Q. WHAT IS THE TRANSMISSION PROJECT?

A. The transmission Project is planned as a double-circuit capable 345-kV transmission line with one circuit installed initially. The line will begin at the existing AEP Texas Angstrom Substation located approximately 4.0 miles east of Sinton Texas and approximately 0.5 mile north of State Highway 188 in San Patricio County to the proposed AEP Texas Grissom Substation located approximately 8 miles southeast of Skidmore Texas and approximately 5.5 miles east of U.S. Highway 181 in Bee County.

The final location of the Project will depend on what route (or combinations of routing links) is approved by the Public Utility Commission (PUC) after a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) application is filed with the PUC.

Q. WHY IS THE PROJECT NEEDED?

A. The Project is needed to provide service to a new industrial load in the area. AEP Texas has executed a contract with the largest industrial load, Steel Dynamics, Inc. (SDI), to provide service to a new steel plant located near Sinton in San Patricio County.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) has determined that a new 345-kV double-circuit capable transmission line is required to provide service to the new industrial load. This Project is one component of what ERCOT refers to as the AEP Corpus Christi North Shore Project. ERCOT has designated the AEP Corpus Christi North Shore Project as critical to the reliability of the transmission system.

Q. WHAT IS ERCOT?

A. ERCOT is an independent, third-party entity that oversees activities related to the reliable and safe transmission of electricity within a specified geographic area in Texas. This Project is located within this area. ERCOT is required to perform four primary functions:

1. Ensure non-discriminatory access to the transmission and distribution systems for all electricity buyers and sellers.
2. Ensure the reliability and adequacy of the regional electric network.
3. Ensure that information related to customer retail choice is provided in a timely manner.
4. Ensure that electricity production and delivery are accurately accounted for among all regional generators and wholesale buyers and sellers.

Q. WHAT IS THE PUC?

A. The PUC is the state agency that was created by the Texas Legislature to provide statewide regulation of the rates and services of electric, telecommunications, and water utilities. This includes the approval of siting new transmission lines.

Q. DOES THE PUC HAVE JURISDICTION OVER AEP TEXAS?

A. Yes, AEP Texas activities are regulated by the PUC. AEP Texas must submit a CCN Application to the PUC to obtain approval to construct the transmission line Project. In that CCN Application, AEP Texas will present to the PUC numerous alternative routes for the PUC to consider. If the PUC agrees with AEP Texas that the transmission line is needed, the PUC will then make the final determination of the transmission route to be used for this Project. The PUC will only approve one route for the transmission line Project.

Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE AND THE ONLINE OPEN HOUSE?

A. The open house process provides AEP Texas and its routing consultant the opportunity to obtain public input on the preliminary routing links. This input will be considered in the development and evaluation of alternative routes to be submitted to the PUC. At this time, COVID-19 rules and best practices dictate that in-person meetings are not allowed or practicable. In the alternative, AEP Texas has established a website with a Virtual Open House where interested landowners can review information about the Project, view a detailed interactive map of the Project, and submit comments regarding the Project. Please review the Virtual Open House at AEPTexas.com/Angstrom-Grissom at your convenience.

In addition, AEP Texas will hold an Online WebEx Public Meeting on November 24 at 6:30 PM when landowners can participate or view the public meeting at AEPTexas.com/Angstrom-GrissomTownhall and entering "Power2020" if prompted for an access code**.** Landowners can also choose to dial-in to the Online Public Meeting at (415) 655-0001, then using access code 178-318-4596. As mentioned in the notice letter, there are multiple ways to provide input to AEP Texas. For AEP Texas to timely consider your input and comments, please mail the questionnaire or complete it online by **December 3, 2020**.

Q. WILL AN ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS OF THE ROUTES BE PERFORMED?

A. Yes. AEP Texas is currently working with an experienced routing consultant to perform an environmental assessment and routing analysis for the proposed transmission line Project. The routing consultant employs professional personnel with backgrounds in various environmental sciences, socioeconomics, and cultural resources. The environmental assessment and routing analysis will be part of the CCN Application filed with the PUC.

Q. WHEN WILL AEP TEXAS FILE THE CCN APPLICATION AND START CONSTRUCTION OF THE TRANSMISSION LINE?

A. AEP Texas plans to file the CCN Application in the Spring of 2021 and anticipates approval within 180 days in the Fall of 2021. The 180-day approval process at the PUC has been established for projects deemed critical to the reliability of the ERCOT system. After final design is completed and easements are obtained, AEP Texas anticipates that construction will begin in late 2022

Q. WHAT IS AN EASEMENT?

A. An easement is a legal document that gives a utility certain rights to use privately owned land for a specific purpose. The landowner retains ownership of the property. The proposed project will require easements to be obtained from landowners to construct the transmission line approved by the PUC. Easement rights would be purchased as needed to allow for installation, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line.

Q. HOW WIDE IS AN EASEMENT?

A. The typical easement along the transmission line path will be 150 feet wide. Additional easement area might be necessary in some locations for specialized structures and other easements might be required for construction of the Project.

Q. HOW ARE LANDOWNERS IMPACTED BY TRANSMISSION LINE EASEMENTS?

A. Easements provide the utility the ability to clear right-of-way, construct electric facilities, and continue to operate and maintain the new transmission line. Clearing includes the removal of trees and shrubs in the easement that would interfere with the safe operation and maintenance of the transmission line. Erosion control measures are implemented during the clearing and construction process. After AEP Texas has obtained a necessary easement(s) from a landowner, the landowner will be contacted prior to clearing and construction activities. AEP Texas will undertake reasonable efforts to minimize disturbances to the landowner's use of the property and the impact to landowner's property in general during clearing and construction activities.

After completing construction of the transmission line, the surface of the easement area will be restored as nearly as possible to its original contours and grades and will be re-vegetated as necessary using native species, while giving consideration to landowner preferences. The landowner may continue to use the easement property, as long as the activity does not interfere with the construction, operation and maintenance of the line and does not jeopardize the safe use of the easement area. PUC rules require that a new easement restrict the new construction of any above-ground structures within the right-of-way of the transmission line.

Q. WHAT TYPE OF STRUCTURES WILL BE USED TO CONSTRUCT THE LINE?

A. AEP Texas anticipates that the typical structure will be either a steel single-pole structure or lattice steel structure. The typical structure will be between 115 to 156 feet tall with a typical span distance between structures of approximately 1000 to 1250 feet. A structure height must provide the minimum clearances to the ground, roadways, structures, and other utility structures to comply with the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC). These clearance requirements are for the safety of the general public.

Q. ARE THE STRUCTURES SECURE AND SAFE?

A. Yes. AEP Texas designs and constructs transmission lines with safety in mind. The materials that are used comply with the strength requirements of all applicable codes, including the NESC (as required by Texas statute) and the American Standard Testing Materials Specifications. The AEP Texas design and construction practices meet or exceed all of these codes and specifications.

These codes and specifications were developed in part to protect the general public from electrical shock. Also, if a severe event occurs such as extreme wind conditions, and causes an overhead conductor to break and fall to the ground, AEP Texas has protective devices in place to de-energize the line to further protect the general public.

It is important to remember that a conductor on the ground should always be considered dangerous. AEP Texas requests that if one is found, contact with it should be avoided and AEP Texas should be called immediately.