

# POWER UP SOUTH TEXAS COASTAL BEND

## WHAT

The Power Up South Texas plans involve:

- Rebuilding more than 400 miles of transmission line across the Coastal Bend region.
- Upgrading equipment at area substations.

## WHY NOW?

While the transmission system was built to last, parts wear out or become obsolete over time. This is the case in South Texas, where many of AEP Texas's lines are more than 60 years old.

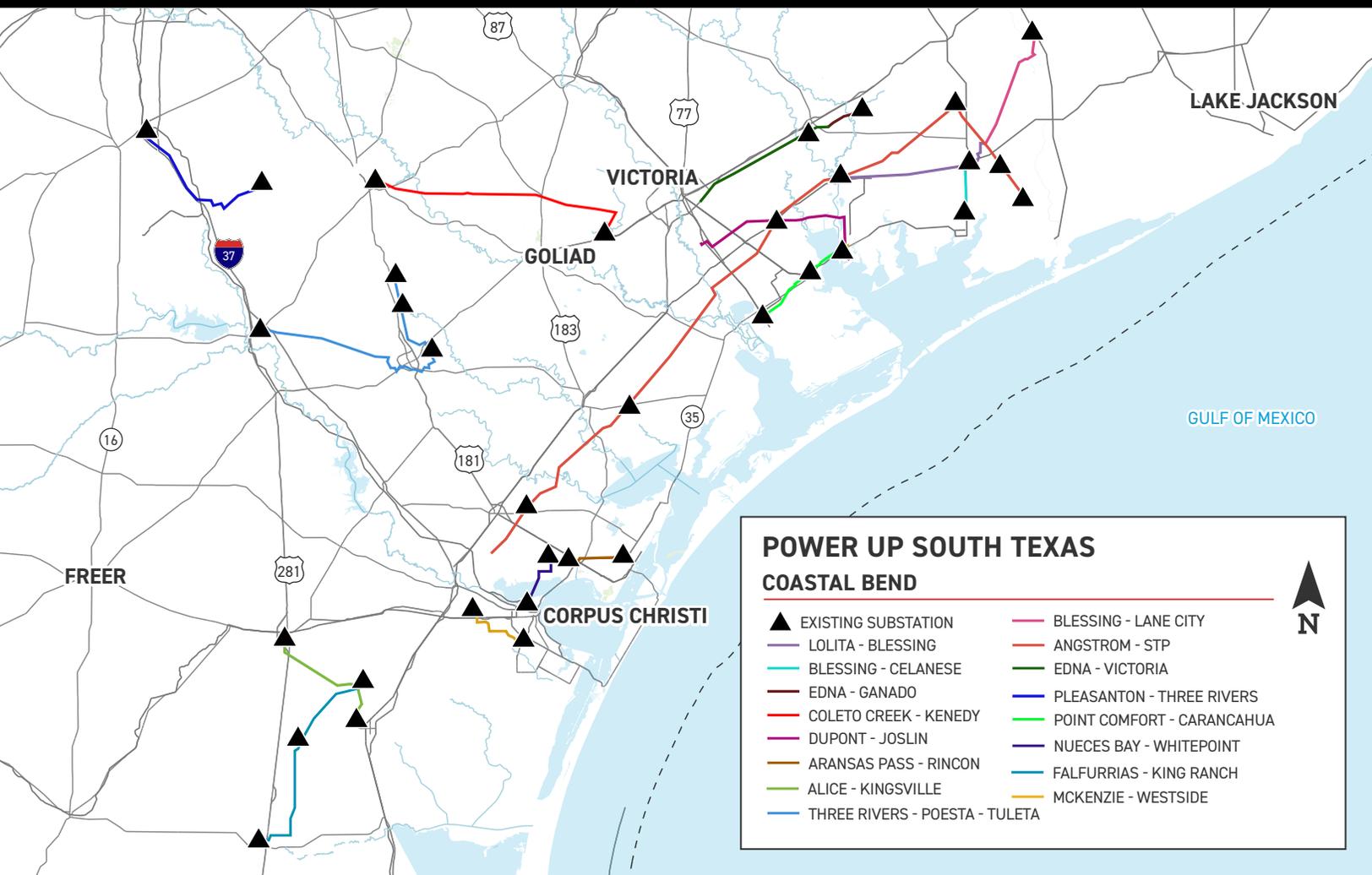
Rebuilding and upgrading these transmission lines provides a number of benefits, including:

- Higher efficiency
- Better reliability and resiliency
- Enhanced security
- Increased safety standards
- Advanced diagnostic features

## WHERE

The transmission lines are located across South Texas including:

- Nueces
- Kleberg
- Aransas
- San Patricio
- Matagorda
- Three Rivers
- Calhoun
- Bee
- Atascosa
- Karnes
- Frio County



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Why do the transmission lines need to be rebuilt?

The power lines included in this transmission improvements initiative are all more than 60 years old and have reached the end of their planned service lives. Many of the transmission lines consist of the original wooden poles and have experienced heavy wear from the environment.

Replacing deteriorating wooden poles with stronger steel structures protects the power grid from extended community-wide outages that can be caused by the severe weather that frequents South Texas.

Residential, commercial and industrial growth also requires upgraded transmission lines to ensure continued reliable service for existing and future customers.

## Will service reliability improve once the lines are rebuilt?

While it is not possible to avoid all power outages, these system improvements strengthen the grid, and reduce the number and duration of community-wide outages.

These projects also address overgrown vegetation in the company's right-of-way or in public utility areas where the transmission lines are located to help reduce individual customer outages which are often due to tree-related damages.

## Why are the lines being rebuilt overhead instead of underground?

The price of building an underground line is significantly higher than building an overhead line, though the expense is only one consideration.

Failures on overhead lines are also easier to identify, and maintenance is less intrusive to property owners.

## What about my trees?

AEP Texas respects the environment and communities and works to strike a balance in maintaining a reliable electric grid to serve communities while also considering environmental impacts of power line construction, operation and maintenance.

It's necessary to maintain safe distances between power lines and nearby vegetation. As part of AEP Texas's ongoing work to maintain woody-stemmed vegetation and other incompatible vegetation within company rights-of-way, crews follow North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) standards for safe operation. Crews trim or remove vegetation during power line construction and routine maintenance.

## What is the timeline for these improvements?

These improvements are in progress and expect to be completed from 2024 - 2029.

AEP Texas project teams are developing the projects and plan to communicate plans to the affected community members when details and schedules are determined.

AEP Texas representatives are planning open houses for many of the projects and will share that information once dates are determined.

## What can I expect as a landowner or resident?

Landowners and residents can expect to receive additional information as each project progresses. You may also be contacted by a right-of-way agent to discuss your property and invited to an open house to learn more about how the project might impact you.

Following project announcements and any planned open houses, AEP Texas's right-of-way representatives may contact affected landowners and residents to discuss property access, necessary easements and upcoming field activities.

## Will this have an impact on my electric bill?

No. The cost for the projects is spread equally amongst all AEP Texas customers and is paid using allocations for improvements already included in your bill.

## What are electric and magnetic fields (EMF)?

Commonly called EMF, electric and magnetic fields are invisible lines of force present in the natural environment and wherever electricity flows.

Sources of EMF include electric power lines, electrical wiring in homes and businesses, home appliances, office equipment, electric tools and hospital diagnostic equipment.

The electromagnetic spectrum covers a wide range of frequencies. These frequencies are expressed in hertz (Hz) or cycles per second.

Electrical current associated with power lines and household appliances is characterized by extremely low frequencies -- 60 Hz AC, meaning the direction of current alternates at a rate of 60 times per second. For more information please visit [aeptexas.com/property/emf.php](http://aeptexas.com/property/emf.php)

**WE VALUE YOUR INPUT. PLEASE SEND COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS TO:**

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