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PRESS RELEASE

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ENTERGY SAYS REPAIRS WILL BE MADE TO THREE METAL POWER POLES IN KENNER

Kenner, LA. – Entergy officials say their investigation into the failure of a metal power pole last month on Vintage Drive has concluded that soil was placed on the footing of the pole, triggering a slow corrosion process that led to the failure of that pole on Jan. 7.

More than 2,200 customers in Chateau Estates lost power, and while electricity was quickly restored to a majority, about 100 customers remained without power on one of the coldest nights of the year until 4 a.m. to 5 a.m.

Following the incident all the poles in the area were inspected and it was discovered that four additional metal poles had soil covering the cement footing, according to Greg Fenn of Entergy. One had some surface rust but no issues with the integrity of the metal. The other three had some “loss of integrity” and have been braced temporarily.

Fenn said Entergy brought in an expert that recommended two possible repair options. “We will decide quickly and then we will schedule the repairs.”

Kenner Mayor Michael Yenni said he and District 4 Councilman Lenny Cline sent a letter in the days after the power pole failed expressing concern to Entergy’s CEO Phillip May that the winds on Jan. 7 were not nearly as strong as those produced by a tropical system.

Yenni said he was pleased Entergy reacted swiftly to the incident and his letter, which included a personal reply from May who promised that Entergy’s “robust, pro-active inspection process on all of our facilities” will continue. Yenni said he is particularly pleased that the quick action by Entergy means there will be a solution in place well before the start of hurricane season on June 1.

“It was pretty shocking to think the winds we had that night were strong enough to knock down a metal pole,” Yenni said. “Now, we know what happened and all of the city’s metal poles have been inspected.”

Fenn said, "It is against our company practices to place dirt on the base of metal poles. We are unsure who placed the dirt in the area, but crews inspecting Kenner's metal distribution poles in the future will look for and remove any soil on the footing of poles, Fenn said.

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