

By: King

H.B. No. 143

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 143:

By: Hernandez

C.S.H.B. No. 143

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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 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:

(1) 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; or

(2) 16 T.A.C. Sections 25.94, 25.95, and 25.96, as those provisions existed on September 1, 2025, if the operator is a utility as defined by Section 11.004, Utilities Code, engaged in the maintenance of an electronic transmission and distribution system.

(b) If, during an inspection by the commission of a well

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

18 (1) request that the state fire marshal or a local
19 government authority inspect the condition at the well site or
20 surface facility and require the operator to mitigate any dangerous
21 conditions identified by the state fire marshal or local government
22 authority;

23 (2) request that the electric utility that provides
24 electric service to the well site or surface facility investigate
25 the condition and disconnect electric service to the well site or
26 surface facility, if necessary; or

27 (3) take any other action the commission and the

1 Public Utility Commission of Texas consider necessary and
2 appropriate to resolve the condition.

3 (c) If electric service was disconnected by an electric
4 utility pursuant to a request made under Subsection (b)(2), the
5 utility must restore electric service to the well site or surface
6 facility on receipt of notice by the commission that the condition
7 has been resolved.

8 SECTION 2. Section 91.019, Natural Resources Code, as
9 amended by this Act, applies to an inspection that occurs on or
10 after the effective date of this Act.

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