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News Release June 1, 2023 Contact: Ellie Breed Media@PUC.Texas.Gov

Public Utility Commission Urges Texans to Prepare for 2023 Hurricane Season

2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season Begins June 1

Austin, Texas – The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) is urging Texans to stay alert and informed throughout the 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season, which begins today and runs through Nov. 30.

"Hurricanes, like any severe weather event, can lead to localized power outages and threaten personal safety and property," said PUCT Chairman Peter Lake. "It is extremely important that people in every area of our state understand their hurricane risk, listen to warnings from emergency officials, and use PUCT and other agency resources to stay updated."

In the event of a hurricane, electricity consumers in Texas can use the PUCT's <u>storm</u> <u>resources page</u> on the agency website to monitor local power outage maps, find contact information to report local outages and other useful safety tips.

To prepare for hurricane season, the PUCT works with electricity providers across the state to ensure they have appropriate hurricane preparedness measures in place and can quickly respond to outages. The PUCT also helps providers in hurricane prone areas supply customers with preparedness information as an insert in their billing statements.

As part of the Texas Emergency Management Council, the PUCT works closely with the Governor's Office, the Texas Division of Emergency Management and more than 30 other state agencies and higher education systems to prepare for, respond to and recover from severe weather. During a severe weather emergency, the Texas State Operations Command Center serves as a central hub for coordination and communication with the public.

The Texas Division of Emergency Management encourages residents in hurricane prone areas to monitor local weather forecasts, make an emergency plan, <u>review</u> <u>hurricane evacuation routes</u>, build a kit containing emergency supplies, and consider <u>reviewing flood risk and insurance coverage</u>.

Texans should visit the Texas Hurricane Center at <u>gov.texas.gov/hurricane</u> and <u>ready.gov/hurricanes</u> for more preparedness resources and safety tips.

About the Public Utility Commission

Our mission is to serve Texans by regulating the state's electric, telecommunication, and water and sewer utilities, implementing respective legislation, and offering customer assistance in resolving consumer complaints. Since its founding in 1975, the Commission has a long and proud history of service to Texas, protecting customers, fostering competition, and promoting high quality infrastructure. To learn more, please visit https://www.puc.texas.gov.

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