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Electric Power Industry Closely Coordinating Across the Sector and With Its Federal Government Partners to Support Recovery Efforts in Puerto Rico

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 29, 2017) – Yesterday afternoon, the CEO-led Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council (ESCC) convened a call with Secretary of Energy Rick Perry, Department of Homeland Security Acting Undersecretary for National Protection and Programs Directorate Chris Krebs, and other senior Administration officials and executives from all segments of the electric power industry.

“The ESCC call helped to lay a strong foundation for what will be a lengthy and complicated power restoration effort in Puerto Rico,” said ESCC Co-chair Tom Fanning, chairman, president and CEO of Southern Company. “I truly appreciate the tremendous leadership and support of Secretary Perry and Undersecretary Krebs on the call, as we work together to respond to this catastrophic storm and the ongoing humanitarian mission on the island.”

While damage assessments are being conducted and needs are being identified, industry officials are leveraging mutual assistance networks and expertise from across the sector to ensure that the industry is prepared to provide line crews, support personnel, and equipment when Puerto Rico is able to receive them. Right now, the federal government’s immediate focus is on conducting life-saving rescue and medical missions and providing emergency support and meals, water, and other commodities for communities.

“While the government works to stabilize the situation, our industry continues to coordinate at all levels to prepare to bring power to the people of Puerto Rico,” said Fanning. “Strong industry-government coordination and cross-sector cooperation will remain critical.”

About the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council

The ESCC serves as the principal liaison between leadership in the federal government and in the electric power sector, with the mission of coordinating efforts to prepare for national-level incidents or threats to critical infrastructure. Protecting the energy grid from threats that could impact national security and public safety is a responsibility shared by both the government and the electric power sector. The ESCC facilitates and supports policy- and public affairs-related activities and initiatives designed to enhance the reliability and resilience of the energy grid.

These activities include all hazards, steady-state preparation, and emergency preparedness, response, and recovery for the nation’s electricity sector.

More information is available at: <http://www.electricitysubsector.org/>