

Feb. 2, 2011

From the Energy Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT)

**Rotating outages possible this evening and Thursday morning
*Conservation still needed***

POSSIBILITY OF ROTATING OUTAGES THIS EVENING AND TOMORROW MORNING
ERCOT is asking consumers to reduce energy consumption during peak-demand times this evening -- 6-10 pm - and tomorrow morning from 6 - 8 am.

The grid continues to have more than 5,000 MW of generation out of service due to the effect of the extreme cold.

Tonight's peak demand is forecast to hit 54,900 MW between 7-8 pm. The morning peak was 53,223 MW - with 4,000 MW dropped via rotating outages -- at 9-10 am.

At this time, the forecast for tomorrow's peak load is 56,800 MW for 7-8 am.

ERCOT's current record for all time winter peak demand is 55,878 MW, which occurred on Jan. 8, 2010.

Rotating outages are controlled, temporary interruptions of electrical service initiated by each utility when supplies of reserve power are exhausted. Without this safety valve, generators would overload and begin shutting down to avoid damage, risking a domino effect of a state-wide outage.

Utilities/ transmission providers determine the location/scheduling of the rotating outages.

See more conservation tips at "Powerful Advice," Public Utility Commission of Texas:

www.puc.state.tx.us/ocp/conservation
<http://www.puc.state.tx.us/ocp/conservation>
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BACKGROUND

A Power Emergency indicates that the regional electric grid operator, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), has instructed utilities to implement rotating outages to reduce load.

Rotating outages are controlled, temporary interruptions of electrical service initiated by each utility when supplies of reserve power are exhausted. Without this safety valve, generators would overload and begin shutting down to avoid damage, risking a domino effect of a region-wide outage.

Rotating outages primarily affect residential neighborhoods and small businesses and do not typically include critical-need customers.

The outages are limited to 10-45 minutes before being rotated to a different neighborhood. Some customers may experience longer outages if power surges cause equipment failure during the restoration process. Customers can minimize power surges by turning off appliances, lights and other equipment, except for one task light to determine when power has been restored.

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