

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

Critical Infrastructure Division



NOTICE TO GAS SUPPLY CHAIN AND GAS PIPELINE FACILITIES OPERATORS

Weather Emergency Readiness Attestation Online Filing Available

In accordance with 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §3.66, *relating to Weather Emergency Preparedness Standards*, operators of gas supply chain facilities designated as critical under 16 TAC §3.65 and included on the electric supply chain map are required to file a *Weather Emergency Readiness Attestation* with the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) by December 1st of each year. Operators of gas pipeline facilities that (1) directly serve a natural gas electric generation facility operating solely to provide power to the electric grid for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) power region or for the ERCOT power region and an adjacent power region; and (2) are included on the electricity supply chain map are also required to file the *Weather Emergency Readiness Attestation*. **The first attestation is due December 1, 2022**, and required to be filed online using the WE PREP application.

The attestation must be prepared by an authorized representative of the operator or under the authorized representative's supervision and direction and must attest that the operator implemented the weather emergency preparation measures required by §3.66(c), which include the following:

1. Providing training on weather emergency preparations and operations to relevant operational personnel [§3.66(c)(2)(A)],
2. Consideration of the risk to the health and safety of employees [§3.66(c)(2)(B)],
3. Consideration of protection of the environment [§3.66(c)(2)(B)], and
4. Weatherization of facilities.

16 TAC §3.66 requires weatherization using methods a reasonably prudent operator would take and includes: (1) correcting critical component failures that occurred during previous weather emergencies; (2) installing equipment to mitigate weather-related operational risks; and (3) internal inspection, self-assessment, and implementation of processes to identify, test, and protect critical components.

To assist operators with their submissions, the RRC has an attestation template available on its website that provides an option of information for the attestations.

Beginning December 1, 2022, the RRC will start inspecting facilities that are required to comply with 16 TAC §3.66. Inspections will generally be: (1) a regular inspection of the facility conducted in accordance with RRC's inspection schedule; or (2) an investigation scheduled in response to the filing of a weather-related forced stoppage notification or notification of a forced stoppage due to loss of electricity.

RRC Access Management Process (RAMP)

Operators, who are authenticated users, can log into WE PREP to upload and submit attestations for review and approval by the RRC. To become an authenticated user, you must request access to the RRC Access Management Process (RAMP) through your organization's Delegated Administrator.

Each company must designate at least one Delegated Administrator to manage their RRC authenticated users. The Delegated Administrator can create new authenticated users, reset passwords, inactivate accounts, and perform other administrative tasks for their organization's users.

At this time, there are two ways to become a Delegated Administrator:

1. If you are a current RRC CASES or PIPES authenticated user and would like to become a Delegated Administrator for your organization, please email the RRC's Help Desk at rrconline-security@rrc.texas.gov, or
2. Company staff who do not currently have RRC CASES or PIPES authenticated user access can request to become Delegated Administrators using the online *Security Administrator Form – External* (SAFE Form) available on the RRC website at <https://www.rrc.texas.gov/apps/rrc-ramp/>.

Delegated Administrators can log into the RAMP Dashboard to manage their organization's authenticated users. The dashboard is on the RRC website at <https://www.rrc.texas.gov/apps/rrc-ramp/>

For more information, reference the *RAMP User Guide and Administrator Guide* available on the RRC website at <https://www.rrc.texas.gov/forms/ramp-information/>. If you have additional questions, please email rrconline-security@rrc.texas.gov.

Attestation Template and Related Resources

The attestation template, which is a sample option of information that can be submitted, is available in the *Documents* section of the RRC website's Weatherization page at <https://www.rrc.texas.gov/critical-infrastructure/weatherization/>.

In the *Useful Links* section of the page, there is a link to upload attestations in WE PREP, as well as uploading instructions in the *How to Upload Attestations* presentation link.

If you have questions regarding this notice, contact the RRC's Critical Infrastructure Division at CID@rrc.texas.gov or 512-463-6737.

Please Forward to the Appropriate Section of Your Company