



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.

Competitive Renewable Energy Zones (“CREZ”)

In response to the Texas Legislature’s direction in 2005, the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) has designated certain areas, or zones, of Texas for development of wind power, known as CREZ. The PUCT has approved a plan for building transmission lines to deliver the electric energy produced by wind generating facilities in the CREZ to the electric market. Additional information concerning CREZ and associated transmission projects can be obtained at <http://www.oncor.com/electricity/transmission/default.aspx>

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Bowman-Jacksboro-Parker 345 kV Transmission Projects

Texas is continuing to increase the integration of renewable energy into the electric market of Texas. Reliable electric facilities must be in place to support the increased levels of renewable energy and to provide efficient means for this power to reach electric consumers. As part of this ongoing process, Oncor Electric Delivery proposes to rebuild an existing single circuit electric transmission line into a double circuit transmission line connecting the existing Bowman Switching Station, located southwest of the city of Wichita Falls, with the existing Jacksboro Switching Station, located just south of the city of Jacksboro and to the existing Parker Switching Station, located just northwest of the city of Weatherford, utilizing the existing transmission line corridor. These projects have been recommended by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas to ensure continued safe and reliable electric service to the state due to the increased integration of electric energy generated by wind production facilities. Completion of the projects will provide necessary system upgrades that will improve the transmission system’s ability to efficiently move wind-generated bulk electric power to market and will add valuable capacity to the entire transmission system.

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. For transmission projects associated with CREZ, like the Bowman – Jacksboro – Parker projects, the PUCT has already approved the need for these transmission lines.

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 in routing a new transmission line. However, the Bowman–Jacksboro–Parker projects include rebuilding existing transmission lines using the same right-of-way eliminating the need to determine a new route.
- 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.

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. For CCN applications associated with CREZ, the PUCT has 180 days from application filing to approve or deny a request for CCN.

Step 4: Post-Approval

- When a CCN is approved by the PUCT, Oncor Electric Delivery completes the final project processes, including 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 several years to complete, 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.