

New Mexico State Trust Lands Public Meeting

Oso Grande HV, LLC's Proposed 345-kV Gen-Tie Transmission Line Project

A public input meeting regarding the construction of a 345kV electrical transmission line, is scheduled for May 23rd, 2019 in Roswell, NM. This meeting will be held at the Chaves County Building at #1 Saint Mary's Place Suit 180 Roswell, NM 88203 from 2:00pm to 3:00pm.

Oso Grande HV, LLC, is proposing to construct and operate a 345-kilovolt (kV) single circuit transmission line and associated facilities to be located in Eddy and Chaves Counties, New Mexico, also known as the 345-kV Gen-Tie Transmission Line Project (proposed project).

The proposed project will consist of a line extending from the existing Eddy County Switch yard, located 22 miles south of Hagerman, New Mexico, to the proposed project substation, located 26 miles south of Cap Rock, New Mexico. The proposed project will cross approximately 18.4 miles of New Mexico State Trust Land, approximately 17.6 miles of federal land, and approximately 4.7 miles of privately-owned land. The proposed transmission line will be located on New Mexico State Trust Land in the following locations: Township 14 South, Range 31 East; Township 15 South, Range 31 East; Range 16 South, Range 29 East; Township 16 South, Range 30 East; Township 16 South, Range 31 East; Township 17 South, Range 27 East; and Township 17 South, Range 28 East. The proposed transmission line will be constructed within a newly proposed 150-foot right-of-way (ROW) easement.

Construction of the proposed project will take approximately 12 months to complete and will consist of the following permanent facilities: (a) a single circuit 345kV overhead electric transmission line between the Eddy County Switch Yard , and the newly proposed substation , (b) upgraded access roads, new access roads within the ROW and off-ROW access roads to the transmission line structures, (c) two new 5 to 7 acre substations/ interconnection yards, (d) new substation equipment at each aforementioned substation.

The 345kV overhead electric transmission line will require a permanent ROW width of 150 feet throughout the proposed alignment, except in select locations where the height of structures is taller to span avoidance areas, including sensitive resources, requiring a wider ROW between structures.

The overhead transmission line will be supported by either H-frame, three-pole, or monopole structures. The most common structure will be a single-circuit, monopole structure, as well as tubular steel pole H-frame at tangent locations. Where the line terminates or turns at an angle, a single-circuit three-pole tubular steel structure could be used. Monopole structures will be used as warranted by land use constraints and transmission line design requirements. All transmission structures will be made of self-weathering/non-reflective steel. The average structure heights will range from 90 feet to 155 feet, depending on the line clearances, topographic conditions, and line design requirements to accommodate spanning over the terrain or crossing over other transmission lines. The typical distance

between structures will average 910 feet to 1,110 feet, resulting in approximately 5 to 6 structures per mile.

Work areas will mainly be located within the permanent ROW; however temporary use of wire pull pockets and material staging areas, required to construct the proposed project will be needed outside of the permanent ROW. These temporary work areas are necessary to ensure safe construction of facilities at structure locations, pulling and tensioning sites at angle structures, and areas of sloped or difficult terrain. Individual structure sites will be cleared to provide a safe working space for placing equipment, vehicles, and materials for structure assembly and erection. The work area will be cleared of vegetation only to the extent necessary. The permanent disturbance associated with the structure footings will be 30 to 60 square feet for H-frame structures, 75 to 150 square feet for 3-pole structures, and 15 to 30 square feet for monopole structures. Excess soil from foundation hole excavations will be placed around the base of each structure to provide positive drainage away from the structure. Excavated spoils will be segregated from topsoil and may be used for backfill or other fill where suitable. In those areas where erosion control structures will be required to stabilize soil, the structures will be installed for the specific soil conditions encountered in the field and in accordance with industry best management practices.

Once construction of the facilities and 345kV lines is complete, all disturbed areas not needed for the operations and maintenance phase will be reclaimed (reseeded) using approved seed mix. Reclamation will occur as soon as possible after completion of final construction activities.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared to identify environmental effects of the Proposed Project. The EA will analyze the effect or potential effect of the proposed ROW on surrounding lands and will identify necessary mitigation measures.

If you have any questions please contact the rights of way director Clyde A. Ward with the New Mexico State Land Office, 505-827-3809 or email him at cward@slo.state.nm.us.