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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Larry Jones  
Corporate Communications  
512-203-4916  
Lajones@aep.com

**AEP Texas Announces Field Work for Transmission Line Project on South Padre Island and Port Isabel**

SOUTH PADRE, Texas, Sept.4, 2018 – AEP Texas plans to make improvements to the local electric transmission system on South Padre Island and Port Isabel. Starting in mid-September, crews will conduct underground survey exploration to gather preliminary engineering data and identify the location of underground utilities.

The field work is necessary to help develop plans to improve transmission facilities by rebuilding a 345-kilovolt (kV) power line between South Padre and Port Isabel. The line begins at a substation located just west of Hwy 100. The line travels south, paralleling Hwy 100, to Padre Boulevard where it turns west and crosses Laguna Madre and enters a substation located near South Garcia Street in Port Isabel. From there, the line continues north and west to Hwy 100 where it parallels the highway for about six miles to another substation located just off of Hwy 100 near Palm Boulevard.

Rebuilding the transmission line is expected to last about two months, depending on weather and other factors. Crews will utilize existing company-owned easements and the city's utility easement area near highways and roadways, wherever possible. AEP Texas' right-of-way representative, Coates Field Service, will be in contact with landowners and residents along the line route.

"These infrastructure improvements are necessary for the long-term reliability and safety of the electric system," said Danny Lucio, Jr., AEP Texas External Affairs manager. "We want to make sure everyone in the community is aware of these initial field activities and remind everyone to be safe in the areas where crews are working."

AEP Texas will work to minimize the impacts of the field activities for landowners and the community. AEP Texas plans to hold public open houses early next year to provide more specific project information and gain input from landowners and the community.

AEP Texas serves over one million electric meters in the deregulated Texas 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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