

Coronavirus and Competitive Power Suppliers – A Message from EPSA President and CEO Todd Snitchler

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Lights on. Fridge running. Emergency services powered. When you need it.

As the impacts of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) are felt more widely, [EPSA and our member companies](#) stand ready to ensure that Americans have reliable power at the lowest cost wherever and whenever it's needed. This mission is never more important than during times that test our strength and resilience.

While much of the nation prepares to combat the spread of the virus, treat those who are infected, and deal with its daily impacts, America's electric power industry is united across the sectors and working with government agencies and policy officials to make sure you have a safe, reliable supply of electricity. We stand in solidarity with our utility colleagues, public power, rural cooperatives, linemen and women, and all those who connect power to where it's needed.

Our member companies, which are competitive power suppliers, collectively own more than 150,000 MW of generation resources in many locations around the country from all fuel types and technologies, including natural gas, coal, nuclear, renewables, and storage. This power capacity is available to be deployed as needed to ensure America's hospitals, first responders, and emergency personnel are ready and able to meet the needs of an evolving threat landscape. We have a strong track record of supplying the grid in times of extreme weather or other emergencies and we will do so in this situation as well.

We have been working proactively with industry colleagues and closely monitoring the situation with government partners for weeks to assess and prepare for eventual outcomes, while preparing and implementing the industry's three-phase pandemic plan. Here's a quick overview of some of the steps we are taking:

Working Together with Industry, Grid Controllers, and Government

- EPSA is part of the [Electricity Sub-sector Coordinating Council \(ESCC\)](#), which is the principal liaison between the federal government and the electric power sector. We are cooperating to provide information and receive updates about how companies and service could be impacted. This effective coordination ensures that organizations have the resources that they need to continue providing electricity to customers throughout any disruptions.

- The ESCC has developed a [COVID-19 Resource Guide](#) to help the power industry make informed localized decisions in response to this evolving global pandemic, which will be updated as needed.
- The ESCC is holding coronavirus coordination calls twice a week with senior leadership from the Department of Energy, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, North America Energy Reliability Corporation, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and others to ensure that industry and government are working together to pro-actively resolve any challenges that may arise during this health emergency.
- EPSA is working closely with member companies to understand how their operations will continue in order to share that information with government and others and communicate with media and the public. We are also working to understand what measures would help or impede our members' ability to serve the public.
- EPSA staff are doing our part to mitigate the spread of the virus by working remotely and practicing social distancing.

How Competitive Power Suppliers Are Responding

- So far, EPSA member company power generation capability remains unimpeded.
- At the same time, competitive power suppliers are focused on maintaining the safety and availability of key personnel, such as power plant operators and control room staff who ensure the safe operation of power generating facilities.
- It is possible that EPSA member company employees could be impacted by the virus. In anticipation of such a situation, competitive power suppliers are taking every step possible to ensure coverage of mission critical positions.
- EPSA and our companies are closely monitoring the situation, engaging with our peers and relevant government agencies, and adjusting tactics as needed.

Power On

Competitive power suppliers have substantial generation capacity and stand ready to deliver power when called upon. We are ready and able to deploy that capacity and do our part to keep America's people and critical industries powered. We will keep you updated if and when there is more news to share.

Stay safe, stay healthy, take care of your neighbors, and know that competitive power suppliers and others in the industry are doing everything they can to keep America running during one of our most challenging moments. Our greatest strength is when we work together (even if that means working at a distance).

For more information on how the electric power industry is responding as the Coronavirus/COVID-19 situation evolves, visit www.electricitysubsector.org.

For more information about the Electric Power Supply Association, visit www.epsa.org or follow us on Twitter [@EPSAnews](https://twitter.com/EPSAnews).

For all other information related to the Coronavirus/ COVID-19, visit the U.S. Centers for Disease Control website, www.cdc.gov.