

Gas-Electric Coordination Working Group

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Reliability & Operations Subcommittee Meeting January 10, 2019

Background

- Increased focus on electric/gas coordination at Federal and State level
- Situation in Texas
 - Large gas infrastructure
 - Significant intrastate facilities
 - Different electric market
- Significant coordination issues arose last summer that the Chairman of the PUC has highlighted
- Enhanced focus on electric-gas coordination is helpful for reliability



Scope

- Address issues like the PUCT & Railroad Commission joint memo on summer operations in 2018
- Establish communication channels in advance of potential issues with gaselectric coordination
- Education on available public information





June 25, 2018

BE ADVISED:

As Texas enters the hottest days of the summer, we can expect demand on our state's electric grid to climb steadily with the temperature. Through recent discussions between our offices, we have identified a potential threat to our state's ability to meet overall electricity demand during peak months. Specifically, we have been made aware of possible fuel supply interruptions for a number of vital natural gas power plants due to scheduled maintenance on pipelines. We want to ensure that we have the pipeline transmission capacity to deliver the natural gas that fuels electric service for Texans during peak demand months this summer.

Pipeline safety and reliable electric service are some of the most important responsibilities of the Railroad Commission and Public Utility Commission, respectively. When integrity testing of gas transmission pipelines can be scheduled to take place outside peak electric generation months, without safety risk, we encourage you to take this approach to protect citizens from losing their air conditioning, fans, and lights during the hot Texas summer.

Gas-fueled generation plays a key role in maintaining a reliable supply of electricity across the ERCOT grid. Electric generation operators should optimize their performance, especially when their power is most needed, through careful planning and close collaboration with their vendors, including fuel suppliers. As our reduced reserve margins are put to the test this summer, we continue to encourage electric generation operators to ensure the plants' ongoing readiness.

Therefore, we are asking gas transmission pipeline operators and electric generation operators to coordinate scheduling integrity testing of pipelines outside of the peak electric generation months to protect against the need for electric power curtailments as we already do in the winter. The Railroad Commission's Oversight and Safety Division and the Infrastructure and Reliability Division of the Public Utility Commission are monitoring the situation and are ready to assist in meeting natural gas supply and transmission needs for electric generators.

Please do not hesitate to contact our offices, Kari French, Director of the Railroad Commission's Oversight and Safety Division, or Keith Rogas, Director of the Public Utility Commission's Infrastructure and Reliability Division with any questions.

Sincerely.

Christi Chaddide

Christi Craddick Chairman, Railroad Commission of Texas Dehnn T. Walker

DeAnn Walker Chairman, Public Utility Commission of Texas



Scope

- Excluding certain gas facilities needed for electric generation in rotating outage plans
- Facilitating Gas-Generator direct ties; avoiding ERCOT "getting in the middle"
- Continued improvement of BlackStart gas coordination
- Other discussions as appropriate



Administration

- ERCOT "Other Group"
- ERCOT will Chair
- Gas Industry Vice-Chair
- Open meetings
 - Closed sessions may be needed when discussing Black Start issues specifically
- ERCOT BSGCG is a subgroup of GEWG



Administration

- Initially, hold meetings as necessary to prepare for this summer
- On an on-going basis, meet twice a year
 - Spring in advance of pipeline maintenance season & electric peak season
 - Fall in advance of electric outage season & pipeline peak season



Next Steps

• February 15 first group meeting (Met 206)

