



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GEUS UPDATE

(February 17, 2021-Greenville, Texas) GEUS appreciates the patience our customers have shown this week during these unprecedented state-wide mandated power outages. We know that these outages have placed hardships on all of our customers.

Texas' electric grid became critically unstable earlier this week when record cold reached all of Texas' 254 counties. This required utilities across the state to do their part in implementing rotating outages or risk losing power to the entire Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) grid.

Had the grid went down, 26 million Texans would have been without power for many hours and then rotating outages would have followed.

Electric generation supplies continue to be constrained. Natural gas shortages are causing some generators, such as most of ours in Greenville, to sit idle. Solar and wind generation across the state are also not contributing to their normal levels due to the winter weather. GEUS employees were able to switch one of the generating units over to burn #2 fuel oil to help provide some relief and also lessen the need to buy wholesale power at inflated prices at this time.

During these rare emergencies, ERCOT calls on utilities to systematically shed load to better match the demand for electricity with the supply of generated power that is available. Electricity cannot be stored economically. It is produced as needed.

The ERCOT grid is vital to GEUS' success. On any given day GEUS is both sending power into the grid and receiving power from it as well. GEUS purchases power on the wholesale market from wind, solar and natural gas-fired generation located across the ERCOT grid. It also sells power into the grid that is generated right here in Greenville.

If ERCOT directs load shedding, GEUS must drop load here locally in less than a half hour's time.

GEUS' goal is to take down feeders for no more than 20-40 minutes before bringing them back up while taking different feeders down. Utilities, including GEUS, have been asked to shed as much as 30% of their load.

Any GEUS customers experiencing longer down times this week were involved in a neighborhood distribution outage. GEUS had some fuses and transformers fail due to record high demand on some distribution feeders.

"GEUS employees have worked diligently to restore services and to minimize outages as much as possible for our customers," said GEUS General Manager Alicia Hooks. "We won't rest until all customer's electric and Internet services are fully restored and outages have ended," Hooks added.

Thank you for allowing us to be your community-owned utility provider.

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GEUS became the first municipally-owned electric utility in Texas in 1891. 110 years later it became the first municipally-owned cable television and high speed Internet operation in Texas. GEUS offers these services to the 26,000 plus consumer\owners living in the Greenville, Texas area located approximately 50 miles East of Dallas, Texas. GEUS is uniquely governed by an autonomous board of trustees that is appointed by the Greenville City Council. Steps were taken by the Texas Legislature in 1989 to allow this type of governing structure. For more information about our 130+ years of public power history or the services we offer, please visit our web site at www.geus.org