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AECT member companies prepare for winter weather

With winter weather around the corner, AECT member companies have taken steps so that their facilities meet established weatherization guidelines to combat winter weather. AECT member companies include: AEP Texas, CenterPoint Energy, El Paso Electric Co., Entergy Texas, LCRA, NextEra, NRG Energy, Oncor, Texas-New Mexico Power Co., Vistra and Xcel Energy.

All AECT companies within the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) have filed their Winter Weather Readiness Reports with ERCOT, as required by Senate Bill 3 and PUC rules. Each report includes a notarized attestation from executive company leadership. In preparation for winter, ERCOT is conducting inspections of facilities throughout to verify facilities have met weatherization requirements. All utilities in Texas, including those outside of ERCOT, have filed updated emergency operations plans, and continue to work to meet the latest standards from the North American Electric Reliability Corporation.

“We want to thank both Texas leaders and the Legislature for their efforts during the past session to strengthen the resilience of the grid, as well as AECT’s member companies for their efforts to prepare for this winter for the benefit of Texas consumers,” said Jessica Oney, Chair of AECT.

Winterization efforts are well underway at power plants and transmission and distribution facilities to prepare them for operation in extreme winter weather, so that power is generated and delivered to households and businesses across Texas. “We’re going into the winter with improved communications and improved resiliency,” added Oney.”

Winter weather brings increased power usage for home heating compared with the spring and fall. AECT encourages consumers to check their homes for opportunities to reduce electricity usage, such as weather-stripping doors and windows, using rugs on bare floors to reduce heat loss and assessing their home’s insulation. Customers in the competitive market may also want to talk with their retail electric providers (REPs) to make sure they’re on the right plan to suit their needs, and consider shopping for new service.

Finally, should customers have trouble paying their bills, they should reach out to their REP or electric company to learn what payment options are available. Customers can also call 2-1-1 from their phone or visit 211texas.org to learn what assistance is available.

The Association of Electric Companies of Texas, Inc. (AECT) is a trade organization of electric companies in Texas. Organized in 1978, AECT provides a forum for member company representatives to exchange information about public policy, and to communicate with government officials and the public. AECT member companies remain dedicated to providing Texas customers with reliable service and are committed to the highest standards of integrity.