



Control Number: 57579



Item Number: 105

Steve Rosa
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
COORDINATOR



Markus Trower
DEPUTY EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

BRAZORIA COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

March 11, 2025

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

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
FILINGS CLERK

20251111 19 AM 0:56

RECEIVED

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 the Emergency Management Coordinator representing Brazoria County on the Gulf Coast, I have seen firsthand the devastation that extreme weather inflicts on Texas residents and businesses. Over the past two years alone, our county has endured an unprecedented winter storm, a Category 2 hurricane, and an EF2 tornado, on top of the extreme summer heat and freezing winter temperatures that challenge our infrastructure every year. These events are not isolated incidents; they are part of a growing pattern of severe weather that demands proactive, decisive action.

Ensuring our communities are prepared for these disasters requires seamless coordination between emergency management personnel, first responders, nonprofit organizations, and private sector partners like CenterPoint. That is why I urge you to approve CenterPoint's 2026-2028 System Resiliency Plan, an essential, forward-thinking investment in the stability and reliability of our energy grid.

Building on the success of the Greater Houston Resiliency Initiative, CenterPoint's proposed plan represents the largest single investment in resiliency in the company's



history. Developed in close collaboration with local emergency management partners including Brazoria County OEM, the City of Lake Jackson and the Village of Surfside Beach, this plan is tailored to address the extreme weather challenges Brazoria County has faced and will continue to face. The input of key partners such as Brian Davenport and Jessica Sanford, (our local area service partners) has ensured that this initiative directly addresses the unique vulnerabilities of our region.

By strengthening critical infrastructure, enhancing response capabilities, and expanding energy capacity, this plan will significantly reduce the frequency and duration of outages during extreme weather events. These wide-ranging resiliency measures will not only protect lives and businesses but also provide long-term benefits to customers across the Greater Houston area.

The time to act is now. As weather patterns continue to intensify, we cannot afford to delay necessary upgrades that will safeguard our communities. I respectfully urge you to approve CenterPoint's 2026-2028 System Resiliency Plan to ensure a stronger, more resilient future for Brazoria County and beyond. Below are items in this plan that will dramatically improve overall system function and survivability of the grid.

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.

Again, 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.

Sincerely,

Stephan J. Rosa

Emergency Management Coordinator
Brazoria County Emergency Management

