



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, in 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 Texas electric market. Additional information concerning CREZ and associated transmission facilities can be obtained at www.oncor.com/transmission/CREZ

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West B – Moss 138 kV Transmission Line Project

Texas is continuing to increase the integration of renewable energy into the Texas electric market. 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 on-going process, Oncor is proposing to construct a double circuit-capable 138 kV transmission line, with one circuit in place initially, between the existing Moss Switching Station, located approximately six miles southwest of Odessa and two miles south of West Odessa, in Ector County, and the proposed West B Switching Station located on State Highway 158, approximately 14 miles northwest of Odessa. The project will be approximately 14 miles long and all facilities will be constructed within Ector County. This project has 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 project will provide necessary system upgrades that will improve the transmission system’s ability to efficiently move wind-generated electric power to market and will add valuable capacity to the entire transmission system.

What is the process for approval?

Step 1: Need

- Typically, the first step in the process is determining that a need for the project exists. For transmission projects associated with CREZ, like the West B-Moss project, the PUCT has already determined 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 typically 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 has a strong level of involvement in the placement of transmission lines. 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 environmental assessment and alternative route analysis is complete, Oncor 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 potential impacts 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 a CCN.

Step 4: Post-Approval

- After a CCN is approved by the PUCT, Oncor will begin 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.