



**THE COUNTY COURT
OF
KERR COUNTY, TEXAS**

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April 2, 2026

Public Utility Commission of Texas
William B. Travis Building
1701 N. Congress Ave
Suite 7-110
Austin, TX 78701

Docket No. 59336: Howard – Solstice Transmission Line Project PROTEST

I am writing to you to protest against the Howard – Solstice Transmission Line Project which CPS Energy and AEP Texas are proposing to construct. I understand that the proposed project would consist of approximately 370 miles of new 765 kV transmission infrastructure connecting the CPS Energy Howard Road Station in Bexar County to the AEP Texas Solstice Station in Pecos County.

I also understand that:

1. CPS Energy and AEP Texas have provided 77 different routes for the transmission line of which 19 of the routes would pass through Kerr County.
2. The proposed 765 kV lines are 130 to 215 feet high depending on local topography, and the right-of-way is 200' wide which would require substantial land to be acquired from Texas property owners, likely using eminent domain which I strongly oppose.
3. The cost for the proposed transmission line is estimated between \$33 to \$80 billion and the end users, e.g. data centers and Permian Basin oil and gas companies, are not directly funding this capital cost, hence every single electric ratepayer in the state of Texas will see a \$100 to \$200 increase in their annual electric bill over the 28% increase we've already seen since winter storm URI in 2021.
4. Property values will be decreased not only for the land that the transmission line passes through, but also for properties within visual sight of the line.

Instead of spending in excess of \$33 billion transporting energy 370 miles, the funds being made available for transmission lines should be utilized to encourage building new reliable (natural gas or nuclear) dispatchable power plants in the Permian Basin and elsewhere in close proximity to end consumers such as other data centers, AI centers and large urban areas thereby strengthening grid resiliency and reducing transmission losses.

For the above reasons, I express my formal opposition to the proposed Howard-Solstice Transmission Line Project and its current routes through KERR COUNTY and I urge PUCT to cancel this unnecessary and wasteful transmission project and focus its efforts on establishing new reliable dispatchable power plants in the Permian Basin and elsewhere in close proximity to end consumers.

Sincerely yours,



Rich Paces
Kerr County Commissioner, Pct. 2

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