



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

July 14, 2024

Mr. Thomas J. Gleeson  
Chairman  
Public Utility Commission of Texas  
1701 North Congress Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78711-3326

Dear Chairman Gleeson:

It is unacceptable that millions of Texans in the Greater Houston area have been (or were) left without electricity for multiple days. It is imperative we investigate how and why some Texas utilities were unable to restore power for days following a Category 1 Hurricane.

Texas utilities bear the responsibility of ensuring system resiliency in their respective service territories. While weather-related disasters are outside of human control, their impact to our daily lives can be mitigated or alleviated if proper system planning and pre-storm preparations are made.

Hurricane Beryl made it clear—improvements must be made. I am directing the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to undertake a rigorous study to determine the causes of the repeated and ongoing power failures in the Greater Houston area after severe weather events. Some questions that must be answered include: Is the cause of the magnitude and duration of customer outages a result of a physical infrastructure or personnel issue? What were the utilities pre-event planning processes? Why exactly were so many Texans left without power for so many days? When and for what purposes did utilities use their mobile generation resources?

These questions and more must be asked and answered by Texas utility companies. We must identify why Hurricane Beryl impacted millions of Texans when there have been many similar events in Texas' recent past that did not, and we must work to prevent any such future impacts.

I am instructing the PUC to deliver a report on its finding by December 1, 2024, to inform the Texas Legislature prior to the 89th Legislative Session. I thank the PUC for its commitment to Texas and look forward reviewing its report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott  
Governor