



Control Number: 32182



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# ***Public Utility Commission of Texas***

## **Memorandum**

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
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DATE: December 23, 2005

TO: All interested parties

FROM: David Featherston   
Director, Infrastructure Reliability Division

SUBJECT: Project <sup>32182</sup> ~~32128~~ Infrastructure Reliability, Emergency Management, and  
Homeland Security matters. Infrastructure workshop.

This letter was sent to the attached party list by regular mail.

**Paul Hudson**  
Chairman  
**Julie Caruthers Parsley**  
Commissioner  
**Barry T. Smitherman**  
Commissioner  
**W. Lane Lanford**  
Executive Director



## ***Public Utility Commission of Texas***

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December 22, 2006

"Insert name from the list"

Dear Sir/Madam:

On December 15, 2005, the Commission agreed with the PUC Staff recommendation to conduct an investigation to determine the appropriate infrastructure for electric utilities and telecommunication providers to deploy in the hurricane-prone areas of the state. You have been identified as an entity that either was directly impacted by Hurricane Rita or could be impacted by a major hurricane making landfall on or near the Texas Gulf coast.

Because your assistance with this investigation (Project No. 32182) would be very helpful, Staff would appreciate a response to the attached questions by January 15, 2006. Also, Staff will be conducting a series of workshops to collect additional information and to provide opportunities to discuss relevant issues. A detailed agenda for each workshop will be filed under Project No. 32182 before each workshop is held. Additional information concerning the schedule of events and deadlines will be posted on the PUC website under the project number.

Please contact Brian Almon or Nara Srinivasa at 512-936-7355 or 512-936-7335 by January 15, 2006 if you wish to make a presentation at one or more of the workshops. The workshops will be held in the Commissioner's Hearing Room on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the Travis Building in Austin, Texas. Formal presentations at each workshop will be limited to 15 minutes. At each workshop, however, your company will have an opportunity to participate in informal "roundtable" discussions with the other utilities and providers present and PUC staff.

Workshop No. 1     Recap of Storm Damages and Restoration Efforts Resulting from Hurricane Rita, and Planned Changes to Procedures and Practices due to Lessons Learned, January 17, 2006, 9:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Workshop No. 2     Planned Improvements to Existing Infrastructure and Potential Infrastructure Enhancements That Will Harden the System Against Future Storm Damage, January 18, 2006, 9:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Workshop No. 3     Estimated Cost of Infrastructure Improvements and Possible Cost Recovery Mechanisms, January 25, 2006, 9:30 AM- 5:00 PM



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1701 N. Congress Avenue PO Box 13326 Austin, TX 78711 512/936-7000 Fax: 512/936-7003 web site: [www.puc.state.tx.us](http://www.puc.state.tx.us)

In February, 2006, public meetings will be held in several Texas cities along the Gulf Coast to obtain input from local officials and the general public. Further information regarding the times and places of the meetings will be posted on the PUC website.

For any questions concerning this project, please contact Brian Almon or Nara Srinivasa at 512-936-7355 or 512-936-7335 or [Brian.almon@puc.state.tx.us](mailto:Brian.almon@puc.state.tx.us) or [nara.srinivasa@puc.state.tx.us](mailto:nara.srinivasa@puc.state.tx.us).

Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

David Featherston  
Director, Infrastructure Reliability Division

### **Questions for workshop in Project 32182**

1. If your company provided service in the areas affected by Hurricane Rita, please provide your company specific information on the number of customers affected, the minimum, maximum and average outage duration for the customers affected.
2. Please provide information on additional non-company resources deployed in the area for the restoral effort.
3. Please provide information on the types and physical quantity of facilities affected by the hurricane in your service area.
  - a) What percent of those facilities were replaced using existing inventory,
  - b) What percent of those facilities had to be newly procured?
  - c) Are the facilities replaced meet the existing standards or exceed the standards to ensure survivability in the event of another hurricane of category 4 or higher?
3. What lessons were learned in the process that would improve restoral time or reduce cost of restoral in the future?
4. What, if any, additional costs would be associated with improvements from lessions learned identified above? To what degree, if any, might they be offset by more timely restoral of services?
5. How might your company's physical infrastructure be modified or replaced to enhance its ability to withstand severe hurricanes?
6. How does the cost of the modifications and replacements identified above compare with that of replacing storm-damaged infrastructure in the past?
7. Has your company modified the planning, engineering and construction practices since Hurricane Rita for deploying facilities in the Texas Gulf coast region, if so how, please provide details.
8. How should the cost identified in the responses to the previous questions be recovered? Should the cost be recovered from general body of ratepayers, from the ratepayers in the affected areas, or from some other source?
9. What changes in depreciation practices are appropriate?
10. Should utility standards of construction in the coastal area be upgraded? Has your company provided input or planning to participate in the activities of standard setting organizations? If so provide details.

**Please respond to the following questions if your company sustained more than minimal damage from Hurricane Rita.**

1. Please provide the following information regarding transmission lines damaged by Hurricane Rita.

Total number of lines in the system and the number of lines sustaining damage

Total number of structures in each type before the hurricane and the number of structures repaired or replaced by voltage class.

Wood single-pole

Wood (other)

Steel single-pole

Steel lattice

Steel (other)

Concrete single-pole

Concrete (other)

Total number of feet/miles of conductor and amount repaired and amount replaced by voltage class

2. Please provide the following information regarding distribution lines (feeders) damaged by Hurricane Rita.

Total number of lines in the system and the number of lines sustaining damage

Total number of structures in each type before the hurricane and the number of structures repaired or replaced by voltage class

Wood single-pole

Wood (other)

Steel single-pole

Steel lattice

Steel (other)

Concrete single-pole

Concrete (other)

Total number of feet/miles of conductor and amount repaired and amount replaced by voltage class

3. Please provide the following information regarding transmission only substations damaged by Hurricane Rita.

Number of substations sustaining damage and total number of substations in system

Number of substations sustaining control house damage due to:

Flooding

Wind

Flying debris

Other

Number of substations sustaining damage to other equipment (including underground wiring) due to:

Flooding  
Wind  
Flying debris  
Other

4. Please provide the following information regarding distribution substations damaged by Hurricane Rita.

Number of substations sustaining damage and total number of substations in system

Number of substations sustaining control house damage due to:

Flooding  
Wind  
Flying debris  
Other

Number of substations sustaining damage to other equipment (including underground wiring) due to:

Flooding  
Wind  
Flying debris  
Other

5. Please provide the number of distribution substations that were:

Unable to serve load due to damage to the station from Hurricane Rita

Unable to serve load solely because of transmission line outage from Hurricane Rita

6. Please describe the extent of any damage sustained by each utility power plant (if applicable).
7. Please describe any damage sustained by the transmission/distribution control center.
8. Please describe any damage sustained by the communication system (voice and data) that impacted the restoration after the storm.

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Mr. Gary Don Nietzsche, Manager  
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Mr. Darren Schauer, General Manager/CEO  
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Project No. 32182

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