TEXAS POWER INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE

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SECTION 1 — EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Texans deserve a grid that stays strong in every season. This initiative retrofits the power plants we already have so your family is protected without raising taxes or waiting ten years for new facilities. This is the fastest way to secure reliable power for every Texan.

Texas has always been defined by strength, independence, and the belief that our future is in our own hands. Families move here because they trust this state to provide opportunity, stability, and a way of life rooted in self-reliance. Businesses choose Texas because our communities work hard, our people innovate, and our economy leads the nation. But all of this depends on one thing that most people never think about until it fails: a reliable power grid.

In recent years, Texans have seen exactly what happens when parts of that grid are pushed past their limits. We have lived through winter freezes that shut down equipment never designed for that kind of cold. We have endured heat waves that strained the grid day after day. We have watched our population grow faster than almost anywhere in the country while much of our energy infrastructure remains decades old. Texans remember what it feels like to sit in the dark, not knowing when the power will return. No family in this state should ever face that fear again.

This initiative strengthens our power grid by improving the plants we already depend on, instead of waiting ten years for new facilities to be built. It uses the land, connections, and infrastructure that Texans have already invested in. By retrofitting existing ERCOT-connected power plants with modern equipment, updated control systems, and weather protections built for real Texas conditions, we increase reliability faster and at a fraction of the cost of new construction. This approach protects families today while preparing for the long-term future of our state.

Texans expect leadership that takes action when something is broken. They expect solutions that work in the real world, not ideas that sit in committee rooms or get buried under federal delays. Retrofitting gives us a direct and immediate path forward. It avoids global turbine shortages, avoids new taxes, avoids federal interference, and delivers real improvements that help seniors, working families, small businesses, hospitals, and rural communities.

A strong grid is not just about electricity. It is about safety. It is about protecting children during dangerous heat. It is about ensuring hospitals never lose power when lives are at stake. It is about keeping water systems, schools, factories, and emergency services online during storms. It is about making sure Texas never again experiences the kind of

grid failures that put our people at risk. This plan is built to protect every Texan, in every region of the state.

Texas has the tools, the workforce, and the spirit to make this happen. We do not need to raise taxes. We do not need to wait ten years. We do not need to rely on other states or the federal government to fix our problems. We strengthen our existing plants, reinforce ERCOT independence, and modernize our grid using the resources we already have. With clear leadership and a Texas-first mindset, we can secure a reliable power grid that serves our people today and prepares us for the next generation of growth.

This is the future of Texas energy: strong, independent, resilient, and built by the hands of Texans. This executive summary reflects the mission. The rest of this initiative shows the path. And together, we will build the reliable and independent grid our people deserve.

SECTION 2 — CONTEXT AND PROBLEM STATEMENT

2.1 Aging Power Plants and Outdated Infrastructure Across Texas

Texas relies on dozens of power plants that were built twenty, thirty, and even forty years ago. Many of these facilities still use older turbines, old control equipment, and aging cooling systems. While these plants were built strong, time wears down every system. Outdated equipment runs hotter, uses more fuel, and is more likely to fail during extreme weather. This creates real gaps in reliability at a time when Texas needs a grid that performs at a higher level than ever before.

2.2 Weather Disasters Exposing System Weaknesses

The last several years have shown how vulnerable older plants can be when weather conditions turn severe. Winter freezes can shut down valves and equipment that were never designed for temperatures that drop as low as we have seen. Summer heat waves push plants to the edge, and storms can take out critical components in minutes. Texans have lived through blackouts, rolling outages, and dangerous conditions. These events exposed what many experts have known for years. The grid is operating too close to its limits.

2.3 The Ten-Year Bottleneck for Building New Power Plants

Some people suggest that Texas should simply build new plants. The reality is not that simple. Turbine manufacturing moved overseas years ago, and global demand for large components now exceeds supply. Orders take years to fill, and shipping delays make the timelines even longer. New plants require land, transmission lines, permitting, construction, and complex federal reviews. The full process can take up to ten years. Texas cannot sit back and hope these delays will change.

2.4 Turbine Manufacturing Moved Overseas and Supply Crunch

Because most large turbines are produced outside the United States, Texas is forced to compete with other countries. Supply shortages mean plants all over the world are waiting in line. Prices rise every year, and manufacturers are pushed far beyond their capacity. Even with the best intentions, Texas could not build new capacity fast enough to meet today’s needs. Retrofitting avoids this problem by using the turbines we already have and upgrading them with modern components that improve output and reliability.

2.5 Increased Demand From Population Growth and Industry

Texas adds hundreds of thousands of new residents every year. Businesses continue to move here because of our strong economy and low taxes. At the same time, new industries like data centers and advanced manufacturing place additional strain on the grid. While demand increases, the older equipment that powers our state struggles to keep up. Texans expect the lights to stay on, and our communities cannot afford a system that falls behind our growth.

2.6 Natural Gas Constraints During Peak Seasons

Natural gas is a key fuel source for Texas power generation. During extreme cold, gas supplies can become limited. During extreme heat, the demand for gas rises sharply as power plants work harder to keep up with electricity needs. Older plants use more fuel to produce less power. This puts stress on the entire system and raises the risk of shortages at the worst possible times. Modernized plants run more efficiently and ease the pressure on our fuel supply.

2.7 Texans Expect and Deserve a Reliable Grid

Every Texan understands the importance of reliable power. People rely on electricity for healthcare equipment, refrigeration, water systems, and basic safety. Businesses rely on steady power for production, operations, and employment. Reliability is not a luxury. It is a promise. When the grid fails, families suffer first. When Texas strengthens its existing infrastructure, we protect our people and our economy from the dangers of an unstable power system.

SECTION 3 — EXPLANATION OF THE CORE PROBLEM

3.1 Declining Efficiency in Legacy Plants

Texas relies on many plants built decades ago. As they age, they lose efficiency. Key problems include:

- turbines that produce less power than they should
- equipment that uses more fuel to create the same output
- worn parts that fail under stress
- systems that cannot meet today's demand levels

When efficiency drops, reliability drops with it.

3.2 Vulnerabilities From Outdated Control Systems

Older control systems cannot react fast enough during:

- sudden spikes in demand
- rapid weather changes
- grid-wide emergencies
- equipment stress or overheating

Modern controls respond instantly. Old controls slow everything down. That delay puts Texans at risk when the grid is under pressure.

3.3 Preventable Waste and Economic Losses

Aging facilities waste power, fuel, and money through:

- heat loss
- leaking or inefficient equipment
- outdated insulation and cooling
- increased maintenance needs
- emergency repairs that cost millions

These preventable failures lead to higher bills and higher risks for Texas families.

3.4 Overreliance on Foreign Components and Long Supply Chains

Texas depends too much on foreign-made parts. This creates delays caused by:

- global shipping shortages
- trade disputes
- longer repair timelines
- rising manufacturing costs overseas
- competition with other countries for the same components

When Texas cannot get replacement parts quickly, reliability suffers.

3.5 Equal Risk Across Rural and Urban Communities

Rural Texas faces:

- fewer backup plants
- slower recovery times
- limited alternate power sources

Urban Texas faces:

- extreme load during summer
- dense population demands
- the risk of cascading failures

Both rural and urban Texans face the same core problem:
the grid cannot meet the speed, stress, and scale of today's needs.

3.6 Why Retrofits Deliver Results Faster Than New Construction

New plants take nearly a decade because of:

- turbine backlogs overseas
- complex permitting
- federal delays
- new transmission line requirements
- major construction timelines

Retrofits avoid all of this. They use what Texas already has:

- existing land
- existing water systems
- existing grid connections
- existing substations
- existing environmental approvals

That means upgrades can be completed in months instead of years.

SECTION 4 — DEEP BREAKDOWN OF THE MAIN SOLUTION

4.1 Statewide Retrofitting of Existing ERCOT Facilities

Texas strengthens its grid fastest by upgrading the plants we already have. Retrofitting delivers immediate gains because it improves:

- power output
- fuel efficiency
- restart times after storms
- equipment durability
- grid stability during heat waves

This strategy builds on decades of Texas investment instead of starting from scratch.

4.2 Modernization of Turbines and Equipment

Upgrading old turbines and mechanical systems provides:

- higher energy production
- longer equipment life
- lower maintenance costs
- better performance during peak demand
- more reliable operation during extreme weather

Texas plants get stronger, cleaner, and more efficient without waiting ten years for new units.

4.3 Hardening Plants Against Freezes, Heatwaves, and Storms

Weather hardening protects facilities from:

- freezing valves and lines
- overheating turbines
- wind and storm damage
- flood-related failures
- ice accumulation on critical components

A hardened plant stays online longer and recovers faster when trouble hits.

4.4 Reusing Existing Grid Connections to Save Years

The slowest part of building a new plant is creating:

- transmission lines
- substations
- land access
- environmental approvals

Retrofitting avoids these delays because the infrastructure is already built.
Texas saves:

- years of construction
- millions in permitting
- major land acquisition costs
- long federal review processes

Using the connections we already have speeds up every upgrade.

4.5 Enhancing ERCOT Independence and Preventing Federal Pressure

A strong grid keeps Texas in control of its own power. Retrofitting helps Texas avoid:

- federal oversight
- forced connection mandates
- outside interference in state operations

A reliable ERCOT grid reinforces the Texas tradition of managing our own energy future.

4.6 Rolling Upgrade Cycles to Avoid Price Spikes

Upgrades will be scheduled in phases so Texas does not lose power supply during construction. This protects Texans from:

- sudden rate increases
- unexpected shortages
- grid instability
- emergency alerts
- rolling outages

Keeping facilities online while upgrading them keeps family budgets steady.

4.7 Creating Transition-Ready Sites for Future Advanced Reactors

Retrofitted plants create strong locations for future technologies like advanced reactors and thorium systems. These sites already provide:

- land
- cooling capacity
- grid access
- trained workers
- support infrastructure

Upgrading today prepares Texas for the power systems of tomorrow.

SECTION 5 — ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGY, AND SYSTEM DESIGN

5.1 All Upgrades Follow Existing Texas Building Codes

Texas does not need new building codes or complicated engineering rules to strengthen its power plants. All retrofits will follow:

- existing Texas building codes
- existing electrical standards
- existing industrial safety rules
- proven Texas engineering practices

This keeps the process simple, fast, and compliant with current state law.

5.2 Advanced Control Systems and Real-Time Monitoring

Older plants struggle because their controls cannot react quickly. Modern control systems provide:

- real-time data on plant performance
- faster adjustments during sudden demand spikes
- early warnings when equipment begins to struggle
- instant responses to weather-driven changes
- smoother operation during emergencies

Better control systems help prevent failures before they happen.

5.3 Black Start Capability and Emergency Restart Improvements

A plant that can restart itself during a grid outage is one of the strongest tools ERCOT can have. Upgrading black start capability gives Texas:

- quicker recovery after major storms
- faster response during grid-wide emergencies
- reduced downtime
- stronger protection for hospitals and critical services
- better coordination with ERCOT and emergency teams

Black start systems keep Texans safe when everything else goes dark.

5.4 Efficiency Upgrades That Reduce Fuel Use and Waste

Modernizing mechanical systems cuts fuel use and improves performance. Key efficiency upgrades include:

- improved turbine blades
- updated cooling systems
- modern insulation
- improved heat management
- better airflow and ventilation

These upgrades mean plants produce more power using less fuel, lowering long-term costs for Texans.

5.5 Cybersecurity for Critical State Infrastructure

Modern threats are not just physical. Texas power facilities must be protected from digital attacks. Cybersecurity upgrades include:

- secure firewalls
- updated software
- isolated control networks
- strong encryption
- constant monitoring for suspicious activity

A cyber attack on a power plant could shut down a region. Strong defenses keep Texans safe.

5.6 Weather Hardening for Texas Conditions

Texas weather is tough on power plants. Hardening upgrades help plants survive:

- deep freezes
- triple-digit heat waves
- hurricanes
- tornado-related damage
- heavy rain and flooding

Weather hardening reduces the chance of plant failures during the moments Texans need power the most.

SECTION 6 — INTEGRATION WITH STATE INFRASTRUCTURE AND AGENCIES

6.1 ERCOT Coordination for Modernized Generation

Retrofitting plants works best when ERCOT is fully integrated into the process. ERCOT support includes:

- scheduling upgrades to avoid shortages
- updating grid models to include improved plant performance
- coordinating load balance during construction
- monitoring plant output after upgrades
- providing real-time support during emergencies

This keeps the grid steady while improvements roll out statewide.

6.2 Public Utility Commission Oversight and Enforcement

The Public Utility Commission already has the authority to ensure reliability. This initiative uses that authority by allowing the PUC to:

- review modernization timelines
- enforce performance standards
- verify weather hardening
- confirm efficiency upgrades
- ensure no plant delays its required improvements

Strong oversight protects Texans from preventable failures.Most of this plan uses authority the state already has. If additional legislation is needed, it would be limited to targeted funding and enforcement tools, not new taxes and not new federal-style mandates. The foundation of this initiative works within the structure Texas has today.

6.3 Texas Division of Emergency Management Integration

Weather events test the strength of the grid. TDEM coordination improves:

- storm recovery
- black start operations
- emergency fuel supply
- communication with county officials
- protection of critical infrastructure like hospitals and water systems

Retrofitted plants help TDEM keep communities safe during disasters.

6.4 Partnerships With Texas Universities and Engineering Firms

Texas has world-class universities and engineering programs. They can support modernization through:

- grid stress modeling
- research on heat and freeze resilience
- cybersecurity support
- workforce training
- field testing for new equipment

This keeps expertise inside the state and builds the next generation of Texas energy leaders.

6.5 Supporting Natural Gas Systems During Peak Demand

Older plants use more fuel and strain the natural gas system. Modernized plants help stabilize supply by:

- reducing fuel waste
- lowering peak demand stress
- running more efficiently during extreme heat or cold
- improving pipeline pressure consistency
- reducing the risk of gas shortages

This helps keep both electric generation and home heating stable during critical times.

6.6 Preparing Legacy Sites for Advanced Reactors

Retrofitted sites become ideal locations for future technologies. Upgrades provide:

- modern control rooms
- improved thermal management
- stronger safety systems
- existing infrastructure and land
- direct grid connections already in place

When Texas is ready for advanced reactors, these sites will be prepared.

SECTION 7 — DEPLOYMENT STRATEGY AND PRIORITIZATION

7.1 Phase One: Immediate High-Risk Facility Upgrades

Texas begins with the plants most at risk of failure during extreme weather. Phase One focuses on:

- aging turbines near the end of their expected life
- plants that struggled during past heat waves or freezes
- facilities with outdated control rooms
- equipment known for frequent breakdowns
- regions with limited backup power options

Starting here provides fast improvements Texans can feel within the first year.

7.2 Phase Two: Mid-Sized Facility Modernization

After stabilizing the highest-risk plants, Texas moves to mid-sized facilities that serve rural regions, industrial corridors, and small cities. Priorities include:

- improved efficiency systems
- modern monitoring and controls
- weather hardening for both heat and cold
- upgraded turbines and mechanical components
- expanded emergency restart capability

Mid-sized plants are critical for balancing the grid and protecting rural communities.

7.3 Phase Three: Full Statewide Modernization Cycle

Phase Three completes the statewide retrofit program by upgrading all remaining ERCOT-connected plants. This includes:

- older gas units
- industrial generation sites
- local support facilities
- regional reliability assets
- plants with aging backup systems

Once this cycle is complete, Texas will have one of the strongest and most modernized energy networks in the country.

7.4 Prioritizing Rural Communities and Energy Corridors

Rural Texas often carries the heaviest burden during outages. This initiative protects rural regions by ensuring:

- no community is overlooked
- critical local plants are upgraded early
- regional hospitals and water systems stay operational
- agricultural and ranching operations remain protected
- energy corridors supplying the entire state remain stable

Rural strength is Texas strength.

7.5 Preventing Unnecessary Shutdowns During Upgrades

Upgrades are scheduled so that plants remain active as much as possible. This prevents:

- statewide shortages
- rolling outages
- unexpected rate increases
- unnecessary strain on other regions
- emergency alerts that cause public concern

Texas upgrades the grid without harming the grid.

7.6 Keeping Prices Stable Throughout the Rollout

Because retrofitting is far cheaper than new construction, this plan keeps costs stable. Texas protects families by:

- avoiding major rate hikes
- reducing emergency repair costs
- using existing authority and programs
- spreading upgrades across phases
- improving efficiency to lower long-term fuel use

Texans get a stronger grid without new taxes and without price shocks.

SECTION 8 — WORKFORCE, LOGISTICS, AND IMPLEMENTATION

8.1 Expanding Skilled Texas Trades for Retrofit Work

Retrofitting power plants is hands-on work that relies on Texas trades. This initiative strengthens our workforce by supporting:

- electricians
- welders
- pipefitters
- crane operators
- heavy equipment specialists
- control room technicians
- industrial mechanics

These upgrades create long-term jobs that stay in Texas and support local communities.

8.2 Veteran Recruitment and State Guard Technical Training

Texas veterans bring discipline and technical skill across many fields. This initiative opens energy modernization positions to veterans by offering:

- technical certification programs
- fast-track training for mechanical and electrical roles
- integration into emergency operations teams
- leadership opportunities inside retrofit projects
- pathways for Texas State Guard members to support grid resilience

Veterans keep serving Texas by strengthening the grid that keeps Texans safe.

8.3 Texas Manufacturers and Engineering Firm Partnerships

Texas has the talent and industry to modernize its own grid. Partnerships with local firms include:

- fabrication of upgraded components
- engineering assessments
- cybersecurity support
- plant modeling and performance analysis

- equipment testing
- field installation and integration

Keeping this work inside Texas protects our supply chain and strengthens our economy.

8.4 Local Job Creation in Rural and Urban Regions

Every retrofit requires workers and support services. This creates new opportunities for:

- local contractors
- apprentice workers
- safety teams
- logistics crews
- equipment transport
- lodging, food, and service jobs near plant sites

Rural regions especially benefit from local hiring and new investment.

8.5 Supply Chain Planning to Avoid Delays

Texas uses a strategic approach to avoid the delays that slow major energy projects. Planning includes:

- pre-ordering essential parts
- coordinating deliveries with ERCOT and the PUC
- staging materials near priority plant sites
- working with Texas manufacturers for faster turnaround
- maintaining backup inventory for critical components

A strong logistics plan keeps upgrades moving without interruption.

8.6 Long-Term Maintenance and Operational Readiness

Retrofits are only as strong as the maintenance that follows. Long-term planning ensures:

- scheduled inspections
- predictable replacement cycles
- updated training for plant operators
- maintenance teams ready for extreme weather
- continuous monitoring of modernized systems

This keeps Texas power plants strong year after year.

SECTION 9 — FINANCING MODEL AND LONG-TERM STABILITY

9.1 Using Existing Authority With No New Taxes Needed

Texas strengthens the grid without raising taxes. This plan uses tools the state already has, including:

- existing reliability programs
- existing modernization funds
- current PUC authority
- established ERCOT operational rules
- state-approved public-private partnerships

Texans keep their money. The state uses what already exists.

9.2 Public-Private Partnerships That Keep Control in Texas

Modernizing the grid does not require government takeovers or federal involvement. Texas uses partnerships that allow:

- private investment in plant upgrades
- state oversight to ensure reliability
- shared responsibility with plant owners
- faster modernization timelines
- full Texas control over decision-making

This protects Texas taxpayers while strengthening energy independence.

9.3 Savings From Reduced Waste and Increased Efficiency

Retrofits lower long-term operating costs by:

- reducing fuel consumption
- eliminating waste in outdated systems
- lowering break-fix maintenance expenses
- preventing emergency shutdowns
- improving plant reliability year-round

When plants run smarter, families save more.

9.4 Reliability Investments That Lower Long-Term Costs

Preventing blackouts saves Texas millions per event. Modernization reduces costly risks such as:

- grid-wide failures
- emergency repairs
- storm recovery damages
- equipment loss
- extended outages

A stronger grid is cheaper to operate and cheaper to maintain.

9.5 Guardrails Against Rate Spikes

Texas protects families by putting limits in place that prevent sudden rate increases. This initiative avoids spikes by:

- scheduling upgrades in phases
- keeping plants online during construction
- avoiding expensive new plant construction
- reducing pressure on fuel supplies
- improving efficiency to offset costs

Texans should never face price shocks caused by preventable failures.

9.6 Protecting ERCOT From Outside or Federal Control

Strong reliability protects Texas sovereignty. Modernization helps Texas avoid:

- federal pressure to join interstate grids
- outside agencies influencing state policy
- national mandates over local decisions
- forced federal oversight during emergencies

A reliable ERCOT grid keeps Texas in control of its own future.

SECTION 10 — SECONDARY BENEFITS AND LONG-TERM IMPACT

10.1 Greater Stability During Extreme Weather

Modernized plants hold up under the toughest Texas conditions. Retrofitting provides:

- stronger freeze protection
- better heat resistance
- faster storm recovery
- fewer breakdowns during peak demand
- reliable power during life-threatening weather events

A hardened grid keeps Texans safe when conditions turn dangerous.

10.2 Reduced Risk of Statewide Blackouts

Blackouts happen when older equipment cannot respond fast enough. Retrofits reduce that risk by:

- improving plant restart times
- stabilizing output during sudden demand spikes
- strengthening weak parts of the grid
- preventing cascading failures
- increasing statewide reserve capacity

A stronger foundation protects every region of Texas.

10.3 More Affordable Power for Texas Families

Efficiency upgrades lower operational costs and waste. Texans benefit through:

- fewer emergency price spikes
- steadier monthly bills
- reduced fuel use
- lower long-term maintenance expenses
- a grid that avoids costly breakages

Reliable infrastructure keeps power affordable.

10.4 Less Dependence on Foreign Parts and Turbine Supply Chains

Retrofits reduce Texas dependency on international suppliers by:

- extending the life of existing turbines
- using Texas-made components whenever possible
- avoiding long overseas wait times
- lowering exposure to foreign pricing
- bringing manufacturing needs back home

Texas becomes more self-reliant and less vulnerable to global shortages.

10.5 Foundation for Future Advanced Reactors

Upgraded facilities create ideal conditions for next-generation systems. Retrofitted sites provide:

- modern control rooms
- compatible cooling infrastructure
- existing land and grid access
- trained operators
- safer transition pathways

This positions Texas for advanced nuclear options when the state is ready.

10.6 Strengthening Rural and Industrial Economies

Modernization supports rural Texas and major industrial hubs through:

- new jobs during retrofit projects
- stable power for farms and ranching operations
- stronger grids for hospitals and schools
- dependable electricity for manufacturing
- reduced downtime for industrial corridors

A reliable grid protects local economies statewide.

10.7 Long-Term Protection of ERCOT Independence

Texas independence depends on a reliable Texas grid. Retrofitting reinforces:

- state control over energy decisions
- ERCOT's ability to manage growth
- reduced federal influence
- stronger resilience during emergencies
- long-term stability for all Texans

A reliable ERCOT grid keeps Texas in charge of its own future.

SECTION 11 — CONCLUSION: A TEXAS-FIRST PATH FORWARD

11.1 The Mission Ahead for Texas

Texas grows stronger when our power grid grows stronger. The mission of this initiative is simple:

- modernize the plants we already depend on
- increase stability during extreme weather
- protect ERCOT independence
- reduce waste and lower long-term costs
- deliver fast improvements without raising taxes

A stronger grid protects every home, every business, and every community.

11.2 Retrofitting as the Cornerstone of Reliability

Texas cannot wait a decade for new power plants. Retrofitting gives us:

- faster results
- lower costs
- better reliability
- improved performance from existing assets
- a grid that keeps up with our rapid growth

This approach fixes the weaknesses that put Texans at risk and builds a stronger foundation for the future.

11.3 Keeping Families, Jobs, and Communities Protected

Reliable power keeps Texas moving. Stronger plants protect:

- hospitals and emergency services
- schools and water systems
- manufacturing centers
- rural communities
- seniors, families, and vulnerable Texans

A reliable grid saves lives, protects jobs, and supports every part of our economy.

11.4 A Stronger and More Independent Texas Grid

Texas pride is rooted in independence and self-reliance. This initiative reinforces that legacy by:

- strengthening ERCOT from within
- avoiding federal interference
- keeping control in Texas hands
- building a grid that matches the strength of our people
- preparing for the next generation of power systems

Texas stays strong because Texans take responsibility for our own future.

SECTION 12 — FAQ SECTION

12.1 Why retrofit instead of building new power plants?

Building a new plant can take ten years. Retrofitting takes months. Upgrading the plants we already have:

- delivers faster results
- avoids global turbine shortages
- reduces cost
- uses existing land and connections
- strengthens the grid immediately

Texas needs reliability now, not a decade from now.

12.2 How does this prevent blackouts?

Retrofits protect Texas by:

- improving restart times
- reducing equipment failures
- stabilizing output during high demand
- hardening plants against extreme weather
- preventing weak points from collapsing under stress

A stronger plant means a stronger grid.

12.3 Does this raise taxes?

No. This initiative uses:

- existing state authority
- current reliability programs
- public-private partnerships
- efficiency savings
- already available resources

Texans do not pay new taxes for this plan.

12.4 How long will the upgrades take?

Upgrades happen in phases:

- high-risk plants modernized first
- mid-sized plants next
- statewide cycle completed after that

Most upgrades take months, not years.

12.5 What if plants refuse to participate?

Texas already has reliability standards. The state can require:

- performance improvements
- weather hardening
- maintenance updates
- compliance with existing rules

This initiative is built to work within the authority the state already has. If new legislation is required, it would be limited to small funding or enforcement adjustments, not new taxes and not any increase in federal involvement. The core work can begin under existing Texas regulatory powers.

12.6 Is this a government takeover?

No. Plant owners keep their facilities. The state:

- sets reliability expectations
- oversees safety
- coordinates with ERCOT
- ensures Texans are protected

This is a partnership, not a takeover.

12.7 How does this affect natural gas and fuel supply?

Retrofits reduce fuel waste and lower stress on natural gas systems. Benefits include:

- more efficient plant operation
- fewer shortages during extreme weather
- improved pipeline pressure stability
- reduced peak-season strain

Modernization protects both electricity and home heating.

12.8 Will power prices go up?

This plan is designed to avoid price spikes by:

- lowering waste
- reducing emergency repairs
- preventing outages
- spreading upgrades across phases
- using existing programs and partnerships

Reliable plants protect Texans from sudden bill increases.

12.9 How does this protect ERCOT independence?

Strong reliability prevents federal pressure. Retrofitting:

- strengthens ERCOT
- avoids forced interconnection
- keeps decisions inside Texas
- reduces federal intervention risk
- supports long-term energy sovereignty

Texas stays in control of Texas power.

12.10 How does this prepare Texas for advanced nuclear technology?

Upgraded sites provide:

- modern control systems
- stronger cooling infrastructure
- existing land and permits
- trained operators
- grid-ready locations

Advanced reactors, are not licensed or deployed in Texas today. This initiative does not promise immediate construction. It simply prepares qualified sites so Texas is ready if future federal approvals, safety standards, and industry capabilities move forward.

12.11 How will rural communities benefit?

Rural Texans gain reliability first, not last. Retrofitted plants reduce the rolling blackout risk that hits small towns hardest. Modernization creates long term maintenance, operations, and inspection jobs in rural counties. When plants run more efficiently, they stay open longer, which protects local tax bases, emergency services, and school funding.

For many rural areas, keeping a plant online is the difference between local growth and decline. This initiative protects those communities by strengthening the facilities they rely on and by preventing sudden closures or reliability failures.

12.12 Who pays for this modernization?

Modernization uses:

- private investment
- existing Texas programs
- efficiency savings over time
- current PUC and ERCOT authority

This plan avoids new taxes and avoids burdening Texas families.

12.13 How does this protect Texas families?

Retrofits protect families by:

- preventing blackouts
- reducing outage-related emergencies
- keeping hospitals and water systems stable
- supporting life-saving equipment
- maintaining steady electricity during extreme weather

A strong grid keeps Texans safe.

12.14 Will this cause temporary outages while upgrades happen?

No. Upgrades are scheduled in phases to avoid disruptions, especially during summer and winter peaks. The plan is designed so plants stay online as much as possible. Any work that could affect operations is coordinated with ERCOT to protect reliability.

12.15 Will any plants shut down permanently because of this plan?

The goal of this initiative is to prevent closures, not cause them. Retrofitting extends the life of existing plants and strengthens their long-term operation. Any decisions about permanent shutdowns would continue to follow existing market, safety, and state regulatory processes.

12.16 Will workers lose their jobs during modernization?

This initiative is designed to protect and expand energy jobs. Retrofitting creates multi-year work in construction, welding, safety, inspections, engineering, and operations. The intention is long-term job growth, not displacement, and any workforce transitions are handled with training and placement support.

12.17 Does this change any contracts or private market agreements?

No. This plan does not interfere with:

- power purchase agreements
- existing ERCOT market rules
- private ownership
- operational contracts

Plant owners continue operating as they do now. The upgrades strengthen reliability without altering legal obligations.

12.18 Is eminent domain or new land acquisition involved?

No. Retrofitting uses the land and infrastructure that already exist. This initiative does not expand plant footprints, require new land, or allow the government to take property. Everything remains within current boundaries.

12.19 Does this plan favor fossil fuels over renewables?

No. This plan focuses on reliability. Retrofitting strengthens the plants that keep the grid stable during extreme weather. Stronger baseload power allows renewables to operate without risking blackouts. This supports an all-of-the-above approach while protecting Texans from outages.

12.20 How does this benefit cities with high summer demand?

Modernized plants produce steadier power during heat waves. Cities benefit from:

- fewer regional outages
- smoother grid performance
- more stable voltage
- reduced stress during peak demand
- faster recovery after storms

Urban areas see immediate improvements in reliability.

SECTION 13 — FINAL MESSAGE FROM STEPHEN

Texas stands at a moment that will define our future. We have grown into one of the strongest states in the nation because Texans work hard, look out for each other, and face every challenge with determination. But no matter how strong we are, no family, no business, and no community can function without reliable power. The storms and heat waves of recent years showed us how quickly life can change when the grid fails. Homes go dark. Hospitals struggle to operate. Water systems and emergency services

come under pressure. Texans remember those moments, and we all agreed on one thing. We can never allow that to happen again.

This initiative is built for that purpose. It strengthens the grid by improving the power plants we already have, instead of waiting a decade for something new to be built. It protects Texans from the dangers of extreme weather and unexpected outages. It respects the taxpayer by using existing authority, existing programs, and private partnerships that do not require new taxes. It keeps ERCOT independent and prevents federal agencies from stepping in and telling Texas how to run its own grid. Most importantly, it delivers real protection for families across every region of this state.

When the grid fails, it is not politicians or large corporations who suffer first. It is parents trying to keep their children safe. It is seniors waiting for heat that does not come on. It is people who rely on medical equipment. It is the small businesses that keep our communities alive. I will not stand by and allow Texas families to face that risk again. Strengthening our existing plants gives us faster results, stronger reliability, and a safer future. Texas has the workforce, the expertise, and the spirit to do this. We only need a plan that respects our strengths and uses the tools we already have.

Leadership is not about waiting for others to solve our problems. It is about taking action when Texans need it most. This initiative reflects that responsibility. It uses Texas workers, Texas-made components, Texas engineering, and Texas solutions. It protects our state from outages, price spikes, fuel shortages, and unnecessary federal interference. It prepares us for tomorrow by turning today's legacy plants into future-ready sites that can support new technologies, including advanced reactors when the time comes.

Texas has never backed down from a challenge, and we are not going to start now. Our people deserve a grid that is strong enough to protect them in any season and in any weather. They deserve leadership that puts them first. They deserve a future where the lights stay on, the air conditioning keeps running, and our communities stay safe. Together, we will build a stronger, more reliable, and more independent Texas. And we will do it the same way Texans do everything: with resilience, with pride, and with a commitment to each other that never breaks.