Winter Storm Elliott

December 2022

Southern Company Operations response & system performance

- Winter Storm Elliott entered Southern Company's service territory with strong winds that gusted to 50+ mph and affected customers' electric service. Operating company crews responded to restore power for more than **390,000 customers** affected by the high winds from Thursday night, Dec. 22, through Monday morning, Dec. 26. **Service was restored to 99% of affected customers by 8 a.m. CST** on Sunday, Dec. 25.

- Southern Company teams systemwide **worked safely and tirelessly 24/7** throughout the Christmas holiday weekend to reliably serve customers as Elliott brought extended frigid temperatures that pushed electricity demand to the system's **highest-ever December peak load.**

- Temperatures plunged for extended periods of time across the Southern Company footprint, dropping lower and for longer than third-party weather forecasters had predicted. On Christmas Eve, the system weighted average temperature dropped to **13 degrees for five consecutive hours** – the coldest December temperature since the 7-degree temperature recorded on Christmas Eve 1989. Cities like Atlanta (6 degrees), Birmingham (9 degrees) and Gulfport (23 degrees) registered temperatures **20 to 30 degrees below normal,** while a low of 4 degrees was recorded in North Georgia.

- The Southern Balancing Authority (SBA) enacted the **Energy Emergency Alert procedure** and issued alerts beginning with a Generation Advisory (Dec. 23) and escalating to an Energy Emergency Alert Level 2 (Dec. 24) before returning to normal operations on Dec. 26.

- Southern Company's hourly integrated winter peak load served across the event was **37,577 MW** on Dec. 24 between 7 and 8 a.m. CST, compared to an all-time record hourly integrated winter peak of 39,130 MW set on Jan. 7, 2014. The system retained sufficient reserves throughout Elliott.

- The Southern Balancing Authority Area's instantaneous peak load was **45,153 MW** on Dec. 24 between 7 and 8 a.m. CST, compared to an all-time record winter peak of 45,887 MW set on Jan. 7, 2014.

- Through state-led **Integrated Resource Planning** (IRP) processes, Southern Company maintains a short-term **Winter Target Planning Reserve Margin** of 25.5% supported by investments that aid system reliability. Our **vertically integrated** business model and state **regulatory constructs and support** are key to our planning and preparedness. The system also benefited from operational planning leading up to and throughout the event; fuel supply assurance; diverse fuel mix; physical asset winterization efforts; and effective communication.

- The Bulk Electric System was readied for the extreme cold weather in advance of Elliott. **Coordination** across the Southern Company system included the systemwide electric generating fleet, retail operating company transmission and distribution, Fleet Operations, Fuels and Energy Trading, and Bulk Power Operations.

- Teams **addressed some system issues** during the event **while gaining benefits** from peaking resources from both steam units and dual-fuel resources not frequently operated; utilization of demand-side options and other system load-management resources; voltage reduction programs; emergency energy purchases; and solar contributions.

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