



Important Information About Electricity Load Shedding and What It Could Mean to You

The Southwest Power Pool (SPP) is a regional transmission organization (RTO): a nonprofit corporation mandated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure reliable supplies of power, adequate transmission infrastructure, and competitive wholesale electricity prices on behalf of its members. Deaf Smith Electric Cooperative (DSEC) is a member and a Load Serving Entity (LSE) of the SPP.

When electric supply provided by all available power generation plants, wind farms, and other sources becomes insufficient to meet customer demand, emergency operations may be initiated. The SPP Balancing Authority (BA) or Reliability Coordinator (RC) or applicable Transmission Operator (TOP) may determine that system reliability requires manual load curtailment, and the TOP will allocate load curtailment responsibility to all LSEs in the affected area based on a load ratio share basis. During a power emergency when electric supply cannot meet consumer demand for electricity and all other operational tools have been exhausted, the demand for electricity must be reduced to avoid uncontrolled blackouts. As a last resort, electric utilities (LSEs), will be instructed to implement controlled customer outages to reduce the customer demand for electricity in the SPP area. This is referred to as load shed and will last until the power emergency is resolved.

Typically, before calling for controlled customer outages, steps will be taken to reduce the demand on the electric grid by asking customers to reduce electric usage. Electric utilities, including DSEC, are obligated to immediately implement load shed procedures when properly instructed.

During customer load shed events:

- All customers should assume their power could go out without advanced warning. Efforts will be made, as much as possible, to provide advanced notification of pending outages, but circumstances do not always allow that to happen.
- Customers designated as **Critical Load**, in guidance with PUC §25.497, are not guaranteed an uninterrupted supply of electricity. It is the responsibility of the retail customer to make necessary arrangements for alternative sources of electric power should a localized outage or load shed event occur.
- Residential customers dependent on electric-powered medical equipment, such as those designated as **Critical Care** or **Chronic Condition**, in guidance with PUC §25.497, are encouraged to have a solid back-up plan in the event they lose electricity. **It is important to note that these customers are not excluded from controlled outages and may lose power during a load shed event. Anyone who depends on electricity for life-sustaining equipment should have a back-up plan in place.**



- To inquire about obtaining a Critical Load or a Critical Care designation, please call our office at (806) 364-1166.
- Electric utilities will prioritize continuity of service for certain customers whose service is critical to the community during an emergency or those whose service provides major support to the integrity of the electric system during an emergency. Examples include hospitals, major airports, and 911.
- Because a load shed event is an emergency order based on a shortfall of electricity being generated, electric utilities, including DSEC, will not have the information needed to be able to notify individual customers that they may lose power, when they may lose power or how long the load shed event may last.
- In extreme power emergencies, events may require electric utilities to shed large amounts of load over long periods of time. In these instances, electric utilities like DSEC may not have the ability to rotate outages. When this happens, some members may be without power for an extended period of time. These outages are critical for ensuring the integrity of the electric grid and preventing a system-wide blackout, which could be long-lasting and have a significant impact on all aspects of life.
- Electric utilities are required to continue to comply with mandated controlled customer outage instructions until authorities determine that outages are no longer required.
- The Public Utility Commission of Texas website ([Hot and Cold Weather, and General Energy-Saving Tips](#)) provides examples for customers to reduce electricity use at times when involuntary load shedding events may be implemented.

Regardless of the nature of the load shedding event, DSEC is committed to ensuring the safe and reliable delivery of electricity to its members 24-hours-per-day, 7-days-per-week. While the company may not control the issues or conditions that have required an order to shed load, we will do everything in our power to restore electricity when we are able to safely do so. In addition, we will work to keep our members informed about the situation through local media outlets, social media, and direct communications to you.