



REMINDER  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WHAT: Public Hearing  
WHEN: Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.  
WHERE: Columbia City Council Chambers, City Hall, 701 E. Broadway  
WHY: Reconsider the route selection for The Columbia Electric Transmission Line Project

You are receiving this letter because you are a Columbia Water & Light (CWL) electric customer, you own or work on property near one of the routes being reconsidered for the new transmission line, or you have inquired about The Columbia Electric Transmission Line Project.

Why it is important to voice your opinion: This is a **special, second public hearing** (the first one was in July 2013) on route selection for The Columbia Electric Transmission Line Project. Following the public hearing in 2013, the City Council voted to approve the current route, known as Option A. This was after a lengthy process where Council considered multiple routes known as Option A, Option B and Option B-2. The graphic on the back of this page provides a snapshot of the community communication and decision-making that has occurred on this project.

Line design and equipment procurement for the approved route (Option A) began in 2014. Since that time, some concerns have been raised about the approved route. On November 16, 2015, the Council voted to hold a special, second public hearing to reconsider route options. For the **special public hearing, route Option B and B-2** are being reconsidered.

Columbia voters approved a bond issue in April 2015 that included some of the money needed to build the substation and additional transmission lines. To date, CWL has encumbered \$7.1 million for the project including substation land, 161 kV equipment and engineering work such as surveying, soil studies, utility locating, pole design and preliminary pole placement. Some of the money spent on this project so far could be recovered but changing route options could result in budget changes. Work on the project stopped in November 2015 and is on hold pending outcomes of this special public hearing.

**If you cannot attend the hearing**, you can contact your City Council representative to express your thoughts. To find the [council member for your ward, visit GoColumbiaMo.com](#).

Route Options: The current Columbia Electric Transmission Line Project includes a new substation and 161 kV high-voltage transmission lines along the 2013 approved route Option A that includes Scott Boulevard, Vawter School Road, Nifong Boulevard, Grindstone Parkway and Providence Road/Route K. Option B and B-2 utilize 161 kV lines running along the southwestern edge of the city with a new section of 69 kV line along Buttonwood and the Campus View Drive area.

The power grid: The City of Columbia's electrical system must meet federal reliability guidelines and mandates. Approximately 90 percent of Columbia's energy comes from sources outside the city through transmission lines. The voltage is stepped down at a substation and is then sent through the distribution system to customers. The existing electrical transmission system needs additional capacity to reliably deliver electricity to Columbians now and in the future. Columbia also provides transmission connections for other electric load-serving utilities including the City of Fulton and the University of Missouri. To learn more about this, go to [the transmission project information at GoColumbiaMo.com](#).

*Many people believe that The Columbia Electric Transmission Line Project only affects Columbians living in the southern part of the city. CWL's electric systemwide improvements are paid through customers' rates, not taxes. While there is a growing demand for electricity in this area, it is important to note that the electrical grid for the city works as an integrated system that manages and carries electricity to customers throughout the entire community.*



# Columbia Water & Light's Electric Transmission and Substation Project

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

