

ECP - Industry Survey

Study Report Survey Responses

15/05/2016



The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin D04 FW28
Telephone: +353 1 677 1700 | www.eirgrid.ie

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Revision History						
Revision	Date	Description	Originator	Reviewer	Checker	Approver
	15/05/26	Summary of the results of the ECP Study Report Survey	ECP - Constrain Analysis Team			

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1 Summary

This survey was undertaken to capture feedback from industry stakeholders on the ECP constraint forecast study reports, with a particular focus on the proposed changes to report structure, content, and supporting data outputs. Responses were used to understand how stakeholders currently use the reports, which sections and outputs provide the most value, and what improvements would increase transparency, usability, and alignment with stakeholder needs. The findings in this document summarise the inputs received and are intended to inform the final format of future publications.

EirGrid would like to thank all participants who took the time to provide feedback and share their experience of using the ECP constraint forecast study reports. Your input is greatly appreciated and supports our ongoing efforts to continuously improve the clarity, transparency, and usability of the reports and data outputs we provide to industry stakeholders.

Respondents operate largely across multiple renewable sectors, with strongest representation in solar, onshore wind, and battery storage. The ECP study reports are widely used across all primary use cases, particularly decision-making, planning, and general awareness; with several stakeholders relying on them comprehensively. All report sections provide value, with the overview, area, sub-group, and node-level outputs each serving different analytical purposes depending on the level of detail required.

Overall feedback indicates that the reports are considered a valuable resource for assessing network capacity, project viability, and longer-term planning, with respondents highlighting the benefit of both high-level summaries and more detailed node-level insights. There is a clear preference to retain both pro-rata and grandfathered constraint approaches. EirGrid will continue to report results using both constraint approaches, supporting transparent reporting and, in line with our ongoing commitment to industry engagement, providing stakeholders with clear visibility of how outcomes may vary under different assumptions and methodologies

Areas suggested for improvement centre on increasing transparency and usability. Stakeholders are seeking clearer visibility of network reinforcements and timelines, more extensive explanation of constraint application, and confirmation of alignment between outputs and real-world system behaviour. Additional requests include more granular and structured data (particularly in Excel), enhanced visualisations such as constraint mapping, expanded scenario coverage, and additional contextual commentary to better interpret trends and anomalies.

While it is not possible to address all comments received during this survey, the Constraint Analysis team value all feedback received in this process and will continue to discuss with industry representatives in the project improvement plan in future iterations.

1.1 Summary of Proposed Changes

Changes to the information previously published in the Constraint Forecast Study Summary are as follows:

1. Section 1 will be retained with an additional network map of Ireland.
2. Section 2 will retain graphs and commentary, while tables 1 to 4 are migrated to Excel format.
3. Appendix A & B will be migrated to Excel format.
4. An Overview by Area will be migrated to the Summary from the Study reports.

The below information previously provided in nodal area reports, including maintenance sensitivities, will be provided in Excel format:

1. Table 1-4 Area 'x' Generation nodes and subgroups,
2. All Curtailment and Constraint tables from Section 1.5 and Section 2
3. All Surplus, Curtailment, and Constraint with sensitivity tables from Section 1.5 and Section 2.

Other modelling outputs that will be provided in Excel format include:

1. Hourly Interconnector Flows
2. Annual Contingencies & Line Overloading
3. Annual RES percentages

Inputs will continue to be published in the assumptions document, and the following, previously found in the Assumptions Document will be available in Excel format:

1. Installed Generation Tables
 - Table 4 - Generation Capacities in Area for Ireland and Northern Ireland will be migrated to the RES and Battery Generation Table of the Constraint Analysis Excel Version.
2. Network Reinforcements
3. Network Outages

2 Respondents

2.1 Energy Sector Representation

The survey respondents are primarily active across multiple renewable sectors, with strongest representation in solar, onshore wind, and battery, and limited or no participation from Demand Side Units (DSU), conventional generation, or interconnectors. There is significant overlap between sectors, indicating that most stakeholders operate diversified portfolios rather than single-technology assets. EirGrid would again like to acknowledge and thank participants from across the diverse range of energy sectors for their considered contributions, which have helped to inform the conclusions and recommendations set out in this report.

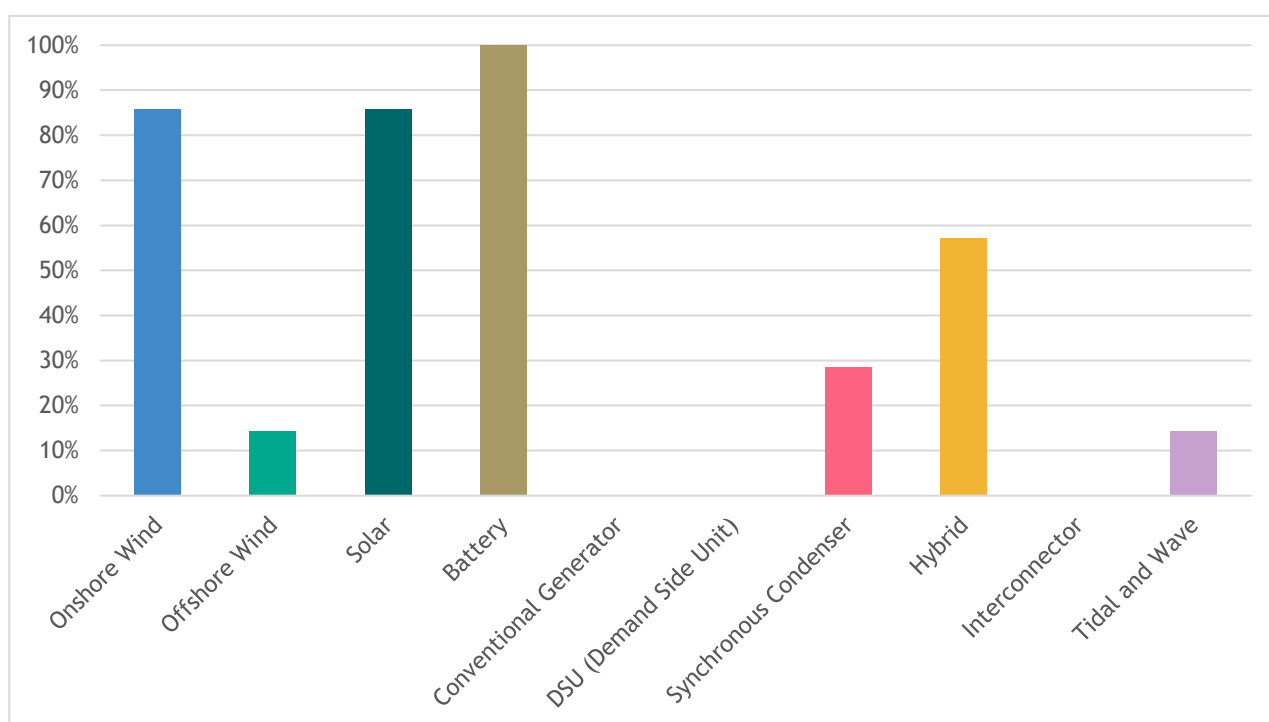


Figure 1 Energy sectors operated in by survey respondents.

2.2 Respondent ECP Study Report Usage

The EirGrid Constraint Analysis team welcomes engagement from industry and is committed to using stakeholder feedback to enhance the quality and usability of its study reports. ECP study reports are widely used for decision-making, planning, and general awareness, with several respondents relying on them across all available use cases. The reports also support project-specific assessments, including evaluations of access and development feasibility. Other respondent uses of the ECP study reports included assessment of the likelihood of being granted firm access for development projects.

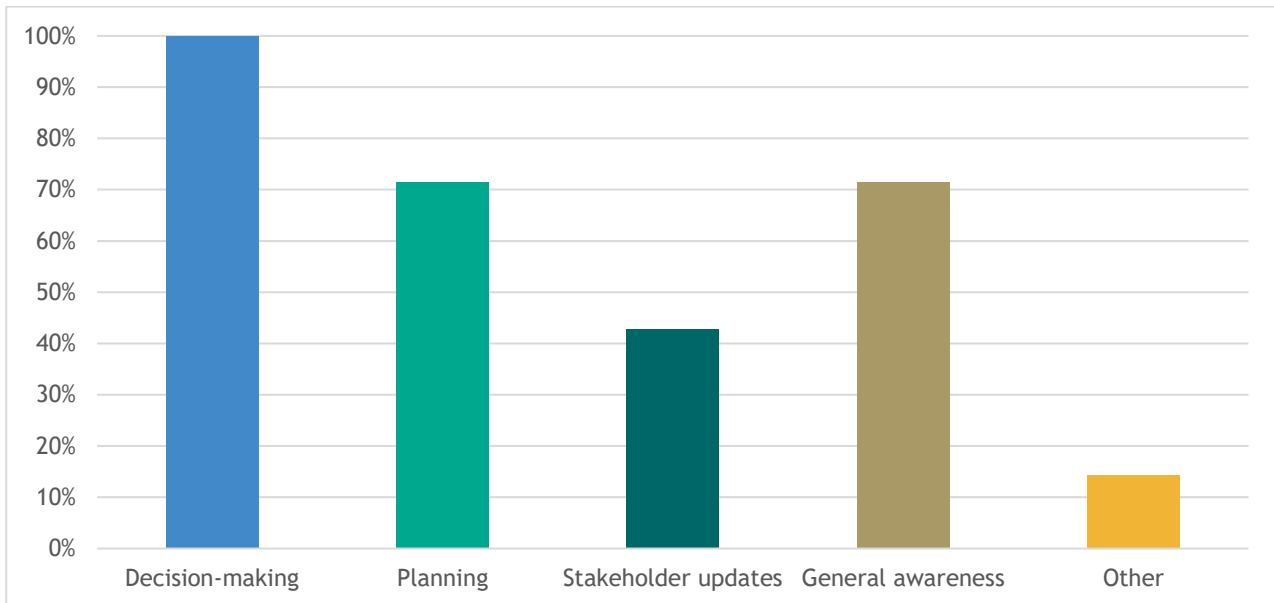


Figure 2 Uses of the ECP Study Reports by respondents

3 Main Survey Results

The Main Questions section of the survey was designed to collect stakeholder feedback on the proposed format and content of future EirGrid Study reports and the supporting data outputs. It focuses on understanding which report elements are most valuable to users, whether the proposed changes (including the migration of certain tables and outputs to Excel) meet stakeholder needs, and what additional improvements or information would increase the usefulness, clarity, and overall impact of the reports.

3.1 Application of the ECP Study Report Sections

All report sections (overview, area, sub-group, and node-level) are considered valuable by industry participants, with usage varying depending on the level of detail required by the user. While most stakeholders use all sections comprehensively, there is a minor split around the node level reports, with some relying on them exclusively, while others neglect them entirely. Overall there was no significant difference in usage across all report sections.

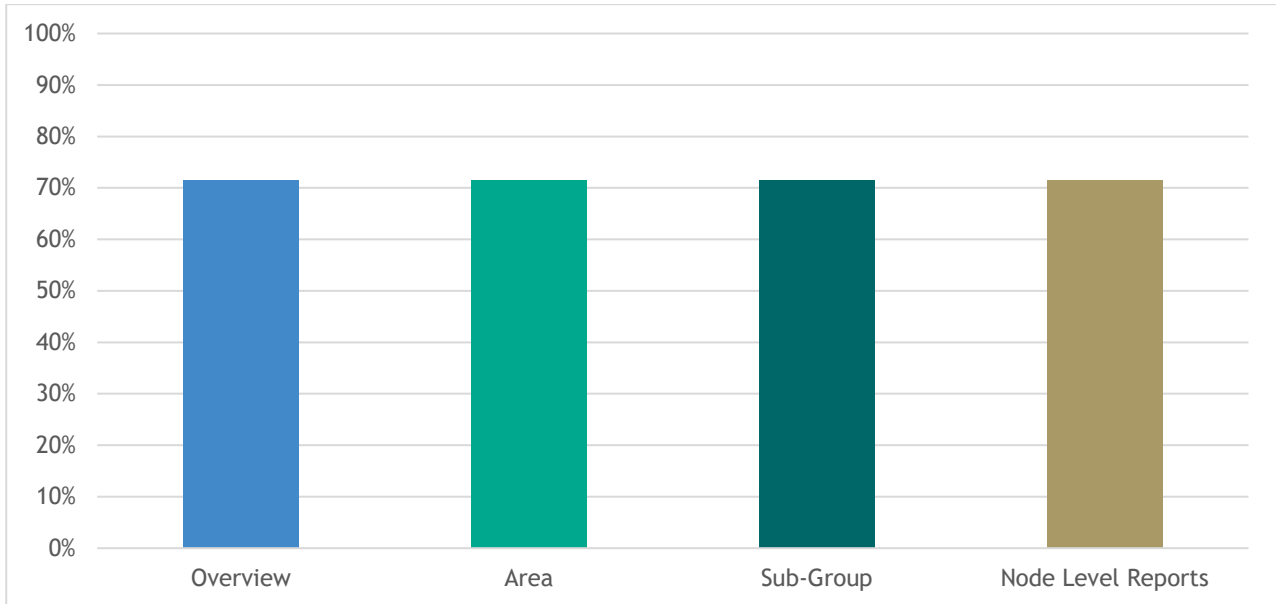


Figure 3 Sections of the ECP Study Reports indicated as useful by survey respondents.

3.1.1 Summary of Respondent Explanations of Report Section Usage

Respondents use the ECP reports primarily to support long-term studies and project projections, with the Area reports also used at times for site confirmation. The Node Level report is valued mainly for its map showing how new nodes connect into the existing system and for understanding the assumed volumes of generation by type; Sub-group information is used more selectively where Area reporting doesn't adequately capture the impact of specific constraints in parts of the network.

Overall, the reports are seen as broadly helpful, with particular emphasis on the added value of the Excel table in clarifying what projects are already operating, contracted, or planned at each node and therefore helping users judge how much capacity may remain for additional connections. The outputs are also used to assess grid proximity and generation availability, and to stay aware of the impact of relevant reinforcements.

3.2 Importance of the Study Report Key Summary

The area report key summary is considered important by the majority of respondents, indicating that high-level summaries are effective in supporting stakeholder understanding. However, some respondents highlighted the need for additional visualisations and clearer explanations to enhance interpretability. Visualisations are not within the scope of this survey, however they are on the project improvement list to be discussed with industry representatives.

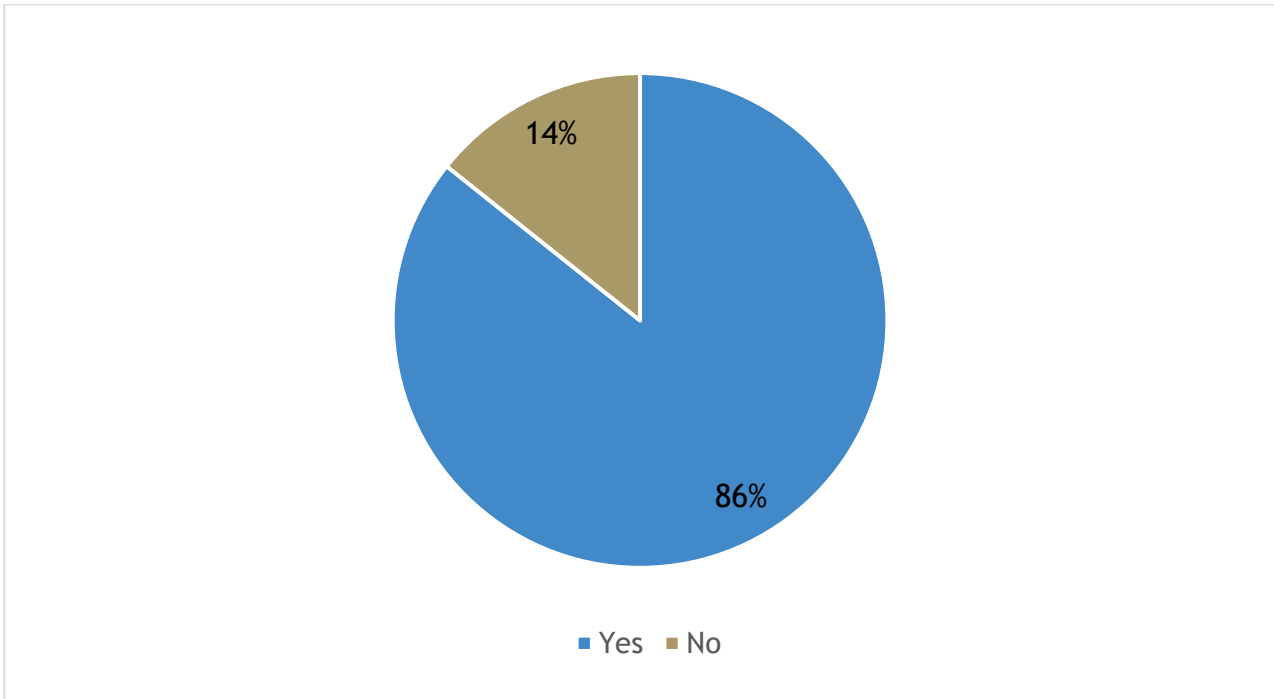


Figure 4 Pie-chart showing the percentage of respondents who found the Key Summary of the ECP Study Reports useful.

3.2.1 Summary of Respondent Requested Additions to the Key Summary

Suggested enhancements focused on improving interpretability through additional visual outputs (for example, maps or graphics showing circuits, overloads, and heat-map context) and providing clearer supporting narrative, particularly brief commentary to explain unusual changes in trends relative to previous reports or neighbouring subgroups.

3.3 Preference for Pro-Rata or Grandfathering

In the ECP constraint forecast studies, the terms “Pro-Rata” and “Grandfathering” describe how the model allocates *constraint dispatch down* across renewable generators when local network limitations occur.

- **Pro-rata:** where a constraint binds, all relevant renewable generators (priority dispatch and non-priority dispatch) share the required reduction in output proportionally, i.e., they are dispatched down together on a pro-rata basis within the affected node/subgroup/area.
- **Grandfathering:** where a constraint binds, non-priority dispatch renewables are dispatched down first (typically shared pro-rata across the non-priority units that can relieve the limitation). If the constraint cannot be resolved by reducing non-priority units alone, priority dispatch units are then dispatched down (also pro-rata) to fully resolve the constraint.

There is a clear preference for maintaining both pro-rata and grandfathered constraint approaches within the analysis. This reflects the need for stakeholders to assess project impacts under multiple scenarios and EirGrid will continue to facilitate this by providing analyses using both constraint allocations.

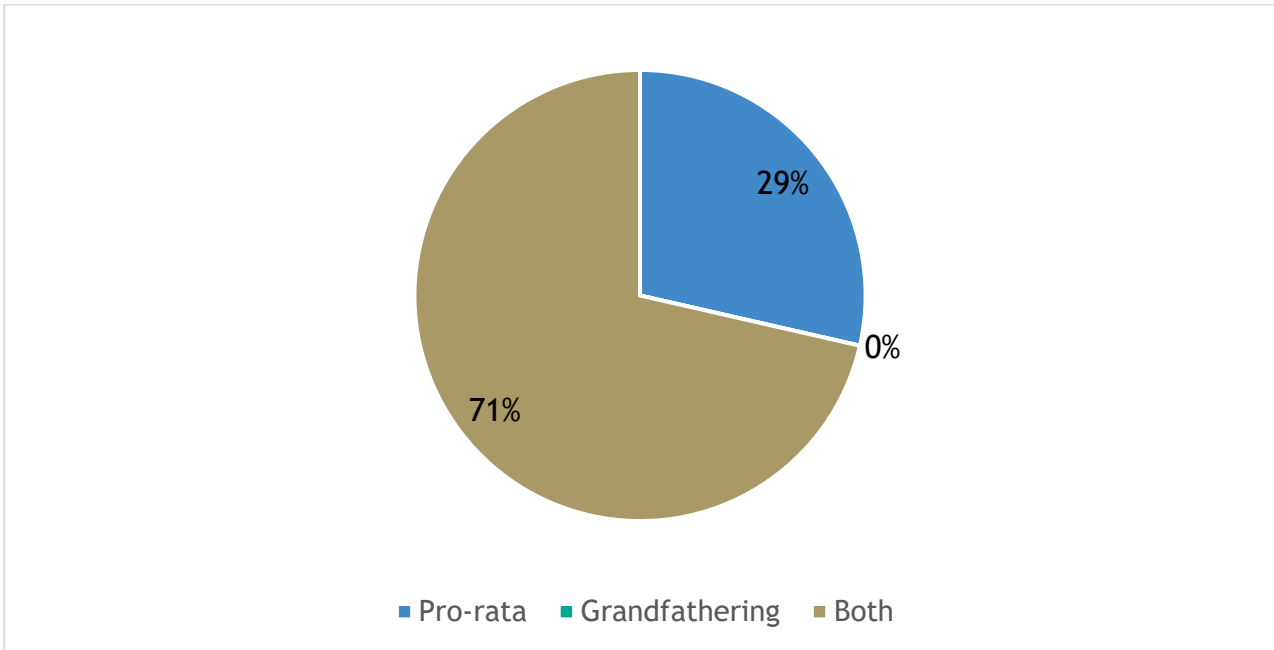


Figure 5 Pie-chart showing the percentage of respondents who prefer Pro-Rata, Grandfathering, or both approaches to be reported in ECP Study Reports.

3.3.1 Summary of Respondent Explanation of Reporting Preference

Respondents who expressed a view generally supported retaining **both** pro-rata and grandfathered constraint approaches, largely to reflect ongoing developments around when and how grandfathering or pro-rata will be implemented and to enable robust project-viability assessments under multiple scenarios. A minority view favoured pro-rata on the basis that the current arrangements work adequately, with concerns noted that grandfathering can create friction with previously connected parties.

3.4 Respondent Suggestions for Improvement & Additional Information

3.4.1 Planned Network Reinforcements and Timelines

Several respondents requested the addition of information about future network planning including reinforcement work plans and timelines. While reporting on that information is outside the remit of the Constraint Analysis team, EirGrid does provide details on these topics as part of our ongoing commitment to engagement and transparency. This was provided in previous years through the Network Development Portfolio ([NDP](#)) and can now be accessed through the Transmission Infrastructure Delivery ([TID](#)) Update.

Information from these reports and the Shaping Our Electricity Future ([SOEF](#)) is used in updating the future network scenarios of ECP models:

- The NDP/TID is used as the primary source for reinforcements projects to be included in the future network update.
- The most current version of NDP/TID is used to make updates to key assumptions of the ECP model (in-service dates and material scope changes).
- If there is a new version of SOEF since the previous ECP iteration, it is reviewed and new projects are added to the model's future network as appropriate.

<https://www.eirgrid.ie/grid/grid-reports-and-planning/transmission-infrastructure-delivery-tid-update>
<https://www.eirgrid.ie/grid/grid-reports-and-planning/network-delivery-portfolio>
<https://www.eirgrid.ie/shaping-our-electricity-future>

3.4.2 Current Network Ratings

One respondent requested publication of line and transformer ratings and overload ratings. While EirGrid endeavours to be as transparent as possible in our use of data, in order to provide the best possible forecast of the future grid, commercially sensitive information may be used in ECP constraint forecasting. As such, EirGrid is not at liberty to make this information publicly available.

3.4.3 Addition of a “Current Day” or Recent Year Scenario

Two respondents made a request for a “current Day” or recent year scenario to be included in the ECP studies in order to facilitate assessment of the model performance in predicting real-world behaviour.

This has been discussed internally by the Constraint Analysis team after it was first brought to our attention as an industry desire during the Assumptions Workshop on the 26th of March. Unfortunately, timelines will not allow for additional large scenarios of this sort to be included in this iteration of the ECP Study Reports.

3.4.4 Pro-Rata vs. Grandfathering for Irish Solar Modelling

One respondent raised concern over the lack of difference between results for solar constraint using the Pro-Rata and Grandfathering methodologies. We would like to clarify that this is an expected observation as there are no priority solar units registered in Ireland. As such, all of the registered units are treated the same in both Pro-Rata and Grandfathering approaches.

3.4.5 Long-Duration Energy Storage and Dynamic Line Rating Sensitivities

There was a request made to include Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES) and Dynamic Line Rating (DLR) in the ECP Studies. We can confirm that work is ongoing to enable the inclusion of these factors into the Constraint Analysis Methodology.

3.4.6 Transparency on ECP Modelling Assumptions and Methodology

Several questions were raised about the assumptions and methodology of ECP Modelling. Information about these topics is freely available on the [ECP Study Reports web page](#) as part of EirGrid’s continued commitment to engagement and transparency.

<https://www.eirgrid.ie/industry/customer-information/ecp-constraint-forecast-reports>