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Received - 2021-09-08 06:50:38 AM

Control Number - 51812

ItemNumber - 235

Mr. Peter Lake,

I was encouraged to read in the Chronicle about your nomination and focus on our power grid. While I have been encouraged by the Governor's stated priorities since the February blackout I am not (yet) optimistic about real action with teeth to ensure the integrity and dependability of our grid. There is still way too much about our reserve power assurance that is left to chance and how generators may choose to or not respond to our needs. Here's a good indication why I am not comfortable: earlier this summer when we had our first hot days ERCOT/PUC said their approach was for us to "use less power". To me one of the most fundamental questions is why do we refuse to consider tying in to the adjacent national grids? I know Rick Perry once said "Texans would rather freeze to death in the dark than submit to federal regulation". I wonder how many of the people without power for 2-3-4 days, broken pipes and lost loved ones would answer that question today. This objection to our participation in the national grids is more of a boastful false pride than it is actually a logical, citizen-benefitting position. While Texas has abundant fuels and should always be able to be power self-sufficient February showed that to be a false assumption. Power is one of those things that may need some at least partial regulation. Deregulated power could be good in normal times but a fully deregulated market does nothing for emergency or reserve power assurance. As the attached article shows, deregulation has resulted in higher, not lower power costs to consumers and higher profits to power companies <https://www.publicpower.org/system/files/documents/Retail-Electric-Rates-in-Deregulated-States-2017-Update%20%28003%29.pdf> . It is clear to the most basic assessment that the only thing deregulated has been the power companies' profits.

Just a little background to frame my perspective and observations. I am a moderate Republican with an engineering degree and over 26 years in the energy business.

So tell me again why we will not even consider joining the national grids?

Regards,

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