

Project Overview

What is the Howard Road to San Miguel Transmission Line Project? The Howard Road to San Miguel Transmission Line Project is a 345 kilovolt (kV), double circuit capable transmission line connecting the CPS Energy Howard Road Station located in the southwest San Antonio area with the South Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc. (STEC) San Miguel Station located near Christine, Texas in Atascosa County. This joint project between CPS Energy and STEC will be approximately 50 miles in length traversing parts of Bexar and Atascosa counties.

Why is a new transmission line needed in this area?

The new transmission line will increase the resiliency and reliability of Texas' electric grid by adding another electric transmission pathway between generation resources and the accelerating load growth south of San Antonio.

What is a transmission line?

The proposed transmission line consists of specially designed steel structures and wires that move electricity long distances at high voltages between station endpoints.

How does electricity get delivered to homes and businesses?

Typically, electricity is generated from remotely located electric power plants (including wind and solar farms) and then travels from those remote generating sources to substations closer to population centers through a system of high-voltage transmission lines. Once at a substation, the electricity is reduced to a voltage level that is appropriate for distribution to customers. Electricity then travels from the substation through the network of distribution lines, supplying electricity to homes and businesses.

When does construction begin?

Construction of the Howard Road to San Miguel Transmission Line Project is anticipated to begin first quarter of 2026.

Transmission Line Routes

Who selects the final transmission line route?

After determining the project is needed, the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) utilizes an established regulatory process to evaluate and approve which route is to be constructed following its review of the data presented by the applicants in their application; recommendations from the PUC staff of experts; and the views and concerns of affected landowners and other interested parties.

After completion of the PUC process, the CPS Board of Trustees will review and approve the portion of the route inside the city of San Antonio.

Will landowners receive notice of the PUC proceeding?

Yes. All landowners who are crossed by a potential transmission line route, or who own a habitable structure within 500 feet of the centerline of a potential transmission line route, will be mailed a notice from the applicants that a joint application has been filed at the PUC requesting approval to construct and operate the project. Applicants will also publish notice of the Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) application filing in the newspaper and update the project website (see the end of this FAQ sheet for the website address for this project) announcing the filing of the application. The mailed notice packet will include the Docket Number used for tracking documents filed at the PUC along with forms for interested persons to provide public comment on the project or to participate in the PUC proceeding and other important information regarding the PUC regulatory process. If the PUC issues a final order approving the project and the route to be constructed, each landowner will receive a notice as to whether or not they are affected by the approved route.

Can landowners or other interested persons participate in the PUC proceeding?

Yes. Landowners or other persons impacted by a potential transmission line route may file a public comment regarding the project or request to participate in the PUC proceeding. A person participating in the PUC proceeding is generally referred to as an "intervenor" during the proceeding and must follow the specified responsibilities to maintain intervenor status throughout the regulatory process.

Environmental

Will it be necessary to remove trees and other vegetation to construct the project?

Yes, some removal of trees and other vegetation is often required to safely and reliably construct and operate transmission lines. CPS Energy and STEC will work with landowners and communities to responsibly comply with tree preservation requirements and minimize the impact where necessary to operate the transmission line infrastructure safely and reliably.

Will the project impact endangered species in the area?

CPS Energy and STEC will conduct studies set forth by the PUC's ordering decision to mitigate impact to endangered wildlife and plant species to the extent any such impacts are implicated by the construction of the project.

Infrastructure**What will the transmission line pole look like?**

CPS Energy and STEC anticipate using galvanized steel tubular monopole structures, although other types of structures may be used when the circumstances warrant.

Will the transmission lines create electric and magnetic fields (EMF) for people living nearby?

Transmission lines are designed to operate safely for people living, working, and recreating nearby and are not anticipated to result in any adverse EMF effects for people near them. For more information on EMF, please visit:

<https://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/agents/emf>

Real Property**Will this new transmission line affect my property value?**

Appraisal studies tend to show that the presence of electric infrastructure do not substantially affect property values in an adverse way.

What rights do landowners have when a utility acquires the necessary transmission line right of way?

Landowners whose property will be crossed by the approved transmission line route, or from whom the land for the substation site will be acquired, have rights that are generally set out in The Texas Landowner Bill of Rights, published by the Attorney General of Texas. A copy may be found at <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/files/divisions/general-oag/landowners-bill-of-rights-2022.pdf>. Interested landowners are encouraged to review that document to become more familiar with their rights under the law. Affected landowners will receive a copy of The Texas Landowner Bill of Rights from the Applicants by US Mail before an easement is negotiated.

How will landowners along the chosen transmission route be affected?

CPS Energy and STEC will purchase a property right known as an easement for the length of the transmission line from existing property owners. In accordance with the terms of the easement, vegetation growing under the transmission line will be trimmed, and in some cases cleared to allow for the line construction. The easement document will also address issues such as roadways, fencing, access and notice rights, and other matters regarding CPS Energy and STEC's construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line facilities. The anticipated easement for this project is 150 foot wide, 75 feet on each side of the centerline.

How do CPS Energy or STEC arrive at values for property rights acquired from landowners?

CPS Energy and STEC evaluate property value using industry standard practices and offers landowners fair market value for property rights to be acquired.

Do CPS Energy and STEC have the power of "eminent domain" to acquire property rights?

Eminent domain authority is available to CPS Energy and STEC to acquire private property rights for public use. However, it is used as a last resort.

Next Steps**What happens after the Open House?**

CPS Energy and STEC's project team will evaluate all project information, including public input received. The project team will then meet to identify an adequate number of alternative transmission routes, including identification of which route best meet all applicable regulatory criteria. The project team will identify potential transmission line routes based on consideration of community values, recreational and park areas, historical and aesthetic values, environmental integrity, engineering, design, construction, operations and maintenance, and estimated cost.

When will CPS Energy and STEC file the CCN Application?

The anticipated date to file the CCN application is August 2024. Updates will be posted on the project webpage at cpsenergy.com/infrastructure (search Howard Road to San Miguel). Affected landowners will be notified when the application is filed.