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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Exchange to Roanoke 345/138 kV Transmission Line Project

As the state's economy continues to grow, Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC ("Oncor") must take steps to ensure that a reliable electric system is in place to support associated electric load growth. In order to continue to provide safe and reliable electric service in the North Texas area, Oncor proposes to re-build an existing 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, including the addition of a new 138 kV circuit, beginning at the proposed Exchange Switch, which will be located southeast of the intersection of Interstate Highway 35W and State Highway 170 in Tarrant County, and continuing approximately 3.5 miles northeast to the existing Roanoke Switch, located north of State Highway 170, east of the intersection of Henrietta Creek Road and Chaparral Lane in Denton County. The planned rebuild will replace each existing double-circuit lattice tower structure with two monopole structures. One monopole structure will accommodate one existing 345 kV circuit and a new 138 kV circuit. The second monopole structure will accommodate the second existing 345 kV circuit and include a vacant position for a future 138 kV circuit. The rebuild will occur entirely within Oncor's existing right-of-way area. Rebuilding the transmission line will add transmission capacity that will improve the reliability of electric service in the area. But before Oncor can rebuild the transmission line, it must first obtain approval from the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("PUCT").

What is the process for approval?

Step 1: Need

- The first step in the approval process is determining the need for the project. The need for the project dictates essential facilities and prescribes the type, location, and capacity of the proposed transmission line.

Step 2: Engineering, Routing and Environmental Assessment

- The second step is determining potential routes for the line. Oncor and its outside consultants consider a variety of environmental, land use, and other important factors.
- A public meeting is held as a part of the environmental assessment and routing process. The public is encouraged to attend the meeting, learn more about the project, and participate in discussion. Public input, along with detailed environmental analysis by the consultant and engineering and cost analysis by the utility, is important to ensure optimal routing development for the project.
- Because this project is a rebuild of an existing transmission line, the routing will follow the path of Oncor's existing transmission line right-of-way.

Step 3: Review/Approval Process

- After the environmental assessment is complete, Oncor will file an application with the PUC, along with the environmental assessment, requesting a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity ("CCN"). The application will outline specific attributes of the transmission line, describe the need for the transmission line, propose a route for the project, and identify potential impacts on the surrounding community and environment.
- After Oncor files the CCN application with the PUCT, interested parties will have an opportunity to participate in the process and express their views to the PUCT. The PUCT's review and approval process for proposed transmission facilities involves a thorough examination of essential interests, including the views of the public, to ensure that the state's electric system continues to be reliable and provide the necessary support for sustained development and growth.

Step 4: Post-Approval

- If the PUCT approves the project, Oncor will begin surveying properties, conducting engineering, and constructing the new facilities.