

Q. WHAT IS THE TRANSMISSION PROJECT?

- A. The transmission Project is planned as a double-circuit capable 345-kV transmission line with one circuit installed initially. The line will begin at the AEP Texas Angstrom Station located approximately 4.0 miles east of Sinton, Texas and approximately 0.5 mile north of State Highway 188 in San Patricio County and will extend to the AEP Texas Naismith Station located approximately 2.5 miles north-northeast of Gregory, Texas and approximately 0.3 mile north of State Highway 35 in San Patricio County.

The final location of the Project will depend on what route (or combinations of routing links) is approved by the Public Utility Commission (PUC) after AEP Texas files a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) application at the PUC.

Q. WHY IS THE PROJECT NEEDED?

- A. The Project is needed to provide service to new electrical load in the area. AEP Texas has executed contracts with a large industrial load and a liquified natural gas load in San Patricio County.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) has determined that a new 345-kV double-circuit capable transmission line is required to provide service to the new commercial loads. This Project is one component of what ERCOT refers to as the AEP Corpus Christi North Shore Project. ERCOT has designated the AEP Corpus Christi North Shore Project as critical to the reliability of the transmission system.

Q. WHAT IS ERCOT?

- A. ERCOT is an independent, third-party entity that oversees activities related to the reliable and safe transmission of electricity within a specified geographic area in Texas. This Project is located within ERCOT.

ERCOT is required to perform four primary functions:

1. Ensure non-discriminatory access to the transmission and distribution systems for all electricity buyers and sellers.
2. Ensure the reliability and adequacy of the regional electric network.
3. Ensure that information related to customer retail choice is provided in a timely manner.
4. Ensure that electricity production and delivery are accurately accounted for among all regional generators and wholesale buyers and sellers.

Q. WHAT IS THE PUC?

- A. The PUC is the state agency that was created by the Texas Legislature to provide statewide regulation of the rates and services of, telecommunications, water, and electric utilities, including the approval and siting of new electric transmission lines..

Q. DOES THE PUC HAVE JURISDICTION OVER AEP TEXAS?

A. Yes, AEP Texas activities are regulated by the PUC. AEP Texas must submit a CCN Application to the PUC to obtain approval to construct the transmission line Project. In that CCN Application, AEP Texas will present to the PUC numerous alternative routes for the PUC to consider. If the PUC agrees with AEP Texas that the transmission line is needed, the PUC will then make the final determination of the transmission route to be used for this Project. Of the multiple options submitted by AEP Texas, the PUC will only approve one route for the transmission line Project.

Q. HOW CAN THE PUBLIC FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT?

A. AEP Texas has established a website where the public can find additional information about the Project. The website also allows the public to submit comments about the Project and to ask questions to the Project Team. The public is also invited to participate in a live WebEx town-hall meeting to learn about the Project and to ask questions to the Project Team. Please refer to the letter that is included in this notice package for details about the Project website, the live WebEx town-hall meeting, and the ways the public can communicate with the Project Team.

AEP Texas and its routing consultant value the opportunity to share information about the Project and to obtain public input on the preliminary routing links for the Project. This input will be considered in the development and evaluation of alternative routes to be submitted to the PUC.

Q. WILL AN ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS OF THE ROUTES BE PERFORMED?

A. Yes. AEP Texas is currently working with an experienced routing consultant to perform an environmental assessment and routing analysis for the proposed transmission line Project. The routing consultant employs professional personnel with backgrounds in various environmental sciences, socioeconomics, and cultural resources. The environmental assessment and routing analysis will be part of the CCN Application filed with the PUC.

Q. WHEN WILL AEP TEXAS FILE THE CCN APPLICATION AND START CONSTRUCTION OF THE TRANSMISSION LINE?

A. AEP Texas plans to file the CCN Application in the Summer of 2021 and anticipates approval within 180 days by the end of 2021. The 180-day approval process at the PUC has been established for projects deemed critical to the reliability of the ERCOT system. After final design is completed and easements are obtained, AEP Texas anticipates that construction will begin in early 2023.

Q. WHAT IS AN EASEMENT?

A. An easement is a legal document that gives a utility certain rights to use privately owned land for a specific purpose. The landowner retains ownership of the property. The proposed project will require easements to be obtained from landowners to construct the transmission line approved by the PUC. Easement rights would be purchased as needed to allow for installation, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line.

Q. HOW WIDE IS AN EASEMENT?

A. The typical easement along the transmission line path will be 150 feet wide. Additional easement area might be necessary in some locations for specialized structures and other easements might be required for construction of the Project.

Q. HOW ARE LANDOWNERS AFFECTED BY TRANSMISSION LINE EASEMENTS?

A. Easements provide the utility the ability to clear right-of-way, construct electric facilities, and continue to operate and maintain the new transmission line. Clearing includes the removal of trees and shrubs in the easement that would interfere with the safe operation and maintenance of the transmission line. Erosion control measures are implemented during the clearing and construction process. After AEP Texas has obtained a necessary easement(s) from a landowner, the landowner will be contacted prior to clearing and construction activities. AEP Texas will undertake reasonable efforts to minimize disturbances to the landowner's use of the property and the impact to landowner's property in general during clearing and construction activities.

After completing construction of the transmission line, the surface of the easement area will be restored as nearly as possible to its original contours and grades and will be re-vegetated as necessary using native species, while giving consideration to landowner preferences. The landowner may continue to use the easement property, as long as the activity does not interfere with the construction, operation and maintenance of the line and does not jeopardize the safe use of the easement area. PUC rules require that a new easement restrict the new construction of any above-ground structures within the right-of-way of the transmission line.

Q. WILL THE TRANSMISSION LINE BE SECURE AND SAFE?

A. Yes. AEP Texas designs and constructs transmission lines with safety in mind. The materials that are used comply with the strength requirements of all applicable codes, including the NESC (as required by Texas statute) and the American Standard Testing Materials Specifications. The AEP Texas design and construction practices meet or exceed all of these codes and specifications.

These codes and specifications were developed in part to protect the general public from electrical shock. Also, if a severe event occurs such as extreme wind conditions, and causes an overhead conductor to break and fall to the ground, AEP Texas has protective devices in place to de-energize the line to further protect the general public.

It is important to remember that a conductor on the ground should always be considered dangerous. AEP Texas requests that if one is found, contact with it should be avoided and AEP Texas should be called immediately.