1. Obtaining Permanent Power

- Obtain a Harris County Development Permit (temporary & permanent power releases are sent automatically the next business day after permits are issued)
- If any of the following item(s) are outstanding, you are NOT eligible for permanent power:
  - Violations
  - Inspections (not to include 3rd party inspections, driveways & signs)
  - Unpaid Stormwater Quality Inspection Fees

2. Call CenterPoint Energy

- **If you are a homeowner:** Call CenterPoint Energy at 713-207-2222 to have an Electric Service Identifier (ESI ID)* number created.
- **If you are a home builder/contractor:** Visit Centerpoint website to submit your request for an ESI ID number.
  - The 22-digit ESI ID number serves to identify the service location for a specific address. It also identifies the meter where electric usage will be tracked. **NOTE:** The ESI ID number is NOT an account number.
  - Permanent Electrical Meters and Temporary Electrical Meters each have a different ESI ID

3. Choose a Retail Electric Provider

- Once you have your ESI ID number, allow 2 business days before contacting the Retail Electric Provider of your choice.
- For a list of Retail Providers, visit www.powertochoose.org
- Contact the Retail Electric Provider and complete an application to have electric service turned on.

4. What's next?

- The Retail Electric Provider will send the start service order to CenterPoint Energy.
- If the order is rejected due to lack of a permit from Harris County:
  - Refer to Step 1
  - Verify the meter address matches the permitted address. To update the permit address contact (713) 274-3756
  - All power releases sent to Centerpoint are valid for **1 year** from the date the permit is issued.
  - If your Retail Electric Provider service order is older than **20 days** a new order will need to be submitted.

5. The Start Service Order is Received by CenterPoint Energy.

- Meters are usually installed within 3 business days of the requested start date, weather and workload permitting.