EMP: Electromagnetic Pulse "An equal opportunity destroyer."

By Brit Macias

An equal opportunity destroyer is what Conservative Texas Senator, Bob Hall, uses to describe EMP's— electromagnetic pulse. There is no discrimination when it comes to who an EMP affects, or even ends up killing. An EMP affects us all, Democrat,



Republican; liberal or conservative; black, white, brown, or purple.

A self-proclaimed "recovering political apathetic," Senator Hall abandoned his goal to embark upon the mission field with Angel Flight Missions to join the political field instead, solely because God instructed him to do so.

Senator Hall is a retired Air Force Veteran. During his service, he worked on the classified Minutemen Project, testing missiles, modifying the Minuteman Missile to attack "hardened" military targets, ("Hardened" is a word you will soon see much more of) and developing an EMP ground detector.

After leaving the Air Force, Hall worked as an electrical engineer, owning his own aerospace company until retirement, at which point he felt impressed to join the political forces, campaigning for candidates he believed in. When Hall's area was being represented by an extremely Liberal "Republican" Senator, he threw his hat in the ring as he believes the real government is "we the people" and "if not us, then who? If not now, then when?"

Hall won the election, giving Texas a Conservative Senator with Judeo-Christian beliefs.

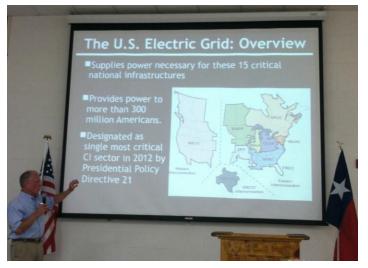
This leads us to present day and why Senator Hall came to the San Angelo TEA Party meeting last Tuesday evening.

Hall never spoke of the Minuteman Project over the years, but he stumbled upon a report several years ago about the vulnerability of our electric grid. Hall was surprised, as the Air Force hadn't considered that during his time there, but the article had very accurate information, and Hall came to find out it was written by some of the very same individuals he worked with on the Minuteman Project now on the EMP Commission for the White House.

The disturbing thing about the report was that is suggested if an EMP were to occur, a prediction of 90% of the population would be deceased within the first 11 months. In previous eras, electricity was a luxury that cut out often and it was no big deal. However, now electricity is the third most important resource for human survival in the present day. The first is air, the second is water, electricity is third *followed* by food. Hall states that more people will die without power before dying of starvation.

With such a great need placed on electricity, the threat of an EMP—which would wipe out the electrical grids across the country and potentially further—has risen to the #1 threat out of the 21 Critical Infrastructure Sectors. That being said, at this point in time, if a grid were to go down with an EMP, it is unfixable before the population would be deceased.

Senator Hall explains there are three types of EMP threats: Nuclear level manmade EMPs, Natural geometric storms caused by sun spots, and Non-nuclear man-made EMPs such as suitcase EMPs.

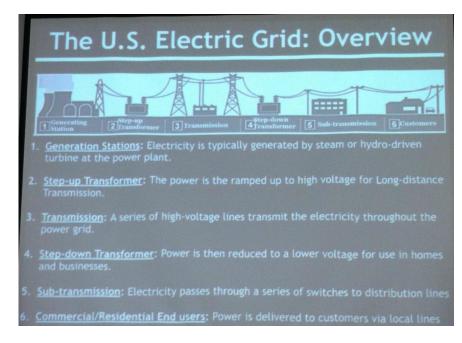


The first bit of good news for Texans is the fact that we are on our own electric grid—ERCOT— as opposed to other states that share the remaining 9 grids. This makes Hall's plan to harden the grid *slightly* less complicated—more about that later.

There was that word again, "hardening," so what does it mean? Hardening is the protecting of a grid or system

against nuclear effects, such as an EMP. This can be done with relative ease, at a cost. China has already hardened their grid and Iran has already begun manufacturing devices used to harden grids.

The hardening of a grid can be done in several ways, two of which include the option of a Faraday Shield which is a metal cage around the transformers or storing spare parts for machinery in a metal enclosure, as long as the parts can be replaced with non-electrical hand tools. Though, part of the problem with spare parts as far as the set-up transformers are concerned is that they are manufactured overseas and each one is an individual, unique design.



Just how real is the threat of an EMP?

Senator Hall explains that both Russia and China have the capability to launch a nuclear EMP attack against the United States. Nuclear EMP technology secrets were leaked to North Korea and the Islamic Republic of Iran. All of these countries advocate the use of nuclear EMP's.

Not to mention, North Korea has launched two "data satellites" into space that have never sent any data whatsoever—a satellite's main purpose. These weapons-grade satellites travel over the two exact trajectories that would take out the entirety of the United States grids and cross over us every day, twice a day.

At the exact time the first of these "satellites" was launched in April of 2013, San Jose, California came within one circuit of losing power to 1/5 of the city due to a well-planned physical EMP attack.

When asked why these North Korean satellites haven't "disappeared," Hall responded, "Because we don't have anybody in Washington with a backbone. We should have shot the first one down as soon as we could get the missile aimed at it and shot it down. It's that simple."

According to NASA's research, the threat of an electromagnetic storm—Coronal Mass Ejection—happening within the next decade is 12%. This number seems relatively small, but don't be deceived. Hall assures that number is astronomical for an EMP threat percentage. These storms caused by trajectories from the sun interrupting our magnetosphere, occur around every 100 years.

In 1859, when electricity was rare indeed, The Carrington Event occurred, wiping out telegraph networks in North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia, even burning the technicians using the telegraphs when the storm occurred.

The most recent occurrence was the Quebec Storm in 1989 which caused the complete collapse of the power grid in that area, leaving more than 6 million

people without power. This cost Canada a lot of money, though it was localized and the rest of the country still had power and could come to their aide.

Hall also explains other man-made EMP's are not difficult to construct or launch. They can be made with just a few dedicated individuals and launched with even just a weather balloon over a strategic spot. He states that the biggest threat of this would be a simple EMP missile on a cargo ship, launched at the right place by a few men from out at sea (one of which has already been intercepted by our military.) Hall even claims the recent Paris attacks took more planning, resources, and man power than an EMP attack would.

Were an EMP to occur in the United States, we would have a 30 day food supply for 320 million people. The only available food would be that in the stores, on en route trucks, and in gardens on the day the EMP struck. Water sources would be contaminated with sewage, making clean water almost impossible to find. Disease would run rampant. Mass panic would occur. Those on life support or hooked up to machines in hospitals would die. All electronics would cease to function, including vehicles with computers in them. Fuel pumps would no longer pump. Transportation would immediately halt. If nuclear weapons stored in facilities can't be control shut-down, there will be a nuclear catastrophe.

Sounds like a scene from an Apocalyptic movie, yes?

What is Texas doing to secure our grid? Senator Hall has good and bad news on that front.

The good news is Hall introduced a bill requiring the hardening of the Texas grid and it passed through Senate. The bad news is it was halted in the House.

Hall explains the holdup is the electric companies. No one with any real authority protects the grids in the United States, so they are run by the electric companies, the grid sector, and power commissions. In Texas, we have what Hall refers to as the "unholy trinity," and "self-serving triad," ERCOT (our grid sector), the electric companies, and the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). ERCOT and the PUC are made up of former electric companies that desire to return to their electric company eventually and refuse to upset the companies for that reason.

The power companies in Texas do not want to harden the grid and the government at this point does not want to upset them. Hall attributes the companies' reasoning to desiring their bonus and comfortable paycheck rather than helping the customer.

Despite the disappointing holdup, Hall has more good news. Governor Abbott has declared hardening the grid to be a top priority in his office (though Hall isn't certain what exactly that means). Lt. Governor Dan Patrick made the item an interim study to back it with more information and money, and the first grid protection summit in history was held in Texas in April of this year.

Hall explains that the hardening of the Texas grid will bring an influx of people and business owners to Texas because they will feel safe, and this will in turn pay for the expense used to harden the grid in the first place. Texas wants to be the first state to do this, and a few others are neck-in-neck attempting to do the same.

Hall advises calling your representatives and power companies, urging them to pass this bill and harden the grid. He told those in attendance that the only reason guns are allowed on campuses in Texas and open-carry is allowed is because citizens enacted the "we the people" government and made the proper phone calls.

Another snippet of good news, Hall assures San Angelo that our representative, Charles Perry is a good, Godfearing man in full support of hardening the grid and any calls to him should just be out of appreciation of his efforts.

CRN asked Hall what your average citizen can do to

Experts have warned for decades that our nation's electric grid is vulnerable to p cyber, and electromagnetic (EMP) threats. However, unlike physical and cyber, the rom an EMP to the nation's electric grid has all but been ignored by government and the ectric industry. Thankfully, Texas has the unique ability to secure its portion of the electric grid from the EMP threat. The Republican Party of Texas has recognized this opportunity nd on May 13th voted to urge the Texas Legislature to pass legislation that will harden th Texas Electric Grid against cyber-attacks on the grid's computerized command and control system, physical attacks on substations and major high voltage transformers, geomagneti storms created by solar flares from the sun, and man-made EMP. Make Your Voice Heard! I strongly urge you to voice your support for securing the Texas electric grid against physical, cyber, and EMP threats Find your representative at: http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/Home.aspx **Governor Greg Abbott** Lt. Governor Dan Patrick (512) 463-2000 (512) 463-0001 P.O. Box 12428, Austin, TX 78711 P.O. Box 12068, Austin, TX 78711 Email: https://gov.texas.gov/contact/ Email: LTGConstituent.Affairs@ltgov.state.tx.us **Public Utility Commission Electric Reliability Council of Texas** (512) 936-7000 (512) 225-7000 1701 Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78701 7620 Metro Center Dr., Austin, TX 78744 Email: customer@puc.texas.gov Email: ClientServices@ercot.com **Texas State Senator Bob Hall** Telephone: (512) 463-0102 Email: bob.hall@senate.texas.gov Please submit your questions or concerns to:

prepare for an EMP occurrence, in case the grid is not hardened in time. He advised learning to be self-sufficient, paying attention to those that have prepared by storing food and water, and obtaining spare parts for your machinery that can be inserted with hand tools. These spare parts can be kept safe in a metal trash can with the lid on it. Some he mentioned were car parts and generator parts.

Two books Hall recommends the public to read on this issue are "Patriots : A Novel of Survival in the Coming Collapse" by John Wesley Rawles, and "One Second After" by William R. Forstchen.

Be educated. Prepare. Use your voice.

Until Next Time...

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