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**AEP TEXAS PLANS OPEN HOUSE TO EDUCATE GULF COAST COMMUNITY ABOUT ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION UPGRADES**

PORT ISABEL, Texas (Jan. 7, 2019) – AEP Texas plans to improve the safety and reliability of the local transmission system with the South Padre - Port Isabel Transmission Improvements project. The approximately \$51 million investment includes rebuilding about 12 miles of 138-kilovolt transmission line. The power line parallels Highway 100 from a substation near the Laguna Vista subdivision to the west side of the Queen Isabella Causeway in Port Isabel.

AEP Texas has scheduled a “come-and-go” open house in the Port Isabel High School cafeteria, located at 18001 Highway 100, on Thursday, Jan. 17 between 4:30-6:30 p.m. to provide information about the upcoming work.

The open house offers local residents the opportunity to talk with project representatives. While there is no formal presentation, attendees can arrive at any time to view detailed maps, learn more about the project’s benefits and what to expect during construction.

“The existing transmission line is more than 50 years old,” said Danny Lucio, Jr., AEP Texas External Affairs manager. “These improvements are necessary to help ensure continued reliability. The improvements also will strengthen the facilities in order to withstand the strong winds and weather we experience in this area.”

The company expects the project to proceed in two phases beginning in Fall 2019.

Phase one includes:

- Rebuilding the power line along Highway 100
- Upgrading another section of power line connecting a substation near the South Padre Island Convention Center to the east side of the Queen Island Causeway

Phase two includes:

- Connecting the power line segments with a line stretching across the Laguna Madre south of the causeway

Both segments are scheduled for completion by late 2020. Additional project details, a construction schedule and an interactive map are available at [AEPTexas.com/SPIandPortIsabel](http://AEPTexas.com/SPIandPortIsabel)

AEP Texas serves over one million electric meters 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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# SOUTH PADRE ISLAND AND PORT ISABEL TRANSMISSION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

