Brandon Johnsen
Electric System Field Operations Manager

Brandon is a Senior Electrical Infrastructure Expert and Journeyman Electrician with over 25 years of electrical expertise including 16 years specializing in high voltage substation maintenance and grid reliability. His duties as ESFO Manager are to provide safe, reliable and compliant operation, maintenance and construction of high voltage substation assets.

Lovita Griffin
Sr. Compliance Analyst

Lovita is a Compliance Analyst Senior at Austin Energy, where she leads key reliability compliance efforts. She brings extensive experience from roles at Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO), and the Arkansas Public Service Commission. Lovita holds a Master's degree in Management and Leadership, Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, APPA certificate in Energy Efficiency Management and is an AEE Certified Energy Efficiency Practitioner.

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Compliance with PUC 25.55 Winter Weather Emergency Preparedness Requirements for TSP

Brandon Johnsen, ESFO Manager
Lovita Griffin, Sr. Compliance Analyst

Austin Energy

October 22, 2026

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Austin Energy ensures full compliance with PUC §25.55 through a coordinated, start-to-finish process that integrates compliance oversight and field execution

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Agenda

- Operations & Planning Compliance
- Field Readiness at a Glance
- ERCOT Inspections



Operations & Planning Compliance (Compliance)

Provide support, oversight and track completion of PUCT §25.55 weatherization requirements.

- Kickoff the season
  - Provide a Winter Intake form
  - Supply an overview of the requirements
  - Assign and monitor deadlines
    - Task Reminder System / weekly progress reviews
- Coordinate procedure reviews and maintain documentation
  - Update PUCT 25.53 overlapping documents
- Facilitate Attestation and Declaration completion
- Coordinate ERCOT Inspection / Attend if possible
- Review and upload relevant documentation to the Inspection Team
- Communicate to Stakeholders noted best practice or recommendations

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Our Compliance Approach

By October 1st

Using Microsoft SharePoint, create a Winter Intake form (The form is based on the PUCT §25.55 requirements and ERCOT's Transmission Service Provider Winter Inspection Checklist)

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Winter season preparation for PUCT §25.55 Declaration

Winter Season

Find items

§25.55 (f)(1)(A)(i) Confirmation of the operability of all systems and subsystems containing all cold weather critical components.

Are these measures complete for each substation listed in this declaration for the upcoming winter season?

Find items

§25.55 (f)(1)(A)(ii) Confirmation that the sulfur hexafluoride gas in breakers and metering and other electrical equipment is at the correct pressure and temperature to operate safely during winter weather emergencies, and perform annual maintenance that tests sulfur hexafluoride breaker heaters and supporting circuitry to assure that they are functional.

Are these measures complete for each substation listed in this declaration for the upcoming winter season?

Find items

§25.55 (f)(1)(A)(iii) Confirmation of the operability of power transformers and auto transformers in winter weather emergencies by,

§25.55 (f)(1)(A)(iii)(I) Inspection of control cabinet heaters for power transformers and auto transformers?

Are the control cabinet heaters for power transformers and/or auto transformers operable?

Field Readiness at a Glance

- **Using Microsoft SharePoint, SME completes the Winter Intake form and attach evidence**
- **Review Substation Procedures**
    - Review CWCC list (update if needed)
- **Complete winter weather preparation measures**
- **Winter conditions checklist (Pre-season)**
- **Substation inspections (Pre-season & Monthly)**
    - Checklists serve for monitoring, functional testing and maintenance of all **CWCC**
    - Work orders & Items flagged for follow-up have been addressed
- **Check & maintain materials & inventories**
- **Review & revise staffing plans**
- **Complete seasonal training of relevant personnel**

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Substation Inspection Procedure

Title: Substation Inspection		Workgroup: ESFO Substation
	Revision No.: 6.0	
Procedure Owner: Supt, Substation Construction & Maintenance	Review Owner: Supt, Substation Construction & Maintenance	
Author(s): Jason Holmes	SME(s): Johnny Martinez, Thomas Johns, Brandon Johnsen	

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Winter Critical Components & Inventory

- **Nitrogen pressure (transformers)**
- **SF6 pressure (transformers, gas circuit breakers, circuit switchers)**
- **Oil level (transformers, gas circuit breakers, oil circuit breakers)**
- **Bushing oil level (transformers, gas circuit breakers, oil circuit breakers)**
- **External heaters on pneumatic breakers (Turned on in October, turned off in April)**
- **Heaters (switchgears, circuit switchers, transformer, and transmission breaker control cabinets)**
- **Equipment door gaskets (transformers, gas circuit breakers, oil circuit breakers)**

Inventory

Surplus items kept on hand

Nitrogen

SF6

External blanket heaters

Silica Gel

Gaskets and seals

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Substation Visual Inspections

Visual inspections are performed prior to the start of the season and monthly during the season. (October through February)

- Transformers
- Switchgear
- Oil Circuit Breakers
- Gas Circuit Breakers
- Instrument Transformers
- Circuit Switchers
- Yard

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Substation Zone Inspections

Zoned inspections are performed every 8 – 12 weeks on a year-round schedule.

- Batteries, Battery Charger, and Battery Monitor
- Control House
- Transformers
- Switchgear
- Oil Circuit Breakers
- Gas Circuit Breakers
- Air Switches
- Capacitor Banks
- Instrument Transformers
- Circuit Switchers
- Yard
- Dissolved Gas Analysis sampling
- Thermographic Inspections

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ERCOT Inspections



Pre-Inspection Documentation → Confirm Site Readiness → Inspection → Post-Inspection

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Thank You!

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