



## Public Utility Commission of Texas

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### **PUCT Chairman Peter Lake Tours Electric Facilities, Receives Update on Rio Grande Valley Transmission Reliability Project**

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*Lake also met with RGV leaders on grid reliability reforms*

**Rio Grande Valley, Texas** – Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) Chairman Peter Lake today toured the North Edinburg Substation in Edinburg, Texas for an update on the Rio Grande Valley Transmission Reliability Project. He also met with dozens of local business and civic leaders to provide to update them on statewide reliability reforms that are enhancing electric grid reliability in the region and the entire Electric Reliability Commission of Texas (ERCOT) service area.

“Energy security in the Border Region is critical to our state’s economic security and our country’s national security,” said PUCT Chairman Peter Lake. “Just as important is the security families and businesses have knowing we’re keeping up with fast growth in the region, so we can move power where it’s needed, when it’s needed on these new power lines.”

The Rio Grande Valley Transmission Reliability Project is expected to add six, 345-kV transmission lines totaling approximately 350 miles and four substations in the Valley. External estimates put the cost of the project at \$1.28 billion. The final cost will depend on several factors, including routes selected and construction and material costs. The PUCT must approve the cost of the project and authorize factoring it into customers rates in the ERCOT system.

AEP Texas, Electric Transmission Texas, and South Texas Electric Cooperative are developing possible routes for the new lines and will hold open houses for the region’s residents to provide their input. The PUCT must hold hearings on proposed siting of new lines and will approve the final routes. The project completion target is end of 2026.

“As this process moves forward, I urge everyone, citizens, business owners, landowners any interested party to make their voices heard at the commission,” said Chairman Lake. “We created the Office of Public Engagement to educate and assist Texans with participating in our processes and give them a louder voice in decisions that impact their communities.”



By its approval of the project in December 2021, the ERCOT Board of Directors designated it critical to the reliability of the ERCOT system. According to ERCOT’s study of the project, it is necessary to increase transmission capability in the region for service reliability and energy transmission. Additionally, the ERCOT study identifies existing transmission resources as susceptible to high-impact weather conditions such as tropical storms and hurricanes. The new lines will also help move electricity to other regions within ERCOT, when necessary.

More information on the project can be found [HERE](#) on ERCOT’s website.

Texans can reach the PUCT Office of Public Engagement for information on the line routing process at [public@puc.texas.gov](mailto:public@puc.texas.gov).

### **About the Public Utility Commission**

Our mission is to serve Texans by regulating the state’s electric, telecommunication, and water and sewer utilities, implementing respective legislation, and offering customer assistance in resolving consumer complaints. Since its founding in 1975, the Commission has a long and proud history of service to Texas, protecting customers, fostering competition, and promoting high quality infrastructure. To learn more, please visit <http://www.puc.texas.gov>.