

Speech for Safety Luncheon on Nov. 14, 2019

I want to welcome all of you here today to BPUB's annual safety luncheon and thank all of you for making this event a priority today and making safety a priority every day. There's certainly no shortage of things going on at BPUB right now. Since we are all gathered here today, I thought it would be a good time to highlight some of those things.

With lots of change on the horizon, it makes sense that we should have a map that helps us get there, and so we will soon be introducing to all employees BPUB's new strategic plan. This plan was created after receiving feedback from BPUB employees, the board, key accounts and most important of all our customers. The goals haven't changed too much. We still strive to be the best utility around, and with all of your cooperation, we expect to see BPUB continually improve and prepare for the bright future ahead.

While the strategic plan looks further into the future, I thought we should talk about what's coming in the very near future. The facility here at the Brownsville Event Center is a great venue, but who else is looking forward to holding this safety luncheon at the completed Service Center next year? When we broke ground on the project in June last year, it seemed hard to believe that it would be finished so quickly, but here we are now, about a year and a half later, putting finishing touches on the facility. When we talk about continuous improvement, projects like this come to mind. It will transform how operations works, providing the infrastructure necessary for quick deployments and more efficient pick-ups and deliveries. This means faster reaction times, shorter outages, and happier customers.

But as we look toward the future, let's never lose sight of the present and why we're all here today. Safety is a critical component at any job, but it's especially important for our industry. A

lapse in safety could cause a severe injury to an employee or even a customer. While we focus on continuous improvement through our strategic plan, we need to also remember not to leave safety out of this. We should always be looking for ways, both big and small, to improve the safety of our workers and our community. Please remember that all of us are in charge of our safety. If you see something unsafe, don't be afraid to say something. We all need to do our part to keep BPUB safe and building toward the future. It will take all of us to ensure that 2020 is the safest year in BPUB's history.