



Public Utility Commission of Texas

1701 N. Congress, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326 Fax 512-936-7003

News Release
October 21, 2021

Contact: Andrew Barlow
Media@PUC.Texas.Gov

PUC Adopts Rules for Weatherization of Power Infrastructure

First phase of two-part process requires CEO certification of compliance

Austin, TX – The Public Utility Commission of Texas today adopted a new rule related to the weather emergency preparedness of power generators and utilities in Texas. The first of two phases in the process, the rule compels generator and utility compliance with winter weather readiness recommendations. Affected companies must also attest to the repair of any known, acute issues that arose from the February 2021 storm event before the end of the year.

“This rule is a vital step in our ongoing efforts to harden the grid for future weather challenges,” said PUC Chairman Peter Lake. “The Legislature made it clear that these companies are accountable for the readiness of their facilities and these rules give them a clear path and incentive for compliance.”

Based on requirements from Senate Bill 3, the new PUC [rule](#) translates established industry best practices into specific actions backed with inspections and the power of significantly increased financial penalties. The generator readiness standards in question were drawn from the 2012 [Quanta Report](#) (more formally the “Quanta Technology Report on Extreme Weather Preparedness Best Practices”). Requirements for transmission service providers arise from the “[Report on Outages and Curtailments During the Southwest Cold Weather Event on February 1-5, 2011](#)” jointly prepared in 2011 by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation.

“The electric industry must be prepared to provide reliable electric service throughout this upcoming winter weather season,” continued Lake. “Today’s milestone gives generators and utilities the guidance they need to provide the reliable service that Texans deserve.”

The second phase of the weatherization rulemaking process targets the creation of a more comprehensive, year-round set of weather emergency preparedness reliability standards that will be informed by ERCOT’s ongoing weather study.

###

About the Public Utility Commission

Our mission is to serve Texans by regulating the state’s electric, telecommunication, and water and sewer utilities, implementing respective legislation, and offering customer assistance in resolving consumer complaints. Since its founding in 1975, the Commission has a long and proud history of service to Texas, protecting customers, fostering competition, and promoting high quality infrastructure. To learn more, please visit <http://www.puc.texas.gov>.