



# Electrical Power

The majority of the corridor area is served by Entergy Mississippi, Inc. DeSoto County is Entergy's largest customer (the Entergy district covers almost two-thirds of the study area). Coahoma EPA and North Central Mississippi EPA serve the extreme western and eastern portions of the study area, respectively. Entergy views the I-269 corridor as the most important growth engine within their service area. A transmission line runs parallel to the I-69 corridor and Entergy has begun acquiring sites on which to build substations. However, Entergy must expand their distribution network to serve new growth within the study area.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

*Encourage coordination with electrical utility providers and plan for future needs of facilities in conjunction with emerging development designs.* The DeSoto County Planning Commission should provide the electrical utility providers with timely notice of all annexation, industrial, commercial and subdivision development applications.

*Promote the joint planning and coordination of public and private electric utility activities.* The county should provide the electrical utility providers with timely notice of all major utility projects, including the maintenance and repair of existing roads, street widening projects, and construction improvements that involve power poles and streetlights in order to enable timely relocation and/or upgrades to the facilities.



*Construct transmission and distribution lines underground, whenever possible.* Consider burying new electrical transmission and distribution lines where appropriate, and where it is feasible and under the Mississippi Public Utility Commission rules, convert existing overhead lines to underground facilities in urban areas. The benefits of locating lines underground include protecting human exposure to the unhealthy impacts of low level electromagnetic radiation and the benefit of the visual absence of overhead lines. As a trade-off, the placement of lines underground costs five to eight times as much as overhead lines because they must be overbuilt to account for increases in capacity in the future.

*Ensure that an adequate acreage of land is available for the expansion of electric line facilities.* Plan for the location of new transmission lines within transportation corridors, along railroad rights-of-way for above-ground transmission lines and along existing or planned utility and road rights-of-way for underground transmission and distribution lines. New facilities should be designed and sited to preserve areas needed for future right-of-way dedication and for ancillary easements for the construction of road improvements.

*Coordinate with Entergy to identify major development sites and to ensure the provision of adequate electrical service to support major development sites.* DeSoto County should coordinate closely with Entergy to help identify major development sites that will attract new business to the county. This will ensure that adequate electrical service is in place to support major development as it occurs and will serve to foster economic development. Emphasis should be placed on leveraging private investment to the greatest extent possible so that public investment provides the best possible economic return to the county.

## SITE SELECTION GUIDELINES

Visual impact should be a key element in the evaluation of proposed transmission line locations. Locations for new electrical lines, sub stations and equipment areas should meet the following criteria:

- Co-locate electric facilities whenever feasible and appropriate to minimize visual and noise impacts to neighborhoods. Ensure that the co-location of new utility transmission distribution and other facilities is consistent with the utility industry practices, the Mississippi Public Service Commission requirements, and national electrical and other codes.
- Avoid environmentally sensitive areas.
- If possible, locate new facilities in areas of commercial or industrial land uses.
- Provide for the appropriate screening and buffering of proposed facilities.