

For Immediate Release

Grid Security Investigator Files Federal Complaint on Texas Grid Collapse of 2021

Washington DC – Grid Security Investigator Michael Mabee filed a formal complaint with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) charging that the mandatory reliability standards were either not followed, or are inadequate, resulting in the collapse of the Texas electric grid on February 15, 2021. FERC docketed the complaint and issued a notice on March 4, 2021. (FERC Docket No. EL21-54-000.)

The complaint outlines the lack of action taken after similar power outages in 1989 and 2011. The 2021 Texas grid collapse was not the first time that cold weather has blacked out large swaths of the state and impacted critical infrastructures.

“It is unacceptable that the same thing keeps happening,” said Mr. Mabee. “People died as a result of the inaction of the industry and the government to prepare for a cold weather event.”

The collapse of the Texas electric grid on 2021 is blamed for numerous deaths and the collapse of other critical infrastructures. The people of Texas struggled for water, food and gas while attempting to survive sub-freezing temperatures. Firefighters struggled to fight fires due to the lack of water; people died of exposure and carbon monoxide poisoning. Millions were under “boil water” orders when the loss of power impacted the water systems.

“The industry and the government are trying to blame the weather,” said Mr. Mabee. “The fact is, this is not the first time this has happened in Texas. In 1989, 2011 and now in 2021 people lost power and were put in grave danger because nobody has fixed this. This complaint seeks to hold those accountable who violated mandatory reliability standards, or improve the standards if they didn’t work.”

Mandatory reliability standards are enforced by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and its regional entity in Texas, the Texas Reliability Entity, Inc. (Texas RE). NERC’s enforcement activities are overseen by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). FERC also must approve all mandatory reliability standards. Under the law, FERC can direct NERC to enforce a reliability standard. FERC can also order NERC to modify a reliability standard if the Commission considers such a new or modified reliability standard appropriate.

FERC issued a notice that interested parties have until 5:00 PM Eastern Time on April 5, 2021 to file motions to intervene and comments. The public can go to this website for information on how they can file comments: <https://michaelmabee.info/take-action/>

A copy of the complaint can be found here:

<https://michaelmabee.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/FERC-Complaint-Mabee-Final-w-Exhibits.pdf>

For further information, contact:

Michael Mabee

Web: <https://michaelmabee.info>

Phone: (516) 808-0883

Email: CivilDefenseBook@gmail.com

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Complaint of Michael Mabee
Related to Reliability Standards

Docket No. EL21-54-000

NOTICE OF COMPLAINT

(March 4, 2021)

Take notice that on March 1, 2021, pursuant to section 215(d) of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 824o(d) and Rule 206 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.206 (2020), Michael Mabee, (Complainant) filed a formal complaint alleging that the Texas grid events of February 15, 2021 resulted from either a failure to comply with mandatory Reliability Standards or that mandatory Reliability Standards were ineffective, as more fully explained in the complaint.

Complainant certifies that copies of the complaint were served on the contacts as listed on the Commission's list of Corporate Officials.

Any person desiring to intervene or to protest this filing must file in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214). Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a notice of intervention or motion to intervene, as appropriate. All interventions, or protests must be filed on or before the comment date.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings of comments, protests and interventions in lieu of paper using the "eFiling" link at <http://www.ferc.gov>. Persons unable to file electronically may mail similar pleadings to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. Hand delivered submissions in docketed proceedings should be delivered to Health and Human Services, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the Federal Register, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this document via the internet through the Commission's Home Page (<http://www.ferc.gov>) using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the

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last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. At this time, the Commission has suspended access to the Commission's Public Reference Room, due to the proclamation declaring a National Emergency concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), issued by the President on March 13, 2020. For assistance, contact the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or call toll-free, (886) 208-3676 or TYY, (202) 502-8659.

Comment Date: 5:00 Eastern Time on April 5, 2021.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

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