PUBLIC

Winter Readiness Briefing

Winter Storm Fern Forced Outage Review
Inspection Process Refresher

Cyle Lublin
Weatherization Field Services Analyst Lead
October 2026

Presentation Roadmap

PART I | WINTER STORM FERN

- Review scope and results
- Common causes by asset class
- Prevention practices and RFI follow-up

PART II | INSPECTION PROCESS REFRESHER

- Response timing and escalation exposure
- Portal readiness, uploads, and safe inspections

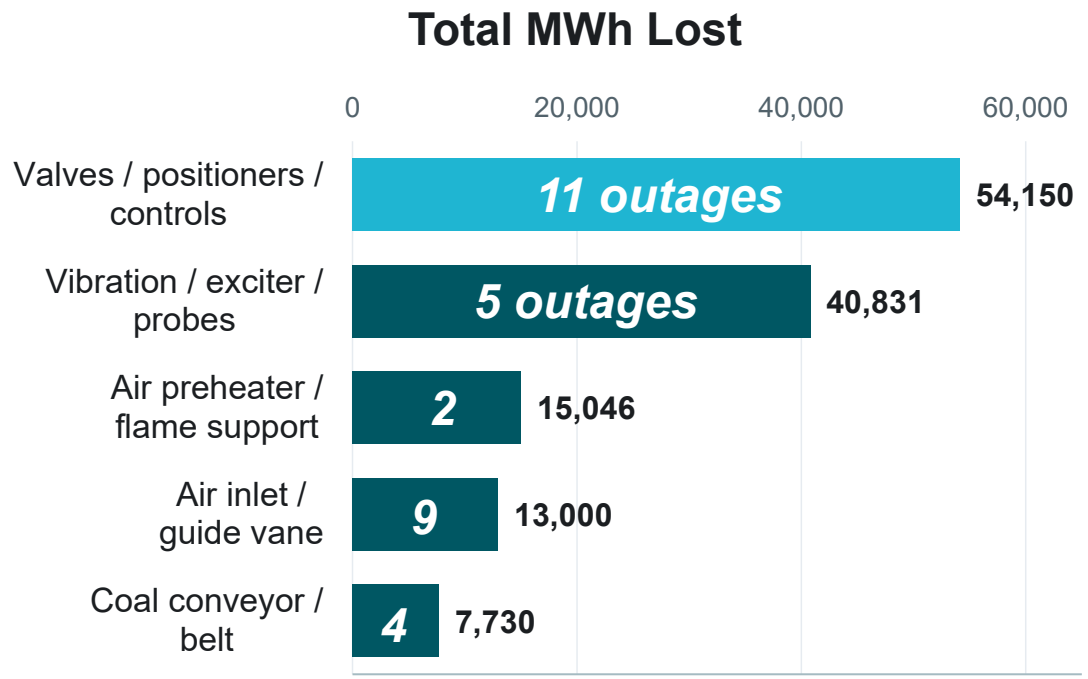
PUBLIC

Dispatchable Generation: common causes during Winter Storm Fern

Control-path, combustion systems, air inlets, and coal-path issues drove the largest dispatchable impacts.

Total Number of Outages
76

Total MWh Lost
~156,000 MWh



Key takeaway: Prepare for both the problems that happen most often and the problems that could cause the biggest loss of delivered energy.

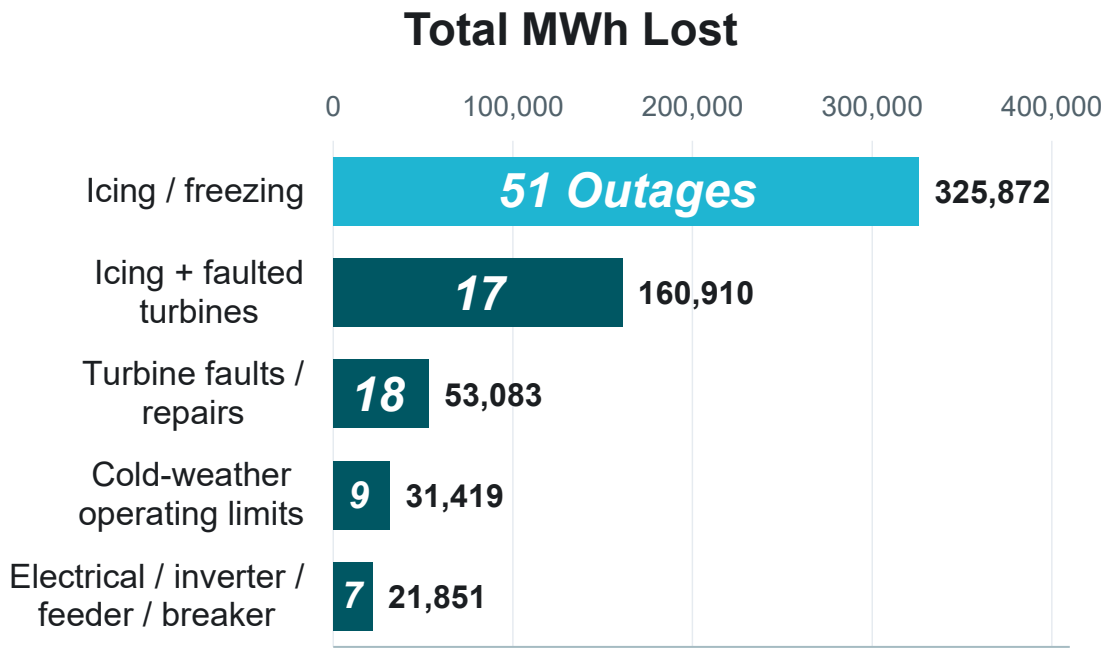
PUBLIC

Wind and Solar Generation: common causes during Winter Storm Fern

Icing dominated renewable impacts, with faults and electrical issues also contributing.

Total Number of Outages
107

Total MWh Lost
~610,000 MWh



Key takeaway: When weather and equipment problems happen at the same time, make sure your outage logs and ERCOT Outage Schedule inputs clearly explain which issue caused the loss of output.

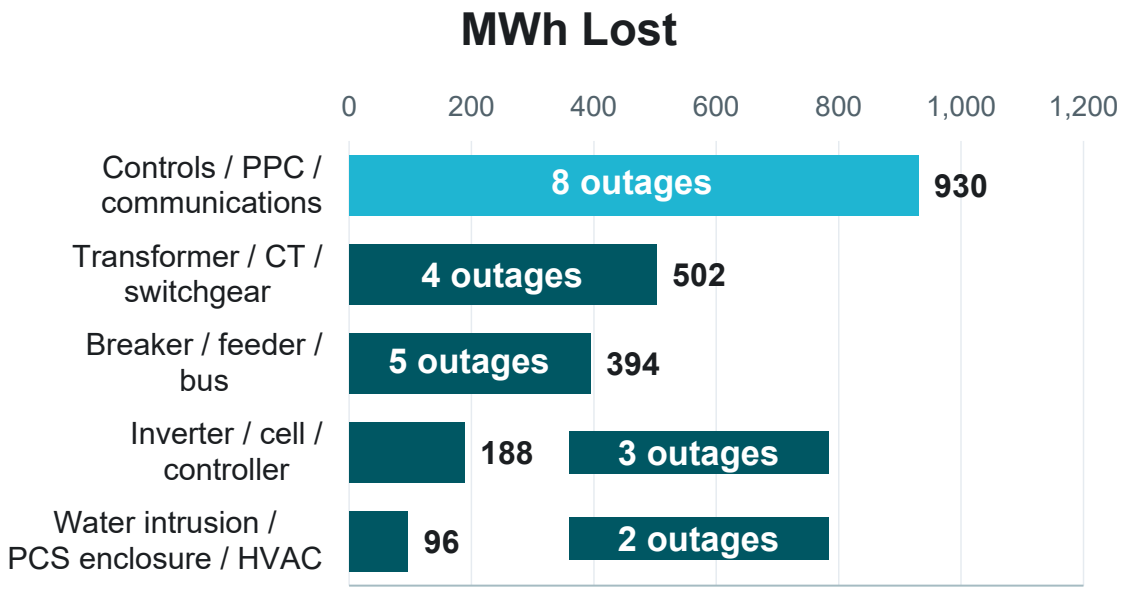
PUBLIC

Energy storage: common causes during Winter Storm Fern

Applying the 2-hour cap shifts the largest MWh impact to controls / PPC / communications.

Total Number of Outages
25

Total MWh Lost
2,162 MWh



ESR = Energy Storage Resource; PPC = Power Plant Controller; CT = Current Transformer.

Key takeaway: Do not prioritize preparation solely by how often an issue occurs; verify electrical and transformer-related vulnerabilities that may be less frequent but capable of resulting in significant energy delivery loss.

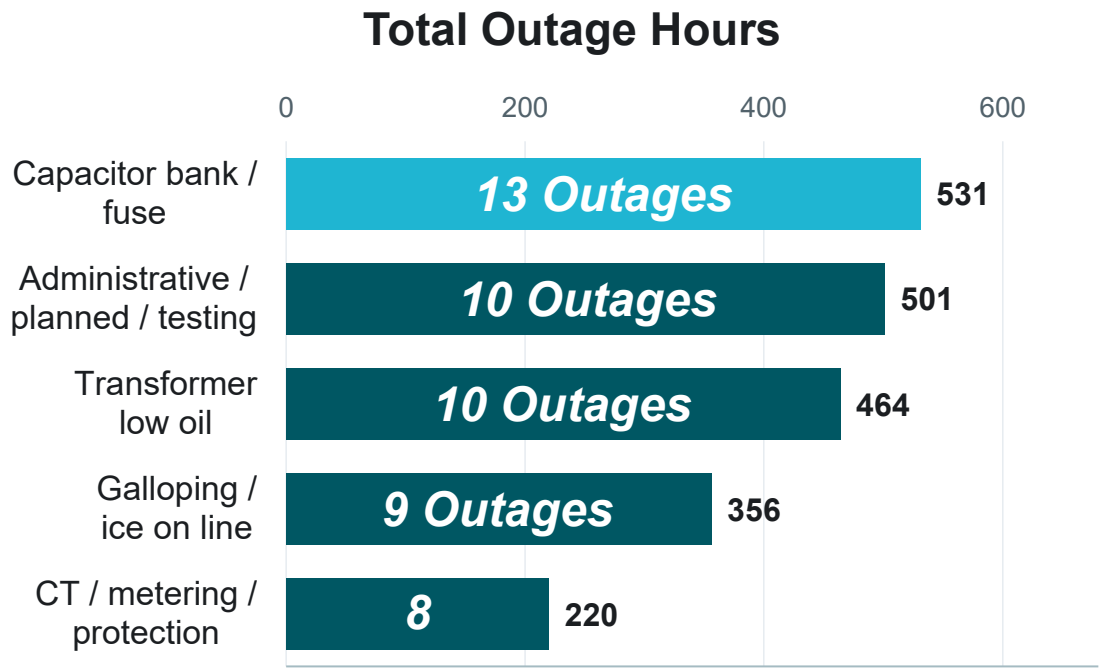
PUBLIC

Transmission: common causes during Winter Storm Fern

Protection, switching equipment, oil/LTC issues, and line icing shaped outage exposure.

Total Number of Outages
83

Total Outage Hours
2,810 hours



Key takeaway: Consider both recurrence and outage duration when prioritizing winter work, particularly for equipment or conditions capable of keeping transmission facilities unavailable for extended periods.

Cross-asset failure families and prevention priorities

Use Fern patterns to prioritize winter-readiness checks by asset class.

Failure family	Dispatchable	IRR - Wind	IRR - Solar	ESR	Transmission
Controls / Automation	**HIGH** Valves / controls	**MEDIUM** Turbine controls	**MEDIUM** Inverter controls	**HIGH** controls / communications	**MEDIUM** Protection logic
Electrical Protection / Switching	**LOW**	**MEDIUM** Feeders / breakers	**HIGH** Inverters / feeders	**HIGH** Switchgear / breakers	**HIGH** Breakers / relays
Mechanical / Rotating / Flow-path	**HIGH** Rotating / flow path	**MEDIUM** Turbine faults	**LOW**	**LOW**	**LOW**
Icing / Cold-environment	**MEDIUM** Air / instrument systems	**HIGH** Blade icing	**MEDIUM** Panel icing	**LOW** Thermal / HVAC	**HIGH** Galloping / ice
Fuel / Combustion Support	**HIGH** Fuel / combustion	-	-	-	-
Transformer / Oil / LTC	**LOW**	**LOW**	**MEDIUM** Transformer alarms	**HIGH** Transformer / CT	**HIGH** Oil / LTC

Rating legend:
HIGH = strong Fern signal / prominent prevention target;
MEDIUM = meaningful secondary pattern;
LOW = less prominent, less frequent, or less clearly supported in Fern data;
— = no priority assigned in this comparison.

Acronyms: IRR = Intermittent Renewable Resource; ESR = Energy Storage Resource; LTC = Load Tap Changer; PPC = Power Plant Controller; CT = Current Transformer; HVAC = Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning.

Key takeaway: Winter preparation should fit the type of facility. The biggest risks are not the same for dispatchable generation, renewables, storage, and transmission.

What Market Participants should do before winter to prevent outages

These are based on Winter Storm Fern and other previous winter storm findings

1 Review your CWCC list

- Check actual cold weather critical component (CWCC) equipment and support-system dependencies, not only historical labels.
- Add overlooked components that can cause trips, derates, or failures to start.
- Use ERCOT's sample CWCC list as an illustrative reference to prompt discussions, not as a mandatory checklist.

2 Test alarms and controls

- Test telemetry, alarm routing, and communications.
- Confirm setpoints, Power Plant Controller logic, and response under winter conditions.
- Check oil levels, pressure, temperature, SF_6 levels, and protection circuits.

3 Inspect repeat failure points

- **Electrical**: transformers, breakers, arresters, and protection equipment.
- **Support systems**: heating / heat tracing, cooling, instrument air, and fuel / combustion support.
- **Asset-specific**: rotating equipment and wind, solar, and storage systems.

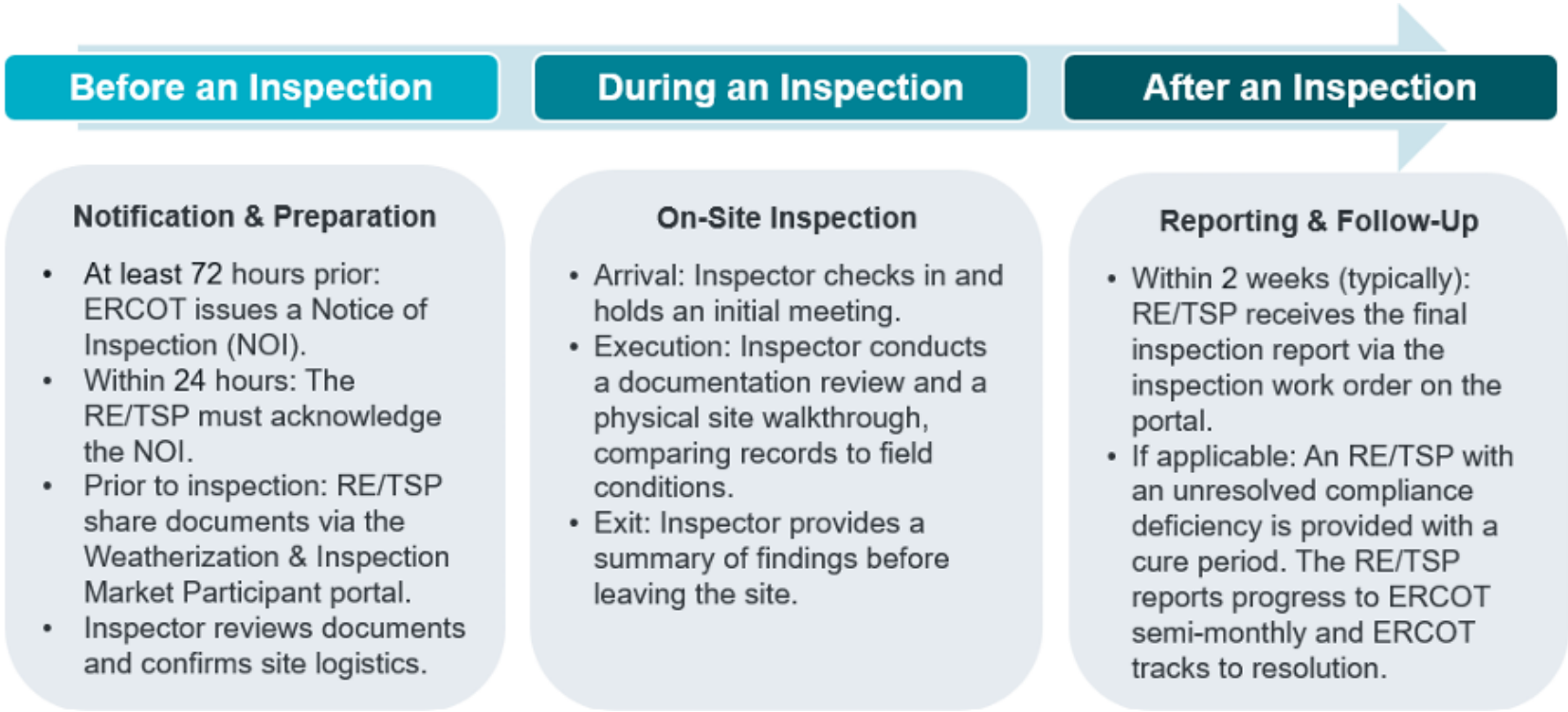
Key takeaway: Check the systems that support your weather-critical equipment, not just the equipment itself. Alarms, controls, heating, cooling, instrument air, and fuel support can all affect whether critical equipment works when needed.

PUBLIC

Part II: Inspection Process Refresher

Under 16 TAC §25.55(d)(1)(A) and (g)(1)(A):

Generation entities and TSPs must submit all requirements for accessing their facilities to ERCOT, commission staff, and designated contractors no later than 24 hours after receiving an inspection notice.



ServiceNow elapsed time is measured in hours.
Email or a support request may document a problem, but it does not replace timely portal acceptance.

Key takeaway: Make sure someone can complete the unique-link portal acknowledgement within 24 hours; emails and support requests do not replace the required portal action.

Before the inspection: contacts, certificates, and NOI acceptance

Set up the people and portal access needed before the 24-hour clock starts.

1 Keep AR / BAR current

- Maintain current contacts, inboxes, phone numbers, and backup coverage.
- Confirm how notices are routed internally when a contact is unavailable.
- Add ercot@servicenowservices.com to your approved sender list.

2 Verify certificates and roles

- Confirm the responding user has an active digital certificate.
- Assign the W&I Portal manager role: **SN_M_W_MGR_ECEII**
- Do not concurrently assign the read-only role: **SN_M_W_VIEW_ECEII**

3 Acknowledge through NOI link

- Use the unique link provided in the NOI email.
- The NOI is not accessible directly from the portal.
- Forward internally as needed but make sure the authorized portal response is completed.

Key takeaway: Build coverage before the NOI is issued so someone can acknowledge the notice quickly and correctly.

Before the inspection: prepare and share documentation

Use the inspection work order to communicate, upload records, and clarify site details.

1 Communicate proactively

- Use the inspection work order for inspector communication.
- Coordinate with on-site and off-site staff responsible for the inspection.
- Confirm arrival procedures, contact details, and logistics.
- Share changes through work order messaging.

2 Review key documents

- Review 16 TAC §25.55 and applicable inspection checklists.
- Confirm weather-critical component lists.
- Review weatherization procedures, staffing plans, and training records.

3 Prepare and share records

- Attach all relevant records to the inspection work order.
- Organize documents for on-site availability.
- Include maintenance records, operator logs, and supporting evidence.
- Provide site-specific safety and access requirements.

Key takeaway: Prepare records before ERCOT arrives so on-site time can focus on facility conditions instead of document gathering.

During the inspection: arrival, review, and walkthrough

Inspector compares documentation to field conditions and confirms weatherization readiness.

Inspection step	What to expect
Arrival and site entry	Inspector checks in with the designated site contact and confirms safety requirements.
Initial meeting	Introductions, site conditions, access requirements, and inspection scope are confirmed.
Documentation review	Inspector reviews documents provided in the portal and available on-site. **This can be expedited if documentation was provided in the portal.**
Site walkthrough	Inspector examines weather-critical components, support systems, insulation, enclosures, and heating/cooling systems.
Wrap-up and follow-up	Inspector summarizes key findings and immediate concerns before leaving the site.

Keep knowledgeable personnel available and be prepared to explain procedures, training, staffing coverage, maintenance cycles, and extreme-weather response.

Key takeaway: During the inspection, be ready to connect records, site conditions, and staff knowledge in real time.

PUBLIC

After the inspection: report, deficiencies, and follow-up

Inspection results are documented in the work order and tracked through closeout.

INSPECTION REPORT

- Final report is typically attached to the work order within two weeks.
- Report addresses compliance with 16 TAC §25.55.
- Review the report and any noted concerns/deficiencies promptly.

DEFICIENCY RESOLUTION

- ERCOT collaborates with the RE/TSP to address identified deficiencies.
- Resolve open items quickly when possible.
- Provide evidence through the work order.

CURE PERIOD TASK

- Unresolved deficiencies may receive a reasonable cure period.
- Deficiencies are tracked through a Cure Period Task (CPTSK).
- Keep corrective actions moving to completion.

PROGRESS REPORTING

- Submit CPTSK progress reports by the 15th and last day of each month.
- Continue updates until the deficiency is declared closed by ERCOT.
- Unremedied deficiencies extending beyond the cure period will be reported to the PUCT.

Key takeaway: After the inspection, take ownership of open action items and provide timely evidence until issues and/ore deficiencies are resolved.

PUBLIC

What's New in the Notice of Inspection

Two updates clarify what ERCOT needs before the inspection begins.

Site operating status is now part of the 24-hour response

Report the site's expected status on the inspection date:

- Operating
- De-energized
- Reserve Shutdown
- Mothballed
- Available but not operating
- Planned or Forced Outage
- Seasonally idle
- In commissioning

Notify ERCOT through work order messaging if the site's status changes after you acknowledge the NOI

Attach site access forms in advance

If ERCOT inspection personnel must review, complete, or sign a form or agreement before entering the site, attach it to the work order in advance.

This includes visitor orientation forms, site access agreements, and similar documents.

Key takeaway: Report site status in the 24-hour response, use work order messaging if it changes, and upload access forms with the inspection acknowledgement.

ercot

PUBLIC

Questions / Comments?

Key takeaway: Strong weatherization program means keeping equipment prepared, documenting outages clearly, and responding to NOIs on time. RFIs are used to better understand outages and ensure Market Participants are meeting the intent of the rule.

Cyle.Lublin@ercot.com

Weatherization Field Services Analyst Lead

Learn More

www.ercot.com

Download ERCOT Mobile App

GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store

Connect With Us

facebook.com/ERCOTISO

x.com/ercot_iso

linkedin.com/company/ercot

instagram.com/ercot_iso