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PUBLIC INDEX · ERCOT PROJECTS · 2026

ERCOT's biggest active transmission & *large-load projects*

A public index of the projects reshaping the Texas grid: the largest 765 kV transmission builds and the largest data-center and large-load campuses now under way. Every figure sourced and dated. Freely available, no registration required.

HEADLINE NUMBERS

The scale of the ERCOT build-out

~$30.2B

Transmission entering service 2026-2031

vs $7.2B spent 2022-2024. ERCOT Constraints Report (Dec 2025)

~$32.99B

Texas 765 kV STEP

~2,468 miles of new EHV line. ERCOT / RTO Insider (Dec 2025)

~438 GW

Large load requested in early 2026

~90% data centers. Houston Public Media (Jun 2026)

This index ranks the largest active projects in two categories, transmission and large-load, most significant first. It is a public companion to the Churchill Hughes gated intelligence library, which sets out the compensation, hiring demand and talent-supply detail behind these headlines.

HOW TO READ THE NUMBERS

Transmission costs and mileage are anchored to ERCOT planning documents, PUCT filings and sponsor-utility releases; several 765 kV segments have public endpoints but no disclosed line-level cost. Large-load capacities are developer-announced full-build-out figures, and actual energised megawatts are usually a fraction of the headline. The ~226-438 GW queue figures are gross interconnection requests, not committed load.

ERCOT 2025 Report on Existing and Potential Electric System Constraints and Needs (Dec 2025); RTO Insider (Dec 2025); Houston Public Media (Jun 2026).

A BIGGEST TRANSMISSION PROJECTS

The 765 kV build reshaping the grid

PROJECT	SPONSOR	SCALE	STATUS / IN-SERVICE
Texas 765 kV STEP (full)	ERCOT (multi-utility)	~2,468 mi 765 kV, ~$32.99B	First ~$9B slice approved Dec 2025; phased 2030s
765 kV Eastern Backbone	AEP, CPS, Oncor, CenterPoint	~1,109 mi, ~$9.384B	ERCOT-approved Dec 2025; in-service 2030-2032
Permian Basin Reliability Plan	Oncor, AEP Texas, LCRA	3x765 + 5x345 kV, ~$13.8B	765 kV paths ordered 24 Apr 2025
Big Hill-Sand Lake 765 kV	LCRA TSC + Oncor	~177-197 mi 765 kV	PUCT decision ~Jul 2026; energised by 2030
Howard-Solstice 765 kV	AEP Texas	~300 mi 765 kV	PUCT-approved Apr 2025; in development
Drill Hole-Sand Lake-Solstice 765 kV	Oncor + AEPSC	~104 mi, ~$742M	ERCOT recommendation Dec 2025
Longshore-Drill Hole 765 kV	Oncor	~160 mi 765 kV	CCN filed at PUCT 11 Dec 2025
CenterPoint 3rd Houston 765 kV import	CenterPoint Energy	765 kV, part of $65B+ plan	Filed Jan 2026; backs ~10 GW load growth

ERCOT Board Items 14.1 / 14.2 (Dec 2025); PUCT news release (Apr 2025); Utility Dive (2025-2026); Oncor, AEP Texas, LCRA, CenterPoint releases (2025-2026).

B BIGGEST LARGE-LOAD PROJECTS

The data-center and large-load campuses

PROJECT	DEVELOPER	SCALE	STATUS / ENERGISATION
Fermi HyperGrid / Project Matador	Fermi America + Texas Tech	up to 11 GW, near Amarillo	First ~1 GW end-2026; full build ~2032
Data City, Texas	Energy Abundance Dev. Corp	5 GW, near Laredo	First 300 MW phase 2026
Google Texas (3 sites)	Google	$40B combined	Announced Nov 2025
Vantage Frontier	Vantage Data Centers	1.4 GW, >$25B, Shackelford Co.	Under construction; first building H2 2026
Stargate Abilene	OpenAI / Oracle / Crusoe	1.2 GW, ~$12B	~0.3 GW live since Sep 2025
Tract Caldwell County	Tract	2 GW, Austin-San Antonio	Initial 360 MW by 2028
Microsoft Pecos	Microsoft	~2 GW, West Texas	Announced Jun 2026
Meta El Paso	Meta Platforms	~1 GW, ~$10B	Operational 2028
Streams San Antonio III	Streams + CPS Energy	200 MW, $400M	2025; dedicated 334 MW substation

A MOVING TARGET

AI-campus plans move fast and some slip: the 2 GW Poolside / CoreWeave West Texas project, widely reported in 2025, had its anchor contract terminated in 2026. Headline megawatts are announcements, not energised load, which is exactly why sequencing the real build matters.

Fermi America / PR Newswire (Nov 2025); Crusoe / OpenAI (2025-2026); Vantage (Aug 2025); Meta / El Paso Matters (2025-2026); Blackridge Research / Mercator (2025-2026).

WHO WE ARE

The search partner for the teams building this

Every project in this index is delivered by people: interconnection and studies engineers, transmission line and substation designers, protection & control specialists, commissioning engineers, and the project directors who lead them. They are in the shortest supply of the entire build-out.

Churchill Hughes is a focused executive search firm for senior leadership across the ERCOT transmission and power-infrastructure build-out: grid interconnection, transmission, substations, protection & control, commissioning, power delivery and BESS. Every figure in this report is drawn from the same market intelligence we use on live searches.

The gated Churchill Hughes intelligence library goes behind this index: compensation benchmarks by role and seniority, the interconnection and large-load queue detail, the transmission and substation build, BESS economics, and the talent-supply squeeze across each. One registration unlocks all of it.

TALK TO US

To discuss any figure in this report, benchmark a role you are hiring for, or pressure-test an offer before it goes out, contact **James Hughes** at **office@churchillhughes.com**. The conversation is free. The hiring mistakes it prevents usually are not.