



Public Utility Commission of Texas

Guidance Document for Power Delivery and Restoration During Energy Emergencies

Under Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA) § 38.074(b)(2) and 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 25.52(h)(2)(A), each electric utility, municipally owned utility, and electric cooperative in this state must prioritize critical natural gas facilities for continued power delivery during energy emergencies. Under the Commission's rules, each of these utilities has discretion to prioritize power delivery and power restoration among critical natural gas facilities and other critical loads located in its service territory during energy emergencies, but it must consider any guidance provided by the Commission in doing so. The Commission offers this guidance document to assist utilities in developing and implementing their emergency power delivery and power restoration plans.

The recommendations contained in this document are not mandatory or exhaustive. The Commission expects each electric utility, municipally owned utility, and electric cooperative to develop its own critical load classifications and criteria for prioritizing critical loads for power delivery and power restoration during energy emergencies based on the unique features of its system. The guiding consideration for these plans should be the safety and wellbeing of the public along with the preservation of critical facilities and infrastructure. With regards to critical natural gas facilities in particular, during an energy emergency, utilities should strive to maximize the fuel supply to power generation facilities.

To best accomplish this objective, the Commission offers the following suggested tiers of criticality. These broad tiers should serve as an initial starting point for determining which critical natural gas facilities should be prioritized for continued power delivery to maximize the fuel supply to power generation facilities when they are needed most. Critical status and inclusion of a facility in a given tier does not constitute a guarantee of an uninterrupted supply of energy. The Commission anticipates providing more detailed guidance in the future in the form of an updated guidance document or through the adoption of a substantive rule. Future iterations of this guidance document may be informed by the map of the Texas electricity supply chain currently being assembled by the Texas Electricity Supply Chain Security Mapping Committee and additional insights provided by the Texas Energy Reliability Council.



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Tier One

A.

- Pipelines that directly provide natural gas to ERCOT identified Black Start Service facilities and other natural gas fired electric generation;
- Natural gas local distribution company critical pipelines or pipeline facilities,
- Underground natural gas transportation and storage facilities;
- Natural gas liquids transportation and storage facilities; and
- Associated pipelines, compressor stations, and control centers for facilities in Tier One A.

B.

- Natural gas wells and oil leases producing natural gas in the amount of 5000 Mcf/day or greater;
- Gas processing plants with a capacity of 200 MMcf/day and greater;
- Associated pipelines, compressor stations, and control centers for facilities in Tier One B; and
- Associated saltwater disposal wells supporting the wells and leases for facilities in Tier One B.

Tier Two

A.

- Natural gas wells and oil leases producing natural gas in the amount of > 1000 mcf/d ≤ 5000 Mcf/day;
- Gas processing plants with a capacity of >100 and < 200 MMcf/day;
- Associated pipelines, compressor stations, and control centers for facilities in Tier Two A; and
- Associated saltwater disposal wells supporting the wells and leases for facilities in Tier Two A.

B.

- Natural gas wells and oil leases producing natural gas in the amount of >250 mcf/d ≤ 1000 Mcf/day;
- Gas processing plants with a capacity of <100 MMcf/day;
- Associated pipelines, compressor stations, and control centers for facilities in Tier Two B; and
- Associated saltwater disposal wells supporting the wells and leases for facilities in Tier Two B.

Tier Three

- Natural gas wells and oil leases producing natural gas in the amount of <250 mcf/day;
- Associated pipelines, compressor stations, and control centers for facilities in Tier Three;
- Associated saltwater disposal wells supporting the wells and leases for facilities in Tier Three; and
- Any additional facilities identified as critical on Railroad Commission of Texas Form CI-D, including processing, metering, and similar support facilities and equipment