

RTE – Cross-border capacity limitations on French Eastern borders for grid operational security

Dear Market Participants,

With this email, RTE would like to provide you with explanations regarding an exceptional situation encountered at the Eastern borders of the French grid.

Context

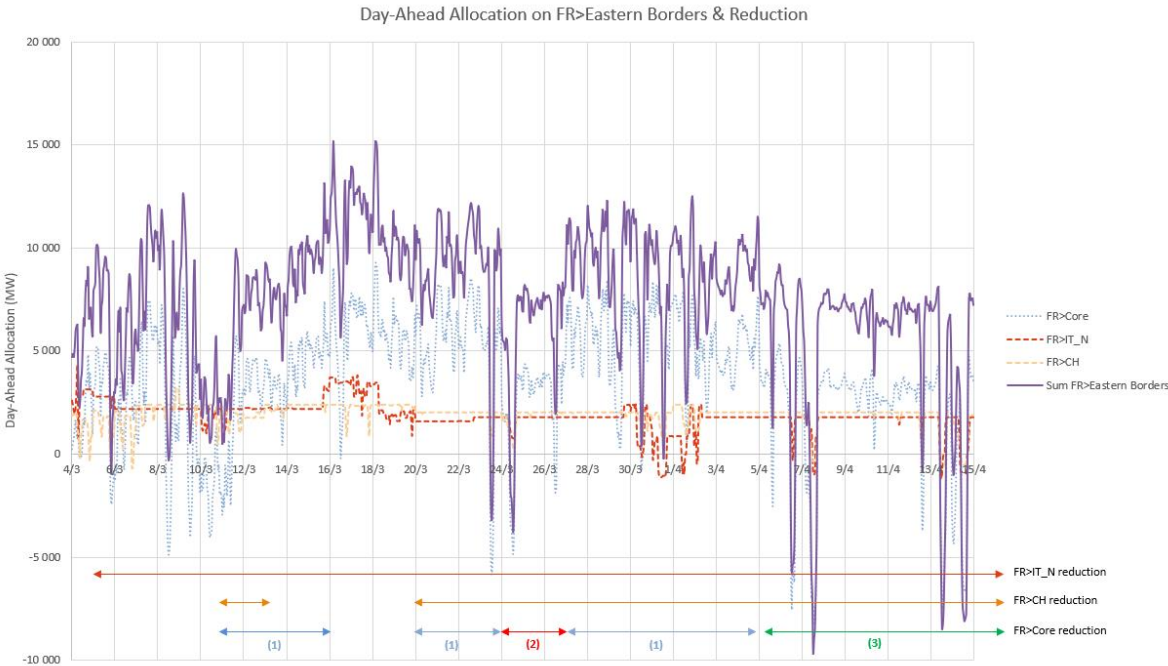
Since the beginning of March 2024, high values of commercial exports on all the Eastern French borders (FR-BE, FR-DE, FR-CH and FR-IT) combined with a lower availability of the French electrical grid (mainly for planned outages imposed by regulatory requirements as well as unplanned outages) are leading to an extremely tense situation on the French System Operations. More precisely, this combination leads to soaring physical flows and security issues on some electrical network elements close to the FR-CH and FR-IT borders.

Since the 5th of March, RTE has reduced the Day-Ahead NTC on the FR-IT border (red flags), but this measure proved to be insufficient to mitigate the operational issues. Indeed, the overloads, although close to the FR-IT border, were in fact induced by high commercial exports on the French eastern overall, including FR-BE and FR-DE borders (also called Core borders). Due to these exceptional circumstances RTE had to apply additional safety measures to guarantee the operational security of the grid, namely:

- curtailments on the FR-CH border
- limitations on some Critical Network Elements in the Core Capacity Calculation Region

Summary of the applied measures to guarantee RTE’s system security

Below is the summary of the different safeguard limitations activated by RTE on the French Eastern borders in the Day-Ahead timeframe.



FR-IT	FR-CH	FR-Core (FR-BE & FR-DE)
<p>'Red flags' sent by RTE to limit the Day-Ahead NTC.</p> <p>The updated NTC values that were sent: 2800 MW; 2400 MW; 2200 MW; 1800 MW; 1600 MW</p> <p><i>NB: These reductions have led to Curtailment of Long-Term rights on some timestamps</i></p>	<p>Reduction of the NTC from 2385 MW to 2015 MW</p> <p><i>NB: These reductions have led to Curtailment of yearly products</i></p>	<p>Explanation for the periods shown on the diagram above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Degraded mode of RTE's validation and: - (1) additional Individual Validation Adjustment (IVA) of 400MW on few specific Critical Network Element to limit the exports. - (2) additional IVA dynamically determined to limit the exports on few specific Critical Network Elements. The validation during this specific period led to excessive limitations. - (3) additional IVA dynamically determined to limit the exports whilst guaranteeing the 20% margin for Core exchanges. This additional IVA is only sent to a few specific Critical Network Elements. <p><i>NB: These reductions have never led to any curtailment.</i></p>

Expectations for the upcoming months

RTE remains committed to reassess the situation as frequently as possible. However, some reductions are likely to occur until beginning of May 2024.

With today's assumptions, RTE expects similar operational security issues to happen from August to mid-October 2024. It is nonetheless premature to assert whether this second tense period will lead to Day-Ahead Capacity reductions.

Except for these two periods, occasional limitations might still occur in 2024, but their number and magnitude should not reach the same level as what has been applied so far in March and April.

Please be ensured that RTE's teams are fully committed to mitigate the impact of this tense situation.

Sincerely,

RTE