

By: Hancock

S.B. No. 2980

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 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.

(b) If, during an inspection of a well site or surface facility employed in operations incident to oil and gas development and production, the commission discovers a condition involving an electrical power line that does not meet the standards described by Subsection (a), the commission shall notify the Public Utility Commission of Texas. To resolve the condition, the commission and the Public Utility Commission of Texas, in collaboration, shall:

1           (1) notify the applicable electric utility providing  
2 electric power to the well site or surface facility of the condition  
3 and require the electric utility to make a determination regarding  
4 whether electric power should be disconnected from the site or  
5 facility;

6           (2) request that the state fire marshal or a local  
7 government authority inspect the well site or surface facility and  
8 require the operator to mitigate any dangerous conditions  
9 identified by the state fire marshal or local government authority;  
10 or

11           (3) issue notice to the applicable electric utility to  
12 investigate the condition and disconnect electric service, if  
13 necessary.

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

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