

# Tariff and Business Rules – Critical Load Program

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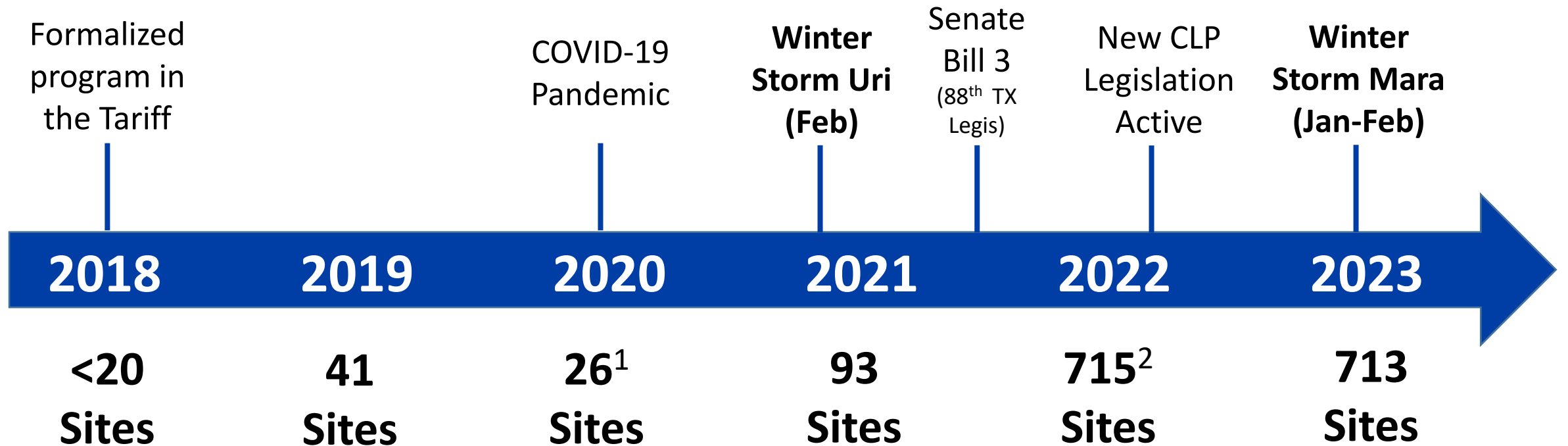
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# Background

The Critical Load Program (CLP) is a registry of non-residential service locations which have approved applications on file with PEC.

- The program allows for approved sites to receive enhanced communications and considerations during energy or weather-related events.
- There is no guarantee of uninterrupted supply of electric service.
- CLP added to the Tariff in 2018.
- SB 3 (2021) requires electric cooperatives to periodically provide information to its members on critical load programs and procedures for applying based on PUC rules.
- PEC provides notice twice a year in April and October.
- Requirements for electric cooperatives to have a critical load registry were adopted by the PUC in February 2022.

# Program Growth & Progression



<sup>1</sup> List was reduced due to PEC's updated process which excluded noncritical industrial loads

<sup>2</sup> Growth was due to the new requirements and need for water utilities to file for critical load designation

# Legal and Regulatory Requirements for Electric Cooperatives

- PEC is required to send periodic notice to members via their monthly bills to inform on cooperative's load shed procedures, types of critical care, and critical load designations as well as procedures for program registration. (*Tex. Utilities Code 17.006*)
- Texas Legislature required PUC and Railroad Commission to designate critical natural gas infrastructure for critical load designation and load shed prioritization. (*Tex. Utilities Code 38.074*)
  - Critical natural gas operators must provide information regarding these critical sites to cooperatives. (*PUC Substantive Rule 25.52(h)*)
- Cooperatives must submit member sites or feeders which are designated as critical load to the PUC and ERCOT. (*Tex. Utilities Code 38.076*)
- PEC must maintain a load infrastructure registry within its Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and review the registry annually. (*PUC Substantive Rule 25.53*)

# Legal & Regulatory Requirements Not Directly Applicable to Cooperatives

## **Definitions, Reliability, and Continuity of Service – Critical Loads; Critical Load Industrial Customers, Critical Load Public Safety Customers, Critical Care Residential Customers, and Chronic Condition Residential Customers:**

Define critical loads for electric service crucial for the protection or maintenance of public health and safety; including but not limited to hospitals, police stations, fire stations, critical water and wastewater facilities, and customers with special in-house life-sustaining equipment.

*PUC Substantive Rules 25.5(21), 25.52(c)(1), 25.497*

## **Texas Water Code – Coordination of Emergency Operations:**

Requires water and wastewater utilities to file for critical load with electric utilities annually.

*Texas Water Code Sec. 13.1396*

While these are not required, PEC does follow these guidelines within the program.

# PEC Program Applicability & Requirements (Currently in Tariff)

- Locations are categorized as one of the following:
  - Public Safety
  - Industrial
  - Natural Gas Infrastructure
- Members are required to submit an application for review and consideration.
- Applications are reviewed and approved by PEC staff (Legal, Regulatory and Compliance, Distribution Control Center, and Commercial, Industrial, and Municipal Relations.)

# Proposed Amendments to the Tariff

## Amendments:

- Update the Tariff to remove detailed site designation categories to comply with state law.
- List full applicability, requirements, and application process on the PEC Critical Load Program website.

## Enhancements:

- Streamline application process for site designation.
- More efficient member online application process.
- Allow staff flexibility in program adjustments to meet legal and regulatory requirements.

## Effective Date:

- June 1, 2024.

# PEC Critical Load Website

Home » Critical Load Program

## Critical Load Program

What it is

What it is not

Who qualifies?

Application information

- The application must be completed to obtain the designation of critical load status with PEC.
- Applications will only be received online.
- Critical load status includes designations for public safety, industrial, natural gas infrastructure, and communications. See category breakdown within the application.
- Designation of critical load status does not relieve a member of the obligation to pay for electric service, and service may be disconnected for failure to pay.
- This application will not be processed and approved if incomplete or improperly submitted.** All information is required unless otherwise indicated.
- Submission of this application does not automatically result in critical load status.** Notification of the status granted will be provided to the member at the email address provided during program registration.
- CRITICAL LOAD STATUS CAN NOT GUARANTEE AN UNINTERRUPTED, REGULAR, OR CONTINUOUS POWER SUPPLY. IF ELECTRICITY IS A NECESSITY, YOU MUST MAKE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR ON-SITE BACK-UP CAPABILITIES OR OTHER ALTERNATIVES IN THE EVENT OF LOSS OF ELECTRIC SERVICE.**

How do I apply?

PEC is accepting applications online.

If you've already registered, visit the online portal.

### Critical Load Application Information

- Applications must be submitted by Wednesday, May 8, 2024.
- Applications must be submitted online; sites not submitted online will not be considered for the program.
- PEC will notify sites accepted for the program by Friday, May 31.

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

[REGISTERED MEMBER LOGIN](#)

**Contact**  
For more information,  
call 830-454-3114  
or email [criticalloadrequests@peci.com](mailto:criticalloadrequests@peci.com)

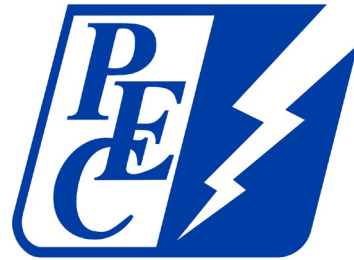
Important information about ERCOT-mandated controlled outages.

[Read More](#)

- Program Description
- Application & Eligibility Requirements
- Online Application Member Portal
- Application Deadlines
- Program Contact Information

[www.pec.coop/critical-load-program](http://www.pec.coop/critical-load-program)





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