
BUSINESS

HOUSTONCHRONICLE.COM • SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2025 • PAGE B8

Who will foot bill for new power

Texas needs \$30B in transmission investments to support data centers, cryptocurrency mines

By Claire Hao
STAFF WRITER

Everyday residents and small businesses could end up paying for much of the \$30 billion-plus in new and upgraded long-distance power lines needed largely to support more data centers, oil and gas electrification and cryp-

tocurrency miners.

Almost half of those investments are required in just the Permian Basin, according to a plan for the region approved by state regulators last fall that is estimated to cost approximately \$13 billion.

Texas needs new power lines because the current electric grid

“has really become fully utilized,” Pablo Vegas, CEO of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, said at a Tuesday meeting of the grid operator’s board. In the coming years, electricity demand is expected to surge, especially as Big Tech companies race to build data centers to develop artificial intelligence technologies.

Transmission lines, the “superhighways” of the grid, are considered a public good. Thus,

transmission costs are paid for by all Texas electricity consumers on their monthly electricity bill over decades.

The allocation of those costs, however, is not uniform. Large industrial users can reduce their electricity consumption at strategic times to “very much reduce or even avoid their transmission charges,” said Olivier Beaufils, an ERCOT specialist at Aurora Energy Reseach, an energy consulting firm.



Houston Association of Realtors

The primary bathroom at 2121 Kirby Drive 12S has a freestanding soaking tub and separate steam shower. This was the

CONDOS

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No. 3: 5656 San Felipe, No. 1702

List price: \$4,195,000

Sold price: \$3,830,001

— \$4,418,000

3 bedrooms, 4 full and 1 half bathrooms

Closing date: November 2024

This 3,444-square-foot penthouse is on the top level of the Hawthorne, a 17-story tower that opened last year in Tanglewood. This unit sold while the building was under construction and the buyers customized the interior, said **Nicole Calderon**, listing agent with Douglas Elliman. Its floor plan is the largest offered in the building, and it is the only floor plan with two studies, Calderon added.



Houston Association of Real Estate

No. 4: 2323 San Felipe, No. 1201

List price: \$4,050,000

Sold price: \$3,830,001

— \$4,418,000

3 bedrooms, 4 full and 1

The dining room inside 2121 Kirby Drive 12s offers guests panoramic views of the city while staying cozy with a gas fireplace adorned with a marble mantel sourced from Paris.

half bathrooms

Closing date: December 2024

This 4,182-square-foot penthouse is located in London House, a 12-story

tower that opened in December in River Oaks. The residence features 13-foot

ceilings, oak floors, a private elevator entry and kitchen appointed with

GALVESTON

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cruises from the port's \$100 million terminal that's scheduled to open later this year.

The cruise line will homeport at the new terminal full time starting with the company's new state-of-the-art ships, Norwegian Prima and Norwegian Viva, and trips to Western Caribbean routes will begin in November.

The global brand is already part of the port's cruise line activity, and the significance of the contract means it could use Galveston as a homeport for another 10 to 20 years, the Chronicle reported in October.

McNeal's Tavern and Eatery

When it opens: There

estate company Save 1900, are entering a new business venture. They are converting an old filling station on the island to Local Dogs, a hot dog stand with light bites, snow cones and more in a family friendly atmosphere.

Basin Bistro

When it opens: Sometime this spring

Where it will be: 13 Evia Main, Galveston

Dennis Byrd, Galveston local and owner of The Spot restaurant, is launching the new restaurant Basin Bistro this spring. "Fresh Fare + Local Charm" is the tag line for the new restaurant that takes the place of Lil' Buffalo Grille that closed earlier this month.

"We have a little secret to share. We've been quietly working on a new breakfast and lunch concept to

LIFE TRIBUTES

Mai, Klaus

Meyers, Mickey

Seeberger Jr., Ferdina

KLAUS MAI

03/07/1930 - 02/01/2025

Klaus L. Mai passed on February 1, 2025, at his home surrounded by family. He was born in Changsha, China on March 7, 1930, to German parents, Dr. Ludwig H. Mai and Ilse (Behrend) Mai. He received his primary education in British, German and French schools before entering Fu Jen University in Beijing. He came to the United States in 1948 and continued his studies in Chemical Engineering at Gonzaga University, graduating in 1951. He obtained an M.S. degree and Ph.D. degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Washington in 1952 and 1954, respectively.

After two years in a research position at Proctor & Gamble's Overseas Division in Cincinnati, he joined Shell Oil Company in Houston in 1957.

Institute of Chemical Engineers. He served as Chairman and Director of The Southwest Research Institute, Chairman of the Council of Chemical Research, Board Chairman of the Keystone Center, and member of the Executive Committee of the Houston Advanced Research Center. He was a board member of the American Industrial Health Council and the Chemical Industry Institute of Toxicology. He was a member of the MIT Research Advisory Board and Engineering Advisory Boards of Rice University, the University of Washington and the University of Texas. Listed in Who's Who in America, he was President of the Keystone Foundation, member of Phi Lambda Upsilon and Sigma Xi Honorary Societies and a



regattas and later sailing his sloop in the Caribbean. He enjoyed family reunions at get-away homes in Keystone, Sandestin, and Colorado Springs, and was the consummate host. He was a talented dancer, accomplished bridge player and was fluent in German, Mandarin and English. He loved playing the stock market and chess. He was