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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****AEP Texas begins final phase of electric transmission line project on South Padre Island**

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, Texas (October 14, 2021) – AEP Texas crews next week will begin work on the third phase of the South Padre Island and Port Isabel Transmission Improvements Project this month. The 12-mile transmission line rebuild project represents a \$51 million investment to ensure electric reliability for customers.

AEP Texas crews completed construction on the first two phases of the project earlier this year and plan to begin rebuilding the power line across the Laguna Madre this fall. To prepare for construction across the bay, crews need to resume line construction on South Padre Island this week.

Beginning Monday, October 18, AEP Texas crews are scheduled to resume transmission line work between the Sunchase Substation and the KOA campgrounds, located south of the Queen Isabella Causeway. Crews expect work along the transmission line route to continue through mid-November.

Following construction work on South Padre Island, crews will move to Port Isabel to continue power line construction near Garcia Street south along Long Island. Project representatives expect this work to conclude in late 2021.

Crews are planning to complete some of the construction activities at night to minimize disturbance for area residents. Temporary lane closures may be necessary for the safe transportation of large equipment along the project area. Company representatives continue to coordinate with South Padre Island and Port Isabel officials to minimize impacts to residents and tourists.

The power line work across the Laguna Madre begins in January. Crews plan to utilize barges to install caissons, which are structures driven into the ocean bed to support the new transmission poles. AEP Texas representatives obtained environmental approval from the US Army Corps of Engineers and federal environmental resource agencies prior to beginning work in coastal waters.

The waterway will remain open, but boaters should proceed with caution while AEP Texas crews are in the area. Boaters also should be aware that the caissons – though visible above the waterline – will be marked with temporary lights until crews complete pole installation by early 2022.

AEP Texas representatives expect construction to conclude in early 2022.

Learn more about the project at [AEPTexas.com/SPIandPortIsabel](https://www.aeptexas.com/SPIandPortIsabel).

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About AEP Texas

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 over a million 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. Connect with AEP Texas at AEPTexas.com, on Facebook and on Twitter @aeptexas.