

1-1 By: King, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Hancock) H.B. No. 143
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 2, 2025;
1-3 April 3, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Natural
1-4 Resources; May 22, 2025, reported adversely, with favorable
1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0;
1-6 May 22, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	<u>X</u>			
1-10	<u>X</u>			
1-11	<u>X</u>			
1-12	<u>X</u>			
1-13	<u>X</u>			
1-14	<u>X</u>			
1-15	<u>X</u>			
1-16	<u>X</u>			
1-17	<u>X</u>			

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 143 By: Hancock

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to the authority of the Railroad Commission of Texas and
1-22 the Public Utility Commission of Texas to address a failure by an
1-23 operator to maintain an electrical power line serving a well site or
1-24 certain surface facilities in accordance with the National
1-25 Electrical Code.

1-26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-27 SECTION 1. Section 91.019, Natural Resources Code, is
1-28 amended to read as follows:

1-29 Sec. 91.019. STANDARDS FOR CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, AND
1-30 MAINTENANCE OF ELECTRICAL POWER LINES. (a) An operator shall
1-31 construct, operate, and maintain:

1-32 (1) an electrical power line serving a well site or
1-33 other surface facility employed in operations incident to oil and
1-34 gas development and production in accordance with the National
1-35 Electrical Code published by the National Fire Protection
1-36 Association and adopted by the Texas Commission of Licensing and
1-37 Regulation under Chapter 1305, Occupations Code; and
1-38 (2) electrical power line poles in a manner that
1-39 ensures the prevention and remediation of any readily observable
1-40 deficiencies, including damage, deterioration, leaning, or
1-41 cracking.

1-42 (b) If a landowner or lessee discovers a condition involving
1-43 an electrical power line, pole, or any other related electrical
1-44 equipment that does not meet the standards described by Subsection
1-45 (a), the landowner or lessee shall provide written notice of the
1-46 condition to the commission.

1-47 (c) If, during an inspection by the commission of a well
1-48 site or surface facility employed in operations incident to oil and
1-49 gas development and production or on the receipt of a written notice
1-50 submitted by a landowner or lessee, the commission discovers a
1-51 readily observable condition involving an electrical power line,
1-52 pole, or any other related electrical equipment that does not meet
1-53 the standards described by Subsection (a) and poses a risk of
1-54 causing a fire or injury to a person, the commission shall, not
1-55 later than three days after the discovery of the condition, notify
1-56 the Public Utility Commission of Texas and the operator. The
1-57 notification provided by the commission must include a description
1-58 of the condition and whether the well is abandoned.

1-59 (d) The commission shall notify the landowner of the
1-60 condition and inform the landowner of the actions the commission

2-1 and the Public Utility Commission of Texas will take or have taken
2-2 to resolve the condition not later than:

2-3 (1) the 10th day after the date the commission
2-4 discovers the condition; or

2-5 (2) the 30th day after the date the commission
2-6 discovers the condition, if the commission does not have the
2-7 landowner's contact information at the time of the discovery.

2-8 (e) Not later than the 10th day after the date on which the
2-9 commission discovers the condition, the commission and the Public
2-10 Utility Commission of Texas shall resolve the condition by:

2-11 (1) requesting that the state fire marshal or a local
2-12 government authority inspect the condition at the well site or
2-13 surface facility and requiring the operator to mitigate any
2-14 dangerous conditions identified by the state fire marshal or local
2-15 government authority;

2-16 (2) requesting that the electric cooperative,
2-17 electric utility, or municipally owned utility that provides
2-18 electric service to the well site or surface facility disconnect
2-19 electric service to the well site or surface facility at the common
2-20 coupling point at which the cooperative's or utility's equipment
2-21 meets customer-owned equipment; or

2-22 (3) taking any other action the commission and the
2-23 Public Utility Commission of Texas consider necessary and
2-24 appropriate to resolve the condition.

2-25 (f) If electric service was disconnected pursuant to a
2-26 request made under Subsection (e)(2), the electric cooperative,
2-27 electric utility, or municipally owned utility must restore
2-28 electric service to the well site or surface facility on receipt of
2-29 notice by the commission that the condition has been resolved.

2-30 (g) Members, employees, and agents of the commission may
2-31 enter public or private property only as necessary for purposes of
2-32 conducting an inspection under this section.

2-33 SECTION 2. Section 91.019, Natural Resources Code, as
2-34 amended by this Act, applies only to an inspection that occurs on or
2-35 after the effective date of this Act.

2-36 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

2-37 * * * * *