

Transmission & CREZ Lines: Bringing Texans More Affordable, Reliable Power

Transmission Lines Provide Real And Measurable Benefits To Consumers, Businesses, And Utilities

- The ability to get electricity from where it's generated to where it keeps the lights on is essential to nearly everything Texans do.
- America's economy, national security and even the health and safety of our citizens depend on the reliable delivery of electricity.
- Transmission provides dozens of quantifiable economic and reliability benefits for Texas families and businesses. For example, transmission: Helps consumers access lower-cost electricity; Reduces the need to build additional electricity generation to hold in reserve; Facilitates robust electricity markets; Provides economic development and jobs; And helps generators and utilities comply with public policy requirements.

What Is CREZ?

- The Texas State Legislature introduced the concept of Competitive Renewable Energy Zones (CREZ) in 2005 as a means of connecting areas with abundant wind resources to more highly populated parts of the state.
- Completed in 2013, the CREZ transmission project transmits more than 18.5 mw of electricity across Texas.
- Texans can be proud that CREZ Lines were completed in an efficient and competitive manner.

CREZ Is More Than Wind

- CREZ is recognized as a "tremendous infrastructure success story."
- The expansion of the grid in Texas has driven down wholesale electricity market costs, and today Texans pay some of the lowest electricity rates in the country.
- The lines can carry any type of power generation. CREZ has been used to connect shale gas to the ERCOT system and has provided new opportunities for fossil generation plants to be located away from densely populated load centers, where it may be difficult to find suitable sites for new generation facilities.
- CREZ allowed high voltage transmission to extend into the Texas Panhandle and also enhanced the resiliency of the grid in places like Midland and the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Continued Investment Is Vital

- Texas' population and economic growth require continuous review of transmission capacity. Additionally, larger homes and increased use of electronics have driving growth in demand for electricity.
- Building strong transmission infrastructure is necessary for the grids overall reliability and to link new

renewable energy resources.

- It makes economic sense, investment in transmission stimulates economic activity and supports employment.
- Studies routinely show that transmission upgrades more than pay for themselves. For example, neighboring grid operators MISO and SPP found transmission upgrades saved each of their customers between \$800 and \$1,000.