



General Information and Common Questions

PGE's Application for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity
Tonquin Project Rosemont to Wilsonville Transmission Line

Background

PGE is in the process of permitting and constructing 11 miles of 115 kV transmission lines and a new substation to improve power reliability, add resiliency and support projected load growth. The Rosemont to Wilsonville segment is 7.4 miles long in total. It includes 5 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line and will repurpose 2.4 miles of existing line. PGE anticipates the need to condemn small portions of property near existing public utility Right-of-Way to construct the line. No homes or structures would be impacted.

PGE has asked the Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) to issue a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) for the Rosemont to Wilsonville segment of this project. If that petition is ultimately granted, PGE would use the certificate in separate state court proceedings where it seeks to condemn an interest in land along the transmission line's path. The certificate would demonstrate to the court that the transmission line is a public use and necessary for public convenience.

PGE's application for the certificate, all other filings related to the application, and the schedule are available in [Docket No. PCN 6](#) on the PUC's website.

Common Questions

What is the Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC)?

The PUC is a state agency charged with ensuring Oregonians have access to safe, reliable, and fairly priced utility services that advance state policy and promote the public interest. The PUC is responsible for rate regulation of Oregon's investor-owned electric utilities (PGE, Pacific Power, and Idaho Power), natural gas utilities (Avista, Cascade Natural, and NW Natural), telephone service providers (landline only), as well as select water companies. The PUC enforces electric safety standards and handles utility-related disputes on behalf of Oregon residents. The PUC uses an inclusive process to evaluate different viewpoints and visions of the public interest and arrive at balanced, well-reasoned, independent decisions supported by fact and law.

Why does the PUC consider applications for a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN)?

Oregon law (ORS 758.015) sets out a process to be followed and requirements that must be met if an electric utility in Oregon seeks to build a transmission line and property rights may ultimately need to be condemned. By law, the utility must apply to the PUC for a CPCN. The utility must

provide evidence of its need and justification to construct a transmission line. The PUC investigates the application to determine whether the project meets all legal requirements.

What is the process when an Oregon electric utility files a Petition for CPCN?

The PUC will review information through a contested case process. It will consider the information the utility provides in its petition, evidence from PUC Staff, and evidence submitted through individuals and parties who formally 'intervene' in the case. Evidence can include written testimony and legal briefs, and witness testimony and cross-examination. The PUC also takes comments from customers and members of the public as part of the process.

What criteria will the PUC use to decide whether to issue a certificate?

The PUC will determine the "necessity, safety, practicability and justification in the public interest for the proposed transmission line" as required by Oregon law (ORS 758.015(2)), and as further described in administrative rules OAR 860-025-0030 through 0040. As part of its review, the PUC will consider whether the transmission line:

- Will meet a need for increased transmission capacity and reliability in the grid;
- Will be operated in a way that protects the public from danger;
- Route is practicable and feasible; and
- Benefits the public, and costs justify the project.

The PUC may consider other factors that it deems relevant under the law.

Will the PUC review or decide land use issues related to the Rosemont to Wilsonville segment's construction?

No. A separate land use process is underway in Clackamas County.

What is the waiver PGE has requested?

PGE has asked the PUC to begin reviewing its petition for CPCN before the land use permits are issued, which requires a waiver of certain Commission rules. The PUC will consider this request at a public meeting on June 11, 2024, starting at 9:30 a.m. Members of the public may provide oral comment before the PUC makes a decision on PGE's request. Written comments will also be considered and should be submitted and received by the PUC by 12 pm on June 7, 2024. More information about the public meeting and comment process is available at <https://edocs.puc.state.or.us/efdocs/HAC/pcn6hac328467054.pdf>.

Will the PUC take public comment as part of the CPCN process?

Yes. There are various ways for the public to comment as part of this process.

1. Attend a virtual public hearing, which has not been scheduled to date.
2. Submit comments directly to the PUC by:
 - a. [Public Comment Form online](#)
 - b. email PUC.PublicComments@puc.oregon.gov
 - c. Phone 503-378-6600 or 800-522-2404 (all relay calls accepted)

d. Mail to Oregon Public Utility Commission, Attn: PCN 6, PO Box 1088, Salem OR 97308-1088

If the PUC grants the certificate, is land condemned?

No. This process will not condemn land. If the PUC grants a certificate, PGE would use that as evidence in a separate state court proceeding under Oregon's General Condemnation Procedure Act. That law governs the rights of utilities to condemn property for utility purposes.

Does the PUC determine the value of any land that may be affected by an eventual state court condemnation proceeding?

No. That determination would be made in a separate state court proceeding under Oregon's General Condemnation Procedure Act

What are alternatives to a CPCN that would enable the Rosemont to Wilsonville segment of PGE's Tonquin Project to move forward?

In the absence of negotiated easements between PGE and landowners, the CPCN process is the only available path.

Stay Informed

You can view PGE's application for the certificate, all other filings related to the application, and the schedule for [Docket No. PCN 6](#) online. You can also request to be added to the distribution list for [Docket No. PCN 6](#) to receive publicly available documents via email. Submit requests to puc.hearings@puc.oregon.gov or by calling 503-378-6678.