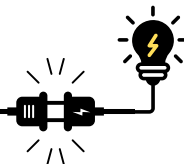


QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



PUCurrent



Public Utility Commission of Texas



(L to R: Chair Thomas J. Gleeson, Comms. Lori Cobos, Jimmy Glotfelty, and Kathleen Jackson)

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

PUCT Staff Work Around the Clock to Keep Texans Safe

Learn More About the Texas Electricity Supply Chain Map on the PUCT Website

Benter Receives Statewide Water Award

GLEESON APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS; CORONA NAMED INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On Jan. 19, Gov. Greg Abbott appointed Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) Executive Director Thomas Gleeson as Chairman of the PUCT. Gleeson's term as Chairman is set to expire on Sept. 1, 2029. [Read more](#)

PUCT PREPARING TO IMPLEMENT TEXAS ENERGY FUND

The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) is contracting with the global consulting firm Deloitte & Touche to implement the Texas Energy Fund (TEF). [Read more](#)

FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR THE PUCT'S TEXAS ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR WORKING GROUP

The PUCT's Texas Advanced Nuclear Reactor Working Group is hard at work evaluating how advanced nuclear reactors can provide safe, reliable and affordable power for Texas. The working group was established Aug. 16, 2023, at the direction of Governor Greg Abbott and is led by PUCT Commissioner Jimmy Glotfelty. [Read more](#)

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

*PUCT Chair
Thomas J. Gleeson*



COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

I want to thank everyone who has shared their well wishes on my recent appointment as Chairman of the Public Utility Commission. I am so grateful to Gov. Greg Abbott for his faith and confidence in me to lead this amazing agency, where I've spent the majority of my professional life.

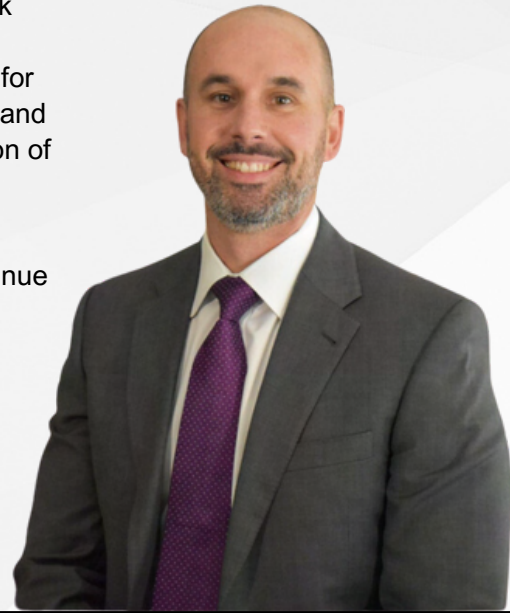
And what a time to take the reins of the agency. The PUCT I'm chairing today is vastly different than the PUCT I joined in 2008. The challenges we face are bigger and the urgency to meet them is much greater. Records for electricity demand and power generation are routinely set, then broken as fast and frequently as the seasons change.

Fortunately, the Texas Legislature and Governor Abbott have given us critical tools and authority to strengthen the reliability of our electric grid. I'm extremely proud of the work we accomplished while I was executive director – implementing rules that require weatherization of the electric generation fleet, creating the first-ever supply chain map for electric infrastructure to better prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies, and beginning development of the Texas Energy Fund (TEF) to incentivize new construction of reliable power generation.

And as Chairman, the PUCT won't stop working for you. This summer we'll launch the TEF. We're making progress on setting a reliability standard for the grid and we'll continue our redesign of how the competitive electricity market in Texas operates, to ensure reliability and affordability.

It's a privilege to serve at such a critical time for our state and with such an incredible team at the PUCT. While my position has changed at the PUCT, my commitment to serving Texas remains as strong as it has ever been.

Thomas J. Gleeson
Chairman, PUCT



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TEXAS ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CHAIN MAP ON THE PUCT WEBSITE

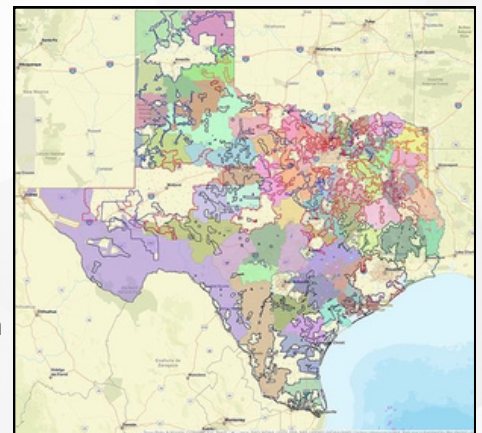
A new informational [webpage on the Texas Electricity Supply Chain Map](#) is live on the PUCT's website. Texans can now learn more about the first-of-its-kind map, which emergency responders across the state use to prepare for and respond to emergencies that could impact electric grid reliability.

The webpage includes current details about the types of critical infrastructure that populate the map, including more than 12,000 electric and natural gas facilities, 21,000 miles of gas transmission pipelines and 60,000 miles of electric transmission lines.

The map, which was created by the PUCT and Railroad Commission of Texas in 2022, was most recently [updated in December 2023](#) to include approximately 13,000 water and wastewater treatment plants and roads that provide direct access to all critical facilities on the map.

State law prohibits the public release of some layers of the map to protect the safety and integrity of the supply chain; however, the PUCT webpage features the publicly available layers of the map that are hosted and maintained by partnering state agencies.

The webpage will be updated periodically as additional facilities and infrastructure are added to the map.



GLEESON APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS; CORONA NAMED INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On Jan. 19, Gov. Greg Abbott appointed Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) Executive Director Thomas Gleeson as Chairman of the PUC. Gleeson's term as Chairman is set to expire on Sept. 1, 2029.

Gleeson joined the PUC in Dec. 2008 and has held multiple roles throughout the agency, including chief operating officer. He has served as executive director of the PUC since Dec. 2020.

"I never thought I would leave the best job I could ever have, leading this agency," Gleeson told PUC staff the day of his appointment. "I am so proud of the work this staff continues to do, day in and day out, to provide Texans reliable utility service. I look forward to continuing that work as Chair of the Commission."



Chairman Gleeson swearing-in ceremony, January 23, 2024



Chairman Gleeson swearing-in ceremony, January 23, 2024

Gleeson also added words of praise for his predecessor, Interim Chair Kathleen Jackson. "I'd especially like to thank Kathleen for the work she has done the past seven months to unite commissioners and staff and begin the implementation process of the agency's Sunset priorities," he said.

Gleeson was sworn in as Chairman on Jan. 23.

At Gleeson's first meeting as Chairman on Feb. 1, the Commission appointed Deputy Executive Director Connie Corona to serve as Interim Executive Director, effective immediately.

Corona has worked at the PUC for 12 years over two different periods. She first joined the PUC in 1997, rising to the role of Director of Electric Policy Analysis. She rejoined the agency in 2017, serving as Director of the Competitive Markets Division and Chief Program Officer before overseeing the Market Analysis, Consumer Protection, Infrastructure, Legal, Utility Outreach, Rules and Projects, Compliance and Enforcement and Rate Regulation divisions of the agency as Deputy Executive Director since 2020.

Corona also served as the Director of Regulatory Affairs at NRG from 2003-2017.

Both Gleeson (2018) and Corona (2022) are alumni of the Governor's Executive Development Program.



Interim Executive Director Connie Corona

PUCT PREPARING TO IMPLEMENT TEXAS ENERGY FUND

The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) is contracting with the global consulting firm Deloitte & Touche to implement the Texas Energy Fund (TEF). The selection was made following a public, competitive bidding process to provide their services.

The TEF is a \$10 billion loan and grant program to incentivize both the construction of new dispatchable power generation in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) Power Region, as well as improvements to electricity infrastructure statewide.

Deloitte began its work with the agency in February 2024. Working under PUCT supervision, the Deloitte team will build and administer the systems that support the TEF's loan and grant programs and backup power packages

The first program to launch will be the In-ERCOT loan program. It provides low interest loans to finance construction of new, dispatchable generation or upgrades to existing, dispatchable generation facilities within the ERCOT region. A qualifying project must result in a net increase of at least 100 MW of generation capacity.

The PUCT must begin accepting loan applications for this program in June 2024 and distributing TEF loans by December 1, 2025.

Work is also underway on the in-ERCOT completion bonus grant program for new dispatchable electric generation facilities that meet the planning mode requirements to be included in ERCOT's capacity, demand, and reserves (CDR) biannual reports after June 1, 2023. Qualifying facilities that interconnect to ERCOT before June 1, 2029, will be eligible to receive a completion bonus grant.



PUCT staff presented proposed rules for both in-ERCOT programs before the Commission in November 2023. The PUCT also held a public workshop and collected public comments on proposed rules. The Commission aims to adopt both sets of rules in March 2024.

Development and implementation of the outside-ERCOT loan program and the Texas Backup Power Package Program will begin once the two in-ERCOT programs have launched.

Texans voted to create of the Texas Energy Fund in November 2023 following passage of the Powering Texas Forward Act in Senate Bill 2627 during the 88th Regular Legislative Session.

PUCT STAFF WORK AROUND THE CLOCK TO KEEP TEXANS SAFE

Freezing temperatures across Texas over the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend had Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) staff working around the clock to keep Texans safe and warm.

Commissioner Kathleen Jackson, in her role as interim chair, personally briefed Gov. Abbott on electric grid reliability and PUCT preparations for the extreme cold. She also stood with the Governor during a winter weather safety press conference that was broadcast statewide. The PUCT's Critical Infrastructure Security and Risk Management (CISRM) team set up in the State Emergency Operations Center for the duration of the extreme weather, working closely with partners including ERCOT, Railroad Commission, TxDOT, TDEM and others.



Commissioner Kathleen Jackson briefing Governor Greg Abbott



Commissioner Kathleen Jackson and Shawn Hazard at the State Operations Center (SOC)

“It is important for us to be at the SOC because we are the primary channel for communications between the state and our electric industry,” said PUCT Emergency Management Coordinator Shawn Hazard. “We have the industry knowledge and the contacts within the industry to expedite communication and coordinate between the two ‘houses.’” PUCT staff from several divisions joined the CISRM team at the SOC during the week to monitor conditions and assist the team where needed.

To help utility consumers, the Consumer Protection Division worked on MLK, Jr. Day staffing the Consumer Protection Hotline, where they took more than 50 calls to assist consumers with various issues.

Throughout the cold snap, the Communications team worked with ERCOT to keep the public updated on grid conditions through the news media by issuing multiple [press releases](#) and by using our social media channels ([X - formerly Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#)) to provide important safety information.

BENTER RECEIVES STATEWIDE WATER AWARD

Congratulations to the Public Utility Commission of Texas' (PUCT) own Director of Utility Outreach, Tammy Benter! Benter is the Texas Association of Water Companies (TAWC) 2024 Water Champion. The TAWC celebrated Benter's selection at its annual conference in February.

In naming Benter as the 2024 honoree, the TAWC noted her sound advice, direction, and dedication to providing educational opportunities to investor-owned water and wastewater utilities (IOUs) across the state.

“Tammy Benter has continually shown commitment to being a steward for the water and wastewater industry by being a valuable resource to all IOUs, both big and small, throughout the state of Texas,” said TAWC Executive Director Ashley Myers. “Without her work to find innovative solutions to difficult problems, act as a bridge of understanding in regulatory matters, and provide counsel when appropriate, our industry would not be able to thrive and grow as it has done these past ten years.”

Benter joined the PUCT in March 2014 from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Thank you for your service, Tammy!



Tammy Benter pictured with Jeff McIntyre, President of TAWC, and Ashley Myers, Executive Director of TAWC



Tammy Benter pictured with Interim Executive Director Connie Corona and PUCT staff

FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR THE PUCT'S TEXAS ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR WORKING GROUP

The PUCT's Texas Advanced Nuclear Reactor Working Group is hard at work evaluating how advanced nuclear reactors can provide safe, reliable and affordable power for Texas. The working group was established Aug. 16, 2023, at the direction of Governor Greg Abbott and is led by PUCT Commissioner Jimmy Glotfelty. Each working group meeting has had over eighty people in attendance.

Members of the working group were named in October 2023, and since then the group has established four subgroups and areas of focus:

- **Development and Manufacturing:** To evaluate advanced reactor development and research, financial incentives, workforce, supply chain and siting considerations.
- **Market Demand/End User:** To consider the current and expected future demand for high quality nuclear power, as well the benefits advanced nuclear energy can provide to end-use customers in and out of the ERCOT grid.
- **State and Federal Regulatory:** To study and consider ERCOT market changes, other state regulatory improvements, and federal regulatory process recommendations.
- **Higher Education and Research & Development:** To facilitate collaboration with higher education institutions and national laboratories to utilize research that has been going on for years in the space and evaluate current education and workforce pipeline to support this new industry.



Commissioner Jimmy Glotfelty with U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commissioner David Wright



Commissioner Jimmy Glotfelty leading Texas Advanced Nuclear Reactor Working Group Meeting

Each subgroup is working diligently and meeting every few weeks to accomplish the specific goals laid out in Governor Greg Abbott's commissioning directive. Additionally, the PUCT and UT's Bureau of Business Research (BBR) have agreed that the BBR will simultaneously, and in close coordination, study the overall economic impact on the State that this new technology can provide.

Additional information on the working group's goals and activities can be found [here on the PUCT's website](#) and in PUCT docket #55421.

OPE IN YOUR CORNER: OPE ASSISTS LUBBOCK POWER & LIGHT CONSUMERS IN TRANSITION TO COMPETITIVE RETAIL ELECTRIC MARKET

As Lubbock Power and Light (LP&L) customers were choosing their electricity providers for the first time ever earlier this year, the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) was on hand and ready to help consumers navigate the new process. In January, Office of Public Engagement (OPE) Director Mike Hoke attended two retail fairs in Lubbock to assist consumers as they switched from LP&L to the retail electric provider of their choice.

“It was important to show LP&L customers that the PUC is here to help them in this transition,” said Mike Hoke. “There were a lot of questions about how ERCOT works, the deregulated market, the role of retail electric providers, and consumer protection. The face-to-face interaction with so many customers was a unique opportunity and a good reminder that the things we do affect real people in profound ways.”

With the Lubbock City Council, LP&L announced in 2015 it would leave Southwest Power Pool (SPP) to join the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT). As part of the move, the electric utility has transitioned from a city-owned electric monopoly into retail electric competition, becoming the first city-owned utility in the state to decide to deregulate.

The move to ERCOT took eight years to complete, but once finished, all LP&L consumers had to choose a retail electric provider for the first time. To assist them, LP&L provided online resources and hosted a series of shopping fairs where customers could meet with retail electric providers, ask questions, and sign up for retail electric service during the shopping window (Jan. 5 – Feb. 15, 2024).

The switch to retail electricity in Lubbock begins this month.

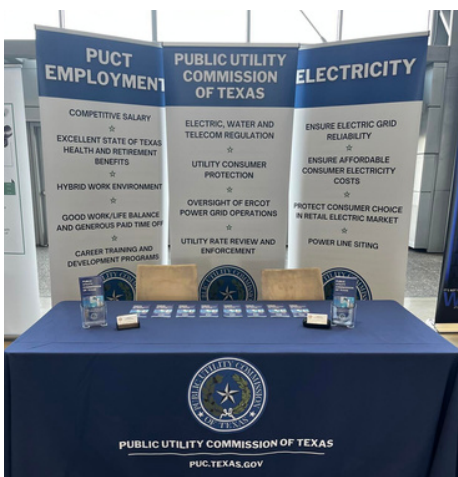


OPE Director Mike Hoke meeting with LP&L customers



OPE Director Mike Hoke meeting with LP&L customers

WORK WITH US AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!









The PUC is hiring candidates across multiple agency divisions. It’s our job to ensure reliable, affordable and accountable electric, water and telecom utilities that serve Texans and our fast-growing state. Please visit our website for our latest career opportunities and information about where to find us at upcoming job fairs

CONSUMER RESOURCES

STORM RESOURCES

Monitor outage maps and find contact information for them on our Storm Resources page: <https://puc.texas.gov/storm>

 <p>Road Closures</p> <p>DriveTexas.org is an industry leader in providing some of the most accurate and up-to-date travel-related information currently available to drivers in Texas.</p> <p>Learn More</p>	 <p>Utility Contacts</p> <p>View outage maps and contact info by Texas utility providers.</p> <p>Learn More</p>	 <p>Flood Safety Info</p> <p>Flooding can occur anywhere, but water and electricity don't mix. Be aware, know the dangers.</p> <p>Learn More</p>	 <p>Weather Updates</p> <p>Weather updates for Texas from the Electric Reliability Council of Texas.</p> <p>Learn More</p>
 <p>Texas Situation Reports</p> <p>The Texas Division of Emergency Management generates daily situation reports covering weather, emergency events, and special events across the State. Check them out here!</p> <p>Learn More</p>		 <p>TEXAS Inclement Weather</p> <p>If you lose power, please call your utility company to report the outage. You can find out outage updates by checking your utility's outage map.</p>	

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