



## **CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL TO LA PORTE INDUSTRY**

### **Electrical Grid Capacity- CenterPoint Energy**

Carlton Porter, CenterPoint Energy, described how the company delivers reliable electricity. CenterPoint Energy does not generate electricity; it is produced at centralized plants. Instead, CenterPoint Energy serves as a provider managing the transmission and distribution of electricity. They own the towers, substations, transformers, poles, and transmission wires.

Porter explained that electricity travels hundreds or thousands of miles on high-voltage transmission lines. CenterPoint Energy then transforms high voltage to lower voltage before distributing it to the community. Once in the community, the electricity is transformed again to meet the needs of businesses or homes.

Jake Bunch, CenterPoint Energy, addressed Winter Storm Uri. Currently, CenterPoint Energy manages 2% of the system in Texas but a quarter of the load. With 300,000 homes being added annually to the Houston area, the demand is substantial. Bunch discussed load shedding, or temporarily reducing or shutting off the electrical power supply, occurs when the overall demand for electricity exceeds the supply. Load shedding can help to balance the grid and prevent a larger system collapse. This is often necessary during extreme weather conditions, such as very hot or cold days when the use of heating and cooling systems spikes. However, during Winter Storm Uri, ERCOT requested that CenterPoint shed 5 GW of electricity. This extensive load shedding led to power losses and impacted customers that were not deemed essential or critical.

Bunch explained that following Winter Storm Uri, CenterPoint Energy focused on improving grid resiliency and hardening. Additionally, CenterPoint Energy undertook equipment replacements and was the first Transmission and Distribution Utility (TDU) to file an improvement plan following the event. This plan includes initiatives for vegetation management and the implementation of simulation software to test the electrical grid's resilience. These measures are expected to enhance the grid's reliability and resiliency over the next three to four years.

The CAC is a forum for candid and constructive dialogue between those who live or work in La Porte, Morgan's Point, and Shoreacres and the managers of 44 chemical plants in La Porte. The CAC welcomes visitors. It meets again on Tuesday, August 6 at 6:00 p.m. to learn about Electrical

Grid Capacity. Contact [info@laportecac.org](mailto:info@laportecac.org) if you wish to attend. The CAC shares information about its meetings and presentations at [www.laportecac.org](http://www.laportecac.org).