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SWEPCO Announces Plans for Upgrading Transmission Lines in Powering Up Shreveport – Bossier City

SHREVEPORT, La., July 20, 2016 – AEP Southwestern Electric Power Co. (SWEPCO) is investing \$46 million through 2018 in *Powering Up Shreveport – Bossier City*, a program that will replace and upgrade much of the local aging infrastructure. The projects will improve transmission lines ranging from 69,000 volts to 138,000 volts in the Shreveport – Bossier City and surrounding areas.

These projects are driven by the need for continued reliability in the area and many of them are endorsed by Southwest Power Pool (SPP), the regional transmission organization charged with ensuring electric reliability for northwest Louisiana. SPP and SWEPCO field personnel have identified these projects as vital to strengthening the regional electric transmission system to support growth and economic development in the Shreveport and Bossier City areas.

SWEPCO has been working in Shreveport and Bossier since last year as a part of this larger transmission improvements program. Current projects SWEPCO is working on include Ellerbe Road – South Shreveport Transmission Line Project, Brownlee Road – North Market Transmission Line Project and Stoner Hill Area Improvements. The majority of these projects include replacing old wooden poles with steel, single-pole structures and making upgrades to the equipment at existing substations.

While improvements such as *Powering Up Shreveport-Bossier City* are critical to the long term reliability and safety of the electric system, SWEPCO realizes that construction projects may inconvenience landowners and the public.

“We are committed to working with the communities and residents of Shreveport and Bossier City to ensure clear communication throughout the process,” said Brian Bond, vice president of SWEPCO External Affairs. “As part of that effort, there will be several open houses to allow for residents to receive more specific information about each project. These open houses provide residents the opportunity to look at maps and speak to project team members.”

“More importantly, these events provide residents the opportunity to provide feedback on the different projects and tell us how we’re doing,” he continued. “We welcome your feedback and look forward to meeting many of our customers as we unfold these next few projects and continue to work on those under construction now.”

Residents will soon have an opportunity to learn more about the *Powering Up Shreveport – Bossier City* program and the Brownlee Road – North Market Transmission Line Project. SWEPCO is hosting a come-and-go open house on Wednesday, July 20, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Louisiana Technical College, located at 2010 N. Market St. in Shreveport. Residents can arrive at any time to learn more about the project, look at maps and speak with project team members.

For more information about *Powering Up Shreveport – Bossier City*, visit:
www.SWEPCO.com/PoweringUp

SWEPCO serves 530,000 customers in western Arkansas, northwest and central Louisiana, northeast Texas and the Texas Panhandle. SWEPCO's headquarters are in Shreveport, La. News releases and other information about SWEPCO can be found at www.swepco.com. SWEPCO is a unit of American Electric Power, one of the largest electric utilities in the United States, delivering electricity to nearly 5.4 million customers in 11 states.

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