



CHRISTI CRADDICK
CHAIRMAN



DEANN T. WALKER
CHAIRMAN

June 25, 2018

BE ADVISED:

As Texas enters the hottest days of the summer, we can expect demand on our state's electric grid to climb steadily with the temperature. Through recent discussions between our offices, we have identified a potential threat to our state's ability to meet overall electricity demand during peak months. Specifically, we have been made aware of possible fuel supply interruptions for a number of vital natural gas power plants due to scheduled maintenance on pipelines. We want to ensure that we have the pipeline transmission capacity to deliver the natural gas that fuels electric service for Texans during peak demand months this summer.

Pipeline safety and reliable electric service are some of the most important responsibilities of the Railroad Commission and Public Utility Commission, respectively. When integrity testing of gas transmission pipelines can be scheduled to take place outside peak electric generation months, without safety risk, we encourage you to take this approach to protect citizens from losing their air conditioning, fans, and lights during the hot Texas summer.

Gas-fueled generation plays a key role in maintaining a reliable supply of electricity across the ERCOT grid. Electric generation operators should optimize their performance, especially when their power is most needed, through careful planning and close collaboration with their vendors, including fuel suppliers. As our reduced reserve margins are put to the test this summer, we continue to encourage electric generation operators to ensure the plants' ongoing readiness.

Therefore, we are asking gas transmission pipeline operators and electric generation operators to coordinate scheduling integrity testing of pipelines outside of the peak electric generation months to protect against the need for electric power curtailments as we already do in the winter. The Railroad Commission's Oversight and Safety Division and the Infrastructure and Reliability Division of the Public Utility Commission are monitoring the situation and are ready to assist in meeting natural gas supply and transmission needs for electric generators.

Please do not hesitate to contact our offices, Kari French, Director of the Railroad Commission's Oversight and Safety Division, or Keith Rogas, Director of the Public Utility Commission's Infrastructure and Reliability Division with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christi Craddick".

Christi Craddick
Chairman, Railroad Commission of Texas

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DeAnn T. Walker".

DeAnn Walker
Chairman, Public Utility Commission of Texas