



## **AEP TEXAS, ETT AND STEC OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE TRANSMISSION ENHANCEMENT PROJECT IN SOUTH TEXAS**

*Company officials seek public input on line route*

**CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas** – AEP Texas, Electric Transmission Texas (ETT), and South Texas Electric Cooperative (STEC) officials announced today the Cruce - Del Sol Transmission Improvements Project, a component of the Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV) System Enhancement Project, a reliability-driven electric transmission improvements initiative resulting in an estimated \$1.23 billion investment into the south Texas power grid.

In late 2021, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) recognized the need for additional transmission lines in south Texas, and endorsed the plans of AEP Texas, ETT, and STEC for transmission system improvements to strengthen the region’s system. The LRGV Enhancement Project consists of six components totaling approximately 350 miles of new 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line and two new substations by the end of 2026. You can learn more about five of the projects included in the LRGV System Enhancement Project that make up the RGV Transmission Improvements Project by visiting [AEPTexas.com/RGV](https://www.aeptexas.com/rgv).

“These transmission system improvements will help provide improved electric service reliability for our customers in the Rio Grande Valley,” said AEP Texas president, Judith Talavera. “ERCOT and the PUC have approved these projects to be operational by the end of 2026, and we are focused on doing all we can to make that happen.”

The Cruce – Del Sol Transmission Improvements Project includes construction of a new, approximately 57-mile, double-circuit 345-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line and the future AEP Texas Cruce Substation southeast of Hebbronville to connect to ETT’s Del Sol Substation near Rio Grande City. These improvements are part of a larger plan to address longstanding issues related to limited transmission infrastructure and load growth in the area.

AEP Texas, ETT and STEC representatives welcome community and landowner feedback and engagement through the development of this project. In-person open houses are planned in December 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. Since the same informational materials and displays are available at both events, visitors may choose to attend either event at a date and time that is most convenient.

The open houses are scheduled for:

**Tuesday, December 13, 4-7 p.m.**

Julabe Event Center  
5501 Acapulco Street, Rio Grande City, TX 78582

**Wednesday, December 14, 4-7 p.m.**

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

Landowners in the Cruce - Del Sol Transmission Improvements 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/Cruce-DelSol](https://www.aeptexas.com/cruce-del-sol).

AEP Texas, ETT and STEC 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.

“South Texas is one of the fastest growing areas in the United States, so our collaboration with the community is essential to the success of this project,” said ETT president Kip Fox. “We want our public outreach process to be interactive and transparent, which will help ensure the best outcomes for landowners and the environment.”

AEP Texas, ETT, and STEC 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 select a final line route by late 2023, with construction set to begin in 2025 if approved.

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 Cruce – Del Sol Transmission Improvements Project by visiting [AEPTexas.com/Cruce-DelSol](https://www.aeptexas.com/cruce-del-sol).

– 30 –

**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](http://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).

#### **ABOUT STEC**

STEC is owned by its nine-member distribution cooperatives including Jackson Electric Cooperative, Karnes Electric Cooperative, Magic Valley Electric Cooperative, Medina Electric Cooperative, Nueces Electric Cooperative, San Bernard Electric Cooperative, San Patricio Electric Cooperative, Victoria Electric Cooperative, and Wharton County Electric Cooperative. STEC provides transmission and generation services to the members who, collectively, serve more than 320,000 retail consumers in 47 Texas Counties.