

We want to share some important information with you.

Notice of Data Security Incident and Offer of Personal Information Protection

A message to landowners contacted by Coates Field Service, Inc. on behalf of American Electric Power (AEP) and its subsidiaries.

You are receiving this notice and attached letter because our records show you had interactions with Coates Field Service, Inc., working on behalf of AEP. We wanted to inform you of a data security incident that occurred in the Coates email system that could involve your personal information.

Coates serves as the right-of-way representative working with landowners to acquire easements during AEP electric transmission line projects.

Coates recently notified AEP about the incident as described in the attached letter. We wanted to let you know about the situation and reassure you that Coates and AEP are taking necessary steps to address the incident.

In this mailing you'll find:

- ✓ A notification letter from Coates and AEP explaining the incident
- ✓ Information about free identity theft protection services offered to you as a precautionary measure
- ✓ Contact information if you have questions or concerns

It is important to clarify that the incident is not related to electric utility accounts and AEP's systems were not involved or impacted in any way.

Our pledge to you

AEP takes cyber security very seriously and we are focused on robust cyber security protections for our systems and our business partners. We have been informed that Coates has implemented additional safeguards and technical security measures to further protect customer data.



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<<Coates Field Service Logo>>

<<First Name>><<Last Name>>

<<Address 1>>

<<Address 2>>

<<City>><<State>><<Zip>>

<<Date>>

Dear <<Name>>:

Coates Field Service is a business partner with <<company>> that helps negotiate easements and related transactions with landowners. We worked with you to complete a transaction you entered into with <<company>>. On behalf of <<company>> and Coates Field Service, we are writing to notify you of a data security incident that may have involved some of your information from that transaction. This notice explains the incident, measures we have taken, and steps you can take in response.

On February 18, 2019, we determined that an unauthorized individual accessed an email account belonging to a Coates Field Service employee. We promptly secured the account, and an outside computer forensic firm was retained to help us determine what information the unauthorized individual may have accessed. After a thorough forensic investigation that required a review of mailbox access logs and a manual review for sensitive information, we determined, on <<date>>, that the unauthorized individual may have accessed information in the email account that contained your personal information including your name and <<variable data>>.

Although we have no evidence that your information has been misused, we wanted to let you know this incident occurred and assure you that we take it very seriously. Out of an abundance of caution, we are offering you a complimentary one-year membership in Experian's® IdentityWorksSM Credit 3B. This product helps detect possible misuse of your personal information and provides you with identity protection services focused on immediate identification and resolution of identity theft. IdentityWorks Credit 3B is completely free to you and enrolling in this program will not hurt your credit score. For more information on IdentityWorks Credit 3B, including instructions on how to activate your complimentary membership, as well as some additional steps you can take to help protect yourself, please see the additional information provided with this letter.

In addition to taking advantage of the credit monitoring provided by Experian's® IdentityWorksSM Credit 3B, please see the attachment to this letter titled "ADDITIONAL STEPS YOU CAN TAKE."

We sincerely regret this incident occurred and apologize for any inconvenience or concern. We have implemented additional safeguards and technical security measures to further protect customer and landowner data. If you have any questions, please call <<call center number>>, Monday through Friday, from <<times and time zone>>.

Sincerely,

<<Signature image>>

Joe Coates
President

Activate IdentityWorks Credit 3B Now in Three Easy Steps

1. ENROLL by: **DATE** (Your code will not work after this date.)
2. VISIT the **Experian IdentityWorks website** to enroll: www.experianidworks.com/3bcredit
3. PROVIDE the Activation Code: **<<ENROLLMENT CODE>>**

If you have questions about the product, need assistance with identity restoration or would like an alternative to enrolling in Experian IdentityWorks online, please contact Experian's customer care team at **877-890-9332** by **DATE**. Be prepared to provide engagement number **ENGAGEMENT#** as proof of eligibility for the identity restoration services by Experian.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING YOUR 12-MONTH EXPERIAN IDENTITYWORKS CREDIT 3B MEMBERSHIP:

A credit card is **not** required for enrollment in Experian IdentityWorks Credit 3B.

You can contact Experian **immediately without needing to enroll in the product** regarding any fraud issues. Identity Restoration specialists are available to help you address credit and non-credit related fraud.

Once you enroll in Experian IdentityWorks, you will have access to the following additional features:

- **Experian credit report at signup:** See what information is associated with your credit file. Daily credit reports are available for online members only.*
- **Credit Monitoring:** Actively monitors Experian, Equifax and Transunion files for indicators of fraud.
- **Experian IdentityWorks ExtendCARE™:** You receive the same high-level of Identity Restoration support even after your Experian IdentityWorks membership has expired.
- **\$1 Million Identity Theft Insurance**:** Provides coverage for certain costs and unauthorized electronic fund transfers.

Activate your membership today at <https://www.experianidworks.com/3bcredit>
or call 877-890-9332 to register with the activation code above.

If you believe there was fraudulent use of your information and would like to discuss how you may be able to resolve those issues, please reach out to an Experian agent at **877-890-9332**. If, after discussing your situation with an agent, it is determined that Identity Restoration support is needed, then an Experian Identity Restoration agent is available to work with you to investigate and resolve each incident of fraud that occurred (including, as appropriate, helping you with contacting credit grantors to dispute charges and close accounts; assisting you in placing a freeze on your credit file with the three major credit bureaus; and assisting you with contacting government agencies to help restore your identity to its proper condition).

Please note that this Identity Restoration support is available to you for two years from the date of this letter and does not require any action on your part at this time. The Terms and Conditions for this offer are located at www.ExperianIDWorks.com/restoration. You will also find self-help tips and information about identity protection at this site.

* Offline members will be eligible to call for additional reports quarterly after enrolling.

** Identity theft insurance is underwritten by insurance company subsidiaries or affiliates of American International Group, Inc. (AIG). The description herein is a summary and intended for informational purposes only and does not

include all terms, conditions and exclusions of the policies described. Please refer to the actual policies for terms, conditions, and exclusions of coverage. Coverage may not be available in all jurisdictions.

ADDITIONAL STEPS YOU CAN TAKE

We remind you it is always advisable to be vigilant for incidents of fraud or identity theft by reviewing your account statements and free credit reports for any unauthorized activity. You may obtain a copy of your credit report, free of charge, once every 12 months from each of the three nationwide credit reporting companies. To order your annual free credit report, please visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call toll free at 1-877-322-8228. Contact information for the three nationwide credit reporting companies is as follows:

- *Equifax*, PO Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374, www.equifax.com, 1-800-685-1111
- *Experian*, PO Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com, 1-888-397-3742
- *TransUnion*, PO Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016, www.transunion.com, 1-800-916-8800

If you believe you are the victim of identity theft or have reason to believe your personal information has been misused, you should immediately contact the Federal Trade Commission and/or the Attorney General's office in your state. You can obtain information from these sources about steps an individual can take to avoid identity theft as well as information about fraud alerts and security freezes. You should also contact your local law enforcement authorities and file a police report. Obtain a copy of the police report in case you are asked to provide copies to creditors to correct your records. Contact information for the Federal Trade Commission is as follows:

- *Federal Trade Commission*, Consumer Response Centre, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580, 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338), www.ftc.gov/idtheft

If you are a resident of Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, or Rhode Island, you may contact and obtain information from your state attorney general at:

- *Connecticut Attorney General's Office*, 55 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106, 1-860-808-5318, www.ct.gov/ag
- *Maryland Attorney General's Office*, 200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202, 1-888-743-0023 / 1-410-576-6300, www.oag.state.md.us
- *Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General*, One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108, 1-617-727-8400, www.mass.gov/ago/contact-us.html
- *North Carolina Attorney General's Office*, 9001 Mail Service Centre, Raleigh, NC 27699, 1-919-716-6400 / 1-877-566-7226, www.ncdoj.gov
- *Rhode Island Attorney General's Office*, 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903, 1-401-274-4400, www.riag.ri.gov

If you are a resident of Massachusetts or Rhode Island, note that pursuant to Massachusetts or Rhode Island law, you have the right to file and obtain a copy of a police report. You also have the right to request a security freeze.

[FOR RHODE ISLAND] This incident involves **XXX** individuals.

If you are a resident of West Virginia, you have the right to ask that nationwide consumer reporting agencies place "fraud alerts" in your file to let potential creditors and others know that you may be a victim of identity theft, as described below. You also have a right to place a security freeze on your credit report, as described below.

Fraud Alerts: There are two types of fraud alerts you can place on your credit report to put your creditors on notice that you may be a victim of fraud—an initial alert and an extended alert. You may ask that an initial fraud alert be placed on your credit report if you suspect you have been, or are about to be, a victim of identity theft. An initial fraud alert stays on your credit report for at least 90 days. You may have an extended alert placed on your credit report if you have already been a victim of identity theft with the appropriate documentary proof. An extended fraud alert stays on your credit report for seven years. You can place a fraud alert on your credit report by contacting any of the three national credit reporting agencies.

Credit Freezes: You have the right to put a credit freeze, also known as a security freeze, on your credit file, free of charge, so that no new credit can be opened in your name without the use of a PIN that is issued to you when you initiate a freeze. A security freeze is designed to prevent potential credit grantors from accessing your credit report without your consent. If you place a security freeze, potential creditors and other third parties will not be able to get access to your credit report unless you temporarily lift the freeze. Therefore, using a security freeze may delay your ability to obtain credit.

There is no fee to place or lift a security freeze. Unlike a fraud alert, you must separately place a security freeze on your credit file at each credit reporting company. For information and instructions to place a security freeze, contact each of the credit reporting agencies at the addresses below:

- **Experian Security Freeze**, PO Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com
- **TransUnion Security Freeze**, PO Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016, www.transunion.com
- **Equifax Security Freeze**, PO Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348, www.equifax.com

To request a security freeze, you will need to provide the following information:

1. Your full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., II, III, etc.)
2. Social Security number
3. Date of birth
4. If you have moved in the past five years, provide the addresses where you have lived over the prior five years
5. Proof of current address such as a current utility bill or telephone bill
6. A legible photocopy of a government issued identification card (state driver's license or ID card, military identification, etc.)
7. If you are a victim of identity theft, include a copy of the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft

The credit reporting agencies have one business day after receiving your request by toll-free telephone or secure electronic means, or three business days after receiving your request by mail, to place a security freeze on your credit report. The credit bureaus must also send written confirmation to you within five business days and provide you with a unique personal

identification number ("PIN") or password or both that can be used by you to authorize the removal or lifting of the security freeze.

To lift the security freeze in order to allow a specific entity or individual access to your credit report, or to lift a security freeze for a specified period of time, you must submit a request through a toll-free telephone number, a secure electronic means maintained by a credit reporting agency, or by sending a written request via regular, certified, or overnight mail to the credit reporting agencies and include proper identification (name, address, and Social Security number) and the PIN or password provided to you when you placed the security freeze as well as the identity of those entities or individuals you would like to receive your credit report or the specific period of time you want the credit report available. The credit reporting agencies have one business day after receiving your request by toll-free telephone or secure electronic means, or three business days after receiving your request by mail, to lift the security freeze for those identified entities or for the specified period of time.

To remove the security freeze, you must submit a request through a toll-free telephone number, a secure electronic means maintained by a credit reporting agency, or by sending a written request via regular, certified, or overnight mail to each of the three credit bureaus and include proper identification (name, address, and Social Security number) and the PIN number or password provided to you when you placed the security freeze. The credit bureaus have one business day after receiving your request by toll-free telephone or secure electronic means, or three business days after receiving your request by mail, to remove the security freeze.

Fair Credit Reporting Act: You also have rights under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, which promotes the accuracy, fairness, and privacy of information in the files of consumer reporting agencies. The FTC has published a list of the primary rights created by the FCRA (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/pdf-0096-fair-credit-reporting-act.pdf>), and that article refers individuals seeking more information to visit www.ftc.gov/credit. The FTC's list of FCRA rights includes:

- You have the right to receive a copy of your credit report. The copy of your report must contain all the information in your file at the time of your request.
- Each of the nationwide credit reporting companies – Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion – is required to provide you with a free copy of your credit report, at your request, once every 12 months.
- You are also entitled to a free report if a company takes adverse action against you, like denying your application for credit, insurance, or employment, and you ask for your report within 60 days of receiving notice of the action. The notice will give you the name, address, and phone number of the credit reporting company. You are also entitled to one free report a year if you're unemployed and plan to look for a job within 60 days; if you are on welfare; or if your report is inaccurate because of fraud, including identity theft.
- You have the right to ask for a credit score.
- You have the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information.
- Consumer reporting agencies must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information.
- Consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information.
- Access to your file is limited. You must give your consent for reports to be provided to employers.

- You may limit “prescreened” offers of credit and insurance you receive based on information in your credit report.
- You may seek damages from violators.
- Identity theft victims and active duty military personnel have additional rights.