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Millions of Texans were left without electricity as a rare combination of extreme heat and cold strained the state’s power grid, vulnerable to extreme weather conditions.

Storm Closes Texas Power Grid

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which manages the state’s electricity grid, began calling for rotating outages overnight on Sunday to avoid overwhelming blackouts that can occur when demand exceeds supply. The moves come amid demand for power to counter brutal heat and strong winds, with many customers living electrically, for much of the day.

Estimates that about two million homes were without power on Monday and continued that the outages might continue through Tuesday. The operator said it was necessary to prevent widespread power outages. The operator also asked businesses to conserve energy.

More than 100 million people in four states were without power on Monday, with 1.9 million in Texas, 50,000 in Oklahoma, and 100,000 in New Mexico. About 800,000 in Texas were without power, with 90,000 without power in Oklahoma and 100,000 in New Mexico.

The grid operator said it was necessary to prevent widespread power outages. The operator also asked businesses to conserve energy.

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President Joe Biden on Monday signed a $1 trillion infrastructure bill into law, which includes the largest investment in climate and energy projects in American history. The bill includes a $20 billion investment in clean energy technology and a $10 billion boost to American manufacturing.

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