PRESENTED BY SECURE THE GRID COALITION & AMERICAN ENERGY WORKS

Affordable, Reliable Energy for Texans — Show Up & Speak Up.

PUC OPEN HEARING

Thursday
June 25, 2026

9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Commissioners' Hearing Room, 7th Fl.
William B. Travis Building
1701 N. Congress Ave., Austin TX

PROPOSED RULES §25.58 (BATTERY STORAGE) & §25.101 (TRANSMISSION LINES) — VOTE IMMINENT — TEXANS NEED TO BE HEARD

WHY WE'RE GOING

We are not going to fight. We are going to **help**. Our commissioners hear from utility lobbyists every day. We're there to offer something rarer: **the plain truth from the people paying the bills.** Texas nearly lost its grid during Winter Storm Uri. Since then, we've been building the wrong things at the wrong price. We're here to explain what went wrong and how to fix it — respectfully, with facts.

THE NUMBERS — AFFORDABILITY FIRST

28%
Rise in TX residential electric rates, 2021–2024 (11.6¢ → 14.9¢/kWh)
U.S. EIA, Electric Power Monthly

30→40%
Of avg. TX electric bill now going to transmission & delivery — $33B more approved
TX Public Policy Foundation / Life:Powered, Jan. 2026

49%
Of CenterPoint transmission costs paid by residential customers — who use only 33% of electricity
ElectricityPlans.com, utility cost data

>50%
Of ERCOT's installed generating capacity is wind & solar
Heritage Foundation / ERCOT, 2024

$14B
Projected cost of outages from a 1-in-10-year winter storm in 2030
Texas Public Policy Foundation, 2025

1–2 hrs
Most planned ERCOT batteries — >95% of capacity; 5–10× costlier than natural gas
Rabobank ERCOT 2025; TPPF / EIA

KEY TALKING POINTS

1. **Texans are paying more and getting less.** Rates up **28%** since Uri. T&D grown from **30%→40%** of avg. bill — cost of building power far from people. §25.101 doubles down on that mistake.
2. **Expensive energy hurts the poor most.** Low-income Texans spend up to **7% of income** on electricity — rising to **9% by 2030** (TEPRI). That is food or medicine for families on the margin.
3.

YOUR 2-MINUTE TESTIMONY TEMPLATE

Speak from the heart — use this as a guide, not a script. Your personal story is more powerful than any statistic.

"Good morning, Commissioners. My name is **[YOUR NAME]**, a **[homeowner / farmer / rancher / small business owner]** from **[YOUR CITY, TX]**."

"Since Uri, Texas rates rose **28%**. Transmission is now **30–40%** of the average bill — we're paying to ship power hundreds of miles from remote wind & solar farms. Low-income Texans already spend **7% of income** on electricity, headed to 9% by 2030."

"§25.58 forces ratepayers to fund 1–2 hour batteries at 5–10× the cost of natural gas, with no vote and no accountability. During Winter Storm Fern, gas/coal/nuclear carried **80%+ of the load**. Wind & solar averaged just **16% availability**."

"Texas needs dispatchable generation — natural gas, coal, nuclear — built close to where people live. **[Add your personal sentence here.]** Please vote **NO** on §25.58 and §25.101. Thank you."

TESTIMONY TIPS — BE EFFECTIVE IN 2 MINUTES

✓ INTRODUCE YOURSELF
Name, city, why you're affected. A personal intro lands harder than any data.

✓ STAY RESPECTFUL
We're here to help, not fight. Kind tone gets heard; angry tone gets dismissed.

✓ LEAD WITH YOUR BILL
"My bill went up $40/month since Uri." One real number beats ten statistics.

✓ END WITH THE ASK
Close clearly: "Vote NO on §25.58 and §25.101." Don't leave them guessing.

✓ ONE OR TWO FACTS MAX
One story + one stat beats ten numbers. Focused wins every time.

✓ ARRIVE EARLY
Sign up at the door. Bring a printed copy. Speak slowly — they take notes.

Batteries store energy — they don't generate it. A 1–2 hr BESS can't survive a 5-day storm. During Winter Storm Fern, gas/coal/nuclear supplied **80%+** of energy — wind & solar averaged just **16% availability**. (TPPF 2025)

4 **We've overbuilt the wrong things.** Since 2000: **69 GW** wind & solar vs. only **30 GW** dispatchable. $130B+ in subsidies — rates went up anyway. Wind peaks at **4%** winter availability; gas/coal/nuclear hold **85–96%**.

5 **§25.58 mandates ratepayers fund BESS — no vote, no bid, no accountability.** If it underperforms, the utility still collects guaranteed profit. That is a mandate, not a market.

6 **§25.101 strips landowners of their right to be heard.** Abbreviated review to rush more long-distance transmission — the same infrastructure driving costs up — is not progress.

THE SOLUTION — WHAT TEXAS SHOULD DO INSTEAD

A PATH TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE ENERGY

- → Build **dispatchable generation — gas, coal, nuclear —** close to load centers. Stop paying billions to transmit power from remote wind & solar farms.
- → Apply **equal reliability standards to ALL generators**, including 94 GW of existing intermittent capacity currently exempt. Reward what works in emergencies.
- → Let **competitive markets fund storage** — not ratepayer mandates with guaranteed utility profit and zero accountability.
- → Require new intermittent generators to **fund their own backup** — not socialize costs onto households already absorbing a 28% rate increase.
- → Protect **landowner rights under §25.101**. Full review windows — no shortcuts on eminent domain for more long-distance transmission.

Sources: EIA Electric Power Monthly · TX Public Policy Foundation (Life:Powered) · TEPRI · Rabobank ERCOT Analysis · Heritage Foundation | Written comments: **interchange.puc.texas.gov**

1,633 Texans have signed — join them Thursday.

Secure The Grid Coalition

American Energy Works