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TO: Putnam County R-1
FROM: Utility Safety & Design, Inc,
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RE: Energy Demand Issues Due to Extreme Cold Information

As you might be aware, electric and natural gas costs have skyrocketed as temperatures plunged across the region. Starting late last week, natural gas supply for electric generation was dwindling so energy market costs have climbed sharply. As temperatures remained around the zero-degree mark, supplies for natural gas are limited due to home heating and power generation demand and unforeseen generator outages have weakened the supply stack.

This has now reached a critical stage in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) where demand has exceeded supplies available. With these high costs and limits on generation resources, regional grid stability must be bolstered, and customers are encouraged to reduce consumption. Prices will remain at extremely high levels for the next few days and literally could be 100 – 300 times the normal price or more. The natural gas system across the Midwest will continue to see supply cuts. It is impossible at this point to determine where the future gas production losses will occur. Please continue to do everything you can to limit usage.

Here are following free ways to save on heating bills and conserve energy usage:

- Wear layers of clothing and use extra blankets.
- Set thermostat settings at 68 degrees or as low as possible while you're home.
 - Customers who are elderly or have medical conditions complicated by the cold should NOT lower their thermostat.
- Lock doors and windows for a better seal. For drafty windows, close storm windows and consider keeping window shades closed for extra insulation.
- Don't block heating system air vents with furniture, curtains or rugs.
- Limit the use of natural gas fireplaces and electric space heaters.
- Close fireplace damper when not in use.
- Roll up a towel to put at the bottom of a leaky door to keep drafts at bay.
- Turn off nonessential lights.
- Postpone all nonessential energy use.
- Turn off and unplug computers, monitors, chargers, printers and televisions during non-use.