Twitter Thread by Paul P.H. Wilson■

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It is simply not correct to point fingers at wind & solar energy as we try to understand the situation in TX. The system (almost) had a plan for weather (almost) like this. 1/x

> Conservatives are using the Texas power chaos to argue against climate policy even as fossil-generated power outages dwarf the amount of renewables knocked offline during the historic deep freeze. President Biden and progressives have been slow to respond.https://t.co/UajKhptEAU
>
> — E&E News (@EENewsUpdates) February 17, 2021

It relied on very little wind energy - that was the plan. It relied on a lot of natural gas - that was the plan. It relied on all of its nuclear energy - that was the plan. 2/x

There was enough natural gas, coal and nuclear capacity installed to survive this event - it was NOT "forced out" by the wind energy expansion. It was there. 3/x

Wind, natural gas, coal and nuclear plants all failed to deliver on their expectations for long periods of time. The biggest gap was in natural gas! The generators were there, but they were not able to deliver. 4/x

It may be fair to ask why there is so much wind energy in ERCOT if we do NOT expect it to deliver during weather events like this, but that is an entirely different question - and one with a lot of great answers!! 5/x

Most importantly, we build technology like wind energy into the system to avoid burning fossil fuels when we can, and there are many days when wind delivers on that promise. 6/x

Probably the most important question is why planners did not anticipate that so much natural gas generation would be unavailable during an event like this, and have a plan to address that. 7/x

Others (@JesseJenkins , @jacob_mays) are sure to have better answers than me to those questions in the coming days, weeks and months, so follow them for updates. 8/x

@JesseJenkins @jacob_mays The end... 9/8 (that was supposed to end on the last tweet)