CNBC. (2021, March 26). How Texas' Tough Winter Exposed U.S. Power Grid Problems. Retrieved March 27, 2021, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0io19GyIXfY>

In this YouTube video “How Texas' Tough Winter Exposed U.S. Power Grid Problems,” from CNBC contrasts the recent grid disruptions in Texas to the resilience of the National Power Grid. In February 2021, a prolonged temperature freeze in Texas caused massive power outages as Electric Reliability Corporation of Texas (ERCOT) energy generation systems failed. 4.5 million customers lost power which cascaded into shutting down the fresh water supply through rolling blackouts. Cold weather caused increased energy demand to soar as power generation failed. Politicians blamed renewable energy. 13 years earlier recommendations were made to weatherize/ winterize the Texas generation systems. Those recommendations were largely ignored due to lack of a cost **recovery mechanism.** Since then, the entire U. S. has experienced a 67% increase in weather related power outages. Fossil fuels still dominate power generation nationwide. This video shows how aging grid infrastructure contributes heavily to weather related energy supply stress. Most of our nations power grid is operated with 60-year-old equipment. Aged transmission and distribution lines are pre- year 2000 installations. This widely publicized weather-related grid incident has brought attention to Texas’s grid issues and started debate about better control. Arguments over green energy arose. This video suggests decentralized microgrids are a large part of any potential solution.

CNBC is a division of NBC Universal News Group established April 17, 1989. This video includes facts about the 2021 Texas grid crisis and identifies grid authorities, political leaders, and facts about ERCOT. Grid industry experts comment on historic aspects of Texas government policy and grid recommendations as well as who has authority and how the system works.