

From: [Sally Farris](#)
To: [Rules Coordinator](#)
Subject: Weatherization Rules Update Comment
Date: Monday, August 15, 2022 1:07:23 PM

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Dear Mr. Ware,

Upon reviewing your credentials online, I realize how well qualified and motivated you are "for the greater good."

Already, I sent the basic message below to you via a "Commission Shift" appeal for comments on proposed weatherization rules.

MOST important: in my earlier message to you using Commission Shift, I failed to explain that an assistant city attorney, serving the cities of San Antonio and Corpus Christi over 21 years, it was apparent to me that many businesses, even small municipally regulated ones, simply include the cost of penalties and fines into their overhead, just another cost of doing business to avoid compliance.

Living alone and nearing 80 years of age, during Storm Uri I almost died, resorting to burn five candles in the bathroom over a duration of 36 hours to keep from freezing until my daughter could rescue me. My subdivision was without electricity 4-5 days. A mere \$5,000 per day fine is not sufficient penalty to motivate compliance under those circumstances.

Recap from previous comment:

Dear Mr. Ware:

I'm a retired local government lawyer whose environmental regulatory tasks involved some knowledge of policies and actions by the Texas Railroad Commission (RRC) as the city for which I worked in the 1990's made a local ordinance to track state regulated pipelines that traversed residential subdivisions. That local effort came after several pipeline explosions in or under residential properties.

After Storm Uri, I began to follow as best I could purported legislative reforms directed to the PUC, ERCOT appointments, and supposed tightening of pipeline weatherization by the RRC.

When it came to my attention that the RRC had ignored earlier federal recommendations that the Railroad Commission (RRC) "investigate whether minimum standards for the winterization of gas production and processing facilities should be adopted,," that failure came as a shock but not a surprise. Then came the 2021 storm that made Texas a poster child, for "How in the World Could this Happen," in the nation's richest natural gas State?

Needless to say, it is critical to our survival that all the gas wells, pipelines, and parts of the

gas supply chain are prepared to operate in winter storms. For my part, I am an elderly person living alone in San Antonio where my neighborhood was without power for the better part of five days, and my survival was assured only on the second day when my daughter came from some distance to rescue me.

As a "near miss" survivor, I plead that you please consider making the following improvements:

1. Ensure that potential penalties are higher than the potential cost of non-compliance.
2. Encourage operators to come back into compliance swiftly by significantly reducing the "time out of compliance" for each factor value in the penalty classification system.
3. Create a fair and ethical playing field for operators by developing a definition for a "Major weather-related forced stoppage" that is not subjectively determined by RRC staff.
4. Create a process for ensuring that emergency contact information is updated on the Electricity Supply Chain Map in a timely manner. Operators who acquire facilities between critical infrastructure filing deadlines should immediately update the RRC by filing forms CI-D and CI-X for the acquired facilities.
5. Facilitate operator compliance by issuing guidance or a notice to operators clarifying deadlines for filing and implementation, explaining how RRC will enforce weatherization standards for critical gas supply chain facilities that are on the final Electricity Supply Chain Map to be published on September 1.
6. Consider notifying facilities of their status on the Electricity Supply Chain map by email rather than physical mail, which many operators have said they have trouble receiving.

Thank you, again, for considering my comments.

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