

NERC News: December

ERO Executive Spotlight

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In this space in March 2021, I discussed the profound impacts Winter Storm Uri had on the Texas Interconnection about six weeks prior. Since then, a tremendous amount of work has been done to understand the root causes of those impacts and to implement policies that mitigate the possibility of extreme winter weather affecting the reliability of the bulk power system (BPS).

The first major product of those efforts came in November 2021, when FERC, NERC, and the Regional Entities released the *February 2021 Cold Weather Outages in Texas and South-Central United States* staff report. The report included several key recommendations for industry and regulators. Work on codifying winterization best practices was already underway with Project 2019-06 – Cold Weather before Uri hit, and these important Reliability Standards become effective April 1, 2023. Additional proposals based on recommendations from the staff report are included in Project 2021-07, which is currently in the standards review process and is expected to be in place late 2023 or early 2024.

Separately from implementing requirements at the NERC level, it is important to note the work being done at the state level in Texas to enhance electric reliability. The Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 3 (SB3), which placed weatherization requirements on all generation and transmission infrastructure, requiring facilities to follow winter weather readiness recommendations and institute weather emergency preparation measures. SB3 also requires the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) to perform inspections of facilities to ensure compliance with these state-level standards. Each generation resource is required to be inspected at least once every three years, and more than 300 inspections have been conducted in each of the past two years.

SB3 also required the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC), which is the state agency with primary regulatory jurisdiction over the oil and natural gas industry in Texas, to adopt winterization rules for the natural gas industry. The bill also formalized the Texas Energy Reliability Council (TERC), with the purpose of enhancing coordination and communication in the energy and electric industries in Texas. TERC is comprised of representatives from the RRC, ERCOT, the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT), the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and leaders from the natural gas supply chain and the electric industry that are appointed by state regulators.

Improved electric-gas coordination was one of the crucial proposals to come out of the *February 2021 Cold Weather Outages* staff report. Consistent with the ERO Enterprise's prioritization of state outreach, Texas RE has increased its communications efforts to state agencies and regulators, including sharing the 2021 report, our annual *Assessment of Reliability Performance*, and NERC's *Long-Term Reliability Assessment* and *Winter Reliability Assessment*. At our Extreme Events Resiliency Workshop last September, we were pleased to have a representative from the RRC detail their winterization activities along with a panelist from the American Gas Association who discussed electric-gas coordination. The Texas Oil & Gas Association (TXOGA) also delivered a special presentation to our Member Representatives Committee (MRC) on December 14.

The reliability and security of the electric grid is of vital importance to all of us. Maintaining it is a massive undertaking that requires the dedication and hard work of thousands of people across our industry and in coordination with other critical infrastructure. I am proud of the strides we've made and look forward to a bright future.





Headlines

[FERC, NERC to Open Joint Inquiry into Winter Storm Elliott](#)

[10-Year Outlook Underscores Reliability Impacts during Rapid Energy Transition](#)

[Statement on FERC December Open Meeting](#)

[Odessa Disturbance Illustrates Need for Immediate Industry Action on Inverter-Based Resources](#)

[New Strategy Seeks to Ensure Reliability by Integrating Cyber and Physical Security into Grid Planning, Design, Operation](#)

[Cancel, Ratliff Participate in DOE/FERC Supply Chain Technical Conference](#)



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[Event Analysis, Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis Highlights](#)

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