



TCPA Information regarding February 2021 Events
February 16, 2021

The reasons for this week's system challenges are complex and multifaceted. The record-cold temperatures are unprecedented and every element of the energy grid has been over-stressed in this crisis. There is not a singular cause but many inter-related and complex factors contributing to the rapidly developing situation. Texas is heavily dependent on wind and gas-fired generation for electric reliability. The gas supply and infrastructure system were severely impacted and wind generation was all but shut down by this unprecedented extreme weather. Generators, however, want to be producing power and are working tirelessly under extreme conditions with their suppliers, ERCOT, and the PUC to get as many plants online and producing as possible. This is not about improper market signals or prices, these are operational challenges that arise during extreme times.

Among the factors:

- The demand for natural gas to meet heating needs is critically high while demand for natural-gas-produced electricity is also high.
- Natural gas production has been frozen out like many other industrial processes limiting its availability
- Weather conditions freezing wind turbines, solar plants and equipment at traditional Powerplants have limited the total production of energy.
- Plants were winterized in preparation for winter storms however Texas is seeing unprecedented extreme weather. Plants contracted for resource supplies like natural gas to meet expected obligations. However, higher demands and frozen wells have limited the availability and pressure of the natural gas system in turn limiting the ability for plants to produce energy.
- Hazardous road conditions have further interrupted the supply chain for fuel, water, other products necessary for production of electricity at power plants.
- Intermittent communication channels (e.g., telecom and internet) have created additional challenges with coordinated response.

These problems are currently being addressed as fast as possible by all segments of the Electric grid and the natural gas operations. The Public Utility Commission of Texas has been in constant contact with the Railroad Commission, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas and all energy producers in Texas to provide any and all assistance to the people of Texas