



Public Utility Commission of Texas

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Press Release

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PUCT Echoes ERCOT Conservation Request Ahead of Expected Tight Grid Conditions

Appeal for Conservation Effective Today, Aug. 29 from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. CT

Austin, Texas – Unexpected loss of thermal generation and expected low wind generation will result in anticipated low operating reserves for the Texas power grid this afternoon and into the evening. The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) is echoing a call from the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) asking Texans to conserve electricity use, if safe to do so, today from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. CT. ERCOT expects similar conditions to persist through tomorrow and asks Texans to stay tuned for additional communications.

ERCOT is not experiencing emergency conditions at this time. Current forecasts show a potential to enter emergency operations this evening because of unexpected loss of thermal generation and expected low wind generation. ERCOT and the PUCT will continue to closely monitor conditions throughout the day and keep the public informed through multiple communication channels.

ERCOT is requesting all government agencies (including city and county offices) to implement all programs to reduce energy use at their facilities.

ERCOT continues to use additional tools to manage the grid reliably, including using reserve power, calling upon reductions by large electric customers that have volunteered to lower their energy use, and bringing more generation online sooner. ERCOT is also working with out-of-state Independent System Operators (ISOs) and Market Participants to obtain additional power generation capacity. ERCOT has also requested Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) enforcement discretion, which allows a generator to extend its service/run-time/operations to help meet demand, if needed, and maintain grid reliability.

Conservation is a widely used industry tool that can help lower demand for a specific period of peak demand time, which is typically late afternoon into the evening hours. ERCOT and the PUCT are asking Texans to take simple power conservation steps to reduce demand on the grid. The PUCT's [Power to Save](#) website has tips for reducing electricity use in homes and businesses and other energy saving tips are available at [TXANS \(ercot.com\)](https://ercot.com)

If you are experiencing an outage at this time, it is local in nature and not related to overall grid reliability. Please check with your local electric provider for more information. If you need further



assistance, you can contact the PUCT's Customer Protection Division by calling 1-888-782-8477 or emailing customer@puc.texas.gov.

Why the Request to Reduce Usage?

- **Wind.** Wind generation is forecasted to be lower this afternoon/evening during peak demand time.
- **Thermal Generation.** High level of unexpected thermal generation outages.

Peak Demand

- ERCOT set a new, all-time, unofficial peak demand record of 85,435 MW on August 10, 2023.
- In 2022, the August peak demand was 78,465 MW.
- This summer, ERCOT has set 10 new [all-time peak demand records](#).
- Last summer, ERCOT set 11 new peak demand records with a high of 80,148 MW on July 20.

Consumer Assistance

- Public Utility Commission of Texas Hotline: 1-888-782-8477

Stay Updated

- Sign up for TXANS notifications on the [TXANS](#) webpage.
- Download the ERCOT Mobile App for additional notifications: [iOS](#) | [Android](#).
- Monitor real-time and extended conditions at ercot.com.
- Subscribe to [ERCOT Emergency Alerts](#) which are not sent through TXANS notifications.

Follow ERCOT on Twitter (@ERCOT_ISO), Facebook (Electric Reliability Council of Texas), and LinkedIn (ERCOT).

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 <https://www.puc.texas.gov>