I wanted to provide you an update on our COVID-19 response.

Many parts of our service territory are witnessing exponential increases in cases. Other parts of our territory have seen limited or no COVID-19 cases since the pandemic began. The remaining facilities reside in areas somewhere in between. Despite the challenges, we continue to accomplish our mission while remaining in a maximized telework stance.

As I have shared before, we make our decisions based on local circumstances and needs, and that continues to be true in the case of COVID-19. Some of our offices are preparing for a safe re-entry, particularly in our more rural areas with maintenance facilities. Others, such as Phoenix, Arizona, remain ready to sequester dispatchers if we need to in order to ensure we can continue to keep the lights on during the spike in cases there.

Our priority is the safety and health of our employees, without whom our mission could not be achieved. We have spent several weeks preparing our facilities and workforce for the changes necessary for to re-enter the workplace where we have met all prerequisite milestones to do so safely.

As part of our re-entry plans, there will be new requirements for entering, working with and contracting with WAPA.

- All visitors to WAPA facilities will be required to wear face coverings and maintain social distance whenever possible.
- If a partner utility is working alongside WAPA crews or if we share a facility, the partnering utility’s personnel is expected to wear face coverings and follow any other COVID-19 guidance set by WAPA.
- Contractors will be required to wear masks as part of personal protective equipment.

Wearing face coverings complies with the guidance published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the “Open Letter to the Men and Women of the Electric Power Industry” signed by the industry groups and published last week.

We recognize our safe and reliable electricity delivery to you and the entire Western Interconnection is indispensable. Our goal is to prevent COVID-19 from gaining a foothold among our onsite, mission-essential personnel and those who support them – our entire organization.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we navigate the many changes facing us and the entire industry. We are committed to serving you like our lights depend on it, and together we will continue to power the American economy and support the new daily lives of its citizens.

Please continue to practice CDC guidelines and stay safe.

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