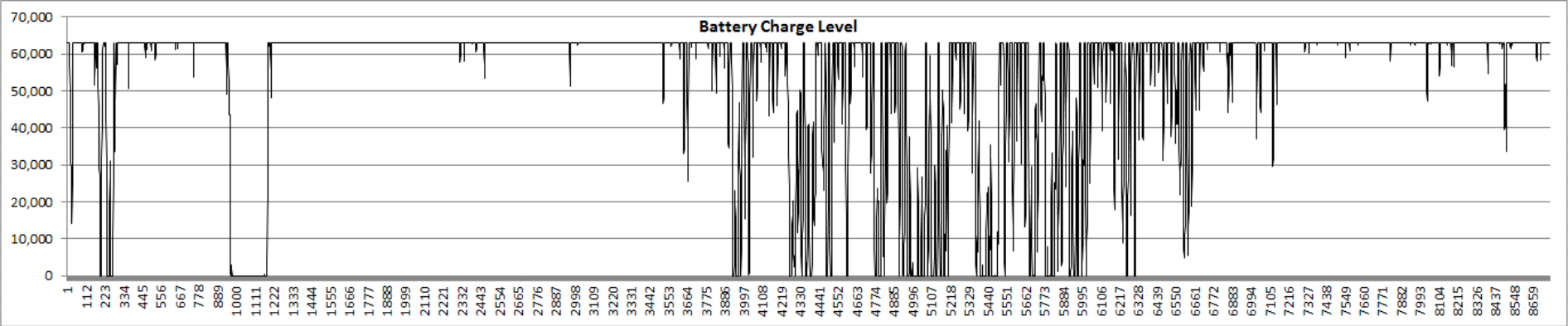


Nuclear MW =		29,268		Battery Storage Max MWh =		0		Foss=		37,070		MW max		Battery Storage Costs:										
Uri is blue		PeakMW=	78,000	WinPmx=	36,959	SolPmax=	19,682	NonFoss	BS MWh	BStor MW	Fossil	Nuclear	Solar	Wind	0.80	\$/W	0.0	0.0	GW					
YYYYMMDDHH	D	load pu	loadMW	wind pu	windMW	solar pu	solarMW	MW	0	(-in/+out)	MW	MW	MW	MW	0.30	\$/Wh	0.0	0.0	Hrs					
2021010101	6	0.59901	46,723	0.44812	16,562	0.00000	0	45,830	0	0	893	29,268	0	16,562	Battery Cost:		0.0	\$Bn						
2021010102	6	0.59032	46,045	0.45204	16,707	0.00000	0	45,975	0	0	70	29,268	0	16,707					annual	Annual	uplifted			
2021010103	6	0.58603	45,710	0.46578	17,215	0.00000	0	46,483	0	0	0	29,268	0	16,442	78	GW Peak	48	GW Avg						
2021010104	6	0.58411	45,561	0.45250	16,724	0.00000	0	45,992	0	0	0	29,268	0	16,293	0	GW BS	0	\$/kWh	0.100	0	0.000			
2021010105	6	0.58684	45,774	0.40520	14,976	0.00000	0	44,244	0	0	1,530	29,268	0	14,976	20	GW Solar	1500	\$/kW	0.100	2,952	0.707			
2021010106	6	0.59231	46,200	0.38662	14,289	0.00000	0	43,557	0	0	2,643	29,268	0	14,289	37	GW Wnd	2500	\$/kW	0.100	9,240	2.214			
2021010107	6	0.60638	47,298	0.35249	13,028	0.00000	0	42,296	0	0	5,002	29,268	0	13,028	29	GW Nucl	7000	\$/kW	0.100	20,488	4.909			
2021010108	6	0.61933	48,308	0.34405	12,716	0.00000	0	41,984	0	0	6,324	29,268	0	12,716	37	GW Foss	1000	\$/kW	0.100	3,707	0.888			
2021010109	6	0.62467	48,724	0.32052	11,846	0.01074	211	41,325	0	0	7,399	29,268	211	11,846	6	Avg GW	40	\$/MWh fuel cost		1,954	0.468			
2021010110	6	0.62375	48,653	0.31196	11,530	0.23206	4,567	45,365	0	0	3,287	29,268	4,567	11,530					total	38,340	9.187			
2021010111	6	0.62197	48,514	0.33748	12,473	0.41209	8,111	49,852	0	0	0	29,268	8,111	11,135					verify	total	38,340			
2021010112	6	0.61621	48,064	0.35892	13,265	0.49138	9,671	52,205	0	0	0	29,268	9,671	9,125										
2021010113	6	0.60681	47,331	0.34553	12,770	0.49228	9,689	51,727	0	0	0	29,268	9,689	8,374					max % CF	act % CF	unused%	cent/kWh	AnnualM\$	
2021010114	6	0.59405	46,336	0.29690	10,973	0.50975	10,033	50,274	0	0	0	29,268	10,033	7,035					Solar	23.14	22.31	0.83	7.676	2,952
2021010115	6	0.58100	45,318	0.26109	9,650	0.44201	8,700	47,617	0	0	0	29,268	8,700	7,350					Wind	33.56	22.74	10.82	12.549	9,240
2021010116	6	0.57209	44,623	0.20971	7,751	0.45661	8,987	46,006	0	0	0	29,268	8,987	6,368					Nuclear	100.00	100.00		7.991	20,488
2021010117	6	0.56998	44,458	0.16199	5,987	0.43382	8,538	43,793	0	0	665	29,268	8,538	5,987					Fossil	100.00	15.04		11.590	5,661
2021010118	6	0.58544	45,664	0.11547	4,268	0.14767	2,906	36,442	0	0	9,222	29,268	2,906	4,268					Battery					0
2021010119	6	0.62145	48,473	0.10655	3,938	0.00000	0	33,206	0	0	15,267	29,268	0	3,938						verify total annual cost in M\$		38,340		

There is only Per Peterson's 24 GW of nuclear plant capacity with 37 GW of instant on gas boost capacity. There is no battery storage. Wind and solar are held at the 2022 planned levels of investment. This nuclear plan is low in fossil fuel usage and has an energy cost of 9.2 cents/kWh.

<https://egpreston.com/ERCOT22E.xlsx> is a 40 GW each of wind, solar, and nuclear and a 26.8 GW gas with capacity factor of 2.63%.

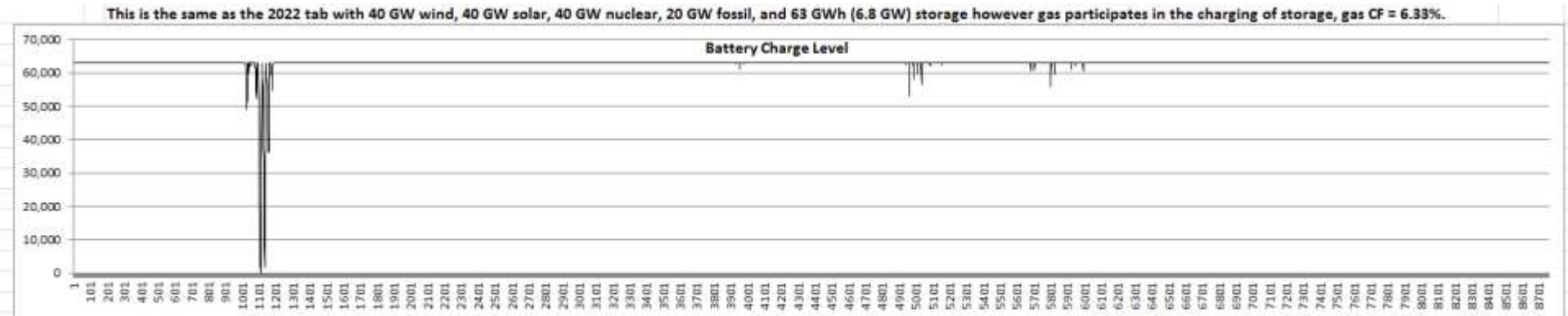
This is the same as the ERCOT22 tab 404040 with 40 GW wind, 40 GW solar, 40 GW nuclear, 26.8 GW fossil, and 63 GWh (23.4 GW) storage, gas CF = 2.63%.



Nuclear MW = 40,000		PeakMW= 81,000		WinPmx= 40,000		SolarPmax= 40,000		Battery Storage Max MWh = 63,000		Foss= 26,791		MW max		Battery Storage Costs:							
Uri is blue	PeakMW=	loadMW	wind pu	windMW	solar pu	solarMW	NonFoss MW	BS MWh	BStor MW (-in/+out)	Fossil MW	Nuclear MW	Solar MW	Wind MW	0.80 \$/W	18.7	23.4	GW				
YYYYMMDDHH	D	load pu	loadMW	wind pu	windMW	solar pu	solarMW	MWh	BStor MW (-in/+out)	Fossil MW	Nuclear MW	Solar MW	Wind MW	0.30 \$/Wh	18.9	2.7	Hrs				
2021010101	6	0.59901	48,520	0.44812	17,925	0.00000	0	57,925	63,000	0	0	40,000	0	8,520	Battery Cost: 37.6 \$Bn						
2021010102	6	0.59032	47,816	0.45204	18,082	0.00000	0	58,082	63,000	0	0	40,000	0	7,816	annual						
2021010103	6	0.58603	47,468	0.46578	18,631	0.00000	0	58,631	63,000	0	0	40,000	0	7,468	81	GW Peak	49	GW Avg	capt cost	Cost M\$	cent/kWh
2021010104	6	0.58411	47,313	0.45250	18,100	0.00000	0	58,100	63,000	0	0	40,000	0	7,313	63	GWh BS	598	\$/kWh	0.100	3,765	0.869
2021010105	6	0.58684	47,534	0.40520	16,208	0.00000	0	56,208	63,000	0	0	40,000	0	7,534	40	GW Solar	1500	\$/kW	0.100	6,000	1.385
2021010106	6	0.59231	47,977	0.38662	15,465	0.00000	0	55,465	63,000	0	0	40,000	0	7,977	40	GW Wnd	2500	\$/kW	0.100	10,000	2.309
2021010107	6	0.60638	49,117	0.35249	14,100	0.00000	0	54,100	63,000	0	0	40,000	0	9,117	40	GW Nucl	7000	\$/kW	0.100	28,000	6.464
2021010108	6	0.61933	50,166	0.34405	13,762	0.00000	0	53,762	63,000	0	0	40,000	0	10,166	27	GW Foss	1000	\$/kW	0.100	2,679	0.619
2021010109	6	0.62467	50,598	0.32052	12,821	0.01074	430	53,250	63,000	0	0	40,000	430	10,169	1	Avg GW	40	\$/MWh fuel cost		247	0.057
2021010110	6	0.62375	50,524	0.31196	12,478	0.23206	9,282	61,761	63,000	0	0	40,000	9,282	1,241	total			50,691	11.703		
2021010111	6	0.62197	50,380	0.33748	13,499	0.41209	16,484	69,983	63,000	0	0	40,000	10,380	0	verify total			50,691			
2021010112	6	0.61621	49,913	0.35892	14,357	0.49138	19,655	74,012	63,000	0	0	40,000	9,913	0							
2021010113	6	0.60681	49,152	0.34553	13,821	0.49228	19,691	73,512	63,000	0	0	40,000	9,152	0	max % CF						
2021010114	6	0.59405	48,118	0.29690	11,876	0.50975	20,390	72,266	63,000	0	0	40,000	8,118	0	Solar	23.14	act % CF	13.39	9.75	12.785	6,000
2021010115	6	0.58100	47,061	0.26109	10,444	0.44201	17,680	68,124	63,000	0	0	40,000	7,061	0	Wind	33.56	9.66	23.90	29.530	10,000	
2021010116	6	0.57209	46,339	0.20971	8,388	0.45661	18,264	66,653	63,000	0	0	40,000	6,339	0	Nuclear	100.00	98.80		8.088	28,000	
2021010117	6	0.56998	46,168	0.16199	6,480	0.43382	17,353	63,832	63,000	0	0	40,000	6,168	0	Fossil	100.00	2.63		47.415	2,926	
2021010118	6	0.58544	47,421	0.11547	4,619	0.14767	5,907	50,526	63,000	0	0	40,000	5,907	1,514	Battery					3,765	
2021010119	6	0.62145	50,337	0.10655	4,262	0.00000	0	44,262	56,925	6,075	0	40,000	0	4,262	verify total annual cost in M\$			50,691			

In this simulation the 26.8 GW gas capacity is automatically added but not allowed to participate in charging up the battery. The next page shows the same simulation with gas allowed to charge up the battery. This is a 40 40 40 nuclear, wind, and solar plan that has high capital costs in nuclear and batteries as well as maintaining the cost of gas peaking capacity which is not used very often. Not allowing the battery to be charged up from gas to reduce CO2 emissions carries an economic penalty. The simulation on the next page is the same case that allows gas to charge the batteries.

<https://egpreston.com/ERCOT22.xlsx> (tab 404040) is the same case with gas capacity allowed to charge up the same 63 GWh battery.



This is the same as the 2022 tab with 40 GW wind, 40 GW solar, 40 GW nuclear, 20 GW fossil, and 63 GWh (6.8 GW) storage however gas participates in the charging of storage, gas CF = 6.33%.

Fossil MW = 20,000
Nuclear MW = 40,000

Enter 0 for BS MWh in K21 and the light gray box L19 shows the number to be hand typed into K21

YYYYMMDDHH	D	load pu	loadMW	wind pu	windMW	solar pu	solarMW	Supply MW	Load MW	BS MWh*	BSfor MW (-In/+out)	nuclear MW	renewables MW	wind MW	solar MW	fossil MW	Battery Cost Assumption:	5,4	6.8 GW	annual	Annual	uplifted	
2021010101	6	0.59901	48,520	0.44812	17,925	0.00000	0	77,925	0	62,964	0	40,000	8,520	8,520	0	0	0.80 \$/W	5.4	6.8				
2021010102	6	0.59032	47,816	0.45204	18,082	0.00000	0	78,082	0	62,964	0	40,000	7,816	7,816	0	0	0.30 \$/Wh	18.9	9.3				
2021010103	6	0.58603	47,468	0.46578	18,631	0.00000	0	78,631	0	62,964	0	40,000	7,468	7,468	0	0	Battery Cost:	24.3	\$8n				
2021010104	6	0.58411	47,313	0.45250	18,100	0.00000	0	78,100	0	62,964	0	40,000	7,313	7,313	0	0	81 GW Peak	49	GW Avg	capt cost	Cost M\$	cent/kWh	
2021010105	6	0.58684	47,534	0.40520	16,208	0.00000	0	76,208	0	62,964	0	40,000	7,534	7,534	0	0	63 GWh BS	386	\$/kWh	0.100	2,432	0.562	
2021010106	6	0.59231	47,977	0.38662	15,465	0.00000	0	75,465	0	62,964	0	40,000	7,977	7,977	0	0	40 GW Solar	1500	\$/kW	0.100	6,000	1.385	
2021010107	6	0.60638	49,117	0.35249	14,100	0.00000	0	74,100	0	62,964	0	40,000	9,117	9,117	0	0	40 GW Wnd	2500	\$/kW	0.100	10,000	2.309	
2021010108	6	0.61933	50,166	0.34405	13,762	0.00000	0	73,762	0	62,964	0	40,000	10,166	10,166	0	0	40 GW Nucl	7000	\$/kW	0.100	28,000	6.464	
2021010109	6	0.62467	50,598	0.32052	12,821	0.01074	430	73,250	0	62,964	0	40,000	10,598	10,598	0	0	20 GW Foss	1000	\$/kW	0.100	2,000	0.462	
2021010110	6	0.62375	50,524	0.31196	12,478	0.23206	9,282	81,761	0	62,964	0	40,000	10,524	10,524	0	0	1 Avg GW	40	\$/MWh fuel cost		443	0.102	
2021010111	6	0.62197	50,380	0.33748	13,499	0.41209	16,484	89,983	0	62,964	0	40,000	10,380	10,380	0	0							
2021010112	6	0.61621	49,913	0.35892	14,357	0.49138	19,655	94,012	0	62,964	0	40,000	9,913	9,913	0	0							
2021010113	6	0.60681	49,152	0.34553	13,821	0.49228	19,691	93,512	0	62,964	0	40,000	9,152	9,152	0	0							
2021010114	6	0.59405	48,118	0.29690	11,876	0.50975	20,390	92,266	0	62,964	0	40,000	8,118	8,118	0	0	Solar	23.14	7.36	15.78	23.278	6,000	
2021010115	6	0.58100	47,061	0.26109	10,444	0.44201	17,680	88,124	0	62,964	0	40,000	7,061	7,061	0	0	Wind	33.56	14.31	19.26	19.950	10,000	
2021010116	6	0.57209	46,339	0.20971	8,388	0.45661	18,264	86,653	0	62,964	0	40,000	6,339	6,339	0	0	Nuclear	100.00	98.79	1.21	8.089	28,000	
2021010117	6	0.56998	46,168	0.16199	6,480	0.43382	17,353	83,832	0	62,964	0	40,000	6,168	6,168	0	0	Fossil	100.00	6.33	93.67	22.040	2,443	
2021010118	6	0.58544	47,421	0.11547	4,619	0.14767	5,907	70,526	0	62,964	0	40,000	7,421	4,619	2,802	0	Battery					2,432	
2021010119	6	0.62145	50,337	0.10655	4,262	0.00000	0	64,262	0	62,964	0	40,000	4,262	4,262	0	6,075				verify total annual cost in M\$		48,876	

This allows the battery to be cycled less frequently and a smaller 20 GW of gas capacity is needed. However, now the gas capacity factor is 6.33%. The energy cost is 11.3 cents/kWh so there is a slight economic penalty for not allowing gas to be used to charge up the battery. 2.5 times as much CO2 is emitted when the gas capacity is allowed to charge the battery for mostly serving peak demands. The purpose of these cases ERCOT22 and ERCOT22E is to show the differences in more (22) or less (22E) allowing gas to participate in the hourly dispatch. Note that in these two plans the addition of new base load nuclear keeps the cost of adding batteries to a minimum. However in doing so, the expansion of wind and solar becomes limited. Case ERCOT22C overcomes this problem by using nuclear energy in a peaking mode. Case 22C has no electrical batteries and no need for maintaining capacity in fossil fuels.