

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ERCOT Issues Public Appeal to Conserve Electricity Chance of Rotating Outages**

(New Braunfels, TX – August 13, 2019) The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) has declared an Energy Emergency Alert (EEA) Level 1. Consumers and businesses are urged to reduce their electricity use as much as possible today, especially during the peak hours of 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

“High temperatures have resulted in record electricity demand over the last few days and may result in a new record today,” said ERCOT President and CEO Bill Magness. “Consumers can help lower energy consumption by taking some simple actions between the hours of 3:00 and 7:00 p.m.”

ERCOT maintains system reliability by balancing generation and load on the electric system at all times. The combination of higher temperatures, increased demand for electricity, and lower generation reserves have put a strain on the grid. Energy Emergency Alerts are issued by ERCOT during periods of high electric demand and low reserve power. At this stage, ERCOT has additional resources that are only available during tight conditions, so rotating outages are not likely.

Steps to help reduce electricity use:

- Turn thermostat up two to three degrees during the peak hours of 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Set programmable thermostats to higher temperatures when no one is home.
- Use fans to feel four to six degrees cooler.
- Limit use of large appliances (i.e., dishwasher, washer, dryer, etc.) to morning or after 7:00 p.m.
- If you cook indoors from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m., use a microwave or slow cooker.
- Close blinds and drapes during late afternoon.
- Schedule pool pumps to run in the early morning or overnight hours; shut off between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.

Should ERCOT mandate emergency operations and rotating outages become necessary, we will make every effort to keep customers informed as to the length of time they will be in effect and how the situation is progressing.

We will have information available at [nbutexas.com](http://nbutexas.com) and on NBU’s Facebook page at [facebook.com/newbraunfelsutilities](https://facebook.com/newbraunfelsutilities). Our goal will be to keep our customers updated on what is taking place and why, and restore service as soon as possible.

Customers have the ability to view ERCOT’s daily peak demand forecast, current load, and available generation, online at [ercot.com](http://ercot.com), or by downloading the ERCOT mobile app (available for download at the Apple App Store and Google Play). For the latest grid conditions updates, please follow ERCOT on Twitter (@ERCOT\_ISO).

New Braunfels Utilities encourages customers to text “NBU” to #85700 to enroll in the Texting Outage Notification System to receive automated text notifications regarding outages, or call 830.629.8400 during business hours Monday – Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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# NEWS RELEASE

**About New Braunfels Utilities:**

Dedicated to excellence in service, New Braunfels Utilities is one of 2,000 community-owned, nonprofit public power electric utilities in the nation. The mission of New Braunfels Utilities is to enhance the quality of our community by providing innovative, essential services. Governed by a Board of Trustees comprised of local residents appointed by the New Braunfels City Council, New Braunfels Utilities is committed to being a recognized and trusted community partner, providing electric, water, and waste water services. Utility revenues are continually invested back into the systems of the customers, which benefits the community. New Braunfels Utilities makes an annual transfer to the City of New Braunfels, which in turn helps to pay for services such as fire, police, and parks. Follow NBU on Facebook at [facebook.com/newbraunfelsutilities](https://facebook.com/newbraunfelsutilities), on Twitter at [@nbutexas](https://twitter.com/nbutexas), and to learn more visit [nbutexas.com](https://nbutexas.com).

