

Irvington-East Loop Transmission Line



More Public Open House Meetings Scheduled

Tuesday, August 20 | 5-6:30 p.m.
Tucson City Council Ward 2 Office
7575 E. Speedway Blvd.

Thursday, August 22 | 6-7:30 p.m.
Littletown Community Center
6465 S. Craycroft Road

tep.com/irvington-east-loop

Help Us Design Our Local Electric Grid

TEP is identifying potential routes for a planned transmission line that will strengthen electric reliability for customers in Tucson. Read inside to learn how you can participate in TEP's process.

Energy Grid Update Irvington-East Loop Transmission Line Newsletter #2 – August 2019



TEP Uses Public Input to Develop Possible Routes for New Transmission Line

Tucson Electric Power (TEP) has identified potential routes for a planned transmission line project to serve growing energy needs, help Davis-Monthan Air Force Base meet Department of Defense-mandated energy resiliency requirements and improve electric reliability for TEP customers within and near the project study area.

TEP must obtain route approval from the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) for the Irvington-East Loop 138 Kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line, which will connect TEP's existing Irvington and East Loop substations while interconnecting with TEP's planned Port and Patriot substations.

In May 2019, TEP held public meetings and conducted other outreach efforts. Based on residents' comments and additional data provided by other local utilities, TEP expanded the preliminary study area to allow consideration of additional route options. Some recipients of this newsletter are located in the larger, revised study area and were added to the project outreach contact list.

TEP invites members of the public to attend upcoming open house meetings to ask questions, submit comments and learn more about the project. TEP will use public input to identify three alternative transmission line routes that will be included in its application for approval to build the transmission line.

POTENTIAL LINE ROUTES

TEP plans for new energy infrastructure by considering the projected energy needs of nearby residential and

commercial customers, anticipated economic development, proximity to existing equipment, project costs, geography, the environment, public input and other factors.

Potential line routes within the revised study area are shown on the map. TEP has identified two alternatives (1 and 2) to connect the existing Irvington Substation to the proposed Port and Patriot substations, and five alternatives (A, B1, B2, C1, and C2) to connect the proposed Patriot Substation to the existing East Loop Substation as described below.

Alternatives 1 & 2 (Irvington to Port to Patriot)

- **Alternative 1** begins at the Irvington Substation and continues southeast on the north side of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks past East Valencia and South Craycroft roads to the Littletown Road alignment where it turns east and continues to the planned Port Substation. The route continues east from the Port Substation to the east side of South Kolb Road. Turning north, the route continues to East Irvington Road, where it crosses to the west side of Kolb and continues north to the proposed Patriot Substation.

- **Alternative 2** begins at the Irvington Substation and continues southeast on the north side of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks to East Valencia and South Craycroft roads, where it turns east and continues on the north side of Valencia past the Pima Air and Space Museum. The route then turns south and continues to the Littletown Road alignment where it turns east



A typical weathering steel monopole supporting a 138 kilovolt transmission line.

and continues to the proposed Port Substation. From the Port to Patriot substations, routing for Alternative 2 is the same as Alternative 1.

Alternatives 1 and 2 share a common route between the Port and Patriot substations.

Alternatives A, B1, B2, C1, and C2 (Patriot to East Loop)

- **Alternative A** leaves the Patriot Substation and crosses to the east side of Kolb, then travels north to the existing East Loop Substation. Between East 22nd Street and East Loop Substation, TEP would rebuild an existing 138 kV transmission line with a double-circuit configuration to accommodate the new transmission line.

Irvington-East Loop Transmission Line

- **Alternative B1** leaves the Patriot Substation and travels east on the south side of East Escalante Road to South Pantano Road, where it crosses to the east side of Pantano and turns north to follow an existing 138 kV transmission line. At East Fifth Street, the route turns west and continues along the existing 138 kV transmission line alignment to the existing East Loop Substation. TEP would rebuild the existing 138 kV transmission line with a double-circuit configuration to accommodate the new transmission line.
- **Alternative B2** is identical to Alternative B1 except for a small segment between East Sundew Drive and South Research Loop, where Alternative B2 would more closely follow the alignment of Pantano, then turn east and continue on the north side of South Research Loop for less than a quarter-mile until rejoining with the alignment of Alternative B1.
- **Alternative C1** leaves the Patriot Substation and crosses to the east side of Kolb, then travels north to East 22nd Street, where it turns east and continues on the south side of 22nd Street to the east side of the Pantano Wash. The route continues north between Pantano Road and the Pantano Wash Path to East Kenyon Drive, where it crosses to the west side of the Pantano Wash. The route continues north along the Pantano Wash's west bank before turning west and following the alignment of an existing 138 kV line into the existing East Loop Substation.
- **Alternative C2** leaves the Patriot Substation and travels east on the south side of Escalante to Pantano, where it crosses to the east side of Pantano and turns north to follow an existing 138kV transmission line on the east side of Pantano Road to East Golf Links Road. The route turns east and travels on the north side of Golf Links for about a half-mile before it turns north and travels to the north side of the Pantano Wash. The route continues north between the Pantano Wash Path and Pantano Road on the east side of the wash to 22nd Street. From this point to the East Loop Substation, the alignment of C2 is the same as C1.

The Irvington-East Loop transmission line would cross private property and government-owned land in the City of Tucson and portions of unincorporated Pima County. TEP would build the line with self-weathering steel monopoles that stand 75-110 feet tall. Taller structures may be required at major road or line crossings.

REQUIRED APPROVALS and TIMELINE

Under state law, TEP must secure a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (CEC) before building

this transmission line project. TEP plans to file a CEC application later this year with the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee, which will review the application in a public process that allows neighbors and other stakeholders to provide comments. If the Line Siting Committee grants a CEC, it will be sent to the ACC for final review and approval.

The City of Tucson must issue a special exception land use permit and approve a development plan before construction can begin on the Patriot Substation. TEP expects to file an application for the land use permit later this year and anticipates submitting a development plan in 2020.

The City of Tucson also must approve a development plan for the Port Substation prior to construction. TEP has not determined when it will file this plan.

TEP is planning to place the Irvington-East Loop Transmission Line into service in 2021.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

TEP encourages residents, property owners and other stakeholders to share their input by:

- Attending the public meetings listed on the cover of this newsletter
- Mailing a letter with comments to:
P.O. Box 711
ATTN: Irvington-East Loop
Mail Stop RC131
Tucson, AZ 85701-0711
- Sending comments to IRV2EL@tep.com
- Visiting tep.com/irvington-east-loop and filling out an online comment form
- Calling (520) 382-4662 and leaving a voicemail message

Electronic versions of this map and a previous newsletter are available at tep.com/irvington-east-loop. Requests for a printed copy of the previous newsletter may be submitted using the contact information above.

TEP recomienda a los residentes y propietarios a compartir sus opiniones sobre posibles rutas para líneas de transmisión. Por favor comparta sus ideas utilizando la información de contacto que se menciona arriba. También está invitado a asistir a una próxima reunión abierta al público sobre el proyecto. Si tiene alguna pregunta, comuníquese con nosotros al (520) 382-4662 o IRV2EL@tep.com. Gracias por su interés en el proyecto.

