



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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Reiter Switch - Tesoro Switch 345-kV Transmission Line Project

For Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (“Oncor”) to continue to provide safe and reliable electric service in the area, a new transmission line must be constructed between Oncor’s planned Reiter Switch in Ector County and Oncor’s existing Tesoro Switch in Midland County. The location of the planned Reiter Switch is approximately 1.2 miles north of the intersection of State Highway (“SH”) Loop 338 and Farm-to-Market Road (“FM”) 3503, south of Odessa, Texas. The Tesoro Switch is located approximately 1.5 miles southeast of the intersection of Interstate Highway (“IH”) 20 and SH Loop 338 near Odessa, Texas. The Proposed Transmission Line Project includes modifications to the existing 345 kV switchyard at Tesoro Switch. The proposed project would construct a new, double-circuit 345 kV transmission line approximately 4.0 to 5.2 miles in length, to be built on double-circuit lattice steel towers, between Oncor’s planned Reiter Switch in Ector County and Oncor’s existing Tesoro Switch in Midland County.

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 company, along with its outside consultants, considers a variety of environmental and other important factors when selecting potential routes. The proposed project anticipates the use of a single route transmission line option as the most effective proposal to meet the needs for the project.

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.