

From: Ilse Riquelme <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 10:55 AM
To: Rules Coordinator
Subject: 16 TAC §3.65 and §3.107 - Comment on weatherization rule

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Railroad Commission of Texas ,

I am writing to comment on the proposed rule for 16 TAC §3.65 and §3.107 (new rule and amendment per SB 3 and HB 3648).

This February, Winter Storm Uri caused massive power outages across Texas that led to hundreds of deaths and estimated damages of up to \$295 billion - making it the costliest natural disaster in Texas history. A preliminary assessment by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) found that natural gas fuel supply issues were the second largest cause of outages and derates at electric generators, other than electric generator freezing issues.

After the 2011 winter power outages, FERC and NERC released a similar report recommending winterization strategies for the natural gas supply chain. The RRC did not issue any rulemakings to weatherize the natural gas supply chain. Please don't make the same mistakes again.

The proposed critical infrastructure rulemaking leaves Texans vulnerable to more widespread power outages, deaths, and billions in damages. First, the rule draft would allow any operator to apply for an exception to "critical infrastructure" designation. The rule does not specify any criteria that would allow the railroad to reject an application for an exception. This is extremely important, because facilities that are not designated as critical infrastructure will not be required to comply with future weatherization rules.

Next, the rule seems to apply only to natural gas facilities that are connected to the grid. Many natural gas wells are not connected to power from the grid, but are still necessary fuel sources

for the gas supply chain. Facilities that are not connected to the grid, but are supplying electric generators should still be considered critical so that they will be subject to future weatherization requirements.

The proposed rule is also problematic because it allows any natural gas facility to be designated as critical, even if it doesn't supply gas to an electric generator. This could result in more Texas residents being left without power when demand exceeds supply because utilities will prioritize critical infrastructure. Many utilities were already unable to rotate power outages during Winter Storm Uri. The Commission needs to map the natural gas supply chain to determine which facilities are actually critical and therefore need to be prioritized. As it stands, this rule could result in limited electricity supply being provided to non-critical industry improperly designated as critical.

Finally, Senate Bill 3 presented challenges for the RRC because it requires facilities to be prepared to operate in a weather emergency in order to be designated as critical infrastructure. However, facilities that aren't designated as critical will never be required to follow the RRC's weatherization rule. The RRC's impractical interpretation of SB 3 leaves Texans vulnerable. Please consider a phased approach to ensure that all gas facilities that supply fuel to electric generators are required to be considered as critical infrastructure and are held accountable to future weatherization rules.

Don't make critical infrastructure designation and weatherization rules optional. Texans are counting on the RRC to ensure grid reliability by finalizing meaningful gas supply chain weatherization rules.

Ilse Riquelme
ilseplace@yahoo.com

Houston, Texas Texas 77024

From: rrcwebcontact
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 2:32 PM
To: Rules Coordinator
Subject: The Form 'Rules Comment Form' was submitted



General Comment

Here is a new comment from the Web.

Comment

Choose Form

16 TAC §3.65 and §3.107

Name

Robert Baumgardner

Address

12911 Trailwood Rd

City

Austin

State

From: L Miller <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 4:15 PM
To: Rules Coordinator
Subject: 16 TAC §3.65 and §3.107 - Comment on weatherization rule

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L Miller
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9410 Longvale Dr
Austin, Texas 78729

From: Carolyn Croom <cbcroom@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 4:49 PM
To: Rules Coordinator
Subject: 16 TAC §3.65 and §3.107 - Comment on weatherization rule

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Carolyn Croom
cbcroom@sbcglobal.net
2502 Albata Ave.
Austin, Texas 78757

From: Sean Hunt <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 9:33 AM
To: Rules Coordinator
Subject: 16 TAC §3.65 and §3.107 - Comment on weatherization rule

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Sean Hunt
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[REDACTED]

From: Carolyn Croom [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 4:47 PM
To: Rules Coordinator
Subject: Comment on Proposed Critical Infrastructure Rule

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Dear Railroad Commission of Texas rulemaking,

Texans are counting on you to help ensure that we don't have a repeat of last February's deadly winter storm blackouts. State lawmakers asked the Railroad Commission to make rules to ensure that the gas supply chain was weatherized to function during future storms.

Gas fuel supply problems were the second largest cause of outages, after frozen electric generators. That's according to a recent report by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The FERC report recommended steps to ensure that our natural gas supply is weatherized to survive the next storm. It's up to you to pass strong rules to make that happen.

This current rule proposal allows any operator to simply opt out of weatherizing, even if they normally supply gas to electric generators. The Railroad Commission must act to ensure that operators supplying gas to electric generation facilities are weatherized.

The proposed rule also encourages operators who aren't supplying gas to electric generators to be designated as critical infrastructure. If electricity shortages and rolling power outages are required to keep the grid stable, facilities that are unnecessarily designated as critical infrastructure could actually cause more Texans to go without power.

Please strengthen this rule to avoid a repeat of last winter's tragedy, in which hundreds died and millions were left without power.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Croom
2502 Albata Ave
Austin, TX 78757