



AECT Member Companies: Prepared and Ready for Winter Weather

February 2, 2022

With cold weather and precipitation expected to bear down on much of Texas, AECT member companies are prepared and ready to provide reliable electric service. Generators and transmission and distribution utilities (TDUs) have weatherized their infrastructure, made significant changes to their systems and operations over the past year and have streamlined their communications among market participants allowing for greater transparency and information sharing.

Generation Improvements

- As required by SB 3, the PUC has adopted new weatherization requirements for generators to improve their resilience in winter. These requirements exceed federal requirements for weatherization and power plant resilience.
- In December 2021, ERCOT inspected 302 generation facilities, finding near universal compliance with all but three meeting or exceeding the new requirements.
- Generation resilience improvements include insulation of critical equipment, heat-tracing elements to avoid potential for freezing, windbreaks and enclosures to protect equipment from damage resulting from wind and precipitation and advanced monitoring systems.
- Power plant operators are also working to ensure plants have key chemicals and on-site equipment to strengthen response to weather crises.
- AECT generation companies have bolstered fuel security at plant sites, improving access to natural gas storage and alternative fuels.

Transmission and Distribution Improvements

- TDUs have also enhanced weatherization efforts. ERCOT inspected 22 TDU facilities in December 2021, finding universal compliance with all new requirements.
- AECT TDUs have confirmed that electrical equipment has the insulation and chemicals needed to operate safely in cold weather, and tested systems to ensure reliable operation in the winter.
- TDUs are also participating in proceedings at the PUC and Railroad Commission to ensure key natural gas facilities are designated as critical, to keep the gas flowing to power plants.

Communications Improvements

- AECT retail electric providers (REPs) and TDUs are working closely with the PUC and ERCOT to make sure the information provided to Texans is informative and provided in plain language, to avoid confusion in case of a dangerous weather event.
- Companies are also joining regulatory agencies to participate in the Texas Energy Reliability Council, which meets regularly to look for opportunities for improvement when responding to a weather crisis.