

PUBLIC



Austin Energy (AEN) Dunlap to Decker 138-kV Line Project (26RPG022) – ERCOT Independent Review (EIR) Study Scope

Sukanta Roy

Regional Planning Group (RPG) Meeting
July 21, 2026

Introduction

Austin Energy (AEN) submitted the Dunlap to Decker 138-kV Line Project (26RPG022) for Electric Reliability Council of Texas' (ERCOT) Regional Planning Group (RPG) review in February 2026

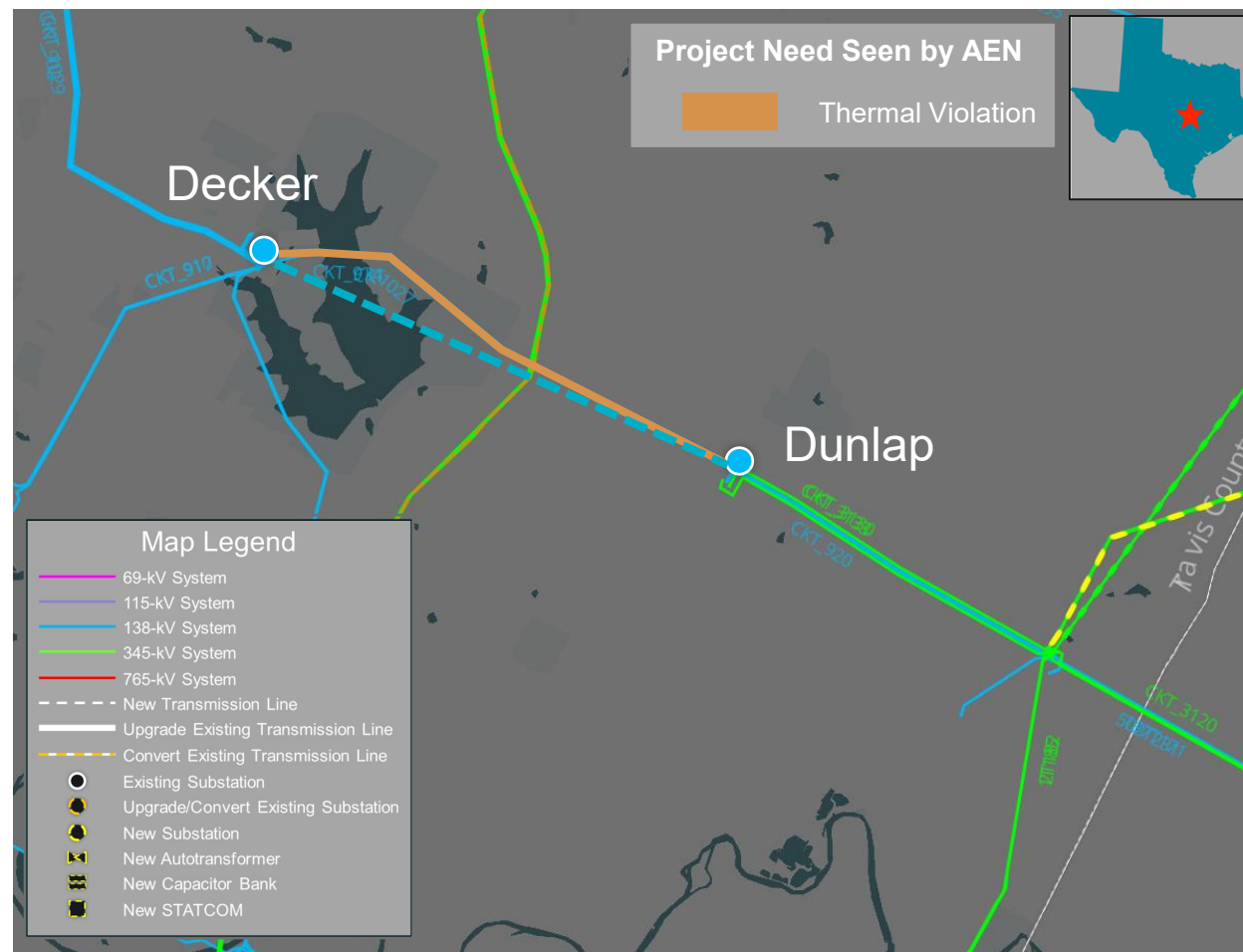
- This is a Tier 2 project with an estimated cost of approximately \$61.61 million and will require a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN)
- Estimated in-service date (ISD) is May 2028
- Addresses the thermal overloads seen by AEN in the Travis County in the South Central Weather Zone

This project is currently under ERCOT Independent Review (EIR)

Proposed Project by AEN

Project Details

- Construct a new Dunlap to Decker 138-kV single-circuit transmission line using double circuit 345-kV capable structure with one circuit in place, which will require new right of way (ROW) and need CCN, with current normal and emergency ratings of at least 640 MVA and 710 MVA, respectively, increasing to at least 860 MVA using a conductor rated 5,000 A or greater, for approximately 5.3 miles
- Retiring the existing Dunlap to Decker 138-kV single-circuit transmission line after the commissioning of new upgraded line



Study Assumptions

Study Region

- The project is located in the Travis County in the South Central Weather Zone and all transmission elements in counties those are electrically close will be monitored

Steady-State Base Case

- Final [2025 Regional Transmission Planning \(RTP\)](#) 2031 summer peak load case, published on Market Information System (MIS) on December 22, 2025, will be updated to construct the study base case

Transmission Updates

- New transmission projects (listed in [Appendix A](#)), based on February 2026 [Transmission Project and Information Tracking \(TPIT\) report](#) and recently approved RPG project, will be added to the base case

Generation Updates

- New generation (listed in [Appendix B](#)) that met ERCOT Planning Guide Section 6.9(1) condition with Commercial Operation Date (COD) before the May 2028 (ISD) in the study area at the time of the study, but not already modeled in the RTP cases, will be added to the case based on May 2026 [Generator Interconnection Status \(GIS\) report](#) published in MIS in June 2026
- All generation will be dispatched consistent with the 2025 RTP methodology

Load and Reserve Updates

- Load level in the study area was kept consistent with the final RTP cases
- The reserve will be kept consistent with the 2025 RTP

Contingencies & Criteria

Contingencies for Study Region

- North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Reliability Standard TPL-001-5.1 and [ERCOT Planning Criteria](#)
 - P0 (System Intact)
 - P1, P2-1, P7 (N-1 conditions)
 - P2-2, P2-3, P4, and P5 (Extra High Voltage (EHV) only)
 - P3: (G-1+N-1) {G-1: list in [Appendix C](#)}
 - P6-2: (X-1+N-1) {X-1: list in [Appendix C](#)}

Criteria

- Monitor all 60-kV and above busses, transmission lines, and transformers in the study region (excluding generator step-up transformers)
- Thermal
 - Use Rate A for normal conditions
 - Use Rate B for emergency conditions
- Voltage
 - Voltages exceeding their pre-contingency and post-contingency limits
 - Voltage deviations exceeding 8% on non-radial load buses

Study Procedure

Need Analysis

- The reliability analysis will be performed to identify the need to serve the projected area load using the study base case

Project Evaluation

- Project alternatives will be tested to satisfy the NERC and ERCOT reliability requirements
- ERCOT may also perform the following studies
 - Maintenance Outage Evaluation
 - Long-Term Load-Serving Capability Assessment
- AEN will provide Cost Estimates and Feasibility Assessment

Additional Analyses

- Congestion analysis may be performed based on the preferred transmission upgrades to ensure that the identified transmission upgrades do not result in new congestion within the study area

Deliverables and Next Step

Tentative Timelines

- ERCOT will continue to evaluate proposed upgrades and the alternatives
- Provide status updates at the future RPG meetings
- ERCOT recommendation in Q4 2026

Key Takeaway: ERCOT recommendation in Q4 2026

Thank you! Questions/Comments?

Sukanta.Roy@ercot.com

Robert.Golen@ercot.com

Learn More

www.ercot.com

Download ERCOT Mobile App



Connect With Us



facebook.com/ERCOTISO



x.com/ercot_iso



linkedin.com/company/ercot



instagram.com/ercot_iso

Appendixes

- [Appendix A1: Transmission Projects Added to Base case](#)
- [Appendix A2: Transmission Projects to be Removed from Base case](#)
- [Appendix B: Generation Added](#)
- [Appendix C: List of G-1 Generators and X-1 Transformers to be Tested](#)

Learn More

www.ercot.com

Download ERCOT Mobile App



Connect With Us



facebook.com/ERCOTISO



x.com/ercot_iso



linkedin.com/company/ercot



instagram.com/ercot_iso

Appendix A1: Transmission Projects to be Added to Base case

TPIT/RPG	Project Name	Tier	Project ISD	County(s)
91289	LCRATSC_Settlers Substation Upgrade	3	April 2027	Bastrop
93250A	Utley_Substation_and_Transmission_Line_Addition	3	May 2027	Bastrop
91312A	Austrop - Zorn Transmission Line Upgrade	1	May 2028	Travis, Bastrop
24RPG014	Sim Gideon to Cedar Hill Transmission Line Upgrade Project	3	May 2027	Bastrop
25RPG006	Resubmission for Salado Switch to Hutto Switch 138-kV Line Project	3	May 2027	Bell, Williamson

Appendix A2: Transmission Projects to be Removed from Base case

Placeholder Project Number	Project Name	County(s)
2023-SC15	Dessau (9193) to McNeil AEN (9076) 138-kV Line Upgrade	Bastrop, Fayette, Travis
2024-SC04	Wells Branch Area 138-kV Line Upgrades	Travis
2024-SC21	Austrop (9328) to Dunlap (9045) 138-kV Line Addition	Travis
2024-SC29	Muscovy 345/138-kV Substation Addition and Muscovy (3700) to Voss Lake (3751) 345-kV Double-Circuit Line Addition	Bell, Milam, Williamson
2025-NC31	Holland (3646) to Bartlett (13647) 69-kV Line Upgrade	Bell, Williamson
2025-NCSC01	Round Rock (3668) to Star Ranch (3653) 138-kV Line Upgrades	Williamson
2025-SC01	Central Texas 345-kV Voltage Support	Travis
2025-SC03	County Line (777024) 138-kV Line Upgrades	Bastrop
2025-SC04	Dunlap (9044) Area 345-kV Line Reconfiguration	Travis
2025-SC05	Central Texas 345-kV Line Upgrades	Bastrop, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Travis
2025-SC08	Settlers (7328) 138-kV Capacitor Bank Addition	Bastrop

Appendix B: Generation Added

GINR	Project Name	Fuel	Project COD	Max-Capacity (~MW)	County
None	None	None	None	None	None

Appendix C: List of G-1 Generators and X-1 Transformers to be Tested

Generator	Transformer
Lost Pine Combined Cycle Train (CCT)	Garfield 345/138-kV Three Winding Transformer A
Sand Hill Energy Center	Garfield 345/138-kV Three Winding Transformer B
Giga Texas Energy Storage	