



What is a transmission line? Why does Oncor Electric Delivery need to build them?

Transmission lines are the high voltage conductors that move electricity from power plants to distribution systems, which deliver electricity to your homes and businesses. Ensuring adequate transmission capability is essential for electric reliability. It may help to think of them as “highways” for electricity. In the same way that highways are built to ensure that you and your family get from one place to another, transmission lines are necessary to make sure that electricity gets from where it is produced to where it is consumed.

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Bell County East – TNP One Transmission Project

As the state’s economy continues to grow at a brisk pace, it is important to take steps to ensure that a reliable electric system is in place to support electric load growth. Specifically, Oncor Electric Delivery proposes to construct an electric transmission line interconnecting the proposed Bell County East Switching Station, to be located southeast of Temple, with the existing TNP One Switching Station, located at the TNP One generating plant. As recommended by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, this project is needed to ensure continued safe and reliable electric service to the state and the entire local region as new generation is added to support the State’s growing economy. Completion of the project will provide necessary system upgrades that will improve the transmission system’s ability to move bulk electric power north and south and will add valuable capacity to the entire transmission system. In addition, construction of this project will mitigate millions of dollars in congestion costs, resulting in savings in electricity production costs that will ultimately be passed on to electric consumers.

What is the process for approval?

Step 1: Need

- The first step in the process is determining the need for the project. The need for the project dictates essential facilities and prescribes the type, electrical location, and capacity.

Step 2: Engineering, Routing and Environmental Assessment

- The second step in the process of building a new transmission line is determining potential routes for the line. The Company, along with its outside consultants, considers a variety of environmental and other important factors.
- Public Meetings are held as a part of the routing process. The public is encouraged to attend these meetings and learn more about the project, as well as participate. Public input, along with detailed environmental analysis by the consultant and engineering and cost analysis by the utility, are important to the selection of good routes.

Step 3: Review/Approval Process

- After the routing assessment is complete, Oncor Electric Delivery files its application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (“PUCT”) requesting a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (“CCN”), which outlines specific attributes of the line, describes the need for the line and identifies effects on the surrounding community and environment.
- After the Company files the CCN application with the PUCT, interested parties have an opportunity to participate in the process and express their views to the PUCT. The PUCT has up to one year to approve or deny a CCN application.

Step 4: Post-Approval

- Once the CCN is approved by the PUCT, Oncor Electric Delivery will begin the final process of acquiring rights-of-way and construction of the facilities.

While the requisite formal review and approval process for proposed transmission facilities is an involved process that can take many years to complete, from identification of the need through the CCN process and construction completion, the process is one that thoroughly examines essential interests, including the views of the public, to ensure that the State’s electric system continues to be reliable and provides the necessary support for sustained development and growth.