

Hurricane Preparedness



Operational Preparation

- Start alerts to QSEs and TOs several days before hurricane forecast to hit Texas coast
- Use Taylor (hardened facility) EMMS as primary operating system for duration of storm
- Check satellite voice communications between ERCOT and TOs
- Cancel planned transmission outages
- Delay any scheduled implementation of EMMS changes



Operational Preparation (cont.)

- Request QSEs to:
 - Staff all plants unless safety dictates otherwise
 - Notify ERCOT of all evacuated plants
 - Keep Resource Plans, Schedules, Bids up to date
 - Bid in all available capacity into BES market, particularly DBES
 - Be prepared to take plants off line quickly if requested by ERCOT
- Distribute and review frequency control guidelines with all QSEs and Generators to use in case of loss of communication between ERCOT, QSE, Generator
- Arrange for extra ERCOT critical personnel to come in if needed
- Arrange for lodging/food/water for critical personnel at nearby hotels and in ERCOT facilities



- Create link for hurricane updates on ercot.com
- Schedule MP conference calls before and during landfall
- Set up 24-hour phone hot lines for media, market participants and public for issues not concerning real time operations
- Maintain communications with State Operations Center, PUCT and Legislative leadership.



ERCOT Operations Hurricane Drill

- Conducted May 8-10, 2006
- Participation
 - 22 companies reported participation
 - 66 NERC-certified operators
 - 249 total participants
 - Over 1000 participant-hours of training

Simulations

- Islanding
- Multiple transmission line outages
- Distribution outages
- Restoration
- Resource Plan changes
- Ancillary Services bidding
- Schedule changes
- Load shedding



Lessons Learned

- Improve Communication
 - TO > QSE > Resources
 - Need for satellite phones in back-up control rooms underscored
 - Phone lists for neighboring TOs in control rooms must be updated
- Several participants noted the need to revise their procedures and emergency plans
- Need for overall backup site readiness was underscored



Follow-up Actions

- ROS reviewed lessons learned from last years hurricanes by ERCOT, Florida Power and Light and South Mississippi Electric Power Association (no information received from Entergy)
- ROS reviewed lessons learned from May ERCOT Hurricane drill
- ERCOT will conduct an Emergency Communications drill on July 14