



Filing Receipt

Filing Date - 2024-08-02 03:12:32 PM

Control Number - 56822

Item Number - 30

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Public Utility Commission of Texas

TO: Trade Associations

FROM: Barksdale English, Deputy Executive Director

DATE: August 2, 2024

RE: **Project No. 56822**, *Investigation of Emergency Preparedness and Response by Utilities in Houston and Surrounding Communities*

Commission Staff opened Project No. 56822 to investigate the underlying causes of repeated power outages in the Greater Houston area in the aftermath of severe weather events, with a focus on Hurricane Beryl and the May 2024 Derecho event. To bolster its understanding of the experiences of the entities most directly impacted by these kinds of weather events, Commission Staff invites Trade Associations to share with the Commission details about how they were affected by electric, water, sewer, or telecommunications utility outages during those events.

Attached to this memorandum is a set of 9 questions concerning the effect the May 2024 Derecho and Hurricane Beryl had on Trade Associations. The questions are detailed in an effort to elicit specific responses. However, any relevant information you can provide is greatly appreciated and will assist the Commission with this important examination. While encouraged, your participation in this investigation is purely voluntary. Additionally, providing a response to one question does not obligate you to respond to all questions presented.

Commission Staff requests responses be filed electronically on the Commission's filing interchange in Project No. 56822 **no later than August 30, 2024**.¹ Instructions on how to file a response can be found at the beginning of the attached request for information.

Additionally, if you have questions that cannot be answered through the [FAQs on the PUCT's website](#), please direct:

¹ <https://interchange.puc.texas.gov/filer>.

- Technical questions related to filing to:
 - Central Records: centralrecords@puc.texas.gov
- Questions related to the substance or subject of the requests for information to:
 - Luisa Venegoni, Chief of Staff for the Executive Director:
luisa.venegoni@puc.texas.gov

On behalf of the Public Utility Commission of Texas and residents of the state of Texas, Commission Staff thanks you for your participation in this investigation.

PROJECT NO. 56822**COMMISSION STAFF'S FIRST REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
TO TRADE ASSOCIATIONS
QUESTION NOS. TA 1-1 THROUGH 1-9****DEFINITIONS**

- 1) "AEP" refers to AEP Texas, Inc.
- 2) "CenterPoint" refers to CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC.
- 3) "Commission" or "PUCT" refers to the Public Utility Commission of Texas.
- 4) "Derecho" or "Derecho Event" refers to the windstorm event that occurred between May 16, 2024 and May 17, 2024 and impacted the gulf coast of the United States, including the city of Houston and surrounding metropolitan area.
- 5) "Electric service provider" refers to the entity that owns the electric meter, poles, and other distribution infrastructure required to serve an end-use customer. An electric service provider may be a municipally owned utility, electric cooperative, or an investor-owned utility, like CenterPoint or Entergy.
- 6) "Entergy" refers to Entergy Texas, Inc.
- 7) "ERCOT" refers to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc.
- 8) "Hurricane Beryl" or "Beryl" refers to the hurricane or storm that made landfall in the gulf coast of Texas on July 8, 2024. The term also refers to all life cycles of the storm prior to and after July 8, 2024, that was named Hurricane Beryl.
- 9) "Impacted Area" refers to the 121 Texas counties identified in Acting Governor Dan Patrick's July 6, 2024 Amended Disaster Declaration.
- 10) "TDEM" refers to the Texas Department of Emergency Management.
- 11) "TNMP" refers to Texas-New Mexico Power Company.
- 12) "Trade Association" refers to a nonprofit, cooperative, and voluntarily joined association of business or professional persons who are employed by public utilities or utility competitors to assist the public utility industry, a utility competitor, or the industry's or competitor's employees in dealing with mutual business or professional problems and in promoting their common interest.
- 13) "Utility" or "Utilities" refers to a person or entity providing electric, water, sewer, or telecommunications service.

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INSTRUCTIONS

- 1) Please provide responses to any of the attached questions. Providing a response to one question does not obligate you to respond to every question; however, the more answers you can provide, the more information the PUCT will have to assess utility preparedness and responses to these events.
- 2) At the beginning of your response, please identify a point of contact in the event Commission Staff has further inquiries based on your responses. Helpful information will include the contact's name, affiliation, telephone number, and email address.
- 3) Please identify the question number and, if applicable, the relevant subpart(s) above each provided response.
- 4) You must file your responses under Project No. 58622 through the Commission's Interchange. You can find instructions and FAQs concerning the Interchange on the Commission's website at <https://www.puc.texas.gov/industry/filings/>. Email Commission Central Records staff at centralrecords@puc.texas.gov if additional assistance is required.
- 5) Because you will file your responses through the Commission's Interchange system, the public will have access to all your responses. Please **do not** include confidential, personal identification, proprietary, privileged, or otherwise sensitive information in your responses.

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TO TRADE ASSOCIATIONS
QUESTION NOS. TA 1-1 THROUGH 1-9**

- TA 1-1** For each electric service provider from which your members receive service, please provide the average duration members of your trade association were without power in the aftermath of the May 2024 Derecho and Hurricane Beryl.
- TA 1-2** If possible, please identify the percentage of your membership that had a smart electric meter connection on or before July 8, 2024.
- TA 1-3** If possible, please identify the percentage of your membership that had a smart water meter connection on or before July 8, 2024.
- TA 1-4** If possible, please identify the percentage of your membership that had backup or emergency power resources connected to their facilities on or before July 8, 2024.
- TA 1-5** Please provide an estimate of the loss in revenue experienced by the membership of your trade association that resulted from outages caused by the May 2024 Derecho and Hurricane Beryl, respectively.
- TA 1-6** Please provide a summary of any conversations had between your trade association (on behalf of your membership) and electric service providers concerning restoration of power in the aftermath of the May 2024 Derecho and Hurricane Beryl events.
- TA 1-7** Please provide the percentage of your membership that lost power in the May 2024 Derecho event and Hurricane Beryl, respectively. Please also provide the percentage of your membership that lost power in both events.
- TA 1-8** Please identify the percentage of your membership that requested assistance related to utility services from a state or federal aid group (FEMA, SBA, etc.) due to either the May 2024 Derecho or Hurricane Beryl.
- TA 1-9** Please provide any additional information that may be helpful to this investigation.