

# DEL SOL - FRONTERA

## TRANSMISSION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT



AEP Texas and Electric Transmission Texas (ETT) are developing the Del Sol - Frontera Transmission Improvements Project, a new overhead electric transmission line in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) designed to strengthen the electric grid to help withstand weather impacts, decreasing the likelihood and duration of community-wide outages.

### WHAT

The project involves:

- Building approximately 36 miles of double-circuit 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from ETT's Del Sol Substation to AEP Texas' Frontera Substation.
- Expanding the ETT Del Sol Substation, located near Rio Grande City.
- Expanding the AEP Texas Frontera Substation, located in Mission.

AEP Texas and ETT officials filed an application for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) in June 2023 after taking public input on potential line routes. The PUC approved the project and line route in September 2023.

### WHY

Following Texas' winter storms in February 2021, the PUC and Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) identified the need for additional transmission lines in the Rio Grande Valley. The PUC is the state agency that regulates transmission and distribution companies, including AEP Texas and ETT, and oversees ERCOT. ERCOT endorsed the need for the project in its role as the state's grid operator to support safe, reliable power delivery for customers across south Texas.

The Del Sol - Frontera Transmission Improvements Project benefits the Valley by:

- Improving regional reliability and resiliency with the addition of a new 345-kV transmission line.
- Helping strengthen the power grid against severe weather events.
- Reducing the likelihood and duration of wide, community-sustained outages.
- Providing additional capacity for growth and economic development.

### WHERE

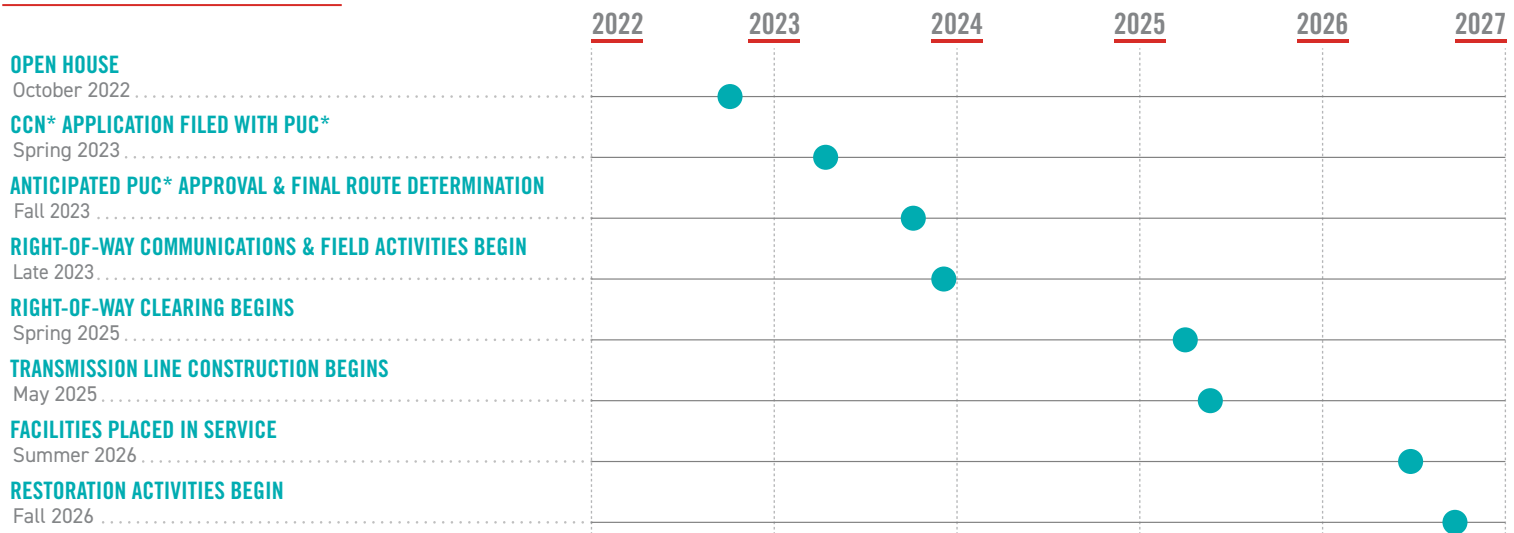
The project area includes: Hidalgo County and Starr County

Right of Way Service, Inc., the right-of-way representative for this project, plans to communicate with affected landowners regarding necessary easements and field activities.

Field activities include:

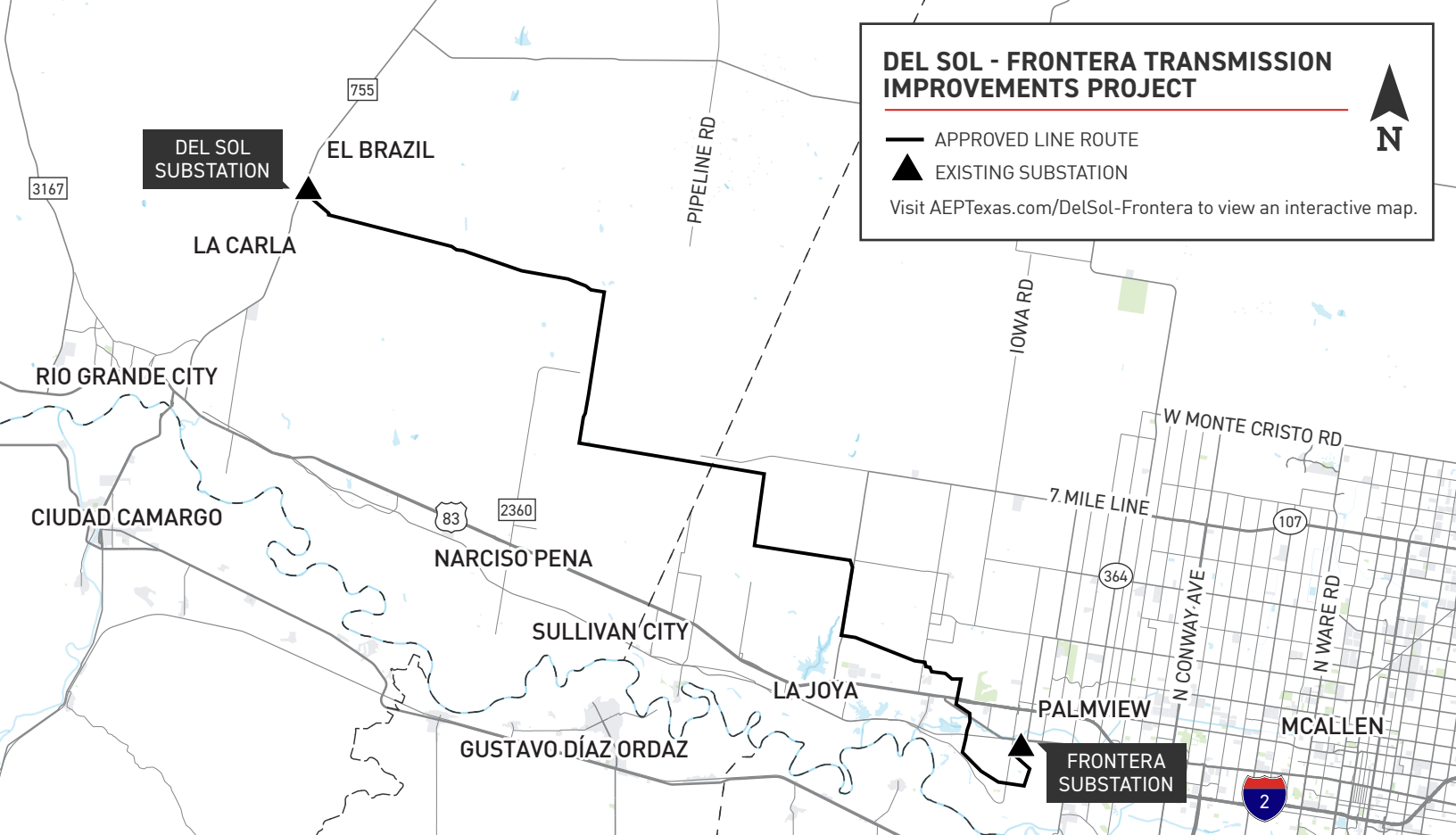
- Removing or trimming vegetation, and removing or relocating non-habitable structures from the right-of-way
- Installing temporary gates, fencing and access roads
- Installing culverts for water management

### PROJECT SCHEDULE



\*CCN: Certificate of Convenience and Necessity; PUC: Public Utility Commission of Texas

\*\*Timeline subject to change.



## TYPICAL STRUCTURES

The new structures will include AEP's BOLD (Breakthrough in Overhead Line Design) technology, which is capable of operating more efficiently than conventional transmission pole designs.

Typical Height: 140 feet

Typical Distance Between Structures: Approximately 1,000 feet

Typical Right-of-Way Width: 150 feet

Representative structure, exact height and right-of-way requirements may vary based on geography and other factors.

Typical regional farming practices can continue within the right-of-way, right up to the structure.

Both AEP Texas and ETT treat people and the environment with respect in constructing new facilities by prioritizing proactive and early engagement with landowners and stakeholders and working with local, state and federal agencies.



## LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT

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