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ERCOT Update

House Committee on State Affairs

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ERCOT Transmission Planning

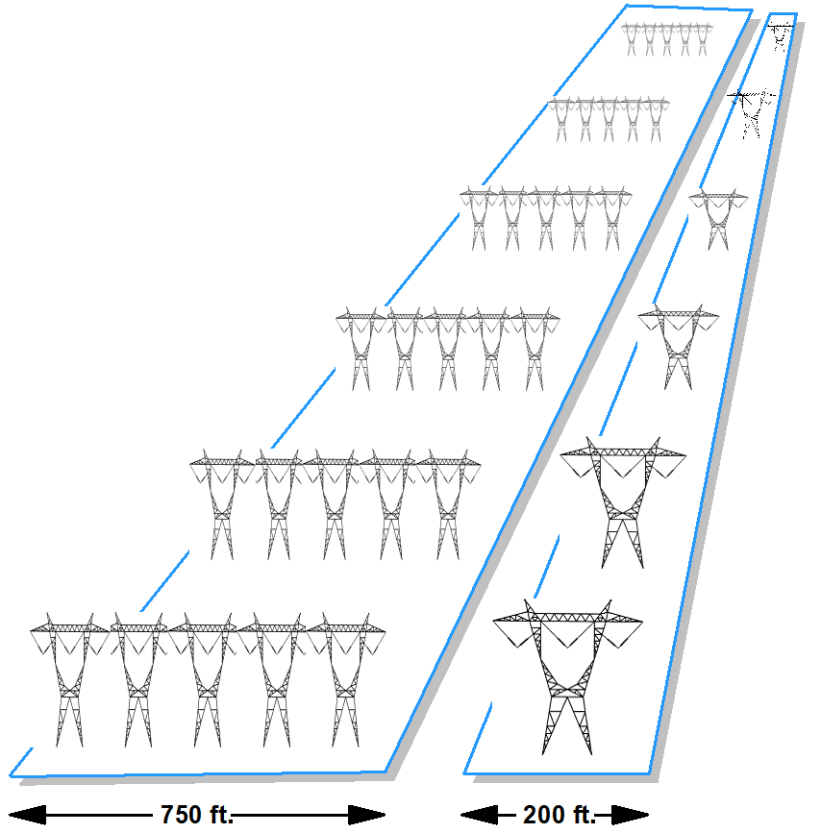
- Transmission Planning is a core ERCOT responsibility, fundamental to maintaining system reliability and providing non-discriminatory access.
- ERCOT is the sole Planning Coordinator registered with North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) for the Texas Interconnection.
- Under 16 TAC §25.361(d):
  - "ERCOT shall conduct transmission system planning and exercise comprehensive authority over the planning of bulk transmission projects that affect the transfer capability of the ERCOT transmission system."

New Era of Planning – EHV Considerations

While 765-kV may be new to the ERCOT region, the technology has been used since the late 1960s. It is currently in place in North America, South Africa, Asia and Europe.

Benefits of higher voltage transmission include:

- Increased transfer capability to load centers
- Flexibility on Generation Resource siting
- Reduced impact to Texas consumers due to fewer Right-of-Way requirements
- Lower line losses
- Outage coordination capacity
- Possible retirement of series compensation devices
- Potential exit strategy for some current Generic Transmission Constraints



Right of Way Comparison: For long distance transmission (longer than 100 miles), one 765-kV line on a 200-foot-wide right-of-way can carry the same amount of energy as 345-kV lines on five 150-foot-wide rights-of-way, having a combined width of 750 feet.

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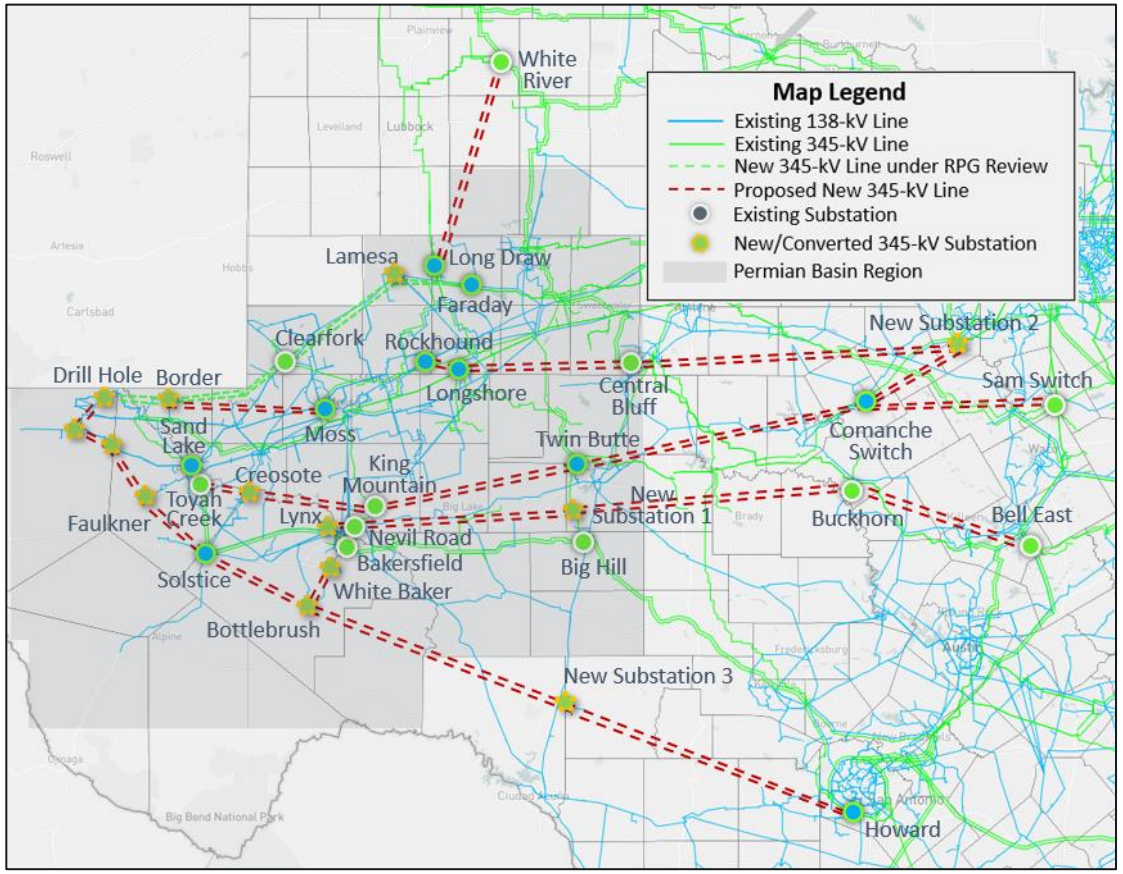
Permian Basin Reliability Plan Comparison

345-kV Option



765-kV Option