

AN ACT

relating to the authority of the Railroad Commission of Texas and the Public Utility Commission of Texas to address a failure by an operator to maintain an electrical power line serving a well site or certain surface facilities in accordance with the National Electrical Code.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 91.019, Natural Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 91.019. STANDARDS FOR CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF ELECTRICAL POWER LINES. (a) An operator shall construct, operate, and maintain:

(1) an electrical power line serving a well site or other surface facility employed in operations incident to oil and gas development and production in accordance with the National Electrical Code published by the National Fire Protection Association and adopted by the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation under Chapter 1305, Occupations Code; and

(2) electrical power line poles in a manner that ensures the prevention and remediation of any readily observable deficiencies, including damage, deterioration, leaning, or cracking.

(b) If a landowner or lessee discovers a condition involving an electrical power line, pole, or any other related electrical

1 equipment that does not meet the standards described by Subsection  
2 (a), the landowner or lessee shall provide written notice of the  
3 condition to the commission.

4 (c) If, during an inspection by the commission of a well  
5 site or surface facility employed in operations incident to oil and  
6 gas development and production or on the receipt of a written notice  
7 submitted by a landowner or lessee, the commission discovers a  
8 readily observable condition involving an electrical power line,  
9 pole, or any other related electrical equipment that does not meet  
10 the standards described by Subsection (a) and poses a risk of  
11 causing a fire or injury to a person, the commission shall, not  
12 later than three days after the discovery of the condition, notify  
13 the Public Utility Commission of Texas and the operator. The  
14 notification provided by the commission must include a description  
15 of the condition and whether the well is abandoned.

16 (d) The commission shall notify the landowner of the  
17 condition and inform the landowner of the actions the commission  
18 and the Public Utility Commission of Texas will take or have taken  
19 to resolve the condition not later than:

20 (1) the 10th day after the date the commission  
21 discovers the condition; or

22 (2) the 30th day after the date the commission  
23 discovers the condition, if the commission does not have the  
24 landowner's contact information at the time of the discovery.

25 (e) Not later than the 10th day after the date on which the  
26 commission discovers the condition, the commission and the Public  
27 Utility Commission of Texas shall resolve the condition by:

1           (1) requesting that the state fire marshal or a local  
2 government authority inspect the condition at the well site or  
3 surface facility and requiring the operator to mitigate any  
4 dangerous conditions identified by the state fire marshal or local  
5 government authority;

6           (2) requesting that the electric cooperative,  
7 electric utility, or municipally owned utility that provides  
8 electric service to the well site or surface facility disconnect  
9 electric service to the well site or surface facility at the common  
10 coupling point at which the cooperative's or utility's equipment  
11 meets customer-owned equipment; or

12           (3) taking any other action the commission and the  
13 Public Utility Commission of Texas consider necessary and  
14 appropriate to resolve the condition.

15           (f) If electric service was disconnected pursuant to a  
16 request made under Subsection (e)(2), the electric cooperative,  
17 electric utility, or municipally owned utility must restore  
18 electric service to the well site or surface facility on receipt of  
19 notice by the commission that the condition has been resolved.

20           (g) Members, employees, and agents of the commission may  
21 enter public or private property only as necessary for purposes of  
22 conducting an inspection under this section.

23           SECTION 2. Section 91.019, Natural Resources Code, as  
24 amended by this Act, applies only to an inspection that occurs on or  
25 after the effective date of this Act.

26           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 143 was passed by the House on April 2, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 132, Nays 15, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 143 on May 28, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 124, Nays 12, 3 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 143 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 23, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor