

POTTER-BECKHAM 345-KV TRANSMISSION LINE

SITING AND PERMITTING

COMMON TERMS

Study Area – an area to be evaluated for possible transmission line routes.

Route – a specific alignment of the transmission line within a study area.

Opportunity area – a favorable location for siting a transmission line due to compatible land uses and lack of sensitive resources. While opportunity areas are preferred for siting, they rarely extend the entire length of a route.

Constraint – a sensitive area typically related to environmental resources or land use. Because of the complex nature of siting, constrained areas are often crossed by portions of a proposed route.

SITING CONSIDERATIONS

Xcel Energy uses an open and comprehensive process when evaluating and siting substations and transmission lines that considers electric system planning, project costs, the environment, public involvement, regulatory issues, existing and planned land use, land rights and engineering considerations.

PRELIMINARY LINK IDENTIFICATION PHASE

Step 1. Define the project Study area large enough to encompass the project endpoints and provide geographic diversity for the alternative routes.

Step 2. Develop evaluation criteria to analyze the alternative routes customized to the constraint features within the Study Area.

Step 3. Collect data from federal, state and local agencies within the Study Area to identify opportunities and constraints.

Step 4. Identify preliminary alternative links based on opportunities and constraints evaluation.

PRELIMINARY LINK REFINEMENT PHASE

Step 1. Conduct public open house meetings to solicit input about the preliminary alternative links.

Step 2. Refine preliminary alternative links based on field reconnaissance, public input and agency input.

IDENTIFICATION OF PRIMARY ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

Step 1. Identify primary alternative routes.

Step 2. Conduct a comparative analysis of the primary alternative routes.

Step 3. Identify a recommended route and feasible alternatives based on the comparative analysis.

Step 4. Present the alternative routes to government agencies to obtain permitting approvals.

INFORMATION SHEET

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DATA COLLECTION AND EVALUATION

Resource data are studied and mapped using a Geographic Information System (GIS). Data are analyzed in the following categories:

- Land use and land cover
- Jurisdiction, designated and protected areas
- Cultural and historic resources
- Air and ground transportation
- Utility corridors and facilities, communications
- Recreation
- Geology, soils, topography
- Recreation
- Biological resources
- Water resources

Jurisdiction	Permit/Decision/Action
Federal	
Federal Aviation Administration	Title 14 CFR Part 77, Objects Affecting Navigable Airspace
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Clean Water Act, Section 404/Nationwide Permit 57, Jurisdictional Water of the U.S.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Endangered Species Act, Section 7 Consultation
State	
Public Utility Commission of Texas	Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN)
Texas Commission on Environmental Equality	Construction General Stormwater Permit and Stormwater Pollution , Prevention Plan (SWPPP), Section 401 Water Quality Certification
Texas Department of Transportation	Access Permits if necessary
Texas Historical Commission	Determination of Compliance with NHPA Section 106
Local	
Municipalities and counties	Land use, construction and crossing permits

For more information, visit xcelenergytransmission.com/potter-beckham-345-kv

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