



Eastside Switching Station Project Frequently Asked Questions

Project Overview

What is the Eastside Switching Station Project?

CPS Energy is proposing to construct a new 345kV/138kV switching station in east Bexar County near an existing CPS Energy right-of-way. New transmission line extensions will be built to connect the new switching station to the existing transmission line network.

Why is the new switching station needed in this area?

The new switching station is necessary to support customer growth in San Antonio and to address new and retiring generation resources in the region. The project will increase the reliability of the electric grid.

What is a switching station?

A switching station is used to support switching operations and serves as a hub for transmission lines connecting different parts of the electric grid in the area. Transformation of voltage levels allows power to flow from higher voltage generating units to load serving hubs.

How much land is needed for a switching station?

Typically, a switching station site requires approximately 80 acres of land.

What is a transmission line?

A transmission line consists of specially designed steel structures and wires that move electricity long distances at high voltages.

How does electricity get delivered to homes and businesses?

Typically, electricity is generated from remotely located electric power plants (including wind and solar farms) and then travels from those remote generating sources to switching stations and substations closer to population centers through a system of high-voltage transmission lines. Once at a substation, the electricity is reduced to a voltage level that is appropriate for distribution to customers. Electricity then travels from the substation through the network of distribution lines, supplying electricity to homes and businesses.

When does construction begin?

Construction of the Eastside Switching Station Project is currently anticipated to begin by May 2026.

When will crews be working on this project?

Under normal circumstances, work will be performed Monday through Friday, 7 A.M.-5 P.M. Weekend work will be performed as needed. Please note that the work will be done within existing or new easements. In some instances, temporary work easements may be obtained from landowners for construction activity.

Switching Station Sites

Where will the new switching station be located?

Several possible sites have been identified, offering different options for the switching station. In determining the various station site options, CPS Energy and its consultants gather input from the community and federal, state, and local officials and agencies. This input is compiled into an Environmental Assessment Report, which is used to compare and evaluate transmission route and switching station site options.

Who selects the final transmission line route and switching station site?

The CPS Energy project team evaluates all the information that has been gathered and compiled regarding the transmission line route and switching station site options. Depending on the options selected, CPS Energy may be required to present data to the Public Utility Commission (PUC). In situations where a utility must present an application to the PUC, the PUC would ultimately decide the transmission line route and associated station site. At this point in the process, CPS Energy is still evaluating the potential station sites and associated transmission line routes and no determination has yet been made whether an application will be required to be filed with the PUC.

If a PUC proceeding is necessary, will landowners receive notice of the PUC proceeding?

Yes. If PUC approval is necessary, all landowners who are crossed by a potential transmission line route/switching station site, or who own a habitable structure within at least 500 feet of the centerline of a potential transmission line route/switching station site, will be mailed a notice from CPS Energy that an application has been filed at the PUC requesting approval to construct and operate the project. CPS Energy will also publish notice of the application filing in the newspaper and update the project website (see the end of this FAQ sheet for the website address for this project) announcing the filing of the application. The notice will include forms for interested persons to provide public comment on the project or to participate in the PUC proceeding.

Environmental

Will it be necessary to remove trees and other vegetation to construct the project?

Some removal of trees and other vegetation is often required to safely and reliably construct and operate transmission lines and switching station sites. CPS Energy will work with landowners and communities to responsibly comply with tree preservation requirements and minimize the impact to trees and other vegetation, clearing trees and other vegetation only where necessary to operate the transmission line infrastructure safely and reliably.

Will the project impact endangered species in the area?

CPS Energy will conduct studies to identify endangered wildlife and plant species in the vicinity of the project and is committed to making the required efforts to ensure endangered wildlife and plant species are not adversely affected as a result of the construction and operation of the project facilities.

Infrastructure

What will the transmission line pole look like?

CPS Energy generally uses galvanized steel tubular structures, such as monopoles, although other types of structures may be used when the circumstances warrant.

What will the switching station look like?

Although switching stations vary in their appearance, a typical station may consist of a paved site with electrical equipment mounted on concrete foundations. Most station sites are open, in that the equipment is not enclosed in a building, but rather is simply mounted on concrete foundations. The switching station will be encircled by a fence and other appropriate security measures designed to maintain safe and secure separation between the equipment and the public.

Do transmission lines create Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF) for people living nearby?

CPS Energy designs switching stations and transmission lines to operate safely for people living, working, and recreating nearby. Accordingly, the project facilities are not anticipated to result in any adverse EMF effects for people near them. For more information on EMF, please visit: <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/agents/emf>.

Real Property

What rights do landowners have when a utility acquires the necessary transmission line right of way?

Landowners whose property will be crossed by the approved transmission line route, or from whom the land for the switching station site will be acquired, have very specific rights which are generally set out in The Texas Landowner Bill of Rights, published by the Attorney General of Texas. A copy may be found at

<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/files/divisions/general-oag/landowners-bill-of-rights-24.pdf>

Interested landowners are encouraged to review that document to become more familiar with their rights under the law.

Affected landowners will receive a copy of The Texas Landowner Bill of Rights from CPS Energy by US Mail before an easement is negotiated.

What is “eminent domain?”

It is the right of a government, or its agent, to acquire private property for public use, with payment of compensation for property acquired.

How much does CPS Energy pay for acquiring property rights from landowners?

CPS Energy will evaluate property value using industry standard practices and offer landowners fair market value for property rights to be acquired.

Next Steps

What happens after the Open House?

CPS Energy's project team will evaluate all project information, including public input received. Following the evaluation, the project team will determine whether an application will need to be filed at the PUC.

If PUC approval is needed, when would CPS Energy file the Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) CCN Application?

If CPS Energy determines that PUC approval is necessary for the project, CPS Energy anticipates it may file a CCN application by May 2025. Updates will be posted on the project webpage. Affected landowners will be notified if an application is filed with the PUC.