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Allocation of power reduction must be more granular. When it became clear that power supply was failing and demand was growing, ERCOT did their job by quickly demanding that every power distributor shed X percent energy. They asked each power distributor to reduce their energy consumption by the same percentage. On the surface that seems fair. However, when you get into the details, there are some distributors who have an extremely low percentage of residential or non-critical circuits and other distributors that have a much higher percentage of residential or "controllable" circuits. Wise County Coop is our provider and I learned that they have 57 circuits in their system. 47 were deemed "critical" and could not be touched. They provided electricity to the hospital, jail, and to many gas compressors stations that were required to be on to pump gas to the power generating stations. That meant that 10 circuits had to absorb 100% of the energy reduction. To hit the target of total KWH reduction, those 10 circuits were out almost all the time during the storm. We received maybe 10 to 15 minutes of power every 2 to 4 hours. We have children who live in the Frisco and Flower Mound area (Oncor) and they too lost power in their homes, but it was for a very short time every couple of hours. The reason they were not as affected as much was because they were in a system with a much lower percentage of "critical circuits" and could spread the reduction in power over a much larger base of customers. I talked to an engineer at ERCOT and discussed how they allocated the power reduction and my suggestion that they do it more evenly across all controllable circuits in the grid... his response was "that is exactly how we need to do it".

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