



Control Number: 51812



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ISSUES RELATED TO THE STATE OF §
DISASTER FOR THE FEBRUARY 2021 §
WINTER WEATHER EVENT §

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
FILING CLERK
OF TEXAS

ORDER SUSPENDING LATE FEES

On February 12, 2021, in response to an extreme winter weather event, Governor Greg Abbott issued a Declaration of a State of Disaster for all counties in Texas. Further, on February 15, 2021, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. (ERCOT) declared its highest state of emergency, an Energy Emergency Alert Level 3 (EEA3), due to exceptionally high electric demand exceeding limited supply. ERCOT remained in EEA3 through 9AM on February 19, 2021. Recovery from the emergency conditions is continuing as market activities stabilize. Further, the Commission has stated these circumstances have caused emergency conditions and posed threats to public health and safety.

In addition, these events have caused disruptions in the wholesale and retail electric markets in the ERCOT region. In response, the Commission has previously found good cause to grant an exception to its rule that allows retail electric providers (REPs) in the ERCOT region to charge late fees. Further, the Commission urged REPs to refrain from billing customers until it could be confirmed that bills could be based on accurate meter reads. The Commission understands that billing can now proceed with accurate meter reads. However, the Commission finds that there continues to exist a public emergency and imperative public necessity that constitute good cause for granting exceptions to the provisions in the tariffs of transmission and distribution utilities (TDUs) in the ERCOT region that bill REPs.

The Commission issues the following orders.

1. Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC, CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC, AEP Texas Inc., and Texas-New Mexico Power Company must waive the 5% late fee for invoices to a REP that are due beginning on February 22, 2021 and through March 3, 2021.
2. However, the 5% late fee must not be waived for, and this Order does not disturb or affect, the rates or terms and conditions under which transition charges or system restoration

charges are billed and collected by any TDU in the ERCOT region that has such charges, including, but not limited to, assessment of late fees and application of relevant deposits. This Order does not excuse any REP from timely paying all securitization charges and all amounts that are due related to a transition bond rate schedule or system restoration cost rate schedule previously approved by the Commission in a financing order under PURA §§ 36.401 through 36.406 or 39.301-313.

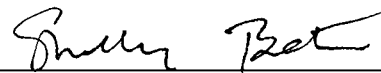
3. This Order does not otherwise affect the billing and collection of invoices in the ERCOT region.

Signed at Austin, Texas the 3rd day of March 2021.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS



ARTHUR C. D'ANDREA, COMMISSIONER



SHELLY BOTKIN, COMMISSIONER