



## **Filing Receipt**

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**Item Number - 100**

**Thomas J. Gleeson**  
Chairman

**Kathleen Jackson**  
Commissioner

**Courtney K. Hjaltman**  
Commissioner



**Greg Abbott**  
Governor

**Connie Corona**  
Executive Director

## *Public Utility Commission of Texas*

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**TO:** Central Records

**FROM:** Office of Policy and Docket Management

**DATE:** March 18, 2025

**RE:** Correspondence related to PUC Docket No. 57579; SOAH Docket No. 473- 25-11558, *Application of CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC for Approval of its 2026-2028 Transmission and Distribution System Resiliency Plan.*

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Chairman Gleeson, Commissioner Jackson, and Commissioner Hjaltman received the attached correspondence pertaining to the above-styled docket.

Please note that a member or employee of a state agency assigned to render a decision in a contested case may not directly or indirectly communicate in connection with an issue of fact or law with any state agency, person, party, or representative of those entities, except on notice and opportunity for each party to participate. See Administrative Procedures Act, Texas Government Code § 2001.061.

Commission Advising is filing the correspondence, with personal information redacted. Parties will not be served copies of the attached document but can access it through the PUC Interchange at <http://interchange.puc.texas.gov/>.

cc: All Parties

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March 5, 2025

Chairman Thomas Gleeson  
Commissioner Courtney Hjaltman  
Commissioner Kathleen Jackson  
Public Utility Commission of Texas  
1701 N. Congress Avenue  
Austin, TX 78701

Re: SOAH Docket No. 473-25-11558; PUC Docket No. 57579; Application of CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC for Approval of its 2026-2028 Transmission and Distribution System Resiliency Plan

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

As an emergency management official representing Montgomery County along the Gulf Coast, I understand all too well the destruction that extreme weather can wreak on Texas residents and businesses. In just the last two years, our region has experienced an unprecedented winter storm, a category 1 hurricane, and an EF3 tornado, along with the prolonged heat experienced each summer and freezing temperatures experienced each winter. Preparing for and responding to events like these require hard work and close coordination by numerous organizations, including emergency management personnel, first responders, nonprofit assistance organizations, and private partners like CenterPoint.

I write to you today because I understand that you will soon be considering CenterPoint's application for approval of its 2026-2028 System Resiliency Plan. Building on the progress of the Greater Houston Resiliency Initiative, on Jan. 31, 2025, CenterPoint submitted an enhanced 2026-2028 System Resiliency Plan – the largest single investment in resiliency in the Company's history. CenterPoint developed its 2026-2028 System Resiliency Plan in coordination with and after receiving input from local county emergency management offices, including Montgomery County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. As a result of the input provided to us, CenterPoint has developed a plan that is responsive to extreme weather that has occurred and is forecasted to occur in the region and specifically Montgomery County.



The plan will bolster normal operations and improvements to help the Greater Houston area prepare for and mitigate the impacts of extreme weather and storms, as well as expand its capacity to meet future energy demands. These actions will expand on the significant progress made since launching GHRI in August 2024 to strengthen the grid and reduce the frequency and impact of outages for customers. Once completed, these wide-ranging resiliency measures are expected to provide a series of important customer benefits, including:

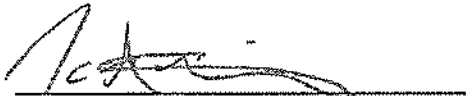
- **Reducing Outage Impacts:** Reducing extreme weather-related power outages by over **1.3 billion minutes into 2029.**
- **Strengthening Overall Resiliency:** Improving systemwide resiliency by **30% for all our customers.**
- **Meeting Future Energy Demand:** Expanding the capacity of our system to meet our region's population growth (by the size of Waco, Texas, each year) and rising energy demand.
- **Reducing Community Costs:** Saving on storm-related costs of **approximately \$50 million per year.**
- **Improving Major Storm Resiliency:** Avoiding outages for **more than 500,000 customers** in the event of another Beryl-like storm.
- **Automation Devices:** **100% of lines** that provide power to most of our customers will include devices capable of self-healing to reduce the impact of outages.
- **Secure Substations:** **99% of substations** will be elevated above the 500-year flood plain.
- **Stronger Distribution Poles:** **130,000 stronger, more storm-resilient poles** (rated to 110 mph and 132 mph) will be installed new, or replaced or braced to withstand stronger storms.
- **Undergrounding:** **More than 50% of the system** will be undergrounded to improve resiliency.
- **Vegetation Management:** Deploying an industry-leading, **three-year vegetation management cycle**, with **100% of power lines cleared of hazardous vegetation** every three years.
- **Stronger Transmission Towers:** **2,200+ transmission structures** will be rebuilt or upgraded to be able to better withstand extreme weather while improving overall reliability.



- **Modernized Cables:** 34,500 spans of underground cables will be modernized to reduce the frequency and impact of outages.

I strongly encourage the Commission to approve CenterPoint's 2026-2028 System Resiliency Plan. As you know, the decision you make in this case will have a very real impact on the lives of hardworking Texans. This investment in resiliency infrastructure is designed to help the Greater Houston area prepare for and mitigate the impacts of extreme weather, storms, as well as expand its capacity to meet future energy demands.

Best Regards,

  
Jason Millsaps, Executive Director