

# Preparing Communities to Transition from Coal

The 675-megawatt (MW) single unit Pirkey Power Plant in Hallsville, TX is scheduled to retire in 2023. Fueled by lignite from the nearby Sabine Mining Company, the plant began commercial operation in 1985. Pirkey Plant has strong community ties and is a popular location for fishing, camping and other activities.



## Preparing to retire the Pirkey Power Plant

- 67 Plant employees and 162 employees at Sabine Mine affected by planned closure
- SWEPCO partnered with +12 local leaders and influencers, Just Transition Fund to help develop economic diversification plan by year-end
- Just Transition Fund's sole purpose is to help coal communities make the transition — urban planners facilitating the process
- Community priorities — keep families local; tax base replacement; good jobs for displaced workers; new funding sources to support diversification

## Planning for the socio-economic impacts of coal retirements

- On average, the retirement of an AEP coal plant results in an approximately \$160 million impact to local communities in direct, indirect and induced economic losses\*
- For every job lost from a coal retirement, another two to three jobs are lost within the economy
- Advance lead time to plan (up to five years) is critical to helping local communities develop and begin implementation of a plan to ensure future sustainability, growth
- Lack of good jobs to fill the void could result in loss of population, which has a ripple effect in communities
- School districts are particularly impacted
- Tax revenue supports teachers, facilities, programs. Loss of population could jeopardize funding from state/federal funding tied to enrollment
- Collaboration, partnerships are key to developing comprehensive, actionable plans and securing state/federal funding to enable a smooth transition

\* Financial impact varies by size of plant, location