For Immediate Release

Electric Reliability Council of Texas declares statewide power generation emergency

- Emergency as a result of demand for electricity exceeding available capacity
- ERCOT requiring reduction in power delivered to customers
- CenterPoint Energy responds by beginning systematic rotating outages

Houston – Feb. 15, 2021 – Due to extreme cold temperatures, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), which is responsible for scheduling power and ensuring the reliability of the electrical network in Texas, has declared a statewide power generation shortfall emergency. As a result, immediately following ERCOT’s directive to curtail delivery of power to customers, CenterPoint Energy started controlled rotating outages in its service territory.

The controlled rotating outages are planned emergency measures designed to avoid potentially longer and more widespread power outages for customers. Like other electric utilities across Texas, CenterPoint Energy is systematically taking offline or curtailing electricity across its entire service territory in order to achieve the load reduction required by ERCOT.

Most every CenterPoint Energy metered customer will experience a rotating outage. Rotating outages could last from 15 minutes to more than an hour. Depending on the severity of the power generation shortfall, rotating outages may also impact customers more than once, and customers may also experience unplanned outages due to severe weather winter conditions impacting the company’s system. Customers who rely on electricity for life-sustaining equipment should have a back-up plan in place.

CenterPoint Energy will continue these rotating outages until it receives direction from ERCOT that the electric supply in Texas has stabilized and can resume normal operations.

CenterPoint Energy will keep customers updated through local media outlets and the company’s customer communication channels, including Twitter (@CNPalerts), Facebook, Power Alert Service, Outage Tracker (Estimated Restoration Times will not be available for these types of emergencies) and the web.

When weather conditions are extreme, consumers and businesses are urged to reduce their electricity use to the lowest level possible. For steps customers can take to reduce their energy use, visit http://www.ercot.com/about/conservation.

###