

## **Transmission Infrastructure policy statement**

*Approved by TWA Executive Committee, April 15, 2026*

The Texas Wildlife Association recognizes the need for the energy grid to meet the demands and reliability needs of our growing state. We also recognize the critical role of private landowners in hosting the transmission infrastructure required to meet these needs. ***It is a prerequisite that electrical providers and governmental agencies such as the Public Utility Commission and ERCOT ensure predictability and transparency in the public processes that determines the routing of such projects over private lands.***

### **Specific Considerations**

- Prior to approving a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity, the Public Utility Commission must demonstrate that proposed energy transmission projects are necessary to address long-term reliability demands and consider reasonable alternatives, including the upgrade of existing infrastructure.
- Thorough and transparent communications with affected landowners should be paramount and foremost in the process for newly developed transmission lines, including public meetings, detailed scalable route maps and a dedicated on-line resource for landowner questions and information.
- The Public Utility Commission should prioritize routing new transmission lines parallel to existing rights of way and other compatible infrastructure, and via willing participants, public and private.
- Conserved lands, critical wildlife habitat and working agricultural lands should be avoided for route development.
- All filed routes should be displayed at a public meeting held sufficient time in advance of filing to allow a meaningful opportunity for affected landowners and local officials to review and comment on the proposed routes.
- Landowner-developed routing alternatives should be vetted and considered by the utility in pre-filing processes and addressed in the application.
- Utility providers should be accountable to ensure that proposed routes and considered alternatives are prioritized in a manner that minimizes impacts to ecology, wildlife habitat and corridors as well as private property values.
- The current 180-day process does not provide a meaningful opportunity for landowners to understand the project, assess impacts, reach other affected landowners, secure experienced counsel or review the application and meaningfully

participate in the routing proceeding. The Texas Legislature should return to the one-year timeline for CCN amendments and ensure that there are no less than 9 months between the filing of the application and the beginning of the Hearing on the Merits. Direct notice to potentially affected landowners of all potential segments and routes should be given and public meetings should be held at least 6 months prior to the filing of the application.

- The PUC and the Applicants should be required to establish a dedicated legal fund for each project to assist impacted parties that cannot otherwise afford legal representation.
- Impacted landowners should have the ability to recover legal fees should there be proof that the developer failed to consider PUC criteria in routing determinations.
- Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality should be consulted by the Applicant during the pre-application route development process and ecological baselines prepared by these agencies should be required to be incorporated into routing criteria.
- Ecological assessments should be funded by the project sponsor, not the ratepayers.