Port Arthur Texas Outage

At about 9:30 a.m. Sunday, April 14, a short circuit occurred at the Kolbs (pronounced “*Kobb*”) Substation Located on 39th Street in Port Arthur. The incident resulted in the loss of a major 230-kV line, which, in turn impacted other substations. At peak, some 17,900 customers were without power in the Port Arthur area, including a number of industrials. Although there were initial reports of a transformer fire at the substation, those reports have not been confirmed.

Power restoration through switching began immediately with significant numbers of customers restored within a few hours. All customers were restored by 1 p.m. Once restoration is complete an investigation will take place to determine what the cause of the short circuit, what other facilities were involved and why and also whether any further measures need to be taken to prevent a similar occurrence in the future.

* An apparent short-circuit incident at the Kolbs (pronounced “Kobb”) Substation on 39th Street in Port Arthur this morning resulted in the loss of a major, 230-kV transmission line that serves the area.
* At the peak of the outage event, some 17,900 customers, both residential and industrial, were without power.
* Entergy Texas, Inc. employees immediately began safely restoring power to large groups of customers by switching them to alternative power sources. All customers affected by the outage were restored by 1 p.m.
* Initial reports of a fire at the site have not been confirmed. Electrical events sometimes cause a “flash” or “arc” which can be misinterpreted as a fire.
* Entergy Texas will begin a thorough investigation to determine exactly what happened, whether equipment work as it was designed and what other substations or facilities were involved and how.
* The City of Port Arthur also provided information to residents about the outage.

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