



Public Utility Commission of Texas

1701 N. Congress, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326

Press Release

Dec. 12, 2023

Contact: Ellie Breed

Media@PUC.Texas.Gov

Public Utility Commission of Texas Hosts Electric Reliability Workshop in Permian Basin

Midland, Texas – The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) today hosted a public workshop in Midland, Texas to discuss electric reliability in the Permian Basin and the electrification and transmission needs of oil and gas operations in the region.

The workshop, hosted by PUCT Commissioner Lori Cobos, brought together representatives from the oil and gas industry, transmission and distribution utilities (TDU) in the region, and Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) staff.

“Reliable, affordable electricity is essential to powering our state’s growing economy, including the success of oil and gas operations in the Permian Basin,” Commissioner Cobos said. “I’m grateful to state lawmakers, stakeholders from the oil and gas industry and transmission companies who attended the workshop today. Their perspectives were valuable and well-received. The PUCT and ERCOT are focused on meeting the power demands of the region to fuel energy operations into the future.”

[House Bill 5066](#), passed by the Texas Legislature this year and signed into law by Governor Greg Abbott, instructed the PUCT and ERCOT to develop an electric reliability plan for the Permian Basin that addresses transmission needs in the region, additional power generation necessary to meet the demand of the energy industry, and how to streamline interconnection processes.

The public workshop was an opportunity for attendees to discuss an electric reliability plan and determine how the oil & gas and power industry can collaborate to ensure reliable electric infrastructure is available to support economic development in the Permian Basin and an expanding portfolio of energy industry operations.

Workshop attendees also discussed the projected growth of the oil and gas industry, electricity’s impact on oil and gas projects and operations, and the role of ERCOT and TDUs in transmission system planning.

Representatives from the PUCT’s Office of Public Engagement also attended the workshop and



explained how landowners, the business community, and all Texans can participate in the PUCT's process and stay up-to-date on infrastructure improvement projects in the region.

About the Public Utility Commission of Texas

Our mission is to serve Texans by regulating the state's electric, telecommunication, and water and sewer utilities, implementing respective legislation, and offering customer assistance in resolving consumer complaints. Since its founding in 1975, the Commission has a long and proud history of service to Texas, protecting customers, fostering competition, and promoting high quality infrastructure. To learn more, please visit <https://www.puc.texas.gov>