

KEY TERMINOLOGY

A 765-kilovolt (kV) transmission line is a type of extra-high-voltage power line designed to carry large amounts of electricity across long distances between major substations across an electric grid. They are much larger than typical neighborhood distribution lines and require very wide and very tall structures and wide rights-of-way.

The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC or PUCT) is that state agency responsible for regulating electric utilities and approving major transmission projects.

The PUC staff are professional employees of the PUC who assist with reviewing utility applications and regulatory cases. Staff may analyze technical information, review filings, ask questions of the parties involved, and provide recommendations during the review process.

The PUC Commissioners (currently there are 5) are appointed by the Governor and make the final decision on whether a transmission project and route will be approved.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) is the organization responsible for managing the flow of electricity across most of the Texas power grid. ERCOT oversees grid reliability, coordinates electricity markets, and conducts long-term planning studies to identify where new transmission infrastructure may be needed to meet growing electricity demand.

A Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) is the formal approval required from the PUC before a major electric transmission line can be built. The CCN process determines whether the project is needed, and which route will be approved.

A Transmission Service Provider (TSP) is a utility company responsible for building, operating, and maintaining high-voltage transmission lines and substations on the electric grid. In Texas, examples of TSPs include Oncor Electric, LCRA Transmission Services, and AEP (American Electric Power).

A transmission easement is a legal right that allows a utility company to place and maintain transmission lines on private property. The landowner continues to own

the land, but certain uses of the property may be restricted within the easement area.

Segment is the term utility companies often use in reference when dividing large study areas into smaller segments when evaluating possible transmission routes. These segments (such as G4, G5, G6, etc.) are planning sections used to study and compare different routes.

An Intervenor is a person, landowner, organization, or government entity that formally participates in a PUC case. Intervenors may submit evidence, ask questions of witnesses, and present arguments during the regulatory review process.

Testimony is your sworn, evidence-based public statement filed in the case record that supports your position. It must be factual, specific, and relevant, and may be subject to questioning.

A Statement of Position is a summary of what you want the Commission to decide (your opinion), and why. It is **not** evidence, just your stance and key points.

A Protestor is a member of the public who has concerns about a proposed transmission line route, also referred to as a Concerned Citizen. They can send the PUCT written comments which are filed on the PUCT Interchange and are available publicly for anyone to view.

The Docket Number is the identifying number PUC assigns to identify a particular project. It is sometimes referred to as a Control Number.

State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) is an independent Texas state agency that provides administrative judges for many types of regulatory cases, including some PUC proceedings.

An Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) is an independent judge who manages the formal hearing process in many PUC cases. The ALJ oversees procedural matters, hears testimony from witnesses, reviews evidence submitted by the parties, and develops a written recommendation based on the record of the case. The ALJ does provide a Proposal for Decision (PFD) to the PUC Commissioners, which is heavily weighted, but does NOT make the final decision on whether a transmission line or route is approved. The final decision is made by the PUC Commissioners.