



Landowners and Transmission Line Cases at the PUC

Why am I receiving this notice?

You are receiving this notice because your property is near one of the possible routes for a proposed electric transmission line or near a proposed substation site. You can find maps of the proposed routes in the company's application on the Public Utility Commission of Texas' (PUC) Interchange using the five -digit docket number.

What does the (PUC) do?

The PUC is the Texas state agency that decides if a transmission line is needed and what route the line will follow. The PUC does not build or operate electric transmission lines or substations.

What are transmission lines and why do we need them?

Electric transmission lines carry electricity over long distances across the state. They bring electricity from power plants to cities and neighborhoods where they link to electric substations and smaller wires called distribution-level wires, that carry electricity to individual customers' homes and businesses. New electric transmission lines are needed where there is growth in electricity demand or where existing transmission lines are at full capacity and need to be expanded.

Public Participation in the Transmission Line Siting Process

How can I participate?

Depending on the level of participation you choose, you can either be a protestor or an intervenor.

- **Protestors** – If you have concerns about the transmission line, you can send us written comments about the proposed routes. These comments are filed publicly and are available to anyone who is interested in the application. Comments help inform the PUC Commissioners and staff of the public's concerns, however, they do not serve as evidence or enable the protestor to participate in the case as a participant or party.
- **Intervenors** – Intervening makes you an official participant or party in the legal case where the proposed transmission line routes are reviewed in front of a judge and the PUC Commissioners. If you are approved as an intervenor, you will be allowed to present written evidence in the case and can cross-examine witnesses. Additionally, you can testify in the case and may also be cross-examined by the other parties in the case. Intervenors must follow along with the process of the case, respond to requests from the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) and other parties, and actively participate in the case. Otherwise, they may lose their status as an intervenor. Intervenors are not required to have an attorney. The notice you received lists the deadline to intervene. Forms for intervenors can be found on the PUC website.

Why should I participate?

If you have any concerns about the proposed routes, the PUCT encourages you to participate in the siting process. As a landowner, you have detailed knowledge of the impacted area that might not be reflected in the application. Sharing your knowledge with the PUCT allows the PUCT Commissioners to make better-informed decisions about the route of the line.

How can I follow the process?

All the documents related to a case are filed in the PUCT public document interchange. You can search for the case by name or by the five-digit docket number located on your notice letter. You can also sign up to receive a notification every time a new document is added related to the case. The interchange is at

<https://interchange.puc.texas.gov/>

What is the process?

After the company files an application with the PUCT to build a new transmission line, the PUCT's technical staff reviews the application in a legal proceeding. When an intervenor or PUCT technical staff requests a hearing, the PUCT will send the application to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH). The SOAH judge will set a hearing date, deadlines to request information from other participants and deadlines to file written testimony or a statement of position prior to the hearing. The SOAH judge may determine the format of conferences and hearings, such as through video conference with a call-in option. Participants in the case must attend the hearing to have their written testimony entered into evidence. After the hearing, the SOAH judge will provide the PUCT Commissioners a recommendation about the proposed transmission line route.

The PUCT Commissioners are not bound by the SOAH judge's recommendation in selecting a route for the transmission line. The PUCT Commissioners will issue a final decision at a public meeting that participants to the case can attend and request to make a statement. PUCT public meetings are broadcast online. The PUCT Commissioners can and sometimes do make alterations to the route in response to statements from landowners. The company building the transmission line will then negotiate with landowners to purchase easement rights on their property. The PUCT does not determine the amount of money to be paid to landowners for easements or other rights-of-way.

Until the PUCT Commissioners make a final decision, participants in the case also negotiate to find a route that satisfies everyone. The PUCT Commissioners are not required to approve a negotiated route.

The entire PUCT transmission line route review process can take up to six months.

Where do I go for more information?

The company that has applied to build the line may have more information available on their website. For more information about how to participate in the process please contact the PUCT Office of Public Engagement at 512-936-7374 or public@puc.texas.gov.