For Immediate Release

Update: Statewide power generation emergency will cause longer outages

If additional generating capacity goes offline, it would negatively impact the electric system, resulting in additional customer outages

Houston – Feb. 15, 2021 – The Texas electric system is facing an unprecedented power shortage due to extreme winter weather affecting the entire state, including Houston and the region.

Because Texans’ electricity consumption is far surpassing the state’s current power generation, local controlled outages are expected to be longer than previously planned. CenterPoint Energy customers who are currently experiencing an outage should be prepared to be without power for at least the rest of the day. The current estimated number of customers without power due to the request for reduced load is approximately 1.162 million, while an additional 62,500 customers are without power due to other storm related events.

To assist with this situation and limit outages, customers who do have power are asked to reduce their electricity use to the lowest level possible. For steps customers can take to reduce their energy use, they can visit http://www.ercot.com/about/conservation.

Early this morning, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), which is responsible for scheduling power and ensuring the reliability of the electrical network in Texas, declared a statewide power generation shortfall emergency and asked electricity delivery companies to reduce load through controlled outages.

As a transmission and delivery company, CenterPoint Energy is required to comply with ERCOT’s directive to reduce load from its customers. Because CenterPoint Energy does not generate electricity, the current shortage of power capacity is not something the company can directly address.

CenterPoint Energy appreciates customers’ patience as it continues to follow ERCOT’s directive to reduce load and implement controlled outages across the Greater Houston area to help reach a balance between power supply and demand across the state.

As soon as generating capacity is brought back online, and ERCOT permits, CenterPoint Energy will deploy resources to restore customers. However, the company cautions that if additional generating capacity goes offline, it would negatively impact the electric system, resulting in additional customer outages.
For Immediate Release

CenterPoint Energy will continue to update customers through local media outlets and its social media channels, Twitter (@CNPalerts) and Facebook.

###