

PRESS RELEASE

City of Georgetown Electric Utility Department

January 9, 2017

The City of Georgetown's Electric Utility Department experienced a power outage affecting the Maryville Substation on Sunday morning, January 8, 2017. The outage started at approximately 5:37 am and lasted until approximately 11:08 am. The outage was caused by a downed primary-voltage line on South Island Road which required several hours to repair. Unfortunately, this outage occurred during a morning when temperatures were low and demand on the system was very high.

This was the third extended outage which has affected the Maryville Substation in the past 6 months. The first resulted from a failed lightning arrester on our wholesale provider's equipment (not City equipment) and required 4 to 5 hours to repair. The second was the result of Hurricane Matthew which caused widespread damage to the electric distribution system throughout the entire City. Both of these were events beyond the City's control.

The City spends approximately \$250,000 annually to make miscellaneous upgrades and improvements to its electric distribution system. These upgrades generally include replacement of old, damaged, or undersized conductors, replacement of poles that are in poor condition, and replacement of unreliable or undersized transformers. These upgrades are designed to improve the safety and reliability of our distribution system. Unfortunately, in spite of these efforts, problems occasionally occur.

The City of Georgetown Electric Department understands and regrets the inconvenience caused by this outage.