

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF ELECTRIC RELIABILITY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

Report on Outages and Curtailments  
During the Southwest Cold Weather  
Event of February 1-5, 2011  
Docket No. AD11-9-000

November 9, 2011

SPP Regional Entity  
415 N. McKinley, Suite 140  
Little Rock, AR 72205

Texas Reliability Entity  
805 Las Cimas Parkway, Suite 200  
Austin, Texas 78746

Western Electricity Coordinating Council  
155 North 400 West, Suite 200  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-1114

Attention: Stacy Dochoda, Regional Entity General Manager  
W. Lane Lanford, Interim Chief Executive Officer  
Mark Maher, Chief Executive Officer

Reference: Follow-up Actions in Response to August 16, 2011 Joint Report

Dear Ms. Dochoda, Mr. Lanford, and Mr. Maher:

On August 16, 2011, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) released a staff report following a six-month inquiry in which the task force found a majority of the electric outages and gas shortages were due to weather-related causes. The task force found that, despite the importance of winterizing plants, most of the electric outages were caused by weather-related mechanical problems such as frozen sensing lines, equipment, water lines and valves. The report presented recommendations that, if implemented, could significantly contribute to preventing a recurrence of the rolling blackouts and natural gas curtailments experienced in the Southwest during the February 2011 cold weather event. In part, the report recommended that:

- Generation owners and operators ensure adequate construction, maintenance and inspection of freeze protection elements such as insulation, heat tracing and wind breaks.
- Reliability coordinators and balancing authorities require generators to provide accurate data about the temperature limits of units so they know whether they can rely on those units during extreme weather.
- Balancing authorities review the distribution of reserves to ensure that they are useable and deliverable during contingencies.

The Commission has a great interest in the preparedness of the affected registered entities for the coming winter, given the importance of preventing a recurrence of the February 2011 event. Accordingly, we request that the three affected Regional Entities – TRE, WECC, and SPP – provide information on efforts they have taken to assess preparedness within their respective regions for winter 2011-12. This information should report on measures taken by the affected registered entities to implement the report's recommendations and prevent a recurrence of the February 2011 event.

The requested information focuses on the report's recommendations and includes, but is not limited to:

1. Planning authority/balancing authority modifications to the 2011-12 winter season planning and preparation process to anticipate extreme cold weather, including (a) adding sensitivity studies incorporating the February 2011 event into winter assessments, (b) expanding outage evaluation criteria and reconsidering outage approval and cancellation protocols to increase generator availability, and (c) revising procedures and/or responsive reserve requirements to increase generator availability in the operational time frame.
2. Generator owner/operator winterization inspections, assessments, and maintenance of freeze protection elements, including reviewing procedures and performing associated training and timely maintenance, installation, and repair of heat tracing equipment, thermal insulation, temporary wind breaks and enclosures.
3. Generator owner/operator verification of generating unit preparedness for severe cold weather, including operating limits; potential fuel needs and fuel switching abilities; fuel storage capabilities, preparations, and status; and black start unit availability during extreme cold weather.
4. Balancing authority/transmission operator development of procedures for generator owner/operators to verify and provide accurate ambient temperature design specifications and current forecasts of real power output capability to

determine individual generator unit availability in advance of anticipated severe weather.

5. Balancing authority/transmission operator development of procedures regarding emission limitation accommodations or waivers in advance of extreme weather.

6. Transmission operator review of transmission facility capabilities during cold weather conditions.

7. Review of communications protocols and notification systems during cold weather events (RC, BA, TO, TOP, TSP, DSP).

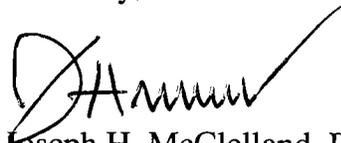
8. Review of and training on load shedding procedures, including performing a critical load review for gas production and transmission facilities.

SPP, TRE, and WECC should indicate any identified reliability vulnerabilities and all mitigation measures planned or in place to address those vulnerabilities.

This letter is issued pursuant to 18 C.F.R. 375.303(a)(2)(v). Please submit a response to this letter within thirty (30) days of the date of this letter to:

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
Attention: Mr. Loye Hull  
Office of Electric Reliability  
1800 Dual Highway, Suite 201  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. McClelland', with a large checkmark-like flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Joseph H. McClelland, Director  
Office of Electric Reliability

CC: Gerry Cauley, Chief Executive Officer  
North American Electric Reliability Corporation  
3353 Peachtree Road, NE, North Tower – Suite 600  
Atlanta, GA 30326