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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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Ramhorn Hill - Dunham 345kV Transmission Line Project

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 associated electric load growth. In order for Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC ("Oncor") to continue to provide safe and reliable electric service in the North Texas area, Oncor proposes to construct a new double circuit 345 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line, to be located in Denton and Wise Counties. The proposed line would be designed to enable one additional 138 kV circuit to be installed on these structures in the future. The proposed line would connect the proposed Ramhorn Hill Switch, which will be located approximately 2 miles south of the intersection of U.S. Highway 287 and State Highway 114 near Rhome, Texas, to the proposed Dunham Switch, which will be located approximately 1.4 miles southeast of the intersection of Interstate Highway 35W and Farm-to-Market Road 1171 in Flower Mound, Texas. Completion of the new line will provide an additional and essential transmission-level electric source to the area to facilitate future developments, maintenance needs and generally improve electric reliability to the area. The project has been independently reviewed and endorsed by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas as critical to the reliability of the ERCOT transmission system. The proposed transmission line will be approximately 18-22 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 line 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 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 and learn more about the project, as well
 as participate. Public input, along with detailed environmental analysis by the consultant
 and engineering and cost analysis by the utility, is important to the development of good
 routes for the project.

Step 3: Review/Approval Process

- After the environmental assessment is complete, Oncor will file an application, along
 with an environmental assessment, with the PUC 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 files 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 establishes a six month period for the PUC to approve or deny a CCN application. While the requisite formal review and approval process for proposed transmission facilities can be complex, it 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.

Step 4: Post-Approval

 If the project is approved by the PUC, Oncor will begin surveying properties, acquiring rights-of-way and constructing the new facilities.