



Control Number: 47552



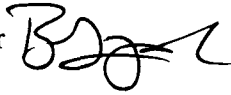
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Public Utility Commission of Texas

Memorandum

To: Interested Parties

From: Brian Lloyd, Executive Director 

Date: September 29, 2017

Re: **Project 47552**, Issues Related to the Disaster Resulting From Hurricane Harvey, Governors' Disaster Proclamation

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2017 SEP 29 AM 11:30
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
FILING CLERK

In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, I issued a series of memoranda detailing certain provisions of Commission rules that would be subject to enforcement discretion through September 29, 2017 while the region recovered from the hurricane. I also filed an agreement between AEP, CenterPoint, Entergy, and TNMP stating that these utilities would not process disconnect for non-pay (DNP) requests through September 29, 2017.

I understand that for much of the affected area, restoration efforts are largely complete, and that such broad enforcement discretion is no longer required.

While utilities in the affected area will begin processing DNPs after September 29, 2017, retail electric providers (REPs) should use their best efforts with their customers to avoid unnecessary disconnections by extending to them payment arrangements and deferred payment plans (DPPs). Additionally, Commission Staff will continue to work with retail electric providers and customers through the informal complaint process to determine where additional voluntary assistance is appropriate.

In addition, the Commission will continue to utilize enforcement discretion as the following rules related to water and sewer utilities operating within the counties covered by the disaster declaration:

- 16 TAC § 24.87(i), insofar as it would require an actual meter read every two months.
- 16 TAC § 24.89(b)(2)(A), insofar as it requires meters to be read in monthly intervals.
- 16 TAC § 24.89(g), insofar as it prohibits estimated billing.

The Commission will also continue to utilize enforcement discretion as to the following rules related to electric utilities operating within the counties covered by the disaster declaration:

- 16 TAC § 25.25, insofar as it requires an actual meter read no less than every third month.
- 16 TAC § 25.214(d) and Sections 4.7.2 and 4.7.2.2 of the Tariff for Retail Delivery Service, insofar as they would prohibit the estimating of a customer's electricity consumption in lieu of taking an actual meter reading for more than three consecutive meter reading dates.

- 16 TAC §25.214(d) and Sections 4.8.1.3 and 6.1.3.1 of the Tariff for Retail Delivery Service, insofar as they require a utility to re-read meters by a certain date.
- 16 TAC § 25.124(c) and 16 TAC 25.214(d) and Section 4.7.4 of the Tariff for Retail Delivery Service, insofar as they require a utility to test meters no later than 10 business days after the request is received.
- 16 TAC § 25.123(b), insofar as it requires utilities to read meters at monthly intervals.

Parties are reminded that the *Order to Assist Implementation of the Governor's Proclamations Related to the Disaster Caused by Hurricane Harvey* issued by the Commission on August 31, 2017 requires electric and water utilities to utilize advanced metering systems where available to report accurate metering information. Utilities were also ordered to use their best efforts, where estimation is necessary, to take into account reductions in consumption that resulted from disruptions in service, evacuation, or damage to premises.

This enforcement discretion will apply through October 12, 2017, and may be extended based on conditions in the state at that time.