

Construction of Urban Electric Transmission Lines; HB 2321

HB 2321 requires certain electric utilities—all electric utilities excluding municipal utilities, electric cooperatives, or their subsidiaries—to take steps before exercising eminent domain to acquire an interest in land or beginning work related to the construction of an urban electric transmission line. For the purposes of the bill, “urban electric transmission line” means any line or line extension that is at least 2.5 miles in length; traverses at least 2.5 contiguous miles through a city of at least 300,000 people; and is designed to transfer at least 69, but less than 230, kilovolts of electricity.

Electric utilities are required to:

- Provide notice to the city in which the project is proposed at least six months prior to construction with preliminary plans, including the locations and dimensions of equipment to be installed relative to existing infrastructure, with visual examples;
- Conduct an open house in such city that:
 - Allows affected landowners to provide public comment;
 - Is attended by a commissioner and a staff person of the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC); and
 - Is held on a weekend day or after 5:00 p.m. on a weekday;
- Provide notice of the proposed construction and open house to:
 - All landowners and tenants of property within 660 feet of proposed improvements;
 - The governing body of the city and its infrastructure planning authority; and
 - The KCC;
- Publish notice of the time, place, and subject of the open house in a local newspaper; and
- Obtain any required permits.

Provisions of the bill do not apply to construction or repair required due to physical damage.