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United States Congress  
House of Representatives  
Committee on Oversight and Reform  
The Honorable Ro Khanna  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Environment  
Washington, DC 20515-6143

Re: Request for Information Regarding the Texas February 2021 Winter Weather Event,  
dated March 3, 2021.

Dear Representative Khanna,

On behalf of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. (ERCOT), we provide the following responses to your request for information dated March 3, 2021. Contemporaneously with this letter, we will be providing the documents referenced below to the Committee via secure file transfer. A link to access the documents will be sent to the email address(es) listed above.

In addition to the responses provided, please note that ERCOT is continuously updating its website by posting copies of non-confidential information that has been provided to third parties related to the February 2021 Winter Weather event. This information can be found at the following link: <http://www.ercot.com/news/february2021>. Information that may be of particular interest to the Committee regarding the February 2021 Winter Weather event can be found at this link, including all presentations given to date by ERCOT to the Texas Legislature regarding the event.

I want to initially thank you for being able to work constructively with Committee staff regarding this inquiry. As you appreciate, the demands on ERCOT and its employees and resources by a multitude of parties and authorities has been extreme since the 2021 Winter Weather event. ERCOT looks forward to continue to work with you and the Committee.

I. Initially, I have already shared with Committee staff some very good and substantive resources to help frame and understand ERCOT's role, actions and responsibilities regarding the 2021 Winter Weather Event. Those resources are as follows:

- ERCOT's weather events web page at <http://www.ercot.com/news/february2021>;
- ERCOT's President and CEO Bill Magness February 25, 2021 Testimony before the Texas Senate Business and Commerce Committee Hearing

at [https://tlcsenate.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=49&clip\\_id=15392](https://tlcsenate.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=49&clip_id=15392). Mr. Magness' testimony begins at the 55-minute mark and testifies until the 6-hour 12-minute mark.

- ERCOT's President and CEO Bill Magness February 25, 2021 Testimony before the Texas House Joint State Affairs and Energy Resources Committees Hearing at [https://tlchouse.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=46&clip\\_id=19369](https://tlchouse.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=46&clip_id=19369). Mr. Magness' testimony begins at the 10 hour, 4 minute mark until the end of the hearing. Mr. Magness testified on a panel with then Public Utility Commission of Texas Chairman DeAnn Walker.
- ERCOT's President and CEO Bill Magness March 11, 2021 Testimony before the Texas Senate Jurisprudence Committee at [https://tlcsenate.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=49&clip\\_id=15446](https://tlcsenate.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=49&clip_id=15446). Mr. Magness' testimony begins at the 2 hour, 2 minute mark and ends at the 4 hour, 7 minute mark.
- ERCOT's President and CEO Bill Magness March 16, 2021 Testimony before the Texas House State Affairs Committee at [https://tlchouse.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=46&clip\\_id=19666](https://tlchouse.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=46&clip_id=19666). Mr. Magness is the first witness at the hearing and he ends his testimony at the 1 hour, 28 minute mark.

## II. Responsive documents and information.

We have discussed ERCOT's efforts at gathering and producing documents regarding the differing investigations that ERCOT is presently responding to. ERCOT offers the following as responsive to the Committee's request dated March 3, 2021 and our discussions. Some areas of information have been indicated as "Confidential" in the discussion below. These documents are considered to be Protected Information

### **Responses to Requests for Information and Documents**

1. All documents relating to preparations, from 2010 to the present, for an extreme winter weather event, including but not limited to:
  - a. communications with the PUCT;
  - b. communications with state officials and employees;
  - c. communications with technical and scientific advisory committees and task forces;
  - d. internal communications among ERCOT Board members, senior executives and members, including cooperatives, independent generators, independent power marketers, independent retail electric providers, investor-owned utilities, municipals, cooperatives and adjunct members;
  - e. ERCOT Board meeting minutes; and
  - f. communications about how extreme weather or climate change affects electric

reliability; and

The secure file transfer being provided to the Committee includes the following, which may be found in folders labeled “Request 1”:

- Publicly posted documents from the ERCOT stakeholder process for Nodal Protocol Revision Request (NPRR) 473, *Process for Submission of Generation Resource Weatherization Information*, including the December 11, 2012, Board Report reflecting the ERCOT Board’s approval of the NPRR. Publicly posted meeting minutes of the ERCOT Board, ERCOT Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and TAC subcommittees that include discussions regarding NPRR473 are also included.
  - Presentations prepared by ERCOT or the Texas Reliability Entity (TRE) for the Winter Weatherization workshops. These workshops occur annually and are organized by ERCOT and TRE. Additional records for these workshops are available on the ERCOT website, including at the following links:
    - <http://www.ercot.com/calendar/2020/9/3/210162>
    - <http://www.ercot.com/calendar/2019/9/5/186081>
    - <http://www.ercot.com/calendar/2018/9/6/159723>
    - <http://www.ercot.com/calendar/2017/9/7/128107>
    - <http://www.ercot.com/calendar/2016/9/7/102508>
    - <http://www.ercot.com/calendar/2015/9/1/68797-WORKSHOPS>
    - <http://www.ercot.com/calendar/2011/6/8/34122>
  - Various ERCOT, PUCT, DOE, and/or NERC reports and documents concerning winter weather preparedness and/or risk assessments related to natural gas fueled generation.
  - Comments filed by ERCOT with Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) in a rulemaking docket for PUCT Substantive Rules §§ 25.53 and 25.362 relating to emergency operations plans and weatherization issues.
  - General Session (public) meeting minutes from ERCOT Board meetings, which include discussions concerning preparations for an extreme winter weather event.
  - Further, available through the ERCOT website is a wide-range of information regarding the performance and preparedness of the ERCOT System; this includes Resource Adequacy assessments and various planning reports. Many such reports and presentations can be found, sorted by year and dating back to 2001, at the following link: <http://www.ercot.com/news/presentations>.
  - Please note that Resources in ERCOT submit to ERCOT emergency operation plans and/or winterization plans. These plans and related communications concerning the plans may contain information regarding the preparation of Resources in ERCOT for winter weather events. These are the types of documents that are “Confidential” because these documents contain legally Protected Information, such as Resource-specific design information. As we have discussed, we have agreed to continue to work with you regarding identifying these documents.
2. With respect to the disruption of electric supply in the extreme winter weather event of February 13 to 17, 2021, a description of every power generation unit that experienced failure, including for each:

- a. the cause and duration of failure;
  - b. the generation unit's age, temperature design parameters, and type of fuel;
  - c. all modifications implemented to withstand extreme winter weather;
  - d. the generation unit's capacity and whether it is used for base or peak demand; and
  - e. if the generation unit also experienced disruption during any other extreme winter weather event, including those in 2011 and 1989; and
- A spreadsheet detailing the Generation Resources and Energy Storage Resources that experienced outages or derates during the period February 10-19, 2021, is available on the ERCOT website at this location:  
[http://www.ercot.com/content/wcm/lists/226521/Unit\\_Outage\\_Data\\_20210312.xlsx](http://www.ercot.com/content/wcm/lists/226521/Unit_Outage_Data_20210312.xlsx). This spreadsheet includes available information regarding each unit's fuel type, and seasonal capacity.
  - The emergency operation plans and/or winterization plans submitted by Resources to ERCOT may contain information regarding modifications made by Resources to prepare for winter weather. These plans are the types of documents that are "Confidential" because these documents contain legally Protected Information, such as Resource-specific design information. As we have discussed, we have agreed to continue to work with you regarding identifying these documents.
  - However, because these plans contain confidential Protected Information, they are not included in this production.
  - With respect to information that may indicate the cause of a particular unit's outage or derate, ERCOT has issued Requests for Information to Resource Entities in order to assess this issue; however, ERCOT has not received sufficient information to provide further details about possible causes at this time, but will release this information as the information becomes available and supplied to ERCOT
3. With respect to the disruption of electric supply in the extreme winter weather event of February 13 to 17, 2021, all communications referring or relating to causes of the disruption and/or preparations for future extreme weather events between ERCOT and:
    - a. PUCT;
    - b. Governor Greg Abbott; and
    - c. any other state or federal employee or official; and
  - As discussed with Committee staff, review of communications is an on-going process. Due to technical and staffing limitations, production of these documents is not currently available.
4. All documents relating to decisions on where and when to implement rolling blackouts related to the extreme winter weather event of February 13 to 17, 2021;
  - As explained in Section 4 of the ERCOT Nodal Operating Guide (see here: [http://www.ercot.com/content/wcm/current\\_guides/53525/04-030121.doc](http://www.ercot.com/content/wcm/current_guides/53525/04-030121.doc)) ERCOT's role

with respect to outages during an emergency event is to direct all Transmission Operators (TO) in ERCOT to shed a total megawatt amount of Load. After such an instruction is given by the ERCOT control room, it is up to each TO to shed their percentage of that total Load amount. The percentage of the Load that each TO must shed is based on an established "Load shed table" that is set out in Section 4 of the Nodal Operating Guide. Each TO will have their own processes for implementing their respective share of the Load shed – this would include their own process as to how to "implement rolling blackouts." Because those processes are managed by TOs and not ERCOT, information responsive to this request is not in the custody or control of ERCOT.

5. All documents relating to the winter 1989 disruption in electric reliability, including, but not limited to:
  - a. any documents provided to FERC and/or NERC in connection with the 1989 disruption;
  - b. all reports and analyses by the PUCT, ERCOT and any other entity about the causes of the disruption;
  - c. all communications, analyses and plans relating to recommendations made by the PUCT;
  - d. all communications with federal, state, and local officials, including Governors Bill Clements and Ann Richards;
  - e. all communications with corporations, academics, and non-governmental organizations;
  - f. all communications among ERCOT's Board members, senior executives, and members, including cooperatives, independent generators, independent power marketers, independent retail electric providers, investor-owned utilities, municipals, cooperatives and adjunct members; and
  - g. ERCOT Board meeting minutes; and

The secure file transfer being provided to the Committee includes the following information, which may be found in a folder labeled "Request 5":

- Report found on NERC website concerning the 1989 emergency event in ERCOT.
  - Please note that ERCOT's corporate records include only ERCOT Board meeting minutes going back to July 24, 1990. No ERCOT Board meeting minutes that reflect discussion of the 1989 disruption in electric reliability have been identified.
6. All documents relating to the winter 2011 disruption in electric reliability, including, but not limited to:
    - a. all documents provided to FERC and/or NERC in connection with their investigation into the 2011 disruption;
    - b. all communications, analyses and plans relating to the 26 recommendations made by FERC and NERC in their report, "Report on Outages and Curtailments During the Southwest Cold Weather Event of February 1-5, 2011";
    - c. all communications with federal, state and local officials and employees,

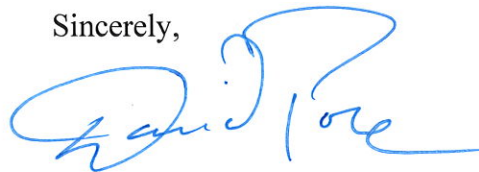
- d. including Governor Rick Perry;  
all communications from corporations, academic, non-governmental organizations;
- e. all communications among ERCOT's Board members, senior executives, and members, including cooperatives, independent generators, independent power marketers, independent retail electric providers, investor-owned utilities, municipals, cooperatives and adjunct members; and
- f. ERCOT Board meeting minutes.

The secure file transfer being provided to the Committee includes the following information, which may be found in folders labeled "Request 6":

- Presentations, reports, and analysis concerning the winter 2011 cold weather interruption, including those prepared for and presented to the ERCOT Board of Directors and various ERCOT subcommittees between February 2011 and February 2012.
- General Session (public) ERCOT Board meeting minutes from 2011, which include discussions relating to the 2011 cold weather interruption.
- ERCOT further notes that it is in possession of voluminous communications exchanged between ERCOT and the North American Reliability Corporation (NERC), the Texas Reliability Entity, Inc., and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) related to inquiries by those entities concerning the winter 2011 cold weather interruption. Many of these communications contain information that is confidential under state and federal law, including but not limited to Critical Energy Infrastructure Information (CEII). They also contain highly technical information. Because of the inclusion of confidential communications in the broader communications database, ERCOT is not producing the communications at this time.

Thank you for working with me and my client. We are resources to you and to the Committee. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



R. David Pore

Enclosed: Documents transmitted via [Secureshareadmin.ProofPoint.com](https://www.secureshareadmin.com), by separate email communication.