



News Release
For immediate release

Utilities make significant progress on joint transmission project to improve reliability in Acadiana

Multi-phase project by Cleco, Entergy and LUS on track for completion in 2012

Lafayette, La., Aug. XX, 2011 –Work on a \$200 million joint transmission upgrade project between Cleco Power LLC, Entergy Gulf States Louisiana, L.L.C. and Lafayette Utilities System (LUS) to improve electrical service reliability for Acadiana customers is progressing and on track to be complete in 2012.

The joint project, which began in 2009, involves multi-phase work by the three utilities to install approximately 90 miles of new transmission lines and other infrastructure as well as bring several new substations online by 2012. The work is aimed at strengthening the transmission system to accommodate growth within the Acadiana Load Pocket (ALP), an area south of Highway 190 between the Atchafalaya Basin and Jennings that has experienced transmission constraints in recent years during times of peak summer and winter usage.

Although extended high temperatures and drought could still produce challenges for the ALP, some of the improvements already in place should help the flow of power this summer and for years to come.

“All three utilities are working hard to bring this important project to fruition. We’ve made significant progress, and we’re already delivering benefits to our customers,” said George Bausewine, president and chief operating officer of Cleco Power LLC.

Cleco is overseeing the largest portion of the project and will build approximately two-thirds of the new transmission infrastructure at an estimated cost of \$125 million. To date, Cleco has completed multiple phases of its project work, placing into service three new transmission substations and approximately 47 of 68 miles of new transmission.

Entergy Gulf States Louisiana's portion of the project, which represents an estimated cost of \$48 million, is also progressing well. Work was completed on or ahead of schedule at Entergy's Moril, Meaux and Richard substations, including upgrades and expansions to allow for connectivity to newly-built Cleco and Entergy transmission lines as well as Cleco's new Rork Substation, a westerly source for the ALP. Entergy is currently building a new transmission line from Sellers Road to LUS's T.J. Labbé Power Generating Station, the completion of which in 2012 will mark the conclusion of Entergy's portion of the project.

"We are very pleased to be a part of this successful collaboration with Cleco and LUS and also pleased to have been able to plan carefully and utilize resources well to be ahead of schedule on much of our part of the project," said Bill Mohl, president and chief executive officer of Entergy Gulf States Louisiana. "It's an important part of our commitment to our customers and the region as a whole to provide power safely, reliably and economically to support the growing economies and communities of southwest Louisiana."

LUS has also made significant progress on its \$23 million portion of the project. Improvements to the Louis "Doc" Bonin Switchyard and the T.J. Labbé Switchyard are nearing completion, on schedule to meet project deadlines.

"These upgrades are of critical importance in keeping up with population growth and electricity use increases in the Lafayette and Acadiana areas," said Terry Huval,

LUS director. “We’re looking forward to the completion of this project and the benefits it will bring to customers. We also look forward to the continued close, daily collaboration and cooperation of the partner utilities who serve the region to ensure that the transmission grid is safe and reliable.”

Cleco Corp. is a regional energy company headquartered in Pineville, La. It operates a regulated electric utility company, Cleco Power LLC, which serves about 279,000 retail customers across Louisiana. Cleco also operates a wholesale energy business, Cleco Midstream Resources LLC. For more information about Cleco, visit www.cleco.com.

Entergy Louisiana, LLC and Entergy Gulf States Louisiana, L.L.C. serve more than one million customers in Louisiana. With operations in southern, central and northeastern Louisiana, the companies are part of Entergy Corporation’s electric system serving 2.7 million customers in Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi and Texas.

Lafayette Utilities System provides electric, water, wastewater and telecommunications services to the city of Lafayette, reaching approximately 62,000 customers. Our mission is to provide high-quality, competitively-priced services that exceed our customers’ expectations, and contribute to the Lafayette Consolidated Government to support other community needs. Follow LUS on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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