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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION APPROVES POWER GRID UPGRADES IN SUMMER GROVE AREA**

SHREVEPORT, La. (March 8, 2018) –Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) plans to invest nearly \$23 million in the Shreveport area with the Summer Grove Area Improvements project now that the proposed project has gained regulatory approval. This electric transmission project is part of SWEPCO's Powering Up Shreveport – Bossier City initiative launched in 2016.

SWEPCO announced the project, also known as Leaside Way, last May. Local residents were invited to an open house to learn about project and provide valuable input on the proposed routes for the new transmission line.

After gathering input from the local residents, SWEPCO determined a final proposed route and filed a Certificate for Public Convenience and Necessity (CCN) application with the Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC) in August. Following months of review, the LPSC approved SWEPCO's CCN application at the end of January.

This regulatory approval allows SWEPCO to move forward with the next phases of the project. Preliminary field activities will begin this spring with surveying. SWEPCO right-of-way representatives will contact directly-involved landowners to discuss upcoming construction work and to secure necessary easements.

The project includes building about 1.5 miles of new 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line, a new substation and upgrades to six other substations, plus re-routing about a mile of existing, 138-kV transmission line around the new substation. Crews will also remove the transmission wires from a nearby 69-kV transmission line. The new line will begin at the existing Summer Grove Substation located near Dean Road and end at the new Leaside Way Substation to be located west of Old Mansfield Road in southwest Shreveport.

Construction is expected to begin this summer on the new Leaside Way Substation followed by work on the rest of the project. The company expects to complete the project by the end of 2019.

For project details, schedule and interactive map, visit [www.SWEPCO.com/SummerGrove](http://www.SWEPCO.com/SummerGrove).

SWEPCO serves 532,000 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](http://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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