



Public Utility Commission of Texas

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PUC Leadership Thanks Legislature for Efforts Related to Grid Reliability *87th Texas Legislature further equips the Public Utility Commission to serve Texans*

Austin, TX – After taking part in a ceremony in which Governor Abbott signed key legislation related to the ERCOT grid, Public Utility Commission Chairman Peter Lake today thanked the 87th Texas Legislature for further equipping the PUC to improve the reliability of the ERCOT grid.

“When Governor Abbott made grid reform an emergency item, the Texas Legislature responded with a clear path forward for our efforts to ensure the ERCOT grid delivers the reliable power that Texans deserve,” said Lake. “Legislators dug into the complexities of the power grid, listened to Texans and forged an actionable plan. Our responsibility is to deliver on their shared vision.”

During the ceremony, Governor Abbott signed two key bills related to the grid that do the following:

SB 2 (Hancock/Paddie): related to ERCOT governance, which:

- Requires the ERCOT board to be comprised solely of unaffiliated and ex officio directors, all of whom must reside in the state of Texas
- Requires PUC approval of new or revised ERCOT market rules
- Requires the ERCOT Board Selection Committee to appoint 8 board members with executive level experience in relevant industries.

SB 3 (Schwertner/Paddie): related to weather emergencies affecting the natural gas, water utility and electricity industries. For the increased reliability of the ERCOT grid, the bill:

- Requires improved weatherization, updated emergency operations plans and enhanced coordination between electric generators and their fuel sources
- Increases penalties for failure to meet weather emergency preparedness requirements
- Provides for a public power outage alert system
- Requires the Railroad Commission of Texas to coordinate with the PUC on the adoption of rules to designate certain natural gas facilities as critical facilities during energy emergencies and requires the RRC to adopt rules to ensure the reliability of the gas supply chain during weather emergencies
- Establishes the Texas Electric Supply Chain Mapping Committee to map the state’s electricity supply chain to protect electricity service needs during extreme weather events
- Calls for a review of load shed processes.

“For more than two decades, the state’s energy-only market has delivered affordable, reliable power, but the events of this year demonstrated a clear need for meaningful reforms,” said PUC Commissioner Will McAdams. “The legislature has spoken. We are moving forward with ERCOT on turning these words into meaningful action.”

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About the Public Utility Commission

Our mission is to serve Texans by regulating the state’s electric, telecommunication, and water and sewer utilities, implementing respective legislation, and offering customer assistance in resolving consumer complaints. Since its founding in 1975, the Commission has a long and proud history of service to Texas, protecting customers, fostering competition, and promoting high quality infrastructure. To learn more, please visit <http://www.puc.texas.gov>.