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NEWS from AEP Texas

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AEP Texas schedules Oct. 9 open house for South Padre Island transmission improvements

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, Texas (SEPTEMBER 25, 2019) – AEP Texas plans to begin construction this fall on the South Padre Island and Port Isabel Transmission Improvements Project, an approximate \$51 million investment to upgrade the local power grid.

The company invites community members to an upcoming open house to learn about construction plans and schedules. The public event takes place **Wednesday, Oct. 9, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.** in the **South Padre Island Community Center**, located at **4501 Padre Blvd.**

AEP Texas announced this project in January and hosted an open house Jan. 17 that provided information about the planned improvements. The project involves upgrading about 12 miles of 138-kilovolt transmission line to strengthen the local electric system and helps ensure continued electric reliability in the area.

The power line parallels Highway 100 from a substation near Laguna Vista to the west side of the Queen Isabella Causeway in Port Isabel. The line continues across the Laguna Madre to the Sunchase Substation at the south end of South Padre Island. It then turns north and parallels Padre Boulevard for about 4 miles to the South Padre Substation near the South Padre Island Convention Centre.

At the Oct. 9 construction open house, local residents can talk with project representatives about what to expect during the upcoming construction, including timelines and construction practices. The open house does not include a formal presentation, so attendees can arrive at any time.

“We want to give residents of South Padre Island and Port Isabel an opportunity to ask and receive answers to their questions,” said Danny Lucio, Jr., External Affairs manager for AEP Texas. “It’s important for us to communicate with our neighbors about upcoming construction activities.”

The company expects the project to proceed in two phases beginning this fall.

Phase 1 includes:

- Rebuilding the power line along Highway 100 between the Port Isabel Substation and the Causeway Substation. The company expects crews to begin construction this fall and finish work on this section by the end of the year.

- Upgrading another section of power line connecting the South Padre Island Substation to the Sunchase Substation. The company expects crews to begin construction later this year and finish work by late February of next year.

Phase 2 includes:

- Rebuilding the power line segments across the Laguna Madre between the Causeway Substation and Sunchase Substation. The company expects crews to finish this work by late 2020.

Additional project details, a construction schedule and an interactive map are available at AEPTexas.com/SPIandPortIsabel.

AEP Texas serves over one million electric consumers in the deregulated Texas retail electric marketplace. As an energy delivery (wires) company, AEP Texas delivers electricity safely and reliably to homes, businesses and industry across its nearly 100,000 square mile service territory in south and west Texas. AEP Texas also builds new power lines, restores service following outages and reads the meters via advanced meter technology for retail electric providers (REPs) throughout its service territory. The company also connects or disconnects service upon the orders of the REPs.

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