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Texas-New Mexico Power



# Virtual Public Meeting

Thank you for your participation in our online engagement! *The entire session should take no more than 15 minutes to complete.* This virtual public meeting consists of written and visual materials about the project that have been prepared for your review. The virtual public meeting materials will remain available online through the comment period deadline of March 11, 2022.

### Meeting Notice and Accommodations:

If you need assistance or special accommodations, please contact Gwen Jurisich at 972-960-4431 or gwen.jurisich@hdrinc.com.

## Language Translation

To translate the content of the meeting, use the following options.
Para traducir el contenido de la reunión, use las siguientes opciones.

Select Language

## How to Navigate:

- Click on the arrow on the right side of your screen.
- Use the navigation bar at the left of your screen to revisit any part of the online meeting.
- Click through each of the 13 slides to view all materials.
- Provide a comment at any point by clicking the "Comment" button at the top right of your screen. You may close the form to continue through the slides.
- Once finished, please make sure to hit "Submit" to confirm that your comment is sent.

# Welcome

The purpose of this virtual public meeting is to display and gather input on construction of a proposed 138 kV transmission line from the proposed Pilot Point Substation, located approximately 0.2 miles east of the intersection of United States Highway 377 (US 377) and East McDonald Drive in Denton County, to the existing 138 kV transmission system in Collin, Denton, or Grayson Counties.

This public meeting gives area landowners and other interested parties the opportunity to provide input regarding the proposed transmission line construction and alternative routes. At the end of this virtual presentation there will be a questionnaire about the project and you will have the opportunity to make comments on the project, ask questions, and express any concerns you might have about the proposed transmission line construction and alternative routes.

TNMP retained HDR, Inc. (HDR) to prepare this Environmental Assessment and Routing Study (EA) to support the application for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) for the proposed project.

## Sign-In Form

**Name**

First Name Last Name

**Phone Number**

Area Code – Phone Number

**Email**

example@example.com

Submit

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# Background

TNMP is an electricity transmission and distribution service provider:

- We provide electricity to more than 260,000 homes and businesses throughout Texas.
- Our headquarters is in Lewisville, Texas, with about 400 employees in more than 20 communities throughout the state.
- We are a subsidiary of PNM Resources Inc.
- Our formal name is Texas-New Mexico Power Co., but we now serve only Texas.

## ERCOT and PUCT

The **Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT)** manages the flow of electric power to more than 26 million Texas customers—representing about 90% of the state's electric load. As the independent system operator for the region, ERCOT schedules power on an electric grid that connects more than 46,500 miles of transmission lines and 650+ generation units. It also performs financial settlement for the competitive wholesale bulk-power market and administers retail switching for 8 million premises in competitive choice areas. ERCOT is a membership-based 501(c)(4) nonprofit corporation, governed by a board of directors and subject to oversight by the **Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT)** and the Texas Legislature. The PUCT is the state agency that was created by the Texas Legislature to provide statewide regulation of the rates and services of electric and telecommunications utilities.

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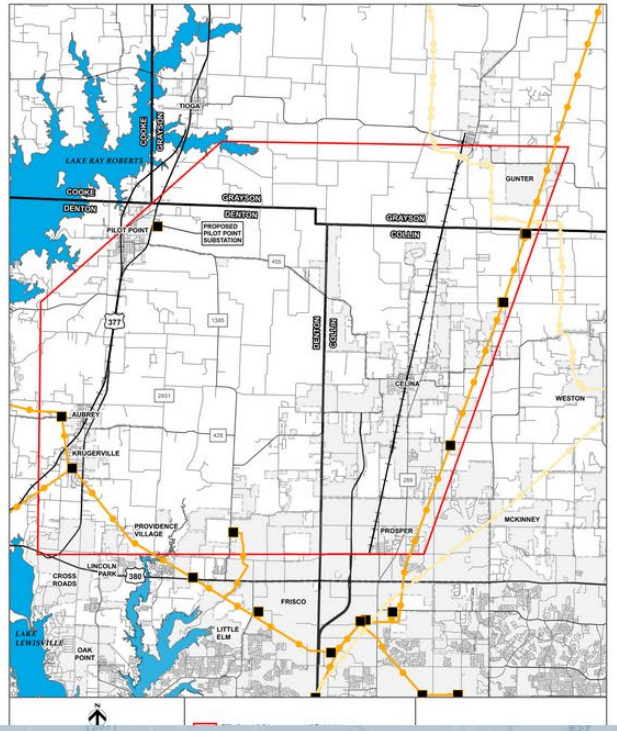
# Project Information

TNMP proposes to construct a 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from the proposed Pilot Point Substation, located approximately 0.2 miles east of the intersection of United States Highway 377 (US 377) and East McDonald Drive in Denton County, to the existing 138 kV transmission system in Collin, Denton, or Grayson Counties.

This area of North Texas is one of the fastest growing residential areas in the entire country, and the Pilot Point project is necessary to support growth in the area. This transmission line project will directly support the area's residential and commercial development and ensure reliable electric service to commercial and residential customers.

## Frequently Asked Questions

Download a PDF of all project FAQs



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# PUC Process

The Public Utilities Commission has a specific process for certifying transmission projects.

## Transmission Line Certification Process

### 1 Define Project

1. Identify beginning and end points for project.

### 2 Environmental Assessment & Routing Analysis

1. Define study area.
2. Collect and review data.
3. Send consultation letter to local, state, and federal agencies and officials soliciting information on the study area.
4. Map environmental and land use constraints in study area.
5. Determine preliminary transmission line links based on maps, aerial photos, constraints data and field visits.
6. Send invitation for open house to landowners in proximity to preliminary transmission line links.

**WE ARE HERE**

7. **Hold open house to gather public input.**
8. Analyze preliminary transmission line links to develop the primary alternative routes.
9. Prepare Environmental Assessment Report.

### 3 Public Utility Commission Application Process

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# Agency List

Numerous federal, state, and local regulatory agencies have rules and regulations regarding the routing process and potential impact assessment associated with construction of high voltage electrical transmission lines. This section describes the major regulatory agencies and issues that are involved in planning and permitting of transmission lines within the state of Texas. HDR and TNMP solicit project scoping comments from various regulatory agencies.

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# Routing Considerations

A study area boundary was identified and comprehensive data collection activities were initiated. Available data were mapped to identify existing conditions and to determine potential conflicts that would result from the proposed 138 kV transmission line construction.

## Environmental and Land Use Criteria for Evaluation

### Land Use

- Length of Alternative Route
- Number of Habitable Structures[1] Within 300 Feet of Right-of-Way (ROW) Centerline
- Number of Parcels Crossed by Alternative Route
- Length of ROW Using Existing Transmission Line ROW
- Length of ROW Parallel to Existing Transmission Line ROW
- Length of ROW Parallel to Other Compatible Existing ROW (Highways, Public Roadways, Railways, etc. – Excluding Pipelines)
- Length of ROW Parallel to Apparent Property Lines
- Percentage of ROW Parallel to Existing Compatible Corridors and Apparent Property Boundaries (Excluding Pipelines)
- Length of ROW Through Parks/Recreational Areas
- Number of Parks/Recreational Areas Crossed by ROW Centerline
- Number of Additional Parks/Recreational Areas Within 1,000 Feet of ROW Centerline
- Length of ROW Through Cropland
- Length of ROW Through Pasture/Rangeland
- Length of ROW Through Land Irrigated by Traveling Systems (Rolling or Pivot Type)
- Number of Transmission Pipeline Crossings
- Number of Transmission Line Crossings
- Number of U.S. and State Highway Crossings
- Number of Farm-to-Market Road Crossings
- Number of Cemeteries Within 1,000 Feet of the ROW Centerline
- Number of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Registered Airports With At Least One Runway More Than 3,200 Feet In Length Located Within 20,000 Feet of the ROW Centerline
- Number of FAA Registered Airports Having No Runway More Than 3,200 Feet In Length Located Within 10,000 Feet of the ROW Centerline
- Number of Private Airstrips Within 10,000 Feet of the ROW Centerline
- Number of Heliports Within 5,000 Feet of the ROW Centerline
- Number of Commercial AM Radio Transmitters Within 10,000 Feet of the ROW Centerline
- Number of FM Radio Transmitters, Microwave Towers, and Other Electronic Installations Within 2,000 Feet of the ROW Centerline
- Number of Recorded Water Wells Within 200 Feet of the ROW Centerline
- Number of Recorded Oil and Gas Wells Within 200 Feet of the ROW Centerline

### Aesthetics

- Estimated Length of ROW Within the Foreground Visual Zone[2] Of U.S. and State Highways
- Estimated Length of ROW Within the Foreground Visual Zone[2] of Farm-To-Market Roads
- Estimated Length of ROW Within the Foreground Visual Zone[2] of Parks/ Recreational Areas

### Ecology

- Length of ROW Through Upland Woodlands
- Length of ROW Through Bottomland/Riparian Woodlands
- Length of ROW Across Mapped National Wetland Inventory Wetlands
- Length of ROW Across Known Habitat of Federally Listed Endangered or Threatened Species
- Length of ROW Across Open Water (Lakes, Ponds)
- Number of Stream Crossings
- Number of River Crossings
- Length of ROW Parallel (Within 100 Feet) to Streams or Rivers
- Length of ROW Across 100-Year Floodplains

### Cultural Resources

- Number of Archeological or Historical Sites Crossed by ROW
- Number of Additional Archeological or Historical Sites Within 1,000 Feet of ROW Centerline
- Number of National Register of Historic Places Listed Properties Crossed by ROW
- Number of Additional National Register of Historic Places Listed Properties Within 1,000 Feet of ROW Centerline
- Length of ROW Across Areas of High Archeological Site Potential

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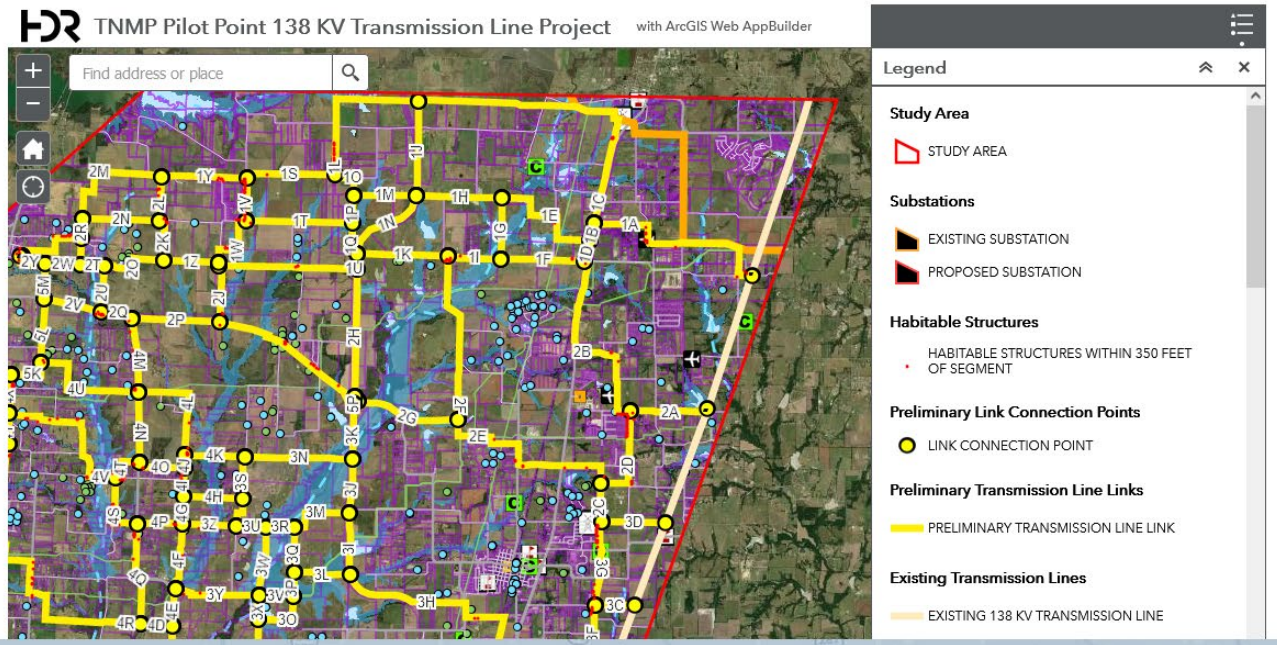
# Constraints Map

Preliminary transmission line links were identified on an overlay of the composite environmental and land use constraints map. The route links are preliminary line segments developed following field reconnaissance and review of environmental and social constraints. Not all route links will be constructed. Rather, one route will be determined by the PUCT. These preliminary links were developed based upon maximizing the use of routing opportunity areas while avoiding areas of high environmental constraints or conflicting land uses. Recent aerial photography was used as the background of the composite constraints overlay to identify optimal locations for the preliminary transmission line link centerlines.



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# Structure Examples

The proposed construction for the transmission line will utilize a typical structures that are approximately 90 to 100 foot tall steel monopoles in a right-of-way that will be approximately 80 foot wide.

## Proposed Pilot Point Steel Pole Designs

**Double Circuit 138 KV Transmission Line**

### Double Circuit Tangent Braced Post

138 KV Direct Embed Tublar Steel

### Double Circuit Deadend

138 KV Self-Supporting Tublar Steel

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- PUC Process
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- Routing Considerations
- Constraints Map
- Structure Examples
- Construction Timing/Methods
- Project Schedule
- ROW/Landowner Bill of Rights
- Questionnaire

# Construction Timing/Methods

TNMP plans to file the CCN application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) in August of 2022. The PUCT has one year to make a decision on the project; however, the PUCT can issue an order prior to that time. The Company will begin construction upon final approval by the PUCT. TNMP anticipates that the project will be completed no later than March 2025.

## Surveying

Surveying of the proposed transmission line ROW is required to locate the centerline, the structure locations, obstacles above and below ground, and the edges of both new and existing ROW.

## Clearing

Tree and shrub clearing may be needed in areas where new ROW is acquired. If a SWPPP is required, it will be implemented along the approved route prior to the start of clearing. Mechanized cutters and hand tools will be used to remove impeding vegetation to ground level.

## Structure Placement

Specialized wide-track vehicles and line trucks with trailers will be used to transport construction materials along the ROW to the structure locations.

Galvanized steel poles will be delivered to the site location shortly before the poles are ready to be set. A large crane would then set the pole directly into an excavated hole. The hole will be backfilled with native soil or crushed limestone.

If needed for the dead-end and angled structures, the concrete foundations will be installed several weeks before the steel poles are erected to allow the foundations to cure and reach their maximum strength. The steel poles will be delivered and set next to the proposed structure location shortly before structure erection. The structures will be assembled on-site, and a crane will be used to set the sections into place onto the previously installed foundations.

## Conductor and Static Wire Installation

Once the structures have been erected, the stringing and clipping-in of conductors and static wires will begin. Outages on the rerouted transmission line are a possibility during the conductor and static wire installation. However, additional outages on other lines that will be crossed during the install are not anticipated. Each road crossing will have temporary guard poles installed for public protection while stringing in the new conductors.

## Cleanup

Cleanup operations will be performed as construction activities are completed. Cleanup includes removal of debris, unused materials, and trash. Any necessary soil stabilization and reestablishing of vegetative cover will also occur during cleanup, following the procedures dictated in the SWPPP, if required. Pre-construction contours will also be restored following construction.

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# ROW/Landowner Bill of Rights

If it is necessary for the transmission line to cross your property, TNMP will make a bona fide offer to the landowner when purchasing right-of-way following the requirements of Texas law and will provide landowners with a copy of the State of Texas Landowner's Bill of Rights. In cases where the parties do not agree on the value of the property, the land value will be determined in a condemnation proceeding where special commissioners, appointed by a judge, will determine the value of the property following a hearing where all interested parties are entitled to provide evidence of valuation.

## Texas Landowner's Bill of Rights

- English
- Spanish

# Project Schedule

| Transmission Line Project Phases | Duration | Start |
|---|---|---|
| Routing Study, Environmental Assessment, and Public Meeting | 10 months | October 2021 |
| File CCN/PUC Review | 12 months | August 2022 |
| PUC Approval | | August 2023 |
| ROW Activities | 12 months | September 2024 |
| Transmission Construction | 6 months | March 2025 |

**Acronyms**

**CCN** Certificate of Convenience and Necessity
**PUC** Public Utility Commission of Texas
**ROW** Right-of-Way

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# Questionnaire

Thank you for attending the TNMP Pilot Point 138 kV Transmission Line Project Virtual Public Meeting. Please take your time reviewing the available project information. We want to hear from you. Please use one of the available methods to leave us your comments.

**Written Comments:**

- Fill out the digital questionnaire and leave your comments or questions
- To submit a general comment or question using a web-based comment form, click on the comment button in the top right corner of your screen. Type your comment and press Submit.

**Online Survey:**

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## Open House Questionnaire

Texas-New Mexico Power 138 kV Transmission Line Project

This questionnaire will help Texas-New Mexico Power Company (TNMP) understand public interests and concerns about the proposed project. The proposed project includes preliminary routing links for a proposed 138kV transmission line in Pilot Point, Texas to the existing 138kV transmission system in Collin, Denton, or Grayson Counties. The information provided by you and other interested citizens is one element carefully considered in the