



What is a transmission line? Why does Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC 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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Exchange - Keller Magnolia 138 kV Transmission Line Project in Tarrant County, Texas

As the state’s economy continues to grow, it is important to take steps to ensure that a reliable electric system is in place to support continuous electric load growth. For Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (“Oncor”) to continue to provide safe and reliable electric service in the North Texas area, a new 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission line must be built from near the existing Keller Magnolia Substation, located at the northeast intersection of Keller Hicks Road and Old Denton Road, to the proposed Exchange Switch, which will be located near the southeast intersection of Interstate Highway 35W and State Highway 170. All project endpoints will be in the City of Fort Worth. New structures will be needed to accommodate the new 138 kV transmission line.

What is the process for project 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. Oncor, along with its outside consultants, considers a variety of environmental and other important factors.

Step 3: Review/Approval Process

- After the environmental assessment is complete, Oncor files its application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (“PUC”) 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 Oncor files the CCN application with the PUC, interested parties have an opportunity to participate in the process and express their views to the PUC. In most cases, the PUC has up to one year to approve or deny a CCN application. However, because the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (“ERCOT”) has designated this project as critical to the reliability of the ERCOT grid, the PUC will have 180 days to approve or deny the CCN application for this project.

Step 4: Post-Approval

- After a CCN application is approved by the PUC, Oncor will obtain necessary permit approvals and right-of-way and begin constructing the new facilities. While the requisite project development, formal review, and approval, and post-approval phases for proposed transmission facilities are involved processes that can take several years to complete, that time and involvement allows Oncor and the PUC to thoroughly examine 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.