



## Guide for Landowners Affected by a New Electric Transmission Line Route

### 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. You can find maps of the proposed routes on the website of the company that applied to build the line.

### What does the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) do?

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

### What are transmission lines and why do we need them?

Electric transmission lines carry electricity long distances across the state. They bring electricity from power plants to cities and neighborhoods where they link to 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.

## 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 in the public record and are available to anyone who is interested in the application. Comments help inform the PUCT Commissioners and staff of the public concerns.
- **Intervenors** – Intervening makes you an official participant in the legal case where the transmission line and the route are debated in front of a judge and the PUC Commissioners. You will be allowed to present evidence in the case and can cross-examine witnesses. 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.

## **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 us 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. 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 applies to build a new transmission line to the PUCT, technical staff reviews the application. The PUCT sends the application to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) when an intervenor or technical staff requests a hearing. A SOAH judge will schedule a prehearing conference to address procedural matters, including setting a procedural schedule for the case. The procedural schedule will set a hearing date, deadlines to request information from other participants and deadlines to file written testimony prior to the hearing. SOAH conferences and hearings can be held by video conference with a call-in option. All participants in the case must attend the hearing to have their written testimony entered into evidence. After the hearing, the SOAH judge will give the PUCT a recommendation about the route.

The PUCT Commissioners are not bound by this recommendation in selecting a route for the transmission line. The PUCT Commissioners will issue a final decision at a public meeting, which the people participating in the case can attend and request to make a statement. 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 for the easements on their property. PUCT Commissioners meet in public meetings broadcast online.

During the time the case is going through the hearing process, 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 process can take up to six months.

## **Where do I go for more information?**

The company that has applied to build the line will have maps on their website. For more information about how to participate in the process please contact the PUCT Office of Public Engagement <https://www.puc.texas.gov/agency/about/ope/> or 512-936-7374.