

What is a transmission line? Why do Oncor and LCRA TSC 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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North McCamey – Sandlake345 kV Transmission Line Project

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC ("Oncor") and Lower Colorado River Authority Transmission Services Corp. ("LCRA TSC") continue to monitor electric demand in West Texas due to significant increases in oil and gas production, transportation, mid-stream processing, and other activities in the Permian Basin. In support of this continued load growth, Oncor and LCRA TSC propose to construct a double-circuit 345 kV transmission line (project) located within Crane, Reeves, Ward, Crockett and Pecos Counties. The proposed project would connect the North McCamey Station, which is located approximately 0.6 mile north of the City of McCamey, and the Sand Lake Station, which is located approximately 6 miles northeast of the City of Pecos on the northwest side of Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 3398. Completion of the new project will provide an essential transmission-level electric source to the area to facilitate future developments and maintenance needs and to generally improve electric reliability to the area. The project has been independently reviewed and endorsed by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas ("ERCOT") as critical to the reliability of the ERCOT transmission system. The proposed transmission line will be approximately 90-100 miles in length, if approved by the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("PUC").

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 of facilities, electrical location, and capacity of the project.

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 and LCRA TSC, along with their outside consultants, consider a variety of environmental, land use and other important factors in route development.
- Public Meeting(s) are held as a part of the route-development process. The public is encouraged to attend these meeting(s) and learn more about the project, as well as provide input. Public input, along with detailed environmental analysis by the consultant and engineering and cost analysis by the utilities are important to the development of good routes.

Step 3: Review/Approval Process

- After the environmental assessment is complete, Oncor and LCRA TSC will file an application with the PUC, along with an environmental assessment, requesting a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity ("CCN"). The application outlines specific attributes of the line, describes the need for the line, proposes various routes for the project, and identifies potential impacts on the surrounding community and environment.
- After Oncor and LCRA TSC file the CCN application with the PUC, interested parties have an opportunity to participate in the process and express their views to the PUC. ERCOT's critical designation for this project means the PUC must approve or deny the CCN application within six months after the application is filed. The PUC'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 PUC grants a CCN approving the project, Oncor and LCRA TSC will begin surveying properties, acquiring rights-of-way, and then constructing the new facilities.