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DREMC plans upgrade of Manchester Substation

Beginning next week Duck River Electric Membership Corp (DREMC) will undertake a significant project to update its Manchester 161,000 volt substation located on Interstate Dr. in Manchester. The station was originally built in 1977, and for most of that time has been the largest single power delivery point in the DREMC system where the cooperative receives wholesale power from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and distributes it to local consumers.

The update of the Manchester 161 substation will involve replacement of the 25 kV switches, adding a 25 kV circuit breaker, and adding isolation switches for each power transformer. The isolation switches will allow DREMC to place its mobile substation transformer in and out of service at this location without a power interruption. For many years, periodic maintenance has required brief outages for a significant geographic area in order to make equipment available for maintenance testing. “While these outages were conducted in the early morning hours, it was still an inconvenience to our members”, according to DREMC Manchester District Manager David Young.

The substation will be out of service for an estimated 20 days, but temporary arrangements are being made to continue service to all consumers normally served from this location. To accomplish this, DREMC will re-configure the electric distribution system to shift the service area of the substation to three other substations. In recent years, substations have been constructed in the Coffee County Joint Industrial Park, the Boynton Valley area, and the Red Hill

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area. Because of the power capacity now available each of these stations will be utilized to keep the power flowing to the members normally served from that substation as well as a portion of the load previously served from the Manchester 161 substation.

Work is expected to begin April 19 and continue through May 9th. During this time DREMC advises that although no major interruptions in electric service are anticipated, any power outages due to storms or other causes may take more time to resolve due to the extensive system reconfiguration. “DREMC wants to make everyone aware of the potential issues should an unexpected power outage occur.” Young explained.