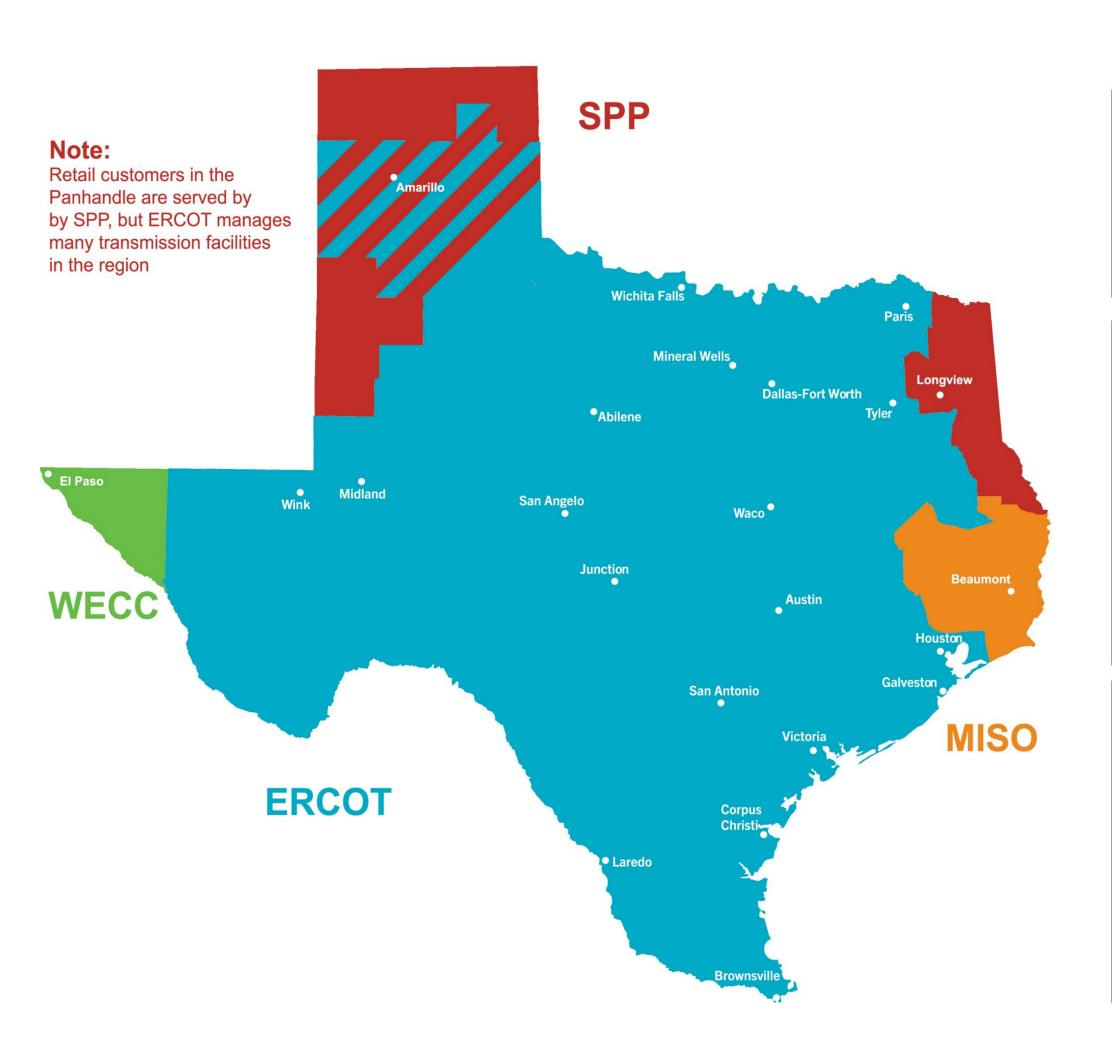


Legislative Staff Briefing on Electric Industry Summer Preparedness

May 24, 2022

Legislative advertising paid for by: Association of Electric Companies of Texas 1005 Congress, Suite 1000, Austin, TX 78701 • 512-474-6725 • www.aect.net

## **AECT Companies Within ERCOT**

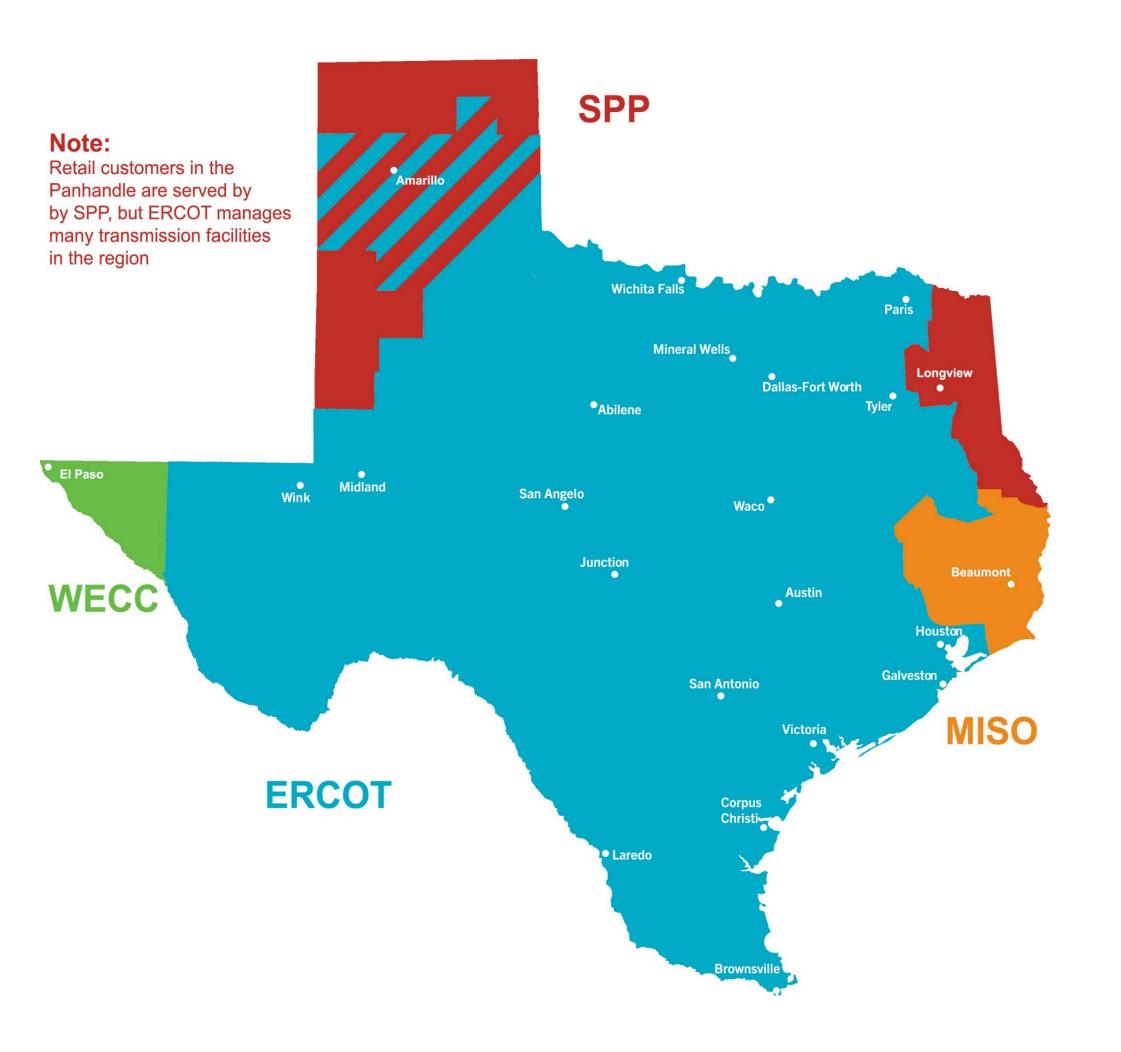


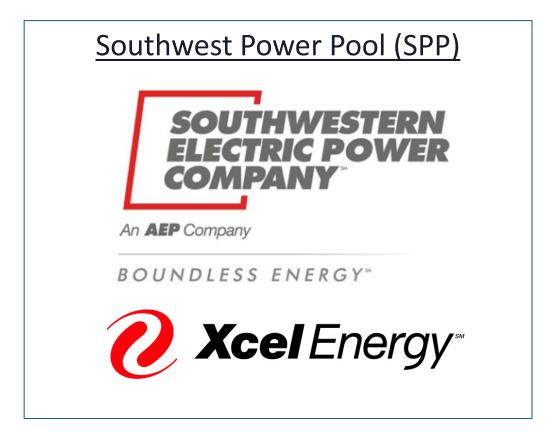






### **AECT Utilities Outside of ERCOT**









# Agenda

# Hurricane Season 2022

Nathan Brownell, CenterPoint Energy Brittany Chandler, Entergy

# Wholesale Market Preparedness

Brent Chaney, Vistra

Summer Preparedness in the Retail Market Bill Clayton, NRG Energy

# Hurricane Season 2022

# Nathan Brownell, CenterPoint Energy Brittany Chandler, Entergy

# Focusing on our core utility businesses

CenterPoint Energy 2022 Hurricane Preparations

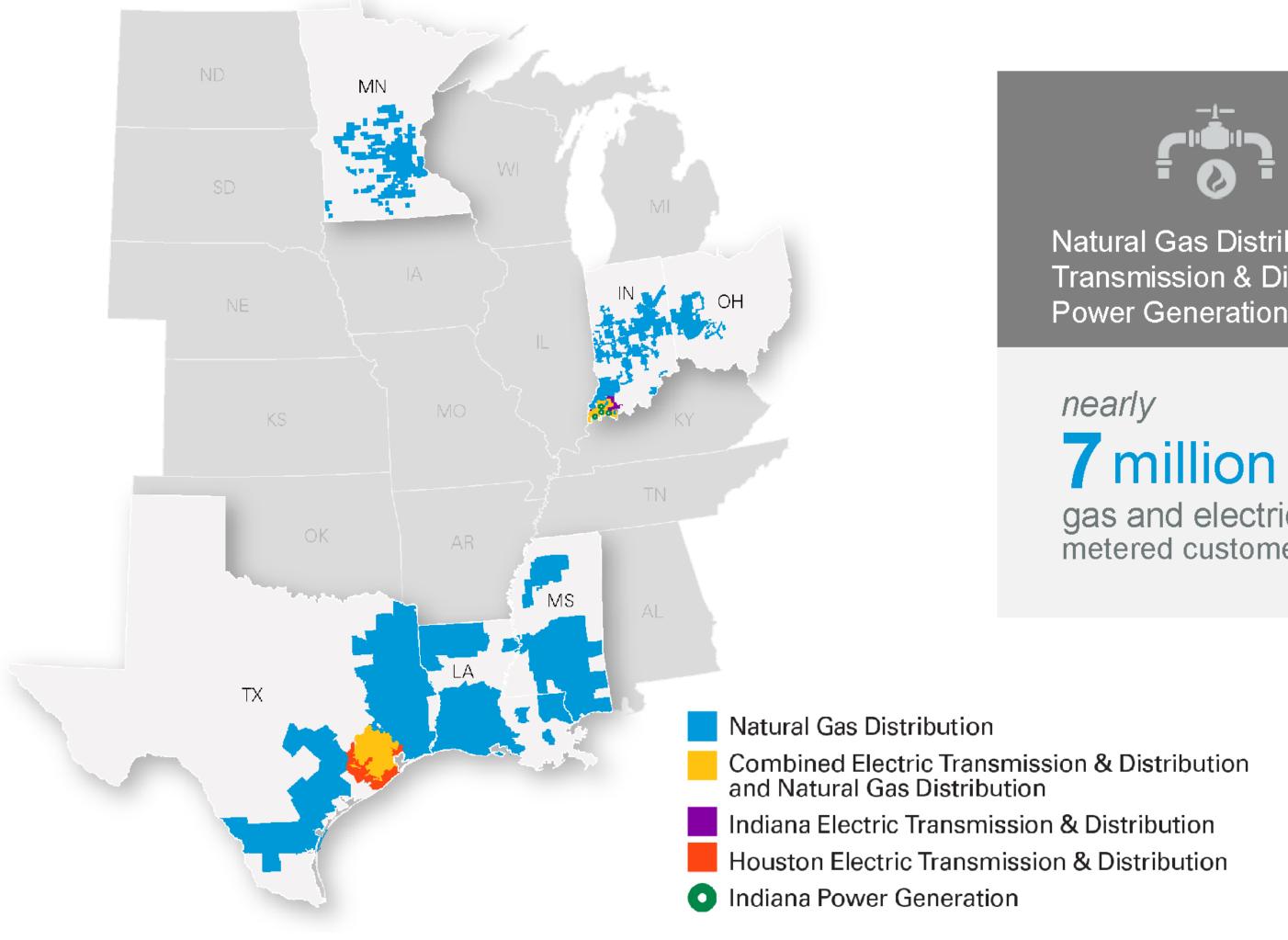
**Nathan Brownell** 

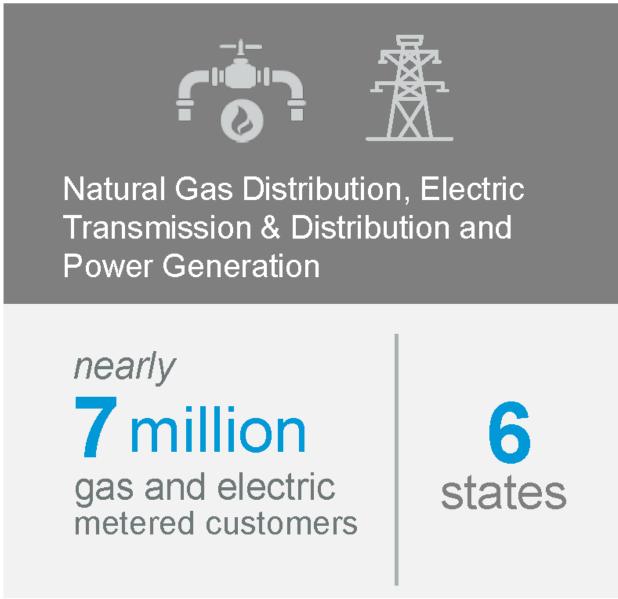






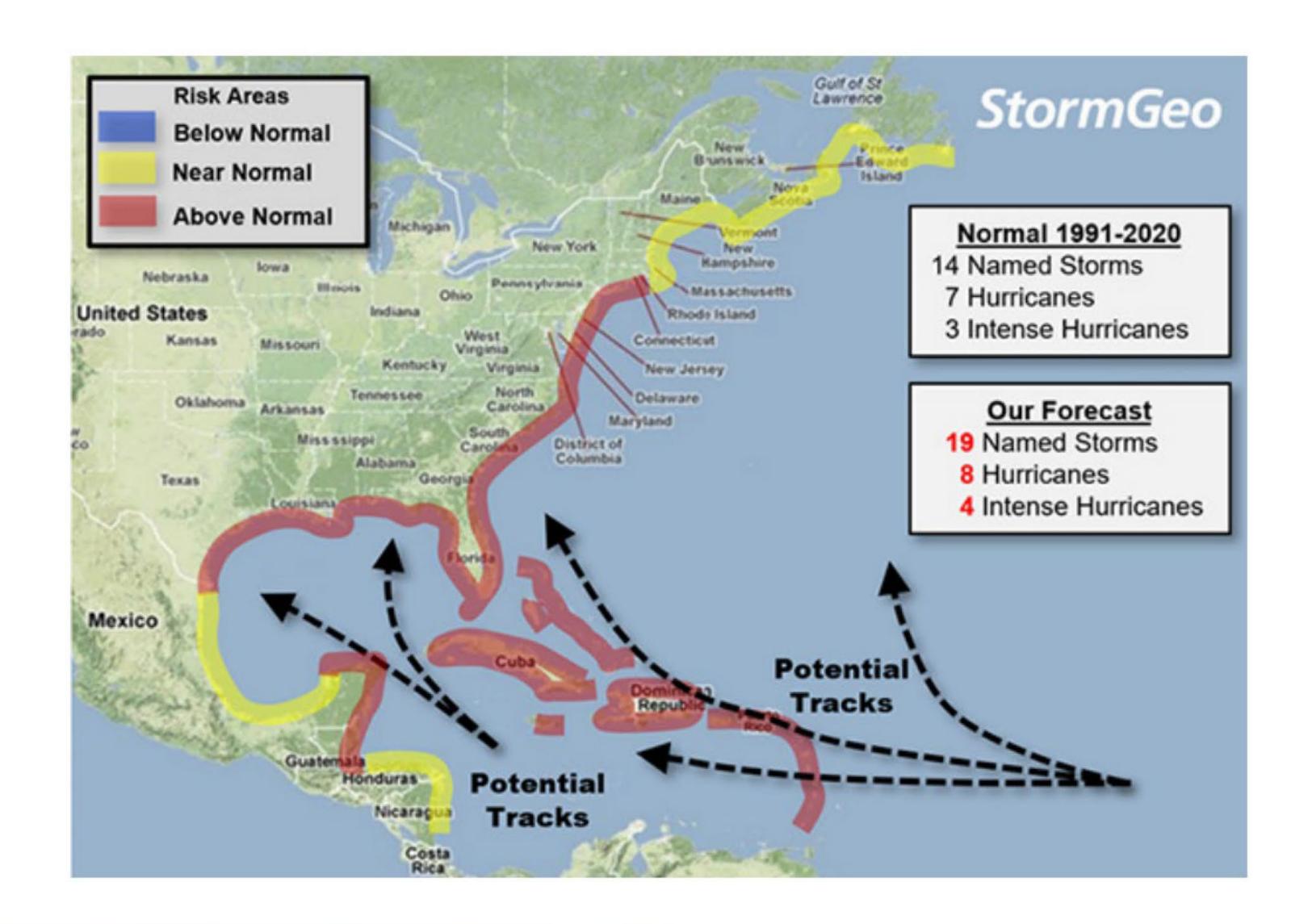
# Where We Operate







# 2022 Hurricane Season Forecast





# 2021 Lessons Learned from Hurricane Nicholas

- Cut & Clear process highly effective
- 80% of customers restored within 12hrs
- Utilizing mobile orders increases oversight & efficiency
- Damage Assessment tiers needed to fit storm size & regional needs
- Mobile Command Center helps manage high impact area
- Mutual Aid onboarding was slow & needs updating





# 2022 Hurricane Preparations

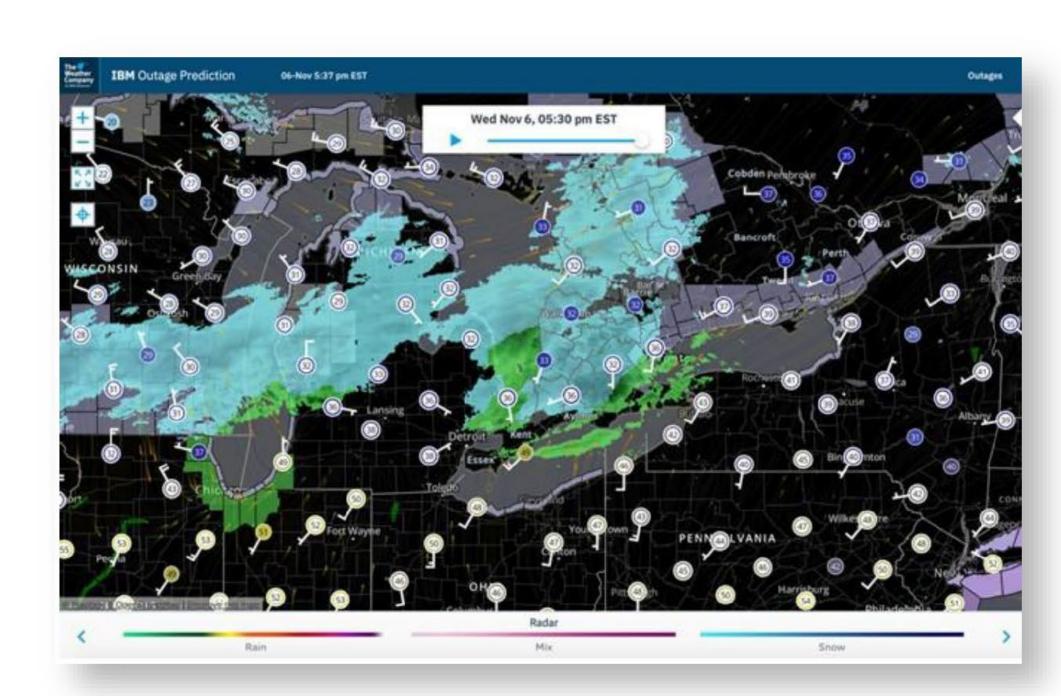
- June 1st EOP Drill
  - Testing new Damage Assessment process
  - Testing new personnel on ICS & communication paths
  - Situation injects
- June 15<sup>th</sup> Staging Site
  - Functional Staging Site
  - Review all staging site plans
  - Staging Site team training
  - Testing onboarding crews & restorations





# 2023+ Hurricane Preparations

- Self Contained Restoration & Staging Sites
  - Lessons learned from COVID
- Weather Prediction Damage Modeling
  - Merge asset data with weather forecasting modeling
- Digital Mutual Assistance
  - Remote onboarding
  - App to communicate with crews
  - Dashboarding resources needs





May 24, 2022

# **Entergy Texas**Storm Preparations

Brittany Chandler Region Manager, Customer Service TX Deputy Chief Customer Officer (Storm)



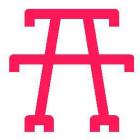
# **Entergy Texas**



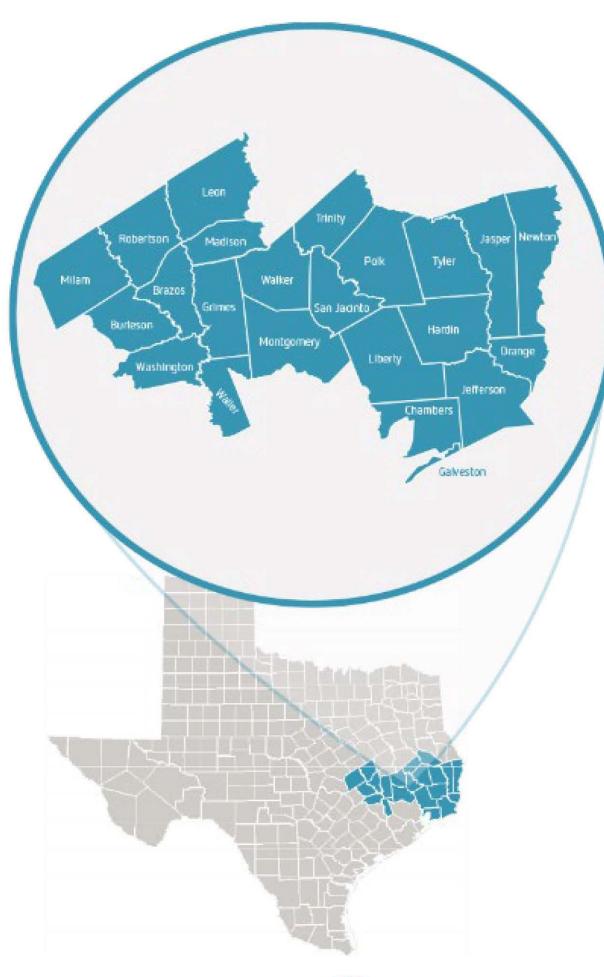
**486,000** Customers



27 counties / 15,320 square miles



433,000+ utility distribution poles / 2,700+ miles of transmission lines / 335 substations





# Strengthening the grid before and after storms

Building a resilient grid is what we do

# Enhancing the grid is a year-round effort



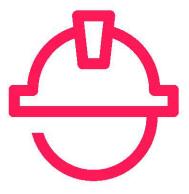
### Investments

Investments have been made in upgrading and strengthening our power generation, transmission and distribution systems, including evolving how our facilities are designed, built and maintained; incorporating more aggressive investment strategies; and deploying new technologies.



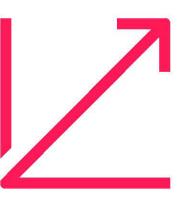
### Hardening

Hardening strategies are evaluated from a customer perspective, weighing the benefits of fewer and shorter outages against the high costs of hardening the system that have a large impact on the cost of electricity for our customers.



### Reliability work

Planned efforts that span inspection and maintenance, vegetation management, equipment upgrades, and overall efforts that help support the delivery of low-cost, reliable energy.



### Resilience

We've identified resilience investments which would help mitigate future storm damage and costs and reduce the number and duration of customer outages after major events.



# We know investments in hardened infrastructure perform

### Flying debris is often cause for damage

During Hurricane Ida, a section of our transmission system with roughly 380 newly built structures was in the direct path of the storm, and only three of them were damaged – and not by wind, but by flying heavy-duty barge debris.

Section of newly built transmission structures survived Hurricane Ida's 150 mph max sustained winds.



# Storm preparations 365 days a year

We prepare for the worst of what Mother Nature might bring

# **Operation Storm Ready**

# Inspections

Inspections of the grid and our facilities are performed.

## **Maintenance**

We have proactive maintenance plans that we work throughout each year.

# Vegetation

Trees and other vegetation are a leading cause of power outages.





# **Storm Ready**

Monitoring weather threats is a 24/7, 365-day-a-year job.

# **Training**

We rely on our continuous cycle of planning, preparation, training and evaluation. (Storm Drill is 5/24/2022)

# Industry collaboration

Entergy partners with other utilities in mutual assistance agreements.

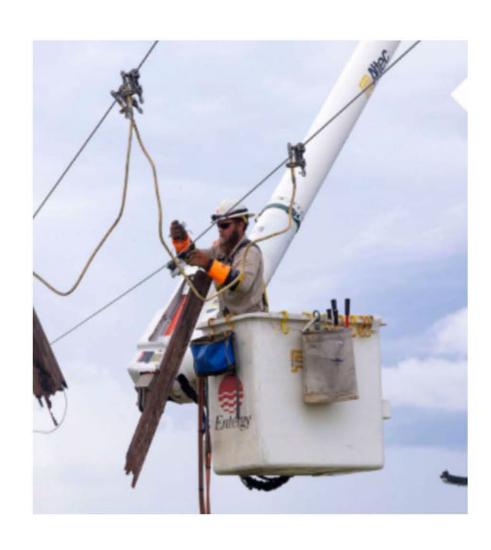


# Weathering any storm, together

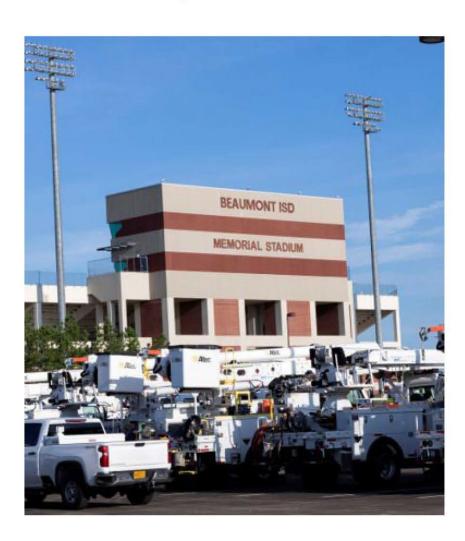
When forecasts seem daunting, we stand ready

# We ramp up support

# Resources



Logistics



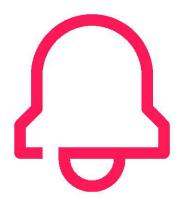
Support





Most important is the safety of those living and working in communities hit by big storms or severe weather.

# Stay informed throughout a storm



### **Notifications**

- Email
- Text
- Phone

Sign up: myEntergy.com



### **Storm Center**

One-stop website for information

entergystormcenter.com



### **Social Media**

- Twitter
- Facebook
- Flickr
- YouTube

entergy.com/socialmedia



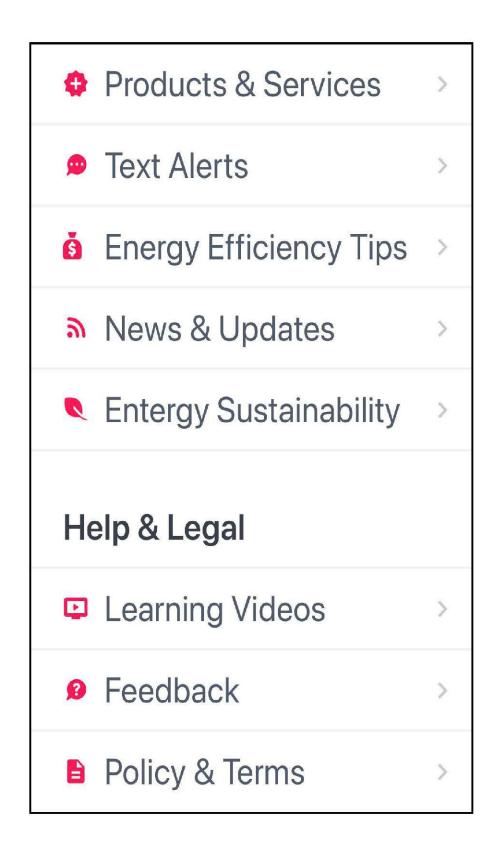
### **View Outages**

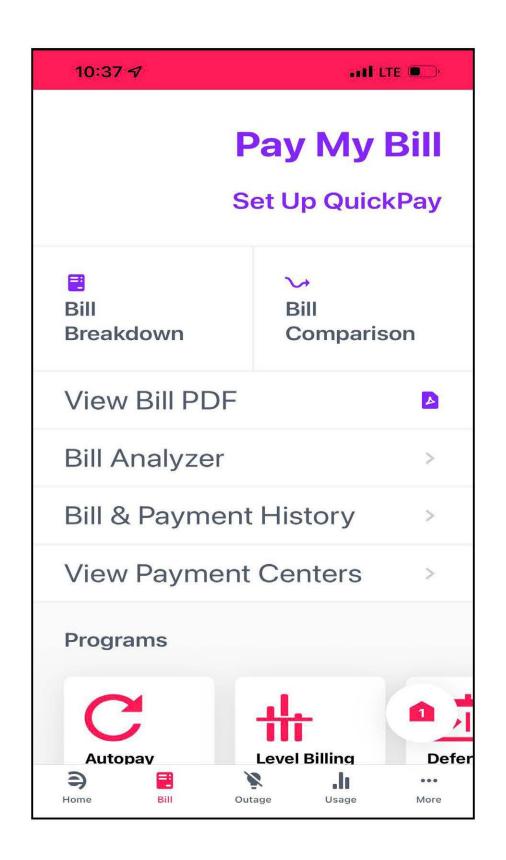
The map provides outage and estimated restoration information to customers.

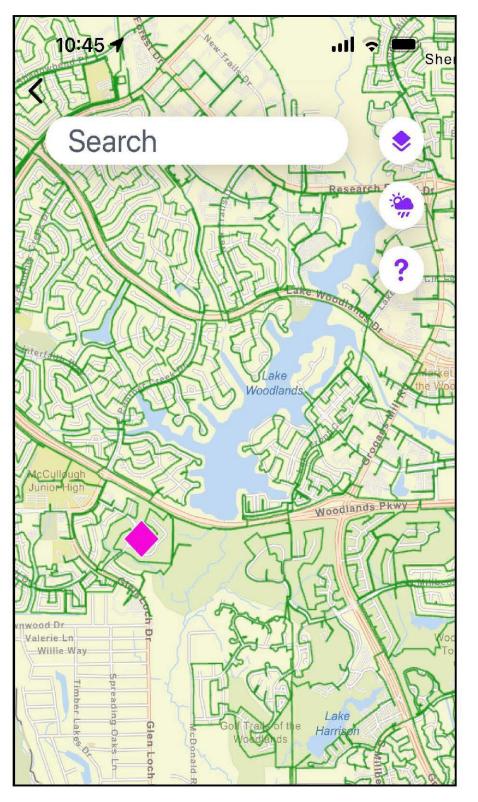
entergy.com/viewoutages



# **Entergy App**

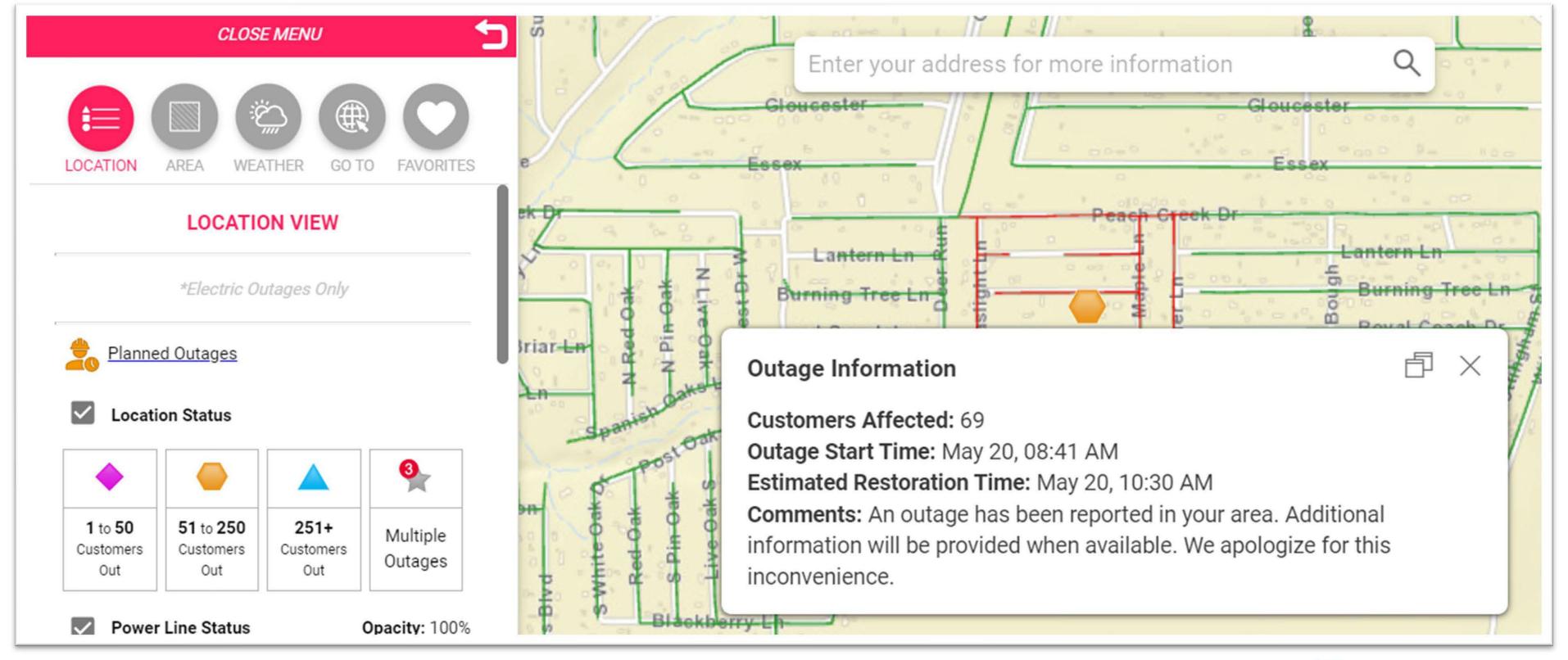








# View Outage (Online and App)





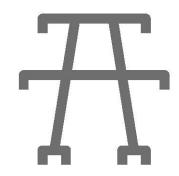
# Restoring power after severe weather strikes

Crews work as quickly as they safely can for our customers

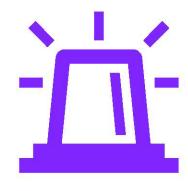
# **Storm-Restoration Process**















Assess
<b>Damage</b>

After the storm, Entergy assesses damage to electric equipment to determine corrective actions Power Plants

Power plants, the primary source of power production, are restored

# **Transmission Lines**

Transmission lines are repaired, delivering power to cities, towns and major industrial facilities

### **Substations**

Substations are brought online; this is where voltage is lowered.

# **Emergency Services**

Power is restored to emergency services, life-support facilities, police and communications networks

# Homes & Businesses

Power is restored to areas with the largest number of homes and businesses

### Individual Services

Individual services, often the most timeconsuming repairs, are restored last



2021 marked 23 years in a row being recognized by EEI for emergency assistance and recovery

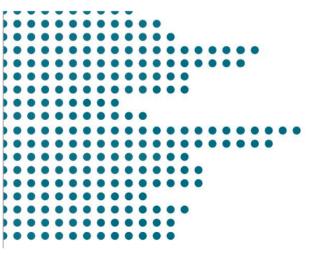


Received more than 40 awards over those two-plus decades.

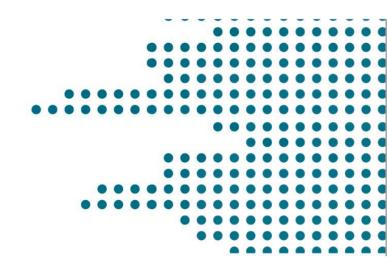


# Wholesale Market Preparedness

**Brent Chaney, Vistra** 

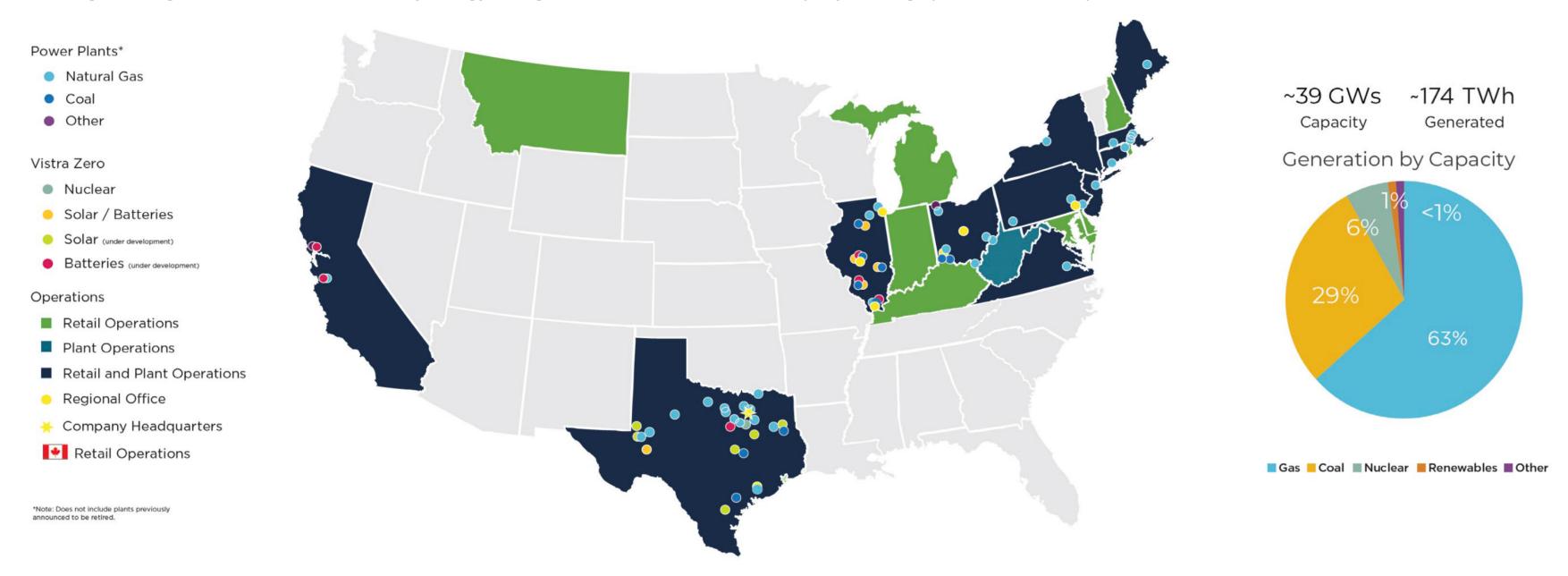






### America's leading integrated energy company

Vistra (NYSE: VST) is a leading, integrated, Fortune 275 retail electricity and power generation company based in Irving, Texas, providing essential resources for customers, commerce, and communities. Vistra combines an innovative, customer-centric approach to retail with safe, reliable, diverse, and efficient power generation. The company brings its products and services to market in 20 states and the District of Columbia, including six of the seven competitive wholesale markets in the U.S. and markets in Canada, as well. Serving nearly 4.3 million residential, commercial, and industrial retail customers with electricity and natural gas, Vistra is one of the largest competitive electricity providers in the country and offers over 50 renewable energy plans. The company is also the largest competitive power generator in the U.S. with a capacity of approximately 39,000 megawatts powered by a diverse portfolio, including natural gas, nuclear, solar, and battery energy storage facilities. In addition, the company is a large purchaser of wind power.





Combined premier retail and wholesale brands

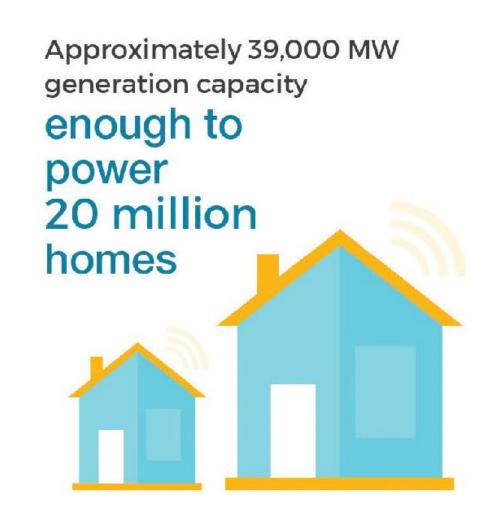












### **Retail Offices**

Cincinnati, OH Irvin

Collinsville, IL King of

Columbus, OH

Houston, TX

Irving, TX
King of Prussia, PA

Oak Brook, IL



Committed to our customers, our communities, and to operating our plants safely, reliably, and in accordance with environmental standards.

www.vistracorp.com

## Vistra Zero



From the world's largest battery energy storage facility to miles and miles of solar panels, Vistra Zero is bringing a zero-carbon future to life.

Vistra expects to grow its Vistra Zero portfolio to more than 7,000 MW by 2026.



### Andrews Solar Facility

100 MW Andrews County, TX

### **Angus Solar Facility**

110 MW Bosque County, TX

### Brightside Solar Facility

50 MW Live Oak County, TX

### **Emerald Grove Solar Facility**

108 MW Crane County, TX

### Forest Grove Solar Facility

200 MW Henderson County, TX

### Oak Hill Solar Facility 200 MW

Rusk County, TX

### ENERGY STORAGE

### DeCordova Energy Storage Facility 260 MW

Hood County, TX

### Edwards Energy Storage Facility

37 MW Peoria County, IL

### Havana Energy Storage Facility

37 MW Mason County, IL

### Joppa Energy Storage Facility

37 MW Massac County, IL

750 MW/3,000 MWh

36.25 MW/ 145 MWh Oakland, CA

### Moss Landing Energy Storage Facility

Moss Landing, CA

### Oakland Energy Storage Facility

Jasper County, IL

### **NUCLEAR**

### Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant

2.300 MW Somervell County, TX

### SOLAR + ENERGY STORAGE

### Baldwin Solar & Energy Storage Facility

68 MW solar; 9 MW battery Randolph County, IL

### Coffeen Solar & Energy Storage Facility

44 MW solar; 6 MW battery Montgomery County, IL

### Duck Creek Solar & Energy Storage Facility

20 MW solar; 3 MW battery Fulton County, IL

### Hennepin Solar & Energy Storage Facility

50 MW solar; 6 MW battery Putnam County, IL

### Kincaid Solar & Energy Storage Facility

60 MW solar; 8 MW battery Christian County, IL

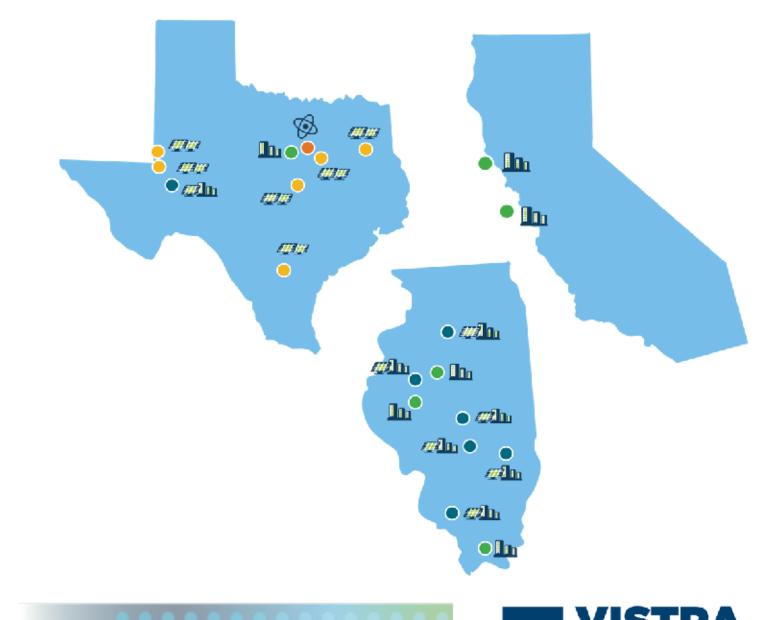
### Newton Solar & Energy Storage Facility

52 MW solar; 7 MW battery

### Upton 2 Solar & Energy Storage Facility

180 MW solar; 10 MW/42 MWh battery Upton County, TX

List includes publicly announced projects under development



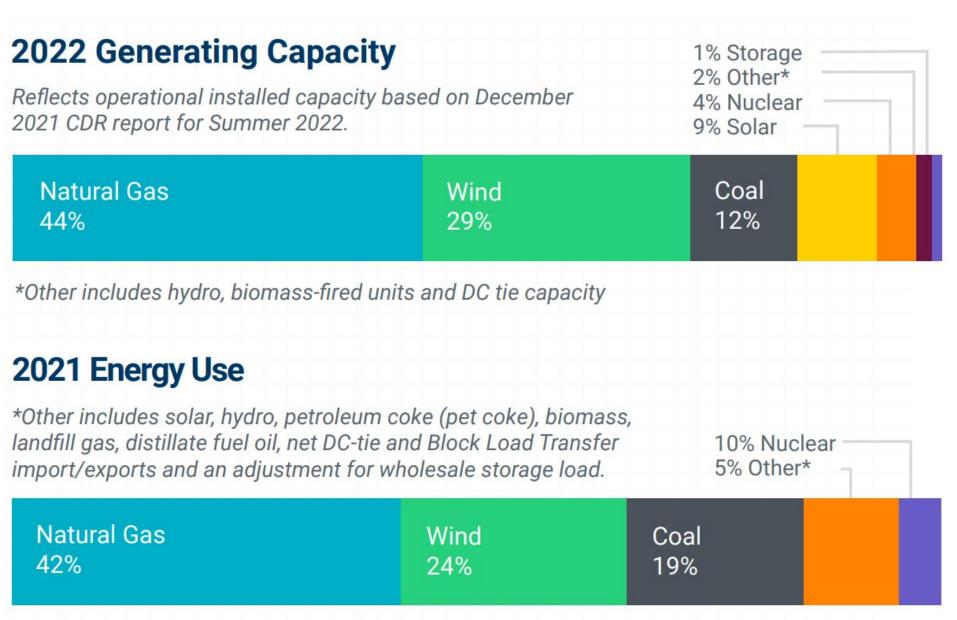


## **Summary of Recent ERCOT Reports**

# Seasonal Assessment of Resource Adequacy (SARA) Capacity, Demand and Reserves (CDR) Report

- Summer 2022 peak demand of 77,317
   MW and resource capacity of 91,392 MW.
- Summer capacity reserve margin of 22.9%. Significantly above previous years.
- Capacity Factors for renewables: 57% for coastal wind, 30% for panhandle wind, 20% for other wind, 81% for solar, and 0% for battery.





393 billion kilowatt-hours of energy were used in 2021, a 2.87 percent decrease compared to 2020.



## **Generation Preparations for Summer**

- Impacts of conservative ERCOT approach
- Difference between preparing for summer compared to winter
- Most seasonal maintenance has been completed
- Planned outage window March to mid-May
- Early extreme heat impact on summer preparedness



Midlothian Power Plant



# Summer Preparedness in the Retail Market

Bill Clayton, NRG Energy



Reliant powers, protects and simplifies life by bringing electricity, security and related services to homes and businesses across Texas. Serving customers and the community is at the core of what we do, and the company is recognized nationally for outstanding customer experience. Reliant is part of NRG, a Fortune 500 company that creates value by generating electricity and providing energy solutions to nearly 6 million residential, small business and commercial customers across the U.S. and Canada. NRG's competitive residential electricity business, which includes Reliant, is one of the largest in the country.



>Summer and Storm Resources

>Innovative Solutions

> Year-Round Assistance

# **Summer and Storm Specific Resources**

## **Summer Communications and Conservation Messages**

Messages are sent in English and Spanish on multiple platforms and provide energy usage tips and account management tools to help customers control their usage.

## **Beat the Heat Program**

This summer marks the 17<sup>th</sup> year that Reliant will provide cooling centers and distribution of portable cooling devices in Corpus Christi, Dallas and Houston to help residents stay cool and combat high heat exposure. Energy agents are also on hand to answer questions about bills and energy assistance options.



### **Storm Center**

Reliant's Storm Center serves as a digital information bank where customers can access a host of helpful information, such as hurricane checklists, instructions on accessing real-time weather updates through their phone, traffic and evacuation routes, and power outage information.



# **Innovative Customer Solutions**

The competitive electric market in Texas is over 20 years old and competition is robust

Retail Electric Providers (REPs) in ERCOT are constantly creating new products and services based on customer demand

Reliant provides product offerings that mitigate summer bill stress, protect customers from price spikes and connect them with causes they care about. Examples include:

**Predictable Bill Plus** – A flat rate 12-month contract perfect for predictability during the summer months for customers with average levels of usage

**Degrees of Difference Program** – Our flagship demand response program where customers earn incentives by reducing their usage at peak times. The program involves either automatic (with Smart Thermostat) or manual adjustment to the customer's thermostat, which customers can override at any time

**Baby Power/Heart Power** – Reliant offers plans to connect our customers to causes they care about. Baby Power includes a donation from Reliant to March of Dimes and Heart Power includes a donation from Reliant to the American Heart Association

"I love how you can get weekly usage and know what your estimated bill is going to be. This way you have better control of your electric bill."



# Year-Round Customer Assistance

### **Energy Management Tools for Our Customers**

To help customers manage their usage, we offer weekly email summaries. We also stay in touch with our customers by having 24/7 customer service by phone, social media, app, and chat

Reliant also offers real-time virtual energy consultations with dedicated agents who help the customer identify ways to conserve based on their actual situations

### **Bill Payment Assistance**

Reliant along with all other NRG REPs, provide several bill payment assistance options, including payment extensions, deferred payment plans, average monthly billing, pick your due date, and direct connection to 211

**Reliant CARE Program** and Additional Payment Assistance. The CARE (Community Assistance by Reliant Energy) program works with nonprofit agencies to assist residential customers, including seniors and low-income families, with paying their Reliant electricity bills. Since 2002, Reliant and its customers have contributed more than \$12 million through the CARE program for Texans who need help with their electricity bills



## **How to Reach Us**



**AECT.net** 



@aectnet



**AECT Advocacy** 

