

# THE LAUNCHPAD

By **Angelica Arinze** and **Sophia Pirani**  
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Good morning, Angelica.

## In today's newsletter:

- After Hurricane Beryl wiped out power for millions in the Houston area, CenterPoint plans to spend roughly \$2.2 billion on upgrading the company's electricity infrastructure. But a [Houston Landing review](#) raises doubts over whether the plan will work.
- Research shows that natural disasters tend to **increase the risk of domestic violence**. If you or someone you know needs help, we compiled a list of local resources.
- Colony Ridge, a 33,000-acre development in Liberty County, has grown exponentially over the years. You can [watch its growth over time](#).

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## CenterPoint has a \$2.2 billion plan for avoiding another power outage disaster. Will it help?



Marie D. De Jesús / Houston Landing

After CenterPoint Energy has restored power to over two million Houston-area residents who lost it in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl, a looming question remains — how can the energy company prevent another catastrophic outage event in the future? While the company has outlined plans to give its electric infrastructure a major upgrade, a Houston Landing analysis raises new doubts about the efficacy of the plan, **Clare Amari** and **Miranda Dunlap** report.

**More money needed:** Skepticism of CenterPoint's plans largely stems from the size of the company's proposed investment, which likely will fall billions of dollars short of what's needed to prevent future outages, according to industry analysts. Over the past five years, CenterPoint spent more than \$1 billion on projects similar to those proposed by the company, yet those improvements didn't stop nearly 80 percent of its customers from losing power during Beryl.

Unless CenterPoint makes even deeper, faster investments than those already proposed, Houston will remain dangerously vulnerable to hurricanes, wind storms and other extreme weather events, the analysis suggests.

**Less promises, more pledges:** In the 900-page "resiliency plan," the company also largely relied on vague promises of improved service for customers, with no pledge that the plan would dramatically reduce widespread outages from storms. As the company continues to face widespread criticism and an active investigation by the Public Utility Commission of Texas, industry experts are calling on the company to provide more detailed, geographically informed plans for improving its infrastructure.

**State's liability:** The Public Utilities Commission of Texas will decide whether to approve CenterPoint's Resiliency Plan in October. In the meantime, Dallas state sen. Nathan Johnson also raises larger questions about the state's role in allowing CenterPoint's systems to wither.

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## Latest from the Landing



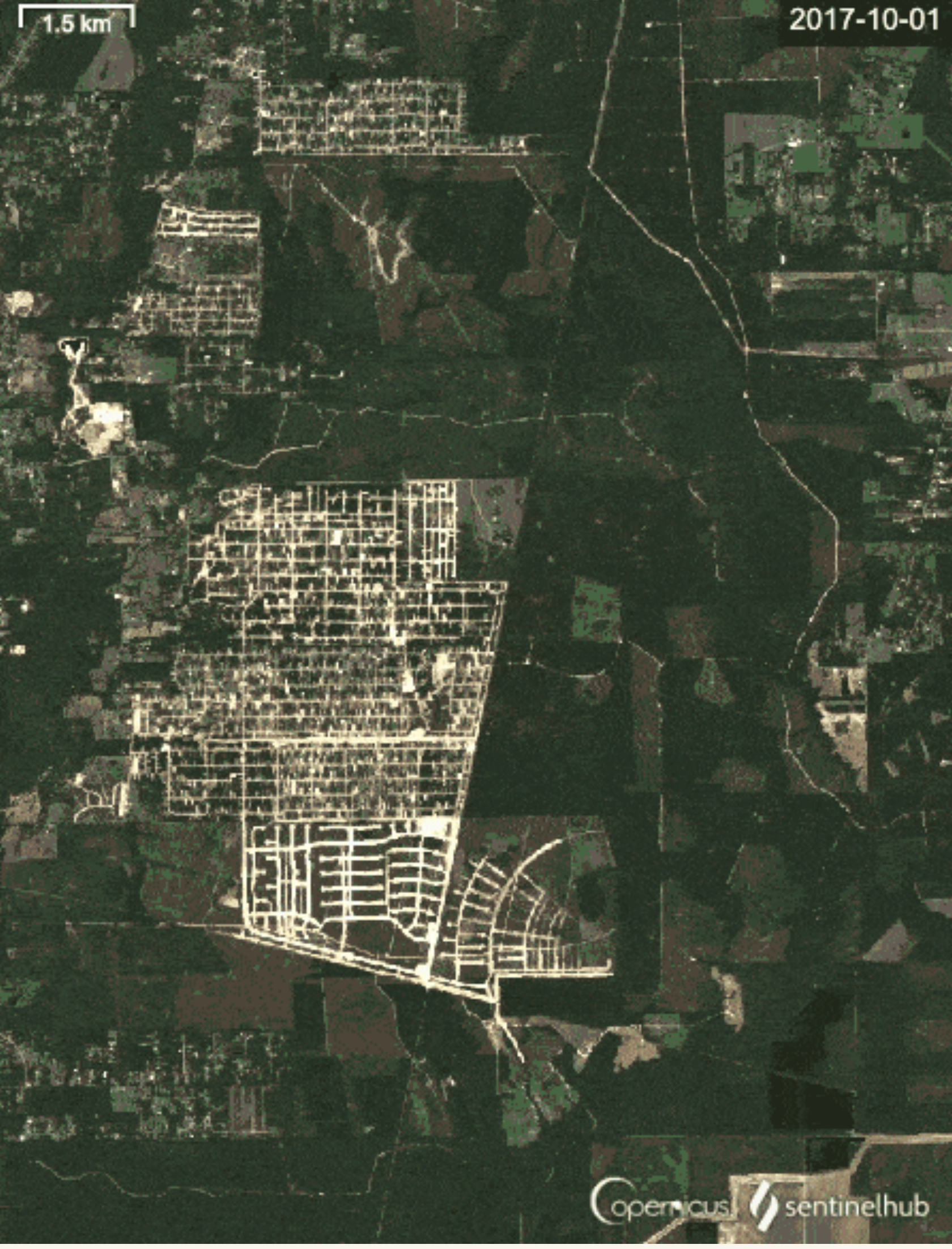
Antranik Tavitian / Houston Landing

### EXPLAINERS & GUIDES

**Natural disasters can increase domestic violence abuse.** If you or someone you know needs help, Houston Landing compiled a list of domestic violence resources around the region.

By **Angelica Perez**

## Landing Look



Adriana Rezal / Houston Landing

Colony Ridge, a 33,000-acre development in Liberty County, has exploded in population and grown exponentially since developers broke ground in 2012.

Houston Landing data visualization engineer **Adriana Rezal** compiled satellite data using SentinelHub, a satellite imagery service provider, that shows the transformation of the development from October 2016 through July 2024.

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### Stories we read to the end

MacGregor, a tight-knit, historically Black neighborhood close to the Texas Medical Center, has remained resilient through Hurricane Beryl recovery efforts, even as one of the last Houston neighborhoods without power. Residents including Gertrude Jane Holliday Stone, Carl Johnson and Zenobia Powell were determined to remain in their homes while awaiting CenterPoint power restoration. **(Houston Chronicle, paywall)**

Hurricane Beryl forced many Houston residents to throw away heaps of spoiled food after extended power outages. AccuWeather estimated that Beryl will cost at least \$28 billion in damages and economic losses, including the hundreds of dollars worth of food Houstonians have had to chuck out. **(Houston Public Media)**

✚ Need food relief after Beryl? Here are some answers to commonly asked questions about applying for SNAP and other food and household assistance programs.

Many CenterPoint repair workers are facing threats and confrontations from residents. CenterPoint CEO Jason Wells reiterated that such threats require crews to be moved to safer areas, further delaying their work. Houston police have investigated at least five cases involving threats to workers and employees — charges were made in at least two cases. **(NPR)**



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