

Houston Chronicle - November 12, 2019

Texas will have ample power supplies for winter, spring

The state grid manager predicts Texas will have enough power to meet peak demand during winter and spring.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas reported that 82,000 megawatts of capacity will be available between December and February, including 136 megawatts of gas-fired and wind power that became commercially operable over the past few months. An additional 768 megawatts of generation capacity is also expected to come on-line for the winter season, including new gas-fired generation, wind and utility-scale solar. One megawatt powers about 200 homes during a hot summer day in Texas.

ERCOT predicts that demand will top out at 62,257 megawatts during the winter. The grid's all-time winter peak demand record was set on the morning of Jan. 17, 2018, when demand reached 65,915 megawatts. ERCOT is anticipating springtime peak demand of 64,233 megawatts. An extra 2,903 megawatts of planned capacity including gas-fired power units, wind and utility-scale solar is expected to come online to meet the spring demand.