



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **AEP TEXAS AND ETT OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE THIRD PROJECT OF PROPOSED ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION ENHANCEMENTS IN SOUTH TEXAS**

*Company officials seek public input on line route*

**CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas** – AEP Texas and Electric Transmission Texas (ETT) officials announced today the Cenizo - Cruce Transmission Improvements Project, the third of five projects included in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Transmission Improvements Project, a reliability-driven electric transmission improvements initiative resulting in an estimated \$800 million investment into the south Texas power grid, including Laredo and Webb County.

In late 2021, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) recognized the need for additional transmission lines in south Texas and endorsed AEP Texas and ETT’s plans for transmission system improvements to strengthen the region’s system.

“Continued reliable electric service delivery to the region is of utmost importance,” said External Affairs Manager for AEP Texas, Tony Arce. “ERCOT and the PUC have approved these projects to be operational by the end of 2026. We will continue to focus on doing all we can to make that happen.”

The project includes construction of a new, approximately 65-mile, double-circuit 345-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line from ETT’s existing Cenizo Substation in Laredo to the future AEP Texas Cruce Substation located near Hebronville, as part of a larger plan to address longstanding issues related to limited transmission infrastructure and load growth in the area.

AEP Texas and ETT representatives welcome community and landowner feedback and engagement throughout the development of this project. In-person open houses are planned in March to solicit feedback on potential route links and provide information about the project. There is no formal presentation, so visitors may arrive at any time during the three-hour events to view maps and speak to project team members. Informational materials and displays at each event will be identical, so visitors may choose to attend either event at a date and time that is more convenient.

The open houses are scheduled for:

**Tuesday, March 7, 4-7 p.m.**

El Eden Recreation Center  
4735 Loma Vista Dr

Laredo, TX 78046

**Wednesday, March 8, 4-7 p.m.**

Jim Hogg County Pavilion  
300 W Martinez Dr, Hebbronville, TX 78361

Landowners in the Cenizo - Cruce project area can expect to receive a mailed invitation to the open houses. Landowners who are unable to attend an in-person open house can learn more about the project or submit comments to the project team by visiting [AEPTexas.com/Cenizo-Cruce](https://www.aeptexas.com/Cenizo-Cruce).

AEP Texas and ETT representatives also encourage those who are experiencing fever, coughs, body aches and other cold or COVID-19 symptoms to visit the project website and stay home for the health and safety of the public.

"We know that collaboration with the community is essential when ensuring the best outcomes for our customers and the environment, especially with such rapid growth in south Texas," said ETT president, Kip Fox. "We will continue to be interactive and transparent with the community as we continue through this process."

AEP Texas and ETT officials plan to file an application for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) after the open houses. The PUC is expected to provide a decision on the project and, if approved, select a final line route by late 2023, with construction set to begin in 2025.

Company officials plan to host additional open houses for the remaining projects as they develop through spring 2023. Community members can stay updated on the Cenizo - Cruce Transmission Improvements Project by visiting [AEPTexas.com/Cenizo-Cruce](https://www.aeptexas.com/Cenizo-Cruce).

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### **About AEP Texas**

AEP Texas serves over one million electric meters in the deregulated Texas retail electric marketplace. As an energy delivery (wires) company, AEP Texas delivers electricity safely and reliably to homes, businesses, and industry across its nearly 100,000 square mile service territory in south and west Texas. AEP Texas also builds new power lines, restores service following outages, and reads the meters via advanced meter technology for retail electric providers (REPs) throughout its service territory. The company also connects or disconnects service upon the orders of the REPs. Connect with AEP Texas at [AEPTexas.com](https://www.aeptexas.com), on Facebook, and on Twitter @aeptexas.

### **ABOUT ETT**

ETT is a joint venture between subsidiaries of American Electric Power (AEP) and Berkshire Hathaway Energy Company (BHE).