may result in disorientation, crippling, or mortality. Mortality is directly related to: an increase in structure height; the number of guy wires, conductors, and ground wires; and use of solid or pulsating red lights (e.g., an FAA lighting requirement on structures over 200 feet in height) (Erickson et al., 2005). Collision hazards are greatest near habitat "magnets" (e.g., wetlands, open water, edges, and riparian zones) and during the fall when flight altitudes of dense migrating flocks are lower in association with cold air masses, fog, and inclement weather. The greatest danger of mortality exists during periods of low ceiling, poor visibility, drizzle when birds are flying low (e.g., commencing or terminating a flight), and in other instances where birds may have difficulty seeing obstructions (Electric Power Research Institute, 1993). Most migrant species known to occur in the study area, including passerines, should be minimally affected during migration, because their normal flying altitudes are much greater than the heights of the proposed structures (Gauthreaux, 1978; Willard, 1978). Some avian species may use transmission line structures or wires for perching and roosting; however, this is not the designed intent of those facilities.

Regarding power line collisions, the TPWD, in its September 12, 2024, response letter, recommended routing transmission lines to avoid crossing riparian areas, wetlands, and open water habitat, to the extent feasible (TPWD, 2024l).

In general, the greatest potential impact on wildlife typically results from the loss and fragmentation of woodland and wetland habitats. Woodlands, particularly, are relatively static environments that require greater regenerative time compared with cropland or emergent wetlands. In most cases, wetlands and small waterbodies can be spanned with little or no resulting impact on wildlife.

The greatest potential impacts on wildlife involve: clearing of woodland/brushland habitat; clearing within 100 feet of streams; crossing wetlands; and the length of the Proposed Project, which would present the potential for wire strikes to both migrant and resident birds. Direct impacts on wildlife and habitat fragmentation are greatly reduced by utilizing or paralleling existing ROW to the greatest practical extent. In this regard, the Proposed Project parallels existing ROW for approximately 20,210 feet (91 percent of its total length) and is consistent with the TPWD's recommendation that, where new construction is the only feasible option, it is best to route new transmission and distribution lines along existing roads, pipelines, transmission lines, or ROW and easements to reduce habitat fragmentation (TPWD, 2024l).

After construction is completed and grasses, forbs, and shrubs can recover, many forms of wildlife are anticipated to re-occupy the ROW area. Periodic vegetation maintenance within the ROW may temporarily cause some negative impacts on wildlife habitat. Maintenance clearing activities during the

breeding season may destroy some nests and broods. With the increase in sunlight penetration to a previously dense shrub/tree stratum, more perennial forbs and grasses would be expected to germinate. Such edge habitats are preferred by many species, such as the eastern cottontail, white-tailed deer, and northern bobwhite. Species that require open areas and dense cover (e.g., the white-tailed deer) may also use the ROW. Additionally, edge-adapted species (e.g., some flycatchers, northern cardinal [*Cardinalis cardinalis*], northern bobwhite, Cooper's hawk [*Accipiter cooperii*], brown-headed cowbird [*Molothrus ater*], and northern mockingbird [*Mimus polyglottos*]) may select the edge habitat created along the changed vegetation areas adjacent to the transmission line ROW (Rochelle et al., 1999).

#### 4.4.2.2 Fish and Aquatic Wildlife

Potential impacts on aquatic ecosystems from transmission line construction are generally minor. Aquatic features within the study area, such as lakes, streams, and ponds, can generally be spanned. The implementation of sedimentation controls during construction will help to minimize erosion and sedimentation of area streams, as prescribed in a project-specific SWPPP (if required). Potential impacts on fish and aquatic wildlife by transmission line construction activities mainly involve the effects of increased erosion and sedimentation. Physical habitat loss or modification could result whenever access road crossings intercept a drainage system due to: sedimentation due to erosion; increased suspended solids loading; or accidental petroleum spills directly into a creek, lake, or other aquatic feature. Erosion may result in siltation and increased suspended solids entering streams, creeks, or lakes, which in turn may negatively affect aquatic organisms at many trophic levels. However, because most of the aquatic features of the area typically exhibit relatively high turbidities during and following runoff events, small increases in suspended solids during the construction phase are unlikely to have any discernible adverse impact.

The primary aquatic ecosystems that could be directly affected by the Proposed Project are Lake Colorado City, Morgan Creek, an unnamed tributary to Morgan Creek, and an unnamed stream. The main considerations regarding potential impacts of transmission line routes to aquatic systems include the length across open water, distance crossing wetlands, and length of ROW paralleling (within 100 feet) streams. The Proposed Project crosses one or more types of aquatic habitat, as previously discussed in **Section 4.3.1** (Surface Water and Floodplains). In most cases, wetlands and small waterbodies can be spanned with little or no resulting impact on aquatic wildlife. Implementation by Oncor of BMPs designated in the SWPPP (if required) to control runoff from construction areas would further minimize any potential impacts on aquatic communities. Construction of the Proposed Project is not expected to have significant impacts on aquatic resources.

#### 4.4.2.3 Commercially or Recreationally Important Fish and Wildlife Species

Construction of the Proposed Project is not expected to have a significant impact on commercially or recreationally important fish and wildlife species in the study area. Game species such as the white-tailed deer, mule deer, mourning dove, and scaled quail (*Callipepla squamata*) are very mobile and will leave the immediate vicinity during the initial construction phase. Wildlife in the immediate area may experience a temporary loss of browse or forage vegetation during construction; however, the prevalence of similar habitats in adjacent areas will minimize the effect of the loss. The Proposed Project would have little or no impact on game fish, waterfowl hunting, or recreational fishing, and no commercial fishing occurs in the study area.

#### 4.4.2.4 Endangered and Threatened Fish and Wildlife Species

In its September 12, 2024, response letter, the TPWD recommended reviewing the TPWD county list for Mitchell County, as rare and protected species could be present, depending upon habitat availability. The agency also recommended that personnel involved in the construction of the Proposed Project be informed of the potential presence of rare species and how to avoid their potential habitat. The TPWD further recommended planting native plants (e.g., milkweed and other nectar plants) in the ROW (TPWD, 2024l).

According to USFWS (2024a) and TPWD (2024c), one state-listed fish species is of potential occurrence in Mitchell County. The state-listed threatened Red River pupfish has a restricted range that lies outside the proposed ROW. The Proposed Project should not adversely affect any endangered or threatened fish or other aquatic species.

The tricolored bat would only occur in the region as a rare vagrant and is not generally expected within the study area. No federal or state-listed endangered or threatened mammal species is expected to be adversely affected by the Proposed Project.

The state-listed threatened Texas horned lizard is the only listed terrestrial wildlife species of potential occurrence in the study area and is likely to occur as a permanent resident where potential habitat is present. This species could experience minor temporal disturbance during construction efforts; however, in many instances, potential habitat may be completely avoided, or otherwise spanned to avoid impacts. Overall, the Proposed Project is not expected to significantly affect this species.

The state-listed threatened Brazos water snake is not expected due to most of its current range lying southeast of the study area; however, it may occasionally reside in the study area. If it occurs in the proposed ROW, it may be impacted to some extent by displacement resulting from the initial construction

phases of the Proposed Project. These impacts would be short term, however, and are not expected to be significant.

The red knot and piping plover are uncommon migratory species, and USFWS limits the assessment of affect to projects that expose risk to the species during migration. Because the Proposed Project is not a wind energy project, it may be concluded that these species will not be impacted.

Avian species protected under the ESA that may migrate through the study area (e.g., eastern black rail), as well as other bird species that receive protection under provisions of the BGEPA and the MBTA (e.g., white-faced ibis), may be affected by the presence of transmission lines. These species may be susceptible to wire strikes. Larger birds are more prone to transmission line collisions because their large wingspans and lack of maneuverability make avoiding obstacles more difficult (APLIC, 1994). However, the normal flying altitudes of most migrant species are greater than the heights of the proposed transmission structures (Gauthreaux, 1978; Willard, 1978). Additionally, the Proposed Project will be designed following APLIC standards (APLIC, 2012), which will minimize the attractiveness of the structures for perching and nesting.

In its September 12, 2024, response letter, the TPWD recommended that transmission line routes in the vicinity of lakes and rivers be assessed for nesting, foraging, or roosting habitat for bald eagles (TPWD, 2024l). The Proposed Project is close to Lake Colorado City. No bald eagles or bald eagle nests were encountered during Burns & McDonnell's reconnaissance of the Proposed Project on September 17–19, 2024.

Regarding the MBTA, in its September 12, 2024, response letter, the TPWD recommended excluding vegetation clearing activities during the general bird nesting season, March 15 through September 15, to mitigate adverse impacts on birds. If clearing vegetation during the migratory bird nesting season is unavoidable, the TPWD recommended surveying the area proposed for disturbance to ensure that no nests with eggs or young will be disturbed by construction (TPWD, 2024l). Oncor will conduct environmental surveys prior to construction.

Monarch butterflies are likely to occur in the study area during fall and spring migration; however, any impacts on the species from the Proposed Project are expected to be discountable and insignificant. Additionally, the monarch butterfly is currently proposed by USFWS for listing as threatened and is not afforded protection under the ESA. In its September 12, 2024, response letter, the TPWD (2024l) provided specific recommendations for this species.

No critical habitat for any federal or state-listed endangered or threatened fish or wildlife species occurs within the proposed ROW; therefore, no critical habitat will be impacted by the Proposed Project.

## 4.5 Summary of Impact on Natural Resources

Several natural resource areas have been evaluated to determine the relative ecological impacts of the Proposed Project. These areas primarily included potential impacts on vegetation and wildlife. Although it has the potential to impact natural resources, the Proposed Project is not anticipated to have any significant impacts on the natural resources within the study area.

## 4.6 Impact on Community Values and Community Resources

Adverse effects upon community values are defined as aspects of the Proposed Project that would significantly and negatively alter the use, enjoyment, or intrinsic value attached to an important area or resource by a community. This definition assumes that community concerns are identified with the location and specific characteristics of the Proposed Project and do not include possible objections to electric transmission lines in general.

Impacts on community values can be organized into two categories: (1) direct effects, or those effects that would occur if the location and construction of a transmission line results in the removal or loss of public access to a valued resource; and (2) indirect effects, or those effects that would result from a loss in the enjoyment or use of a resource due to the characteristics (primarily aesthetic) of the Proposed Project, structures, or ROW. Impacts on community values, whether direct or indirect, can be more accurately gauged as they affect recreational areas, recreational resources, or the visual environment of an area (aesthetics). The sections that follow discuss impacts on community values and community resources.

## 4.7 Impact on Land Use

Land use impacts from transmission line construction are determined by the amount of land (of varying use) displaced by the actual ROW and by the compatibility of electric transmission line ROW with adjacent land uses. During construction, temporary impacts on land uses within the ROW could occur due to the movement of workers and materials through the area. Construction noise and dust, as well as temporary disruption of traffic flow, may also temporarily affect residents and businesses in the area immediately adjacent to the ROW. Coordination among Oncor, its contractors, and landowners regarding access to the ROW and construction scheduling would minimize these disruptions. Most existing land uses may continue during construction.

The primary factors considered in measuring potential land use impacts from the Proposed Project include proximity to habitable structures, potential impacts on park/recreational areas, agricultural activities, aesthetics, transportation/aviation, and communication towers, as discussed below.

### 4.7.1 Urban/Residential Areas

Generally, one of the most important measures of potential land use impact is the number of habitable structures located within a specified distance of a route centerline. Burns & McDonnell determined that four habitable structures are located within 500 feet of the centerline of the Proposed Project through the interpretation of aerial photography (Bing, 2022; NAIP, 2022) and verification during field reconnaissance surveys. To account for photographic interpretation limitations such as shadows, tree canopies, and horizontal accuracy of the aerial photography, all habitable structures within a measured distance of 520 feet of the Proposed Project centerline were identified. The four habitable structures located within 520 feet of the proposed centerline are shown on **Figure 3-1 (Appendix B)**. **Table 4-1** provides the distance and direction of the four habitable structures within 520 feet of the proposed route centerline. Other buildings within the Morgan Creek Power Plant are not habitable structures (e.g., warehouses, barns, storage sheds), or the habitable structures are located more than 520 feet away.

**Table 4-1: Habitable Structures[a] Within 500 Feet[b] of Proposed Route Centerline**

| Habitable Structure[c] ID | Description | Distance From Proposed Route Centerline (feet)[b] | Direction From Proposed Route Centerline[d] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Administrative building | 177 | South |
| 2 | Facilities building | 365 | South |
| 3 | Facilities building | 440 | South |
| 4 | Single-family residence | 303 | North |

(a) Single-family and multi-family dwellings and related structures, mobile homes, apartment buildings, commercial structures, industrial structures, business structures, churches, hospitals, nursing homes, schools, or other structures normally inhabited by humans or intended to be inhabited by humans on a daily or regular basis.
(b) Due to the potential horizontal inaccuracies of the aerial photography and data utilized, all habitable structures within 520 feet have been identified.
(c) All habitable structures are located on **Figure 3-1 (Appendix B)**.
(d) Direction represents the distance beginning at the nearest point of the centerline to the habitable structure.

PUCT Substantive Rule Section 25.101(b)(3)(B) requires, among other things, that the PUCT consider whether new transmission line routes utilize/parallel existing transmission line ROW or parallel other existing compatible ROW, property lines, or other natural or cultural features. The Proposed Project parallels approximately 18,985 feet of Oncor's existing transmission line ROW and approximately 1,225 feet of private roads. These amount to approximately 91 percent of the total length of the route. No other

existing corridor types were paralleled, as shown in **Table 4-3**. Much of the proposed route is located on Luminant property and would have little impact on urban or residential areas.

### 4.7.2 Recreation Areas

Potential impacts on recreational land, which include the disruption or preemption of recreational activities, are not anticipated because no park or recreation area is crossed by the Proposed Project. One park, however—Lake Colorado City State Park—is located 308 feet north of the Proposed Project. The potential aesthetic impact on this park is addressed below in **Section 4.7.5** (Aesthetics).

### 4.7.3 Agriculture

Potential impacts on agricultural land use typically include the disruption or preemption of farming activities. Impacts on agricultural land uses can generally be ranked by degree of potential impact. Forested land (e.g., orchards or land used for commercial timber) has the highest degree of impact, followed by cultivated cropland. Areas where cultivation is not the primary use (pastureland or rangeland) have the least degree of potential impact.

In this regard, the Proposed Project crosses approximately 4,149 feet of cropland/hay meadow (approximately 18.7 percent of the proposed route's total length), and 8,438 feet of pastureland/rangeland (approximately 38.0 percent of the proposed route's total length). Due to the relatively small area affected beneath the structures, and the short duration of construction activities at any one location, such impacts should be temporary and minor. Furthermore, the proposed line does not cross any agricultural land irrigated by traveling irrigation systems (rolling or center-pivot or other aboveground mechanical means). Because the ROW for the Proposed Project will not be fenced or otherwise separated from adjacent lands, no significant long-term displacement of grazing activities is anticipated.

### 4.7.4 Industry/Utilities

The Proposed Project crosses approximately 1,941 feet of commercial/industrial areas. Approximately 76 percent of this is across Luminant's 536.4 MW gas-fueled Morgan Creek Power Plant, but also includes road crossings and the exit from the Ranger Camp Switch. Three habitable structures within the Morgan Creek Power Plant (an administrative building and two facilities buildings) are located within 520 feet of the proposed centerline as shown on **Figure 3-1 (Appendix B)**. Other buildings within the Morgan Creek Power Plant are either not habitable structures (e.g., warehouses, barns, storage sheds), or the habitable structures are located more than 520 feet away. Numerous transmission lines, owned and operated by Oncor, are in the study area.

### 4.7.5 Aesthetics

Aesthetic impacts, or impacts upon visual resources, exist when the ROW, lines, or structures of a transmission line system create an intrusion into, or substantially alter the character of, an existing scenic view. The significance of the impact is directly related to the quality of the view, in the case of natural scenic areas, or to the importance of the existing setting in the use or enjoyment of an area, in the case of valued community resources and recreational areas.

Construction of the Proposed Project could have both temporary and permanent aesthetic effects. Temporary impacts would include views of the actual construction activities and materials, including assembly and erection of the structures, and any additional clearing of the ROW, as discussed in **Section 1.3.3 (**Clearing Requirements**)**. Where limited clearing is required, the brush and wood debris could have a temporary negative impact on the local visual environment. Permanent impacts from the Proposed Project would include the views of the structures and lines themselves.

To evaluate aesthetic impacts, field reconnaissance was conducted to determine the general aesthetic character of the area and the degree to which the Proposed Project would be visible from selected areas. These selected areas generally include: those of potential community value; parks and recreational areas; scenic vistas; and the SH and FM roads that traverse the study area. Measurements were taken to estimate the length of the Proposed Project that would fall within recreational or major highway foreground visual zone (FVZ). A transmission line (structures and wires) is within the FVZ if it is visible (i.e., not obstructed by terrain, trees, buildings, etc.) within 0.5 miles of an observer. The determination of the visibility of the Proposed Project from various points was calculated using USGS maps and aerial digital imagery.

The proposed route is located within the FVZ of SH 163, S FM 1229, or FM 2836 for its entire length (22,193 feet). Additionally, the proposed route is located within the FVZ of Lake Colorado City State Park for approximately 15,628 feet. However, most of the proposed route would be constructed on Luminant property, paralleling existing Oncor transmission line and other compatible ROW for approximately 91 percent of its length. Although the public use of SH 163, S FM 1229, FM 2836, and Lake Colorado City State Park would be temporarily impacted during construction of the Proposed Project, long-term impacts on aesthetics are not anticipated because the Proposed Project would not substantially alter the character of the existing viewshed.

### 4.7.6 Transportation/Aviation

Potential impacts on transportation may include temporary disruption of traffic and conflicts with proposed roadway or utility improvements as well as increased traffic during construction. However, such impacts are usually temporary and short-term. State road crossing permits or access permits may be required prior to construction for state-maintained roads, such as FM 2836. Although transportation may be temporarily impacted during construction, no permanent impacts on transportation infrastructure are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Project.

Typical transmission structure heights will be approximately 120 to 199 feet, but structure heights will vary depending on terrain and other engineering considerations. According to FAA Regulations, Title 14 CFR Part 77, § 77.9, notification of the construction of the Proposed Project will be required if structure heights exceed the height of an imaginary surface extending outward and upward at a slope of 100 to 1 for a horizontal distance of 20,000 feet from the nearest point of the nearest runway of a public or military airport having at least one runway longer than 3,200 feet (FAA, 2011). If all runways of a public or military airport are 3,200 feet or less, notification would be required if structure heights exceed the height of an imaginary surface extending at a slope of 50 to 1 for 10,000 feet. Notification is also required for structure heights exceeding the height of an imaginary surface extending outward and upward at a slope of 25 to 1 for a horizontal distance of 5,000 feet from the nearest point of the nearest landing and takeoff area for heliports.

As stated in **Section 3.7.6** (Transportation/Aviation), Burns & McDonnell's review of airport runway and facilities data from FAA (2024a), AirNav (2024), and recent aerial photography identified the following: no FAA-registered airports with a runway length greater than 3,200 feet within 20,000 feet of the Proposed Project centerline; no FAA-registered airports with a runway length of 3,200 feet or less within 10,000 feet of the Proposed Project centerline; and no private airstrips within 10,000 feet. In addition, no heliports were identified within 5,000 feet of the Proposed Project centerline. Therefore, no impacts on airstrips or heliports are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Project.

### 4.7.7 Communication Towers

As stated in **Section 3.7.7** (Communication Towers), one microwave tower registered to Oncor License Holding Company LLC, is located within 2,000 feet of the Proposed Project centerline (AntennaSearch, 2024). It is located 925 feet east of the centerline as shown on **Figure 3-1** (**Appendix B**). No commercial AM radio transmitters were identified within the study area, and the Proposed Project centerline is not located within 10,000 feet of any AM radio transmitter. No FM radio transmitters were identified in the study area, and the Proposed Project centerline is not within 2,000 feet of any FM radio transmitter

(USDHS, 2024; FCC, 2024; AntennaSearch, 2024). During the field reconnaissance, however, a second tower was encountered that was not listed on the public websites. It is associated with an abandoned gas station on the south side of FM 2836 in the southwestern portion of the study area, approximately 1,934 feet northeast of the Proposed Project (see **Figure 3-1** in **Appendix B**). The Proposed Project is not anticipated to impact electronic communications in the area.

## 4.8 Impact on Cultural Resources

Construction activity has the potential for adversely impacting cultural resource sites. Although the Proposed Project is currently being conducted without the need for federal funding, permitting, or assistance, federal guidelines established under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, provide useful standards for considering the severity of possible direct and indirect impacts. According to the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for protection of historical and archeological resources (Title 36, CFR, Part 800), adverse impacts may occur directly or indirectly when a project causes changes in archeological, architectural, or cultural qualities that contribute to a resource's historical or archeological significance.

As discussed in Title 36, CFR, Part 800, adverse impacts on the NRHP or eligible properties may occur under conditions that include, but are not limited to:

- destruction or alteration of all or part of a property;
- isolation from or alteration of the property's surrounding environment (setting); or
- introduction of visual, audible, or atmospheric elements that are out of character with the property or alter its setting.

Impacts may be direct or indirect. Direct impacts include actions that physically damage or alter an archeological site, historically significant building, structure, object, district, or other cultural resource. Typically, these impacts occur during the construction phase of a transmission line project and can result from actual placement of structures and lines or from activities associated with construction (e.g., vegetation clearing and vehicular/heavy machinery traffic). Archeological sites, which can be surficial or shallowly buried, are particularly sensitive to these impacts.

Historically significant buildings, structures, objects, districts, and other landscape-related resources within or adjacent to the study area can be directly affected by construction activities. These effects can include direct impacts on the resources themselves via physical destruction or damage, or impacts on their character-defining features, including changes to the overall character of the property's use or alteration of physical features within the property's setting that contribute to its historical significance.

Indirect impacts can include the introduction of visual, atmospheric, or audible elements that diminish the integrity of a property's significant historic features. Often, indirect impacts affect cultural resources located outside of the immediate study area and frequently relate to a resource's overall integrity of setting, feeling, or association. Such impacts may include: landscape alteration or changes in land use patterns; the introduction of air pollution; increased traffic; or changes in population density. Historic landscapes, buildings, structures, objects, and districts are common resources affected by indirect impacts.

The preferred form of mitigation for direct or indirect impacts on cultural resources is avoidance. Alternative forms of mitigation for direct impacts can be developed for archeological and historical sites and properties through the implementation of an appropriate data recovery program. Indirect impacts on historically significant properties and landscapes can be lessened through careful design choices and landscaping considerations. In some situations, the relocation of historic structures may be another possible form of mitigation.

To assess the potential for crossing previously undocumented cultural resources, areas with a high probability of containing cultural resources (HPAs) were identified along the Proposed Project. When identifying HPAs, the topography and the availability of water and subsistence resources are taken into consideration, as well as the effects of geological processes on archeological deposits. Locations that are usually identified as HPAs for the occurrence of prehistoric sites include water crossings, stream confluences, drainages, alluvial terraces, wide floodplains, playa lakes, upland knolls, and areas where lithic or other subsistence resources could be found. Historic sites would be expected to be located adjacent to historic roadways or railways and in areas where structures appear on historic-age maps. HPAs for the Proposed Project were identified using the TxDOT Abilene District Hybrid Potential Archeological Liability Map (HPALM) Model (Abbott, 2019). The HPALM indicates approximately 6,943 feet of the proposed ROW is an HPA. However, a majority of the proposed route has been previously surveyed, and no cultural resources have been identified within the ROW.

Correspondence from the THC **(Appendix A)** stated that "no historic properties are present or affected" and the project would have "no effect on identified archeological sites or other cultural resources." The THC also stated that "no known archeological resources are located along the proposed 4.2-mile-long transmission line route. While the proposed route crosses natural sources of water (e.g., Morgan Creek), which would have attracted precontact and historic occupation, approximately half of the proposed route overlaps with previous cultural resource surveys and/or existing disturbances (e.g., emergency spillway and terraced agricultural fields). Therefore, the potential for the Proposed Project to adversely affect unknown historic properties is considered low." No cultural resources survey is required. In the event

Oncor or its contractors encounter any archeological artifacts or other cultural resources during construction of the Proposed Project, Oncor will cease work in the immediate vicinity of the resource and report the discovery to the THC. It is anticipated that the Proposed Project will have no substantial impact on cultural resources, including both historical and archeological resources.

### 4.8.1 Archeological Summary

The results of the literature and records review of the Atlas (THC, 2024a) indicated that 13 archeological sites have been recorded in the study area. **Table 4-2** provides the distance and direction of the five archeological sites within 1,000 feet of the proposed route centerline. All archeological sites within 1,000 feet have undetermined NRHP eligibility. As noted previously, the THC determined the project would have no effect on previously identified archeological sites or other cultural resources, and no survey is required.

**Table 4-2: Cultural Resource Sites Within 1,000 Feet of Proposed Route Centerline**

| Cultural Resource | Distance From Proposed Route Centerline (feet)[a] | Direction From Proposed Route Centerline[a] |
|---|---|---|
| 41MH67 | 81 | East |
| 41MH68 | 255 | East |
| 41MH82 | 766 | North |
| 41MH86 | 864 | North |
| 41MH135 | 505 | East |

(a) Direction represents the distance beginning at the nearest point of the centerline to the cultural resource.

### 4.8.2 Historical Summary

As noted in **Section 3.8.2.3** (Historic Sites), one OTHM (#4042 [Plainview Baptist Church]) was identified within the study area. The resource is not crossed by or within 1,000 feet of the proposed route centerline. No NHLs, NRHP-listed properties or districts, or historic-age cemeteries were identified within the study area (THC, 2024a). The THC determined that no historic properties are present or affected.

**Table 4-3: Environmental Data Summary for Route Evaluation**

| Factor | Route Data |
|---|---|
| Length of proposed transmission line route | 22,193 |
| Length of route parallel to existing transmission lines | 18,985 |
| Length of route parallel to private roads | 1,225 |
| Length of route parallel to existing public roads, highways | 0 |
| Length of route parallel to railroads | 0 |
| Length of route parallel to pipelines[a] | 0 |
| Length of route parallel to apparent property boundaries | 0 |
| Total length of route parallel to existing compatible ROW (including private roads) | 20,210 |
| Number of habitable structures[b] within 500 feet of route centerline | 4 |
| Number of parks/recreational areas[c] within 1,000 feet of route centerline | 1 |
| Length of route across parks/recreational areas[c] | 0 |
| Length of route across cropland/hay meadow | 4,149 |
| Length of route across cropland or pastureland with mobile irrigation systems | 0 |
| Length of route across pastureland/rangeland | 8,438 |
| Length of route across upland/riparian woodland and brushland | 7,286 |
| Length of route across commercial/industrial areas | 1,941 |
| Length of route across NWI-mapped potential wetlands (includes open water/lakes) | 379 |
| Number of known rare/unique plant locations within ROW | 0 |
| Length of route across known occupied habitat of federally endangered or threatened species | 0 |
| Number of stream crossings by the route | 3 |
| Length of route parallel to streams (within 100 feet) | 148 |
| Length of route across 100-year floodplains | 867 |
| Number of recorded cultural resource sites crossed by the route | 0 |
| Number of additional recorded cultural resource sites within 1,000 feet of route centerline | 5 |
| Length of route crossing areas of high archeological/historical site potential | 6,943 |
| Number of FAA-registered airports within 20,000 feet of route centerline (with runway >3,200 feet) | 0 |
| Number of FAA-registered airports within 10,000 feet of route centerline (with runway ≤3,200 feet) | 0 |
| Number of private airstrips within 10,000 feet of route centerline | 0 |
| Number of heliports within 5,000 feet of route centerline | 0 |
| Number of commercial AM radio transmitters within 10,000 feet of route centerline | 0 |
| Number of FM, microwave, other electronic installations within 2,000 feet of route centerline | 2 |
| Number of U.S. or State Highway crossings | 0 |
| Number of Farm-to-Market (FM), county roads, or other street crossings | 1 |
| Estimated length of route within foreground visual zone of SH, FM roads (i.e., SH 163, S FM 1229, FM 2836) | 22,193 |
| Estimated length of route within foreground visual zone of parks/recreational areas[c] | 15,628 |

Notes: All length measurements in feet. All linear measurements were taken from aerial imagery (ESRI World Imagery, 2022–2023; USDA NAIP, 2022; Bing, 2022), except for areas of high archeological/historical site potential, which were measured using the TxDOT Abilene District Hybrid Potential Archeological Liability Map (HPALM) Model (Abbot, 2019).
(a) Not included in "Length of route parallel to existing compatible ROW."
(b) Defined as single-family and multifamily dwellings and related structures, mobile homes, apartment buildings, commercial structures, industrial structures, business structures, churches, hospitals, nursing homes, schools, or other structures normally inhabited by humans or intended to be inhabited by humans on a daily or regular basis.
(c) Defined as parks and recreational areas owned by a governmental body or an organized group, club, or church.

# 5.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

This Environmental Assessment was prepared for Oncor by Burns & McDonnell. Oncor provided information in **Section 1.0**. Below is a list of Burns & McDonnell employees with primary responsibilities for the preparation of this document.

**Table 5-1: List of Preparers**

| Responsibility | Name | Title |
|---|---|---|
| Project Manager | Derek Green | Senior Environmental Scientist |
| Natural Resources | Gary Newgord | Senior Environmental Scientist |
| Human Development | Gary Newgord | Senior Environmental Scientist |
| Cultural Resources | Shelly Wunderlich | Cultural Resources Specialist |
| GIS/Mapping | Grant Cox | Senior Environmental Scientist |

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# APPENDIX A
# AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

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# APPENDIX A

# AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

December 2024
Proposed Oncor Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345 kV Transmission Line Projerct in Mitchell County, Texas

## FEDERAL AGENCIES



## STATE AND REGIONAL AGENCIES



## MITCHELL COUNTY

## LOCAL ENTITIES



## NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

BURNS McDONNELL

August 19, 2024

Obstruction Evaluation Group
Federal Aviation Administration
Southwest Region
10101 Hillwood Parkway
Fort Worth, TX 76117-1524

Re: Request for Information
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Mitchell County, Texas

Dear Obstruction Evaluation Group:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) will be filing an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) to construct new electric transmission facilities in Mitchell County, Texas.

Oncor proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's Ranger Camp Switch, which is currently being constructed, and Oncor's planned Cattleman Switch (Project). The Oncor Ranger Camp Switch is located approximately 0.7 miles southwest of the intersection of South Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1229 and State Highway (SH) 163, near Colorado City. The planned Cattleman Switch will be located approximately 0.8 miles west of the intersection of SH 163 and FM 2836. The proposed transmission line will be approximately 4.2 miles in length. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the study area, the Project's alignment, and the two endpoints.

Burns & McDonnell is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Project that will support Oncor's application at the PUC. Burns & McDonnell is in the process of collecting and evaluating environmental data for the study area. As part of this effort, we ask that your agency or office communicate any environmental or land use concerns that you may have regarding potential community or environmental effects from the construction of the Project within the designated study area.

We would appreciate receiving information related to any permits, easements, or other approvals that your agency or office requires. We would also like to request information related to any major proposed development or construction projects that your agency or office may be planning, or aware of, within the study area. Your input on any of the following resources as they relate to your agency or office will assist the project team in evaluating the Project:

- Land use (current or proposed land development projects, park/recreation areas, etc.)
- Aesthetics
- Water quality and wetlands

6200 Bridge Point Parkway \ Building 4, Suite 400 \ Austin, TX 78730
O 512-872-7130 \ F 512-872-7127 \ burnsmcd.com

Obstruction Evaluation Group
Federal Aviation Administration
Southwest Region



- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
- Socioeconomics (population, growth, current/future development)
- Cultural resources (historic and archeological sites)
- Transportation and roads (proposed airport and roadway expansions, construction, operations, and maintenance)

Burns & McDonnell thanks you in advance for your comments, which will be an important consideration in our assessment of potential environmental and land use impacts of the proposed transmission line. If you have any questions concerning this Project or our request for information, please contact me at djgreen@burnsmcd.com or 737-236-0111. Your earliest reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Derek Green

Derek Green
Senior Environmental Scientist

Attachment (1)


N
CR 248
S FM 1229
CR 307
CR 309
SH 163
S FM 1229
Ranger Camp Switch
FM 2836
CR 252
Lake Colorado City
CR 256
SH 163
Morgan Creek Power Plant
Morgan Creek Switch
CR 258
Colorado River
CR 260
CR 620
Lake Colorado City State Park
FM 2836
CR 262
Planned Cattleman Switch
SH 163
Texas
Proposed Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch Transmission Line
Project Endpoint
Existing Transmission Line
Major Road
County Road
State Park
Study Area
0
1,500
3,000
US Feet
ONCOR
BURNS McDONNELL
Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345 kV Transmission Line Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC Mitchell County, Texas
Path: C:\Users\gacox\OneDrive - Burns & McDonnell\Texas GIS\Austin\174458_RangerCamp_to_Cattleman\174458_RangerCamp_to_Cattleman_GC.aprx gacox 8/12/2024
Service Layer Credits: Bing Maps Aerial: © 2024 Microsoft Corporation © 2024 Maxar ©CNES (2024) Distribution Airbus DS
Source: ESRI; Bing; TPWD
Issued: 8/12/2024

BURNS McDONNELL

August 19, 2024

Tony Robinson
Regional Administrator
Region Vl
Federal Emergency Management Agency
FRC 800 North Loop 288
Denton, TX 76209-3698

Re: Request for Information
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Mitchell County, Texas

Dear Tony Robinson:

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We would appreciate receiving information related to any permits, easements, or other approvals that your agency or office requires. We would also like to request information related to any major proposed development or construction projects that your agency or office may be planning, or aware of, within the study area. Your input on any of the following resources as they relate to your agency or office will assist the project team in evaluating the Project:

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- Aesthetics

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Tony Robinson
Regional Administrator
Region Vl
Federal Emergency Management Agency



- Water quality and wetlands
- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
- Socioeconomics (population, growth, current/future development)
- Cultural resources (historic and archeological sites)
- Transportation and roads (proposed airport and roadway expansions, construction, operations, and maintenance)

Burns & McDonnell thanks you in advance for your comments, which will be an important consideration in our assessment of potential environmental and land use impacts of the proposed transmission line. If you have any questions concerning this Project or our request for information, please contact me at djgreen@burnsmcd.com or 737-236-0111. Your earliest reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Derek Green

Derek Green
Senior Environmental Scientist

Attachment (1)

6200 Bridge Point Parkway \ Building 4, Suite 400 \ Austin, TX 78730
O 512-872-7130 \ F 512-872-7127 \ burnsmcd.com

BURNS McDONNELL

August 19, 2024

Kristy Oates
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
101 South Main St.
Temple, TX 76501-7602

Re: Request for Information
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Mitchell County, Texas

Dear Kristy Oates:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) will be filing an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) to construct new electric transmission facilities in Mitchell County, Texas.

Oncor proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's Ranger Camp Switch, which is currently being constructed, and Oncor's planned Cattleman Switch (Project). The Oncor Ranger Camp Switch is located approximately 0.7 miles southwest of the intersection of South Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1229 and State Highway (SH) 163, near Colorado City. The planned Cattleman Switch will be located approximately 0.8 miles west of the intersection of SH 163 and FM 2836. The proposed transmission line will be approximately 4.2 miles in length. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the study area, the Project's alignment, and the two endpoints.

Burns & McDonnell is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Project that will support Oncor's application at the PUC. Burns & McDonnell is in the process of collecting and evaluating environmental data for the study area. As part of this effort, we ask that your agency or office communicate any environmental or land use concerns that you may have regarding potential community or environmental effects from the construction of the Project within the designated study area.

We would appreciate receiving information related to any permits, easements, or other approvals that your agency or office requires. We would also like to request information related to any major proposed development or construction projects that your agency or office may be planning, or aware of, within the study area. Your input on any of the following resources as they relate to your agency or office will assist the project team in evaluating the Project:

- Land use (current or proposed land development projects, park/recreation areas, etc.)
- Aesthetics
- Water quality and wetlands

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Kristy Oates
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service



- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
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Sincerely,

Derek Green

Derek Green
Senior Environmental Scientist

Attachment (1)

6200 Bridge Point Parkway \ Building 4, Suite 400 \ Austin, TX 78730
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BURNS McDONNELL

August 19, 2024

Claude Ross
Assistant State Conservationist
Administrative Zone 2 – San Angelo Office
Natural Resources Conservation Service
3878 West Houston Harte
San Angelo, TX 76901

Re: Request for Information
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Mitchell County, Texas

Dear Claude Ross:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) will be filing an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) to construct new electric transmission facilities in Mitchell County, Texas.

Oncor proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's Ranger Camp Switch, which is currently being constructed, and Oncor's planned Cattleman Switch (Project). The Oncor Ranger Camp Switch is located approximately 0.7 miles southwest of the intersection of South Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1229 and State Highway (SH) 163, near Colorado City. The planned Cattleman Switch will be located approximately 0.8 miles west of the intersection of SH 163 and FM 2836. The proposed transmission line will be approximately 4.2 miles in length. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the study area, the Project's alignment, and the two endpoints.

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O 512-872-7130 \ F 512-872-7127 \ burnsmcd.com

Claude Ross
Assistant State Conservationist
Administrative Zone 2 – San Angelo Office
Natural Resources Conservation Service



- Water quality and wetlands
- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
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Sincerely,

Derek Green

Derek Green
Senior Environmental Scientist

Attachment (1)

BURNS McDONNELL

August 19, 2024

Brandon W. Mobley
Chief, Regulatory Division
Fort Worth District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
819 Taylor Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102

Re: Request for Information
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Mitchell County, Texas

Dear Brandon W. Mobley:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) will be filing an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) to construct new electric transmission facilities in Mitchell County, Texas.

Oncor proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's Ranger Camp Switch, which is currently being constructed, and Oncor's planned Cattleman Switch (Project). The Oncor Ranger Camp Switch is located approximately 0.7 miles southwest of the intersection of South Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1229 and State Highway (SH) 163, near Colorado City. The planned Cattleman Switch will be located approximately 0.8 miles west of the intersection of SH 163 and FM 2836. The proposed transmission line will be approximately 4.2 miles in length. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the study area, the Project's alignment, and the two endpoints.

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O 512-872-7130 \ F 512-872-7127 \ burnsmcd.com

Brandon W. Mobley
Chief, Regulatory Division
Fort Worth District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



- Water quality and wetlands
- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
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Sincerely,

Derek Green

Derek Green
Senior Environmental Scientist

Attachment (1)

## Green, Derek J

**From:** Sewell, Valerie A CIV USARMY CESWF (USA) <Valerie.Sewell@usace.army.mil>
**Sent:** Monday, September 9, 2024 1:25 PM
**To:** Green, Derek J
**Subject:** RE: SWF-2024-00415 Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345 KV Transmission Line
**Attachments:** Consultants List County - Others may exist.xlsx; USACE_2021_NWP_57 _Application_Form.docx; 20240909 SWF-2024-00424 NAI Letter.pdf

Mr. Green,

Please find the Need Additional Information (NAI) Letter for your proposed project. I will mark your project as withdraw until you are ready to submit for a permit or to request a Pre-Application meeting.
The Pre-App meeting can be very useful for review of the Delineation Report and to determine way forward, which could include cultural resources report, NWP-57 or a No Permit Required letter.

If you have questions, please contact me at valerie.sewell@usace.army.mil.

Thank you for your call and have a great day.

Valerie Sewell
817-886-1782 (office)
817-243-0240 (cell)

-----Original Message-----
From: Sewell, Valerie A CIV USARMY CESWF (USA)
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2024 2:10 PM
To: djgreen@burnsmcd.com
Subject: SWF-2024-00415 Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345 KV Transmission Line

Mr. Green,

I have received your information and would like to set up a pre-application call to discuss your project, needs and potential requirements for a 404 permit.

Can you provide me with some dates and times that you will be available for a WEBEX conference call.

Thank you.

Valerie Sewell
Project Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers
Fort Worth District CESWF-RDE
819 Taylor Street, Room 3A37
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300
☎ 817.886.1782 (office)

817-243-0240 (Cell)
Email: valerie.sewell@usace.army.mil

USACE Fort Worth District Regulatory Division Website
https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.swf.usace.army.mil%2FMissions%2FRegulatory%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cdjgreen%40burnsmcd.com%7C4efcf325056e4a7e94f308dcd0fd2e05%7Cbfbb9a2b6d994e78b3c795005d555c8b%7C0%7C0%7C638615036442899168%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C%7C&sdata=h13oKIhKiGeCRVdaCv5HeukUAxzzVlkS8CX0%2BoKIbtM%3D&reserved=0

USACE Fort Worth District Regulatory Division Electronic Submittal Process
https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.swf.usace.army.mil%2FMissions%2FRegulatory%2FElectronic-Submittal-Instructions%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cdjgreen%40burnsmcd.com%7C4efcf325056e4a7e94f308dcd0fd2e05%7Cbfbb9a2b6d994e78b3c795005d555c8b%7C0%7C0%7C638615036442908513%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZPjQrgXSNNQYozWViEURYwh%2FRtSEAV%2Fyw9a8suGI0kY%3D&reserved=0

Please help the Regulatory Program improve its service by completing the survey on the following website:
https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fregulatory.ops.usace.army.mil%2Fords%2Ff%3Fp%3D136%3A4&data=05%7C02%7Cdjgreen%40burnsmcd.com%7C4efcf325056e4a7e94f308dcd0fd2e05%7Cbfbb9a2b6d994e78b3c795005d555c8b%7C0%7C0%7C638615036442915222%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C%7C&sdata=PoSA80YxhCd4lSYpryvlVfoqh8HQnWaegYkF64%2FH5e8%3D&reserved=0

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

September 9, 2024

Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: Project Number SWF-2024-00415, Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345 kV Transmission Line

Mr. Derek Green
Burns & McDonnell
6200 Bridge Point Parkway, Suite 400
Austin, # Texas 78730
djgreen@burnsmcd.com

Mr. Green:

This letter is in regard to information received August 18, 2024, concerning a proposal to construct an ONCOR 345 kilovolt transmission line between Oncor's Ranger Camp Switch to the planned Cattleman Switch in Mitchell County, Texas. This project has been assigned Project Number SWF-2024-00415. Please include this number in all future correspondence concerning this project.

We have reviewed this project in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Under Section 404, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulates the discharge of dredged and fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. Our responsibility under Section 10 is to regulate any work in, or affecting, navigable waters of the United States. Any such discharge or work requires Department of the Army authorization in the form of a permit. For more information on the USACE Regulatory Program, please reference the Fort Worth District Regulatory Branch homepage at www.swf.usace.army.mil/regulatory.

We are unable to determine from the information that you provided in your letter whether Department of the Army authorization will be required, and if so, in what form. The proposed construction activities may be authorized by general permit, such as Nationwide Permit 57 – Electric Utility Line and Telecommunications Activities or a No Permit Required action provided no wetlands or waters of the United States are impacted. There are not any federally regulated waters of the United States involved per the description of your project. We have enclosed a copy of NWP-57 for your reference. If the project does not meet the terms and conditions of a general permit, an individual permit would be required for authorization. If there are no impacts to wetlands or other bodies of water, then it is recommended that you request a No Permit Required letter. You will need to provide us with an Aquatic Feature Delineation Report and description of the project that demonstrates that no wetlands or regulated steams are impacted for the overhead transmission line.

In order to continue our evaluation of your proposed project, we request that you provide the following information:

1. A detailed project description.

2. A map (or maps) showing the entire route of the project.

3. The proposed route of the project on 8 ½ by 11-inch copies of 7.5-minute United States Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle maps, national wetland inventory maps, published soil survey maps, scaled aerial photographs, and/or other suitable maps. Identify all base maps, (e.g. "Fort Worth, Texas" 7.5-minute USGS quadrangle, Natural Resources Conservation Service Tarrant County Soil Survey sheet 10). Clearly mark (such as by circling) and number the location of each proposed utility line, crossing of a water of the United States and any appurtenant structure(s) in waters of the United States on the map. Waters of the United States include most streams and rivers, some lakes, ponds, mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, wet meadows, abandoned sand and gravel mining and construction pits, and similar areas.

4. For each potential utility line crossing or appurtenant structure in a water of the United States, please provide the following site-specific information when applicable:

    a. 7.5-minute USGS quadrangle map name, universal transverse mercator (UTM) coordinates, county or parish, waterway name.

    b. a brief characterization of the crossing area (stream, forested wetland, non-forested wetland, etc.) including the National Wetland Inventory classification and soil series.

    c. distance between ordinary high-water marks for streams.

    d. proposed method of crossing.

    e. length of proposed crossing.

    f. width of temporary and permanent rights-of-way.

    g. type and amount of dredged or fill material proposed to be discharged.

    h. acreage of proposed temporary and permanent adverse impacts to waters of the United States, including wetlands; and

    i. a typical cross-section.

Please refer to the enclosed guidance for Department of the Army submittals for additional details about what you should submit for this and future linear projects. Additional information, including more detailed jurisdictional determination data, may be needed to complete our evaluation of your project in some cases. We encourage you to consult with a qualified specialist (biologist, ecologist or other specialist qualified in preliminary jurisdictional

determinations) who is familiar with the Great Plains Regional Supplement to the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual and the USACE Regulatory Program (33 CFR Parts 320-331).

Important cultural resources and several endangered and threatened species may occur in Mitchell County. Please consider the potential effects of your proposed action on cultural resources and endangered species in your planning efforts. For additional information about endangered and threatened species, please contact the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

We encourage you to avoid and minimize adverse impacts to streams, wetlands, and other waters of the United States in planning this project. Please forward your response to us as soon as possible so that we may continue our evaluation of your request. Since you stated on the phone that your company is more than one year away from having additional design and documents for USACE to review, I will mark your project as "withdrawn". Once you are ready to proceed, please submit your information to us using the electronic submittal link, Fort Worth District > Missions > Regulatory > Electronic Submittal Instructions (army.mil) or through our RRS link, https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs . You may re-open your application at a later date by submitting the requested information. Please use this same project number for all submittals. You may also request a Pre-App meeting once you have submitted the Delineation Report and before any additional paperwork and we can set up a conference call to discuss the way forward.

Please note that it is unlawful to start work without a Department of the Army permit when one is required.

For additional information, please refer to the Fort Worth District Regulatory Division homepage at http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/Missions/regulatory and particularly guidance on submittals at http://media.swf.usace.army.mil/pubdata/environ/Regulatory/introduction/submital.pdf, and mitigation at http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permitting/Mitigation that may help you supplement your current request or prepare future requests.

If you have any questions about the evaluation of your submittal or would like to request a copy of one of the documents referenced above, please contact Ms. Valerie Sewell at the address above, by telephone (817) 886-1782, or by email valerie.sewell@usace.army.mil, and refer to your assigned project number.

Sincerely,

*Ms. Valerie Sewell*

For: Mr. Brandon W. Mobley
Chief, Regulatory Division

BURNS McDONNELL

August 19, 2024

Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse
3400 Defense Pentagon, Room 5C646
Washington, DC 20301-3400

Re: Request for Information
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Mitchell County, Texas

Dear Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) will be filing an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) to construct new electric transmission facilities in Mitchell County, Texas.

Oncor proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's Ranger Camp Switch, which is currently being constructed, and Oncor's planned Cattleman Switch (Project). The Oncor Ranger Camp Switch is located approximately 0.7 miles southwest of the intersection of South Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1229 and State Highway (SH) 163, near Colorado City. The planned Cattleman Switch will be located approximately 0.8 miles west of the intersection of SH 163 and FM 2836. The proposed transmission line will be approximately 4.2 miles in length. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the study area, the Project's alignment, and the two endpoints.

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- Land use (current or proposed land development projects, park/recreation areas, etc.)
- Aesthetics
- Water quality and wetlands
- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)

6200 Bridge Point Parkway \ Building 4, Suite 400 \ Austin, TX 78730
O 512-872-7130 \ F 512-872-7127 \ burnsmcd.com

- Socioeconomics (population, growth, current/future development)
- Cultural resources (historic and archeological sites)
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Burns & McDonnell thanks you in advance for your comments, which will be an important consideration in our assessment of potential environmental and land use impacts of the proposed transmission line. If you have any questions concerning this Project or our request for information, please contact me at djgreen@burnsmcd.com or 737-236-0111. Your earliest reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Derek Green

Derek Green
Senior Environmental Scientist

Attachment (1)

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O 512-872-7130 \ F 512-872-7127 \ burnsmcd.com


# DOD Siting Clearinghouse – Informal Review Request Form

*To request an informal review, please fill out this form with all the available information for your project(s) and email this form, a shapefile and/or KMZ file of the proposed location, and any relevant documentation to the Clearinghouse at **osd.dod-siting-clearinghouse@mail.mil**. If necessary, you may also submit coordinates in Decimal Degrees (preferred) or DMS (Degrees, Minutes, Seconds) for each component of the project (e.g., each wind turbine or transmission line tower) in Excel format.*

Date of Request:

| PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| First Name Derek | Last Name Green | | |
| Organization Burns & McDonnell | | | |
| Address 6200 Bridge Point Parkway, Suite 400 | | | |
| City Austin | State TX | Zip Code 78630 | |
| Email djgreen@burnsmcd.com | Phone Number 737-236-0111 | | |

| PROJECT DETAILS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Name Ranger Camp Switch - Cattleman Switch 345 kV Transmission Line | | | |
| Project Developer Oncor Electric Delivery Company | | | |
| Project County and State Mitchell County, Texas | | | |
| Type of Project [Select all that apply] | | | |
| Transmission, Utility, or Po | Project Type #2 | Project Type #3 | Project Type #4 |

*For the following questions, please fill out **ONLY** the sections applicable to the project type. If the project does not yet have a defined layout, please provide coordinates to indicate the general footprint, such as boundary corners.*

| WIND TURBINE | |
|---|---|
| Number of Structures | Turbine Type |
| Hub Height (ft) | Maximum Blade Tip Height at Top of Rotation (ft) |
| Associated Meteorological Evaluation Towers (if applicable). Please provide the structure heights and coordinates of the METs if not they are not already included in the KMZ provided for your project. Please provide information on the types of sensors that will be used. | |
| Turbine Farm boundary corner coordinates boundary corner coordinates (if a shapefile and/or KMZ file cannot be provided) | |

| SOLAR | | |
|---|---|---|
| Solar Technology (e.g., photovoltaic, concentrated solar power) | | |
| Solar Panel Height (at maximum tilt) or Tower Height (ft) | | |
| Acreage | Axis Tracking? ☐ | Anti-Reflective Panels? ☐ |
| Solar Panel or Heliostat Array boundary corner coordinates (if a shapefile and/or KMZ file cannot be provided) | | |
| Associated Transmission Infrastructure (if applicable) | | |
| Maximum Pole Height (ft) | Grid Point of Interconnection Coordinates | Rate Voltage of Line (kV) |

| GEOTHERMAL | |
|---|---|
| Acreage | Structure Height (ft) |
| Geothermal Layout boundary corner coordinates (if a shapefile and/or KMZ file cannot be provided) | |

| ENERGY STORAGE | | |
|---|---|---|
| Acreage | Structure Height (ft) | |
| Project boundary corner coordinates (if a shapefile and/or KMZ file cannot be provided) | | |
| Associated Transmission Infrastructure (if applicable) | | |
| Maximum Pole Height (ft) | Grid Point of Interconnection Coordinates | Rate Voltage of Line (kV) |

| TRANSMISSION, UTILITY, OR POWER LINES | |
|---|---|
| Type of structure (wood, concrete, steel etc.): Steel | |
| Height (ft) 120-197 | Length of Line (ft) 22,176 |
| Substation Tie-In Ranger Camp Switch and Cattleman Switch | |
| Rated Voltage of Line (kV) 345 | |
| Transmission Tower and Terminal Point Coordinates.<br>PROPRIETARY & BUSINESS SENSITIVE<br>[redacted]<br>Other Line Structure Locations: To Be Determined<br>*Please include a map of the transmission route (if shapefile and/or KMZ file is not provided)* | |

Any additional information about your project you wish to disclose?

If the request for an informal review includes trade secrets or otherwise commercial information that is proprietary or competition sensitive, we encourage that the documents be marked accordingly. Documents should be marked as "Proprietary" or "Business Sensitive" to help ensure they are properly safeguarded upon receipt. Do not mark documents as "Confidential," as that can be easily mistaken for a national security classification. Proprietary information which is customarily and actually treated as private will be protected under Exemption 4 to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to the extent permitted by law. Requests are not otherwise shared outside of DoD and will only be used to assess potential impacts on military missions.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
3400 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3400

ENERGY, INSTALLATIONS
AND ENVIRONMENT

October 9, 2024

Derek Green
Burns & McDonnell
6200 Bridge Point Parkway; Suite 400
Austin, TX 78630

Dear Mr. Green,

As requested, the Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse coordinated within the Department of Defense (DoD) an informal review of the Ranger Camp Switch - Cattleman Switch 345 kV Transmission Line Project. The results of our review indicated that the transmission line project, located in Mitchell County, Texas, as proposed, will have minimal impact on military operations conducted in the area.

Please note that this informal review by the DoD Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse does not constitute an action under 49 United States Code Section 44718 and that the DoD is not bound by the conclusion arrived at under this informal review. To expedite our review in the Obstruction Evaluation Airport Airspace Analysis (OE/AAA) process, please add the project number 2024-08-T-DEV-34 in the comments section of the filing. If you have any questions, please contact me at robbin.e.beard.civ@mail.mil.

Sincerely,

Robbin Beard
Deputy Director
Military Aviation and Installation
Assurance Siting Clearinghouse

BURNS McDONNELL

August 19, 2024

Earthea Nance
Regional Administrator
Region 6 – South Central
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75270

Re: Request for Information
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Mitchell County, Texas

Dear Earthea Nance:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) will be filing an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) to construct new electric transmission facilities in Mitchell County, Texas.

Oncor proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's Ranger Camp Switch, which is currently being constructed, and Oncor's planned Cattleman Switch (Project). The Oncor Ranger Camp Switch is located approximately 0.7 miles southwest of the intersection of South Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1229 and State Highway (SH) 163, near Colorado City. The planned Cattleman Switch will be located approximately 0.8 miles west of the intersection of SH 163 and FM 2836. The proposed transmission line will be approximately 4.2 miles in length. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the study area, the Project's alignment, and the two endpoints.

Burns & McDonnell is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Project that will support Oncor's application at the PUC. Burns & McDonnell is in the process of collecting and evaluating environmental data for the study area. As part of this effort, we ask that your agency or office communicate any environmental or land use concerns that you may have regarding potential community or environmental effects from the construction of the Project within the designated study area.

We would appreciate receiving information related to any permits, easements, or other approvals that your agency or office requires. We would also like to request information related to any major proposed development or construction projects that your agency or office may be planning, or aware of, within the study area. Your input on any of the following resources as they relate to your agency or office will assist the project team in evaluating the Project:

- Land use (current or proposed land development projects, park/recreation areas, etc.)
- Aesthetics

6200 Bridge Point Parkway \ Building 4, Suite 400 \ Austin, TX 78730
O 512-872-7130 \ F 512-872-7127 \ burnsmcd.com

Earthea Nance
Regional Administrator
Region 6 – South Central
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



- Water quality and wetlands
- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
- Socioeconomics (population, growth, current/future development)
- Cultural resources (historic and archeological sites)
- Transportation and roads (proposed airport and roadway expansions, construction, operations, and maintenance)

Burns & McDonnell thanks you in advance for your comments, which will be an important consideration in our assessment of potential environmental and land use impacts of the proposed transmission line. If you have any questions concerning this Project or our request for information, please contact me at djgreen@burnsmcd.com or 737-236-0111. Your earliest reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Derek Green

Derek Green
Senior Environmental Scientist

Attachment (1)

BURNS McDONNELL

August 19, 2024

Karen Myers
Field Supervisor
Austin Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1505 Ferguson Lane
Austin, TX 78754

Re: Request for Information
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Mitchell County, Texas

Dear Karen Myers:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) will be filing an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) to construct new electric transmission facilities in Mitchell County, Texas.

Oncor proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's Ranger Camp Switch, which is currently being constructed, and Oncor's planned Cattleman Switch (Project). The Oncor Ranger Camp Switch is located approximately 0.7 miles southwest of the intersection of South Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1229 and State Highway (SH) 163, near Colorado City. The planned Cattleman Switch will be located approximately 0.8 miles west of the intersection of SH 163 and FM 2836. The proposed transmission line will be approximately 4.2 miles in length. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the study area, the Project's alignment, and the two endpoints.

Burns & McDonnell is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Project that will support Oncor's application at the PUC. Burns & McDonnell is in the process of collecting and evaluating environmental data for the study area. As part of this effort, we ask that your agency or office communicate any environmental or land use concerns that you may have regarding potential community or environmental effects from the construction of the Project within the designated study area.

We would appreciate receiving information related to any permits, easements, or other approvals that your agency or office requires. We would also like to request information related to any major proposed development or construction projects that your agency or office may be planning, or aware of, within the study area. Your input on any of the following resources as they relate to your agency or office will assist the project team in evaluating the Project:

- Land use (current or proposed land development projects, park/recreation areas, etc.)
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Karen Myers
Field Supervisor
Austin Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



- Water quality and wetlands
- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
- Socioeconomics (population, growth, current/future development)
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Burns & McDonnell thanks you in advance for your comments, which will be an important consideration in our assessment of potential environmental and land use impacts of the proposed transmission line. If you have any questions concerning this Project or our request for information, please contact me at djgreen@burnsmcd.com or 737-236-0111. Your earliest reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Derek Green

Derek Green
Senior Environmental Scientist

Attachment (1)

# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Austin Ecological Services Field Office
1505 Ferguson Lane
Austin, TX 78754-4501
Phone: (512) 937-7371

In Reply Refer To: 12/16/2024 15:02:04 UTC
Project Code: 2024-0121946
Project Name: Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345 kV Line Project

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological

evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at: https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf

**Migratory Birds**: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures see https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

# OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

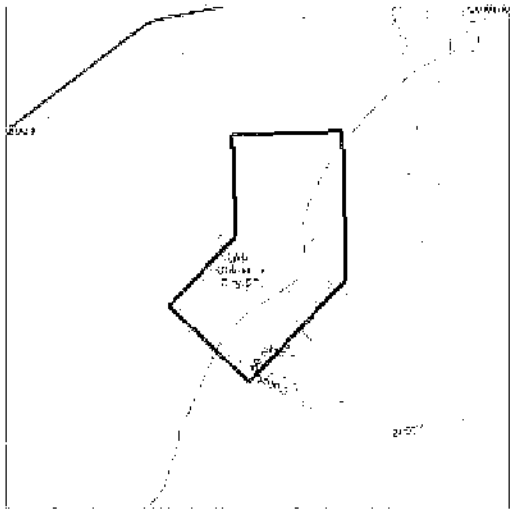
**Austin Ecological Services Field Office**
1505 Ferguson Lane
Austin, TX 78754-4501
(512) 937-7371

# PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2024-0121946
Project Name: Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345 kV Line Project
Project Type: Transmission Line - New Constr - Above Ground
Project Description: Oncor is proposing to build a transmission line approximately 4.2 miles long in Mitchell County, Texas.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@32.3244897,-100.91902451169047,14z



Counties: Mitchell County, Texas

# ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 4 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Note that 2 of these species should be considered only under certain conditions.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries[1], as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

---

1. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

## BIRDS

NAME STATUS

Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* Threatened

Population: [Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains populations] - Wherever found, except those areas where listed as endangered.

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.

This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions:

- Wind Energy Projects

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039

Rufa Red Knot *Calidris canutus rufa* Threatened

There is **proposed** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.

This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions:

- Wind Energy Projects

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864

## INSECTS

NAME STATUS

Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened

There is **proposed** critical habitat for this species.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743

## FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME STATUS

Texas Poppy-mallow *Callirhoe scabriuscula* Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5808

## CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

# IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Burns & McDonnell
Name: Gary Newgord
Address: 8911 Capital of Texas Highway
Address Line 2: Building 4, Suite 4260
City: Austin
State: TX
Zip: 78759
Email genewgord@burnsmcd.com
Phone: 5129231969

BURNS McDONNELL

August 19, 2024

Leslie Savage
Chief Geologist
Railroad Commission of Texas
P.O. Box 12967
Austin, TX 78711-2967

Re: Request for Information
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Mitchell County, Texas

Dear Leslie Savage:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) will be filing an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) to construct new electric transmission facilities in Mitchell County, Texas.

Oncor proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's Ranger Camp Switch, which is currently being constructed, and Oncor's planned Cattleman Switch (Project). The Oncor Ranger Camp Switch is located approximately 0.7 miles southwest of the intersection of South Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1229 and State Highway (SH) 163, near Colorado City. The planned Cattleman Switch will be located approximately 0.8 miles west of the intersection of SH 163 and FM 2836. The proposed transmission line will be approximately 4.2 miles in length. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the study area, the Project's alignment, and the two endpoints.

Burns & McDonnell is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Project that will support Oncor's application at the PUC. Burns & McDonnell is in the process of collecting and evaluating environmental data for the study area. As part of this effort, we ask that your agency or office communicate any environmental or land use concerns that you may have regarding potential community or environmental effects from the construction of the Project within the designated study area.

We would appreciate receiving information related to any permits, easements, or other approvals that your agency or office requires. We would also like to request information related to any major proposed development or construction projects that your agency or office may be planning, or aware of, within the study area. Your input on any of the following resources as they relate to your agency or office will assist the project team in evaluating the Project:

- Land use (current or proposed land development projects, park/recreation areas, etc.)
- Aesthetics
- Water quality and wetlands

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Leslie Savage
Chief Geologist
Railroad Commission of Texas



- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
- Socioeconomics (population, growth, current/future development)
- Cultural resources (historic and archeological sites)
- Transportation and roads (proposed airport and roadway expansions, construction, operations, and maintenance)

Burns & McDonnell thanks you in advance for your comments, which will be an important consideration in our assessment of potential environmental and land use impacts of the proposed transmission line. If you have any questions concerning this Project or our request for information, please contact me at djgreen@burnsmcd.com or 737-236-0111. Your earliest reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Derek Green

Derek Green
Senior Environmental Scientist

Attachment (1)

# RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
## OIL AND GAS DIVISION

November 14, 2024

Oncor Electric Delivery Company, LLC
C/O Burns McDonnell
ATTN: Mr. Derek Green, Senior Environmental Scientist
(via email djgreen@burnsmcd.com)

Re: Request for Information
Oncor Electric Delivery Company, LLC
Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project
Mitchell County, Texas

Dear Mr. Green:

We have received your letter dated August 18, 2024, informing us of the referenced project and requesting any information we believe should be considered regarding the siting and potential environmental effects from the construction of the proposed transmission line.

Information is available on the Railroad Commission's Geographic Information System concerning existing oil and gas well and pipeline locations. You may access this information at http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/about-us/resource-center/research/gis-viewers/. You may access information concerning oil and gas drilling permits and pipeline permitting at https://rrc.texas.gov/about-us/resource-center/research/online-research-queries/. Information regarding surface mining operations can be found at https://rrc.texas.gov/surface-mining/.

Please contact me at 512-658-6211 or at Leslie.savage@rrc.texas.gov if you have any questions or need additional information.

Regards,

Leslie Savage

Leslie Savage, P.G.
Chief Geologist
Oil & Gas Division

BURNS McDONNELL

August 19, 2024

Michael Taylor, P.G.
Regional Director, Region 3
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
1977 Industrial Blvd.
Abilene, TX 79602-7833

Re: Request for Information
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Mitchell County, Texas

Dear Michael Taylor, P.G.:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) will be filing an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) to construct new electric transmission facilities in Mitchell County, Texas.

Oncor proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's Ranger Camp Switch, which is currently being constructed, and Oncor's planned Cattleman Switch (Project). The Oncor Ranger Camp Switch is located approximately 0.7 miles southwest of the intersection of South Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1229 and State Highway (SH) 163, near Colorado City. The planned Cattleman Switch will be located approximately 0.8 miles west of the intersection of SH 163 and FM 2836. The proposed transmission line will be approximately 4.2 miles in length. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the study area, the Project's alignment, and the two endpoints.

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We would appreciate receiving information related to any permits, easements, or other approvals that your agency or office requires. We would also like to request information related to any major proposed development or construction projects that your agency or office may be planning, or aware of, within the study area. Your input on any of the following resources as they relate to your agency or office will assist the project team in evaluating the Project:

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- Aesthetics
- Water quality and wetlands

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O 512-872-7130 \ F 512-872-7127 \ burnsmcd.com

Michael Taylor, P.G.
Regional Director, Region 3
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Page 2

- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
- Socioeconomics (population, growth, current/future development)
- Cultural resources (historic and archeological sites)
- Transportation and roads (proposed airport and roadway expansions, construction, operations, and maintenance)

Burns & McDonnell thanks you in advance for your comments, which will be an important consideration in our assessment of potential environmental and land use impacts of the proposed transmission line. If you have any questions concerning this Project or our request for information, please contact me at djgreen@burnsmcd.com or 737-236-0111. Your earliest reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Derek Green

Derek Green
Senior Environmental Scientist

Attachment (1)

**Green, Derek J**

| | |
|---|---|
| **From:** | Cynthia Robertson <Cynthia.Robertson@tceq.texas.gov> |
| **Sent:** | Tuesday, August 27, 2024 9:21 AM |
| **To:** | Green, Derek J |
| **Subject:** | Public Information Request - Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC/Proposed Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch |
| **Attachments:** | Burns McDonnell Information Request.pdf |

Good Morning Mr. Green,

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Region 3 office is in receipt of your request for information regarding an Environmental Assessment for Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC. In order for your request to be processed, please submit the request as follows:

- Submit Online, https://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/or-request, or
- Email the open records mailbox, openrecs@tceq.texas.gov, or
- Faxing to 512-239-OPEN (6736), or
- Mailing to, Public Information Officer, MC 197 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality P.O. Box 13087 Austin, Texas 78711-3087

If you have any questions please let me know.

Thank you,

Cindy Robertson
Administrative Assistant
Abilene Region Office
(325) 698-9674
Fax (325) 692-5869

## Green, Derek J

**From:** Green, Derek J
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 27, 2024 10:10 AM
**To:** openrecs@tceq.texas.gov
**Subject:** Request for Information: Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345 kV Transmission Line Project
**Attachments:** 240816_RangerCampSw-CattlemanSw 345kV CCN_Route-StudyArea_54632.kmz; Ranger Camp-Cattleman Agency Contact Map.pdf; Ranger Camp-Cattleman TCEQ letter.pdf

Dear Michael Taylor, P.G.:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 4.2-mile long 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's Ranger Camp Switch, which is currently being constructed, and Oncor's planned Cattleman Switch in Mitchell County, Texas. Attached is a letter providing more details on the project and information request, a study area map, and a kmz showing the study area and proposed route for the above project.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.

**Derek Green**
Senior Environmental Scientist, Environmental Studies and Permitting
Burns & McDonnell
6200 Bridge Point Parkway, Suite 400
Austin, TX 78730
Direct: (737) 236-0111
Cell: 512-663-5542
dlgreen@burnsmcd.com
www.burnsmcd.com

**Green, Derek J**

**From:** openrecs@tceq.texas.gov
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 27, 2024 10:25 AM
**To:** Green, Derek J
**Subject:** TCEQ Open Records Request - PIR 24-96809
**Attachments:** 24-96809-PIR.pdf

Dear Customer,

Thank you for your Public Information Request received under the Texas Public Information Act.

Your request has been assigned: PIR 24-96809.
Please refer to this number in any communications regarding your request.

You will receive a response from the Agency within ten (10) business days.

TCEQ charges for the costs of responding to Public Information Requests in accordance with state statute. If the estimated cost to fulfill your request:

- is $40 or less, we will fulfill your request and provide you with an invoice. If requested, as a courtesy we will provide an estimate before we fulfill your request.
- exceeds $40, before we fulfill your request, we will provide you with an estimate, which you must accept in writing.
- exceeds $100, before we initiate fulfillment of your request you must pay a 50% deposit.

Thank you,
The Open Records Team

**Green, Derek J**

**From:** OPENRECS <OPENRECS@tceq.texas.gov>
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 3, 2024 9:37 AM
**To:** Green, Derek J
**Subject:** TCEQ Official Response – PIR 24-96809
**Attachments:** NRI_25-96809.pdf

Dear Customer,

After reviewing the appropriate resources of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), we were unable to locate any responsive information in the possession of the TCEQ concerning the request.

Attached is the Official Response containing the details of your request.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, you may contact us at (512) 239-3282 or openrecs@tceq.texas.gov.

Thank you,

Jocelyn Anderson
Public Information Request Specialist
Information Resources Division | TCEQ |
(512) 239-0905 | Jocelyn.Anderson@tceq.texas.gov

# Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

*Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution*

September 03, 2024

Via E-Mail

Derek Green
Burns & McDonnell
6200 Bridge Point Parkway, Suite 400
Austin, TX 78730

Re: TCEQ Public Information Request number 96809

Dear Derek Green:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) received your request for information under the Texas Public Information Act. After reviewing the appropriate resources of the TCEQ, we were unable to locate any responsive information in the possession of the TCEQ concerning the above referenced request.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, you may contact me at 512-239-3282 or by e-mail at openrecs@tceq.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

Jocelyn Anderson
Records Analyst
Information Resources Division

BURNS McDONNELL

August 19, 2024

Doug Booher
Director
Environmental Affairs Division
Texas Department of Transportation
6230 E. Stassney Lane
Austin, TX 78744

Re: Request for Information
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Mitchell County, Texas

Dear Doug Booher:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) will be filing an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) to construct new electric transmission facilities in Mitchell County, Texas.

Oncor proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's Ranger Camp Switch, which is currently being constructed, and Oncor's planned Cattleman Switch (Project). The Oncor Ranger Camp Switch is located approximately 0.7 miles southwest of the intersection of South Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1229 and State Highway (SH) 163, near Colorado City. The planned Cattleman Switch will be located approximately 0.8 miles west of the intersection of SH 163 and FM 2836. The proposed transmission line will be approximately 4.2 miles in length. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the study area, the Project's alignment, and the two endpoints.

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O 512-872-7130 \ F 512-872-7127 \ burnsmcd.com

Doug Booher
Director
Environmental Affairs Division
Texas Department of Transportation



- Water quality and wetlands
- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
- Socioeconomics (population, growth, current/future development)
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Burns & McDonnell thanks you in advance for your comments, which will be an important consideration in our assessment of potential environmental and land use impacts of the proposed transmission line. If you have any questions concerning this Project or our request for information, please contact me at djgreen@burnsmcd.com or 737-236-0111. Your earliest reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Derek Green

Derek Green
Senior Environmental Scientist

Attachment (1)

6200 Bridge Point Parkway \ Building 4, Suite 400 \ Austin, TX 78730
O 512-872-7130 \ F 512-872-7127 \ burnsmcd.com

BURNS McDONNELL

August 19, 2024

Glenn Allbritton, P.E.
District Engineer
Abilene District
Texas Department of Transportation
4250 N. Clack
Abilene, TX 79601

Re: Request for Information
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Mitchell County, Texas

Dear Glenn Allbritton, P.E.:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) will be filing an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) to construct new electric transmission facilities in Mitchell County, Texas.

Oncor proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's Ranger Camp Switch, which is currently being constructed, and Oncor's planned Cattleman Switch (Project). The Oncor Ranger Camp Switch is located approximately 0.7 miles southwest of the intersection of South Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1229 and State Highway (SH) 163, near Colorado City. The planned Cattleman Switch will be located approximately 0.8 miles west of the intersection of SH 163 and FM 2836. The proposed transmission line will be approximately 4.2 miles in length. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the study area, the Project's alignment, and the two endpoints.

Burns & McDonnell is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Project that will support Oncor's application at the PUC. Burns & McDonnell is in the process of collecting and evaluating environmental data for the study area. As part of this effort, we ask that your agency or office communicate any environmental or land use concerns that you may have regarding potential community or environmental effects from the construction of the Project within the designated study area.

We would appreciate receiving information related to any permits, easements, or other approvals that your agency or office requires. We would also like to request information related to any major proposed development or construction projects that your agency or office may be planning, or aware of, within the study area. Your input on any of the following resources as they relate to your agency or office will assist the project team in evaluating the Project:

- Land use (current or proposed land development projects, park/recreation areas, etc.)
- Aesthetics

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Glenn Allbritton, P.E.
District Engineer
Abilene District
Texas Department of Transportation



- Water quality and wetlands
- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
- Socioeconomics (population, growth, current/future development)
- Cultural resources (historic and archeological sites)
- Transportation and roads (proposed airport and roadway expansions, construction, operations, and maintenance)

Burns & McDonnell thanks you in advance for your comments, which will be an important consideration in our assessment of potential environmental and land use impacts of the proposed transmission line. If you have any questions concerning this Project or our request for information, please contact me at djgreen@burnsmcd.com or 737-236-0111. Your earliest reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Derek Green

Derek Green
Senior Environmental Scientist

Attachment (1)

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BURNS McDONNELL

August 19, 2024

Dan Harmon
Director
Aviation Division
Texas Department of Transportation
6230 E. Stassney Lane
Austin, TX 78744

Re: Request for Information
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Mitchell County, Texas

Dear Dan Harmon:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) will be filing an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) to construct new electric transmission facilities in Mitchell County, Texas.

Oncor proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's Ranger Camp Switch, which is currently being constructed, and Oncor's planned Cattleman Switch (Project). The Oncor Ranger Camp Switch is located approximately 0.7 miles southwest of the intersection of South Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1229 and State Highway (SH) 163, near Colorado City. The planned Cattleman Switch will be located approximately 0.8 miles west of the intersection of SH 163 and FM 2836. The proposed transmission line will be approximately 4.2 miles in length. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the study area, the Project's alignment, and the two endpoints.

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Dan Harmon
Director
Aviation Division
Texas Department of Transportation



- Water quality and wetlands
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Sincerely,

Derek Green

Derek Green
Senior Environmental Scientist

Attachment (1)

BURNS McDONNELL

August 19, 2024

Dawn Buckingham, M.D.
Texas Land Commissioner
Texas General Land Office
1700 North Congress Avenue
Suite 935
Austin, TX 78701-1495

Re: Request for Information
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Mitchell County, Texas

Dear Dawn Buckingham, M.D.:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) will be filing an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) to construct new electric transmission facilities in Mitchell County, Texas.

Oncor proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's Ranger Camp Switch, which is currently being constructed, and Oncor's planned Cattleman Switch (Project). The Oncor Ranger Camp Switch is located approximately 0.7 miles southwest of the intersection of South Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1229 and State Highway (SH) 163, near Colorado City. The planned Cattleman Switch will be located approximately 0.8 miles west of the intersection of SH 163 and FM 2836. The proposed transmission line will be approximately 4.2 miles in length. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the study area, the Project's alignment, and the two endpoints.

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BURNS McDONNELL

Dawn Buckingham, M.D.
Texas Land Commissioner
Texas General Land Office
1700 North Congress Avenue



- Water quality and wetlands
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Sincerely,

Derek Green

Derek Green
Senior Environmental Scientist

Attachment (1)

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TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE
COMMISSIONER DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

August 23, 2024

Derek Green
Burns McDonnell
6200 Bridge Point Parkway, Building 4, Suite 400
Austin, TX 78730-5000

Re: Request for Information
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345-kV Transmission Line Project in Mitchell County, Texas

Dear Mr. Green:

On behalf of Commissioner Buckingham, I would like to thank you for your letter concerning the above- referenced project.

Using your map depicting the project's study area, it does not appear that the General Land Office will have any environmental issues or land use constraints at this time.

When a final route for this proposed project has been determined, please contact me and we can assess the route to determine if the project will cross any streambeds or Permanent School Fund (PSF) land that would require an easement from our agency.

In the interim, if you would like to speak to me further about this project, I can be reached by email at jeff.burroughs@glo.texas.gov or by phone at (512) 463-7845.

Again, thank you for your inquiry.

Sincerely,

Jeff Burroughs
Manager, Right-of-Way Department
Leasing Operations

1700 North Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701-1495
P.O. Box 12873, Austin, Texas 78711-2873
512-463-5001 glo.texas.gov

BURNS McDONNELL

August 19, 2024

Edward Lengel
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711

Re: Request for Information
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Mitchell County, Texas

Dear Edward Lengel:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) will be filing an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) to construct new electric transmission facilities in Mitchell County, Texas.

Oncor proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's Ranger Camp Switch, which is currently being constructed, and Oncor's planned Cattleman Switch (Project). The Oncor Ranger Camp Switch is located approximately 0.7 miles southwest of the intersection of South Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1229 and State Highway (SH) 163, near Colorado City. The planned Cattleman Switch will be located approximately 0.8 miles west of the intersection of SH 163 and FM 2836. The proposed transmission line will be approximately 4.2 miles in length. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the study area, the Project's alignment, and the two endpoints.

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- Land use (current or proposed land development projects, park/recreation areas, etc.)
- Aesthetics
- Water quality and wetlands

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Edward Lengel
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission



- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
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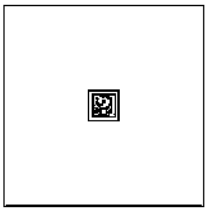
Sincerely,

Derek Green

Derek Green
Senior Environmental Scientist

Attachment (1)

**From:** noreply@thc.state.tx.us
**To:** Green, Derek J; reviews@thc.state.tx.us
**Subject:** Cattleman Switch 345 kV Transmission Line
**Date:** Friday, September 20, 2024 3:37:10 PM



**Re:**
**THC Tracking #202416754**
**Date:** 09/20/2024
Cattleman Switch 345 kV Transmission Line
.7 miles SW of S. FM 1229

**Description:** Construct 345 kV transmission line from Oncor's Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch.

Dear Derek Green:
Thank you for your submittal regarding the above-referenced project.

The review staff, led by Caitlin Brashear and Drew Sitters, has completed its review and has made the following determinations based on the information submitted for review:

**Above-Ground Resources**

- No historic properties are present or affected by the project as proposed. However, if historic properties are discovered or unanticipated effects on historic properties are found, work should cease in the immediate area; work can continue where no historic properties are present. Please contact the THC's History Programs Division at 512-463-5853 to consult on further actions that may be necessary to protect historic properties.

**Archeology Comments**

- No effect on identified archeological sites or other cultural resources. However, if cultural materials are encountered during project activities, work should cease in the immediate area; work can continue where no cultural materials are present. Please contact the THC's Archeology Division at 512-463-6096 to consult on further actions that may be necessary to protect the cultural remains.

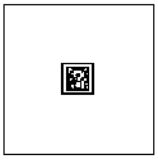
We have the following comments: No known archeological resources are located along the proposed 4.2-mile-long transmission line route. While the proposed route crosses natural sources of water (e.g., Morgan Creek), which would have attracted precontact and historic occupation, approximately half of the proposed route overlaps with previous cultural resource surveys and/or existing disturbances (e.g., emergency spillway and terraced agricultural fields). Therefore, the potential for the proposed project to adversely affect unknown historic properties is considered low.

We look forward to further consultation with your office and hope to maintain a partnership that will foster effective historic preservation. Thank you for your cooperation in this review

process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. If the project changes, or if new historic properties are found, please contact the review staff. If you have any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please email the following reviewers: caitlin.brashear@thc.texas.gov, drew.sitters@thc.texas.gov.

This response has been sent through the electronic THC review and compliance system (eTRAC). Submitting your project via eTRAC eliminates mailing delays and allows you to check the status of the review, receive an electronic response, and generate reports on your submissions. For more information, visit http://thc.texas.gov/etrac-system.

Sincerely,



for Bradford Patterson
Chief Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

**Please do not respond to this email.**

BURNS McDONNELL

August 19, 2024

Laura Zebehazy
Program Leader
Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744

Re: Request for Information
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Mitchell County, Texas

Dear Laura Zebehazy:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) will be filing an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) to construct new electric transmission facilities in Mitchell County, Texas.

Oncor proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's Ranger Camp Switch, which is currently being constructed, and Oncor's planned Cattleman Switch (Project). The Oncor Ranger Camp Switch is located approximately 0.7 miles southwest of the intersection of South Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1229 and State Highway (SH) 163, near Colorado City. The planned Cattleman Switch will be located approximately 0.8 miles west of the intersection of SH 163 and FM 2836. The proposed transmission line will be approximately 4.2 miles in length. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the study area, the Project's alignment, and the two endpoints.

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- Aesthetics

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Laura Zebehazy
Program Leader
Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department



- Water quality and wetlands
- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
- Socioeconomics (population, growth, current/future development)
- Cultural resources (historic and archeological sites)
- Transportation and roads (proposed airport and roadway expansions, construction, operations, and maintenance)

Burns & McDonnell thanks you in advance for your comments, which will be an important consideration in our assessment of potential environmental and land use impacts of the proposed transmission line. If you have any questions concerning this Project or our request for information, please contact me at djgreen@burnsmcd.com or 737-236-0111. Your earliest reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Derek Green

Derek Green
Senior Environmental Scientist

Attachment (1)

6200 Bridge Point Parkway \ Building 4, Suite 400 \ Austin, TX 78730
O 512-872-7130 \ F 512-872-7127 \ burnsmcd.com

**From:** WHAB
**To:** Green, Derek J
**Cc:** WHAB
**Subject:** TPWD has received your project review request
**Date:** Monday, August 19, 2024 11:23:12 AM

This is an automated message to inform you that the Wildlife Habitat Assessment (WHAB) program has received your email. Please note that responses to requests for project review generally take approximately 45 days to complete, and project schedules should accommodate the review timeline. Responses may be delayed due to workload and lack of staff. If you wish to speak to the biologist who will review your project, please visit https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/habitat_assessment/media/whab-map-2020.jpg for a staff directory by area of responsibility. Thank you.

BURNS McDONNELL

August 19, 2024

David Yoskowitz, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744

Re: Request for Information
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Mitchell County, Texas

Dear David Yoskowitz, Ph.D.:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) will be filing an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) to construct new electric transmission facilities in Mitchell County, Texas.

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- Land use (current or proposed land development projects, park/recreation areas, etc.)
- Aesthetics
- Water quality and wetlands

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David Yoskowitz, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department



- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
- Socioeconomics (population, growth, current/future development)
- Cultural resources (historic and archeological sites)
- Transportation and roads (proposed airport and roadway expansions, construction, operations, and maintenance)

Burns & McDonnell thanks you in advance for your comments, which will be an important consideration in our assessment of potential environmental and land use impacts of the proposed transmission line. If you have any questions concerning this Project or our request for information, please contact me at djgreen@burnsmcd.com or 737-236-0111. Your earliest reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Derek Green

Derek Green
Senior Environmental Scientist

Attachment (1)

September 12, 2024

Mr. Derek Green
Burns & McDonnell
6200 Bridge Point Parkway
Building 4, Suite 400
Austin, TX 78730

RE: Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC, Proposed Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345-kilovolt Transmission Line Project, Mitchell County, Texas

Dear Mr. Green:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has received the preliminary information request regarding the proposed transmission line project referenced above. TPWD staff has reviewed the information provided and offers the following comments concerning this project.

Please be aware that a written response to a TPWD recommendation or informational comment received by a state governmental agency may be required by state law. For further guidance, see the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code (PWC) section 12.0011. We are providing input on this proposed project to facilitate incorporation of voluntary measures during construction, operation, and maintenance that may assist the project proponent in minimizing impacts to the state's natural resources. For tracking purposes, please refer to TPWD project number 52739 in any return correspondence regarding this project.

## Project Description

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345-kilovolt transmission line between Oncor's Ranger Camp Switch, which is currently being constructed, and Oncor's planned Cattleman Switch. The Oncor Ranger Camp Switch is located approximately 0.7 miles southwest of the intersection of South Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1229 and State Highway (SH) 163, near Colorado City. The planned Cattleman Switch will be located approximately 0.8 miles west of the intersection of SH 163 and FM 2836. The proposed transmission line will be approximately 4.2 miles in length.

## Federal Laws

*Clean Water Act*

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act establishes a federal program to regulate the discharge of dredged and fill material into the waters of the U.S., including wetlands. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Environmental

4200 SMITH SCHOOL ROAD
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744-3291
512.389.4800
www.tpwd.texas.gov

Protection Agency are responsible for regulating water resources under this act. Both isolated and jurisdictional wetlands provide habitat for wildlife and help protect water quality.

> **Recommendation:** If the proposed project would impact waterways or associated wetlands, TPWD recommends consulting with the USACE for potential impacts to waters of the U.S. including jurisdictional determinations, delineations, and mitigation. All waterways and associated floodplains, riparian corridors, playa lakes, springs, and wetlands provide valuable wildlife habitat and should be protected to the maximum extent possible. Natural buffers contiguous to any wetlands or aquatic systems should remain undisturbed to preserve wildlife cover, food sources, and travel corridors. Erosion control and sediment runoff control measures should be installed prior to construction and maintained until disturbed areas are permanently revegetated using site specific native vegetation. Measures should be properly installed to effectively minimize the amount of sediment and other debris from entering the waterway.

*Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act*

The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) prohibits anyone, without a permit issued by the Secretary of the Interior, from taking bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) or golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*), including their parts, nests, or eggs.

> **Recommendation:** TPWD recommends transmission line routes in the vicinity of lakes and rivers be assessed for nesting, foraging, or roosting habitat for bald eagles.

*Migratory Bird Treaty Act*

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits taking, attempting to take, capturing, killing, selling, purchasing, possessing, transporting, and importing of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, or nests, except when specifically authorized by the Department of the Interior. This protection applies to most native bird species, including ground nesting species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Southwest Region Migratory Bird Office can be contacted for more information on potential impacts to migratory birds.

Potential impacts to migratory birds may occur during site preparation and grading activities through the disturbance of existing vegetation (grass, trees, and shrubs) and bare ground that may be occupied by active bird nests.

> **Recommendation:** TPWD recommends excluding vegetation clearing activities during the general bird nesting season, March 15 through September 15, to avoid adverse impacts to birds. If clearing vegetation during the migratory bird nesting season is unavoidable, TPWD recommends surveying the area proposed for disturbance to ensure that no nests with eggs or young will be disturbed by construction. Nest surveys should be conducted not more than five days prior to clearing activities to maximize detection of active nests. TPWD generally recommends a 100-foot radius buffer of vegetation remain around active nests until the eggs have hatched and the young have fledged; however, the size of the buffer zone depends on various factors and can be coordinated with the local or regional USFWS office.

The potential exists for birds to collide with power lines and associated guy wires and static lines. Bird fatalities can also occur due to electrocution if perching birds simultaneously contact energized and grounded structures.

> **Recommendation:** TPWD recommends routing transmission lines to avoid crossing riparian areas, wetlands, and open water habitat, to the extent feasible. TPWD recommends crossing streams in a perpendicular manner and avoiding placement of lines parallel to streams and their associated wooded corridors. Where lines cross or are located near creeks, drainages, wetlands, and lakes, TPWD recommends line markers be installed at the crossings or closest points to the drainages to reduce potential bird collisions. TPWD recommends bird collision and electrocution risks be considered during project routing and design and recommends incorporating design features that will minimize those risks.

**State Laws**

*Parks and Wildlife Code Chapter 64. Birds*

PWC Section 64.002, regarding protection of nongame birds, provides that no person may catch, kill, injure, pursue, or possess a bird that is not a game bird. PWC Section 64.003, regarding destroying nests or eggs, provides that, no person may destroy or take the nests, eggs, or young and any wild game bird, wild bird, or wild fowl.

**Recommendation:** Please review the *Federal Law: Migratory Bird Treaty Act* section above for recommendations as they are also applicable for PWC Chapter 64 compliance.

*Parks and Wildlife Code, Section 68.015*

PWC Section 68.015 regulates state listed threatened and endangered animal species. The capture, trap, take, or killing of state listed threatened and endangered animal species is unlawful unless expressly authorized under a permit issued by USFWS or TPWD. A copy of *TPWD Guidelines for Protection of State Listed Species*, which includes a list of penalties for take of species, can be found on the TPWD website. State listed species may only be handled by persons with appropriate authorization from the TPWD Wildlife Permits Office. For more information, please contact the Wildlife Permits Office at (512) 389-4647.

**Recommendation:** TPWD recommends the EA identify state listed species with the potential to occur in the study area. If suitable habitat for state listed species occurs along the proposed transmission line route, TPWD recommends a permitted biological monitor be present during clearing and construction to relocate state listed species if found. If the presence of a biological monitor is not feasible, state listed species observed during construction should be allowed to safely leave the area.

**Species of Concern/Special Features**

In addition to state and federally protected species, TPWD tracks species considered to be Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) that, due to limited distributions or declining populations, face threat of extirpation or extinction but currently lack the legal protections given to threatened or endangered species. Special landscape features, natural plant communities, and SGCN are rare resources for which TPWD actively promotes conservation, and TPWD considers it important to minimize impacts to such resources to reduce the likelihood of endangerment and preclude the need to list SGCN as threatened or endangered in the future.

These species and communities are tracked in the Texas Natural Diversity Database (TXNDD). The most current and accurate TXNDD data can be requested from the TXNDD website. To aid in the scientific knowledge of a species' status and current range, TPWD encourages reporting encounters of protected and rare species using the submit data instructions found on the TXNDD website.

Please note that the absence of TXNDD information in the proximity does not imply that a species is absent from the study area. Given the small proportion of public versus private land in Texas, the TXNDD does not include a representative inventory of rare resources in the state. Although it is based on the best data available to TPWD regarding rare and protected species, data from the TXNDD does not provide a definitive statement as to the presence, absence or condition of special species, natural communities, or other significant features within your project area. This data is not inclusive and cannot be used as presence/absence or substituted for on-the-ground surveys.

> **Recommendation:** Please review the TPWD county list for Mitchell County, as rare and protected species could be present, depending upon habitat availability. These lists are available on the Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species of Texas website. TPWD recommends including a discussion and evaluation of potential impacts to SGCN (in addition to state listed and federally listed species) in the EA for this project. For USFWS threatened and endangered species lists, please see the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation website.

Determining the actual presence of a species in an area depends on many variables including daily and seasonal activity cycles, environmental activity cues, preferred habitat, transiency, and population density (both wildlife and human). The absence of a species can only be established with repeated negative observations and consideration of all factors contributing to the lack of detectable presence.

> **Recommendation:** TPWD recommends providing information prior to construction to educate personnel of the potential occurrence of federally and state listed species and SGCN within the project area, and the relevant rules and regulations that protect plants, fish, and wildlife. If encountered during construction, measures should be taken to avoid impacting wildlife.

**Monarch Conservation Plan**

Significant declines in the population of migrating monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) have led to widespread concern about this species and the long-term persistence of the North American monarch migration. Augmenting larval feeding and adult nectaring opportunities is part of an international conservation effort for the monarch.

**Recommendation:** For disturbed sites within the monarch migration corridor, TPWD recommends revegetation efforts include planting or seeding native milkweed (*Asclepias* spp) and nectar plants as funding and seed availability allow.

**Vegetation**

The TPWD Landscape Ecology Program has developed an interactive mapping application, the Texas Ecosystem Analytical Mapper (TEAM), to assist wildlife biologists, land managers, naturalists, planners, and conservationists in understanding Texas habitats and to integrate vegetation data with land management and resource planning of all types. For more information on TEAM please visit the TPWD Landscape Ecology Program website.

**Recommendation:** TPWD recommends that the removal of native vegetation during construction be minimized to the extent feasible. Unavoidable removal of vegetation should be mitigated by revegetating disturbed areas with site specific plant species where feasible. The replacement of native plants will help control erosion, provide habitat for wildlife, and provide native species an opportunity to compete with undesirable, non-native, invasive plant species.

**General Construction Recommendations**

TPWD would like to provide the following general construction recommendations to assist in project planning.

**Recommendation:** Where new construction is the only feasible option, TPWD recommends routing new transmission and distribution lines along existing roads, pipelines, transmission lines, or right-of-way (ROW) and easements to reduce habitat fragmentation. By utilizing previously disturbed, existing utility corridors, county roads and highway ROWs, adverse impacts to fish and wildlife resources would be reduced by avoiding and minimizing the impacts to undisturbed habitats.

During construction, TPWD recommends observing slow (25 miles per hour, or less) speed limits within the project area. Reduced speed limits would allow personnel to see wildlife in the vehicle path and avoid wildlife injury or death.

TPWD recommends the judicious use and placement of sediment control fence to exclude wildlife from the construction area. In many cases sediment control fence placement for the purposes of controlling erosion and protecting water quality can be modified minimally to also provide the benefit of excluding wildlife access to active construction areas. The exclusion fence should be buried at least six inches and be at least 24 inches high. The exclusion fence should be maintained during active construction and only be removed after the construction is completed. Construction personnel should be encouraged to examine the inside of the exclusion area daily to determine if any wildlife species have been trapped inside the active construction area and provide safe egress opportunities prior to initiation of daily construction activities.

Where trenching or other excavation is involved in construction, TPWD recommends that contractors keep trenching and excavation, and backfilling crews close together to minimize the number of trenches or excavation areas left open at any given time during construction. TPWD recommends that any open trenches or excavation areas be covered overnight and inspected every morning to ensure no wildlife species have been trapped. Trenches left open for more than two daylight hours should be inspected for the presence of trapped wildlife prior to backfilling. If trenches and excavation areas cannot be backfilled the day of initial excavation, then escape ramps should be installed at least every 90 meters (approximately 295 feet). Escape ramps can be short lateral trenches or wooden planks sloping to the surface at an angle less than 45 degrees (1:1).

For soil stabilization and revegetation of disturbed areas within the proposed project area, TPWD recommends erosion and seed and mulch stabilization materials that avoid entanglement hazards to snakes and other wildlife species. Because the mesh found in many erosion control blankets or mats pose an entanglement hazard to wildlife, TPWD recommends the use of no-till drilling, hydromulching, or hydroseeding rather than erosion control blankets or mats due to a reduced risk to wildlife. If erosion control blankets or mats are used, the product should contain no netting or contain loosely woven, natural fiber netting in which the mesh design allows the threads to move, therefore allowing expansion of the mesh openings. Plastic mesh matting and hydromulch containing microplastics should be avoided.

**Managed Areas**

PWC chapter 26 requires that before a state agency can approve any project that will result in the use or taking of public land designated and used as a park, public recreation area, scientific area, wildlife refuge, or historic site, that state agency must provide certain notices to the public, conduct a hearing, and render a finding that there is no feasible and prudent alternative and that the project includes all reasonable planning to minimize harm to the property. Additionally, per Section 6(f) of the U.S. Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCF), no public outdoor recreation areas acquired or developed with LWCF assistance can be converted to non-recreational uses without Department of Interior approval. The conversion must be in accordance with the statewide outdoor recreation plan and replaced with other recreation land of reasonable equivalent usefulness and location.

Lake Colorado City State Park is located in the study area, but based on the information provided the proposed transmission line would not cross the state park.

> **Recommendation:** TPWD recommends avoiding lands owned or managed for conservation or recreation by city, county, state, and federal entities as well as non-governmental organizations that manage or own such properties. Such entities should be contacted early in the planning process to determine if the proposed transmission line may impact their property. In cases where a park or similar recreation facility has received grant funds from TPWD, replacement of any land converted from recreational use is required.

**Conservation Easements**

A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or governmental agency that permanently limits uses of the land (including future fragmentation) to protect and conserve the land's natural values such as fertile soils, mature trees, and wildlife habitat. Lands with conservation easements protect existing wildlife habitat from future fragmentation and therefore have greater environmental integrity than comparable lands without conservation easements. Potential fragmentation of wildlife habitat from transmission line construction on properties where conservation agreements serve to protect the state's natural resources now and in the future is of concern to TPWD.

**Recommendation:** TPWD recommends properties protected by conservation easements be identified in the constraints analysis and avoided during development of alternative routes. Data sources for the location of these properties include, but are not limited to, online databases such as the Protected Areas Database and the National Conservation Easement Database, as well as available county records. If properties protected by conservation easements would be affected, TPWD recommends the length of routes through these properties be included in any accounting of alternative route impacts.

TPWD strives to respond to requests for project review within a 45-day comment period. Responses may be delayed due to workload and lack of staff. Failure to meet the 45-day review timeframe does not constitute a concurrence from TPWD that the proposed project will not adversely impact fish and wildlife resources.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide preliminary input on potential impacts related to this project and I look forward to reviewing the EA. Please contact me at Richard.Hanson@tpwd.texas.gov or (806) 761-4930 ext. 4936 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Rick Hanson

Rick Hanson
Ecological and Environmental Planning Program
Wildlife Division

RH: 52739

BURNS McDONNELL

August 19, 2024

Jessica Pena
Deputy Executive Administrator
Water Supply and Infrastructure
Texas Water Development Board
P.O. Box 13231
Austin, TX 78711-3231

Re: Request for Information
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Mitchell County, Texas

Dear Jessica Pena:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) will be filing an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) to construct new electric transmission facilities in Mitchell County, Texas.

Oncor proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's Ranger Camp Switch, which is currently being constructed, and Oncor's planned Cattleman Switch (Project). The Oncor Ranger Camp Switch is located approximately 0.7 miles southwest of the intersection of South Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1229 and State Highway (SH) 163, near Colorado City. The planned Cattleman Switch will be located approximately 0.8 miles west of the intersection of SH 163 and FM 2836. The proposed transmission line will be approximately 4.2 miles in length. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the study area, the Project's alignment, and the two endpoints.

Burns & McDonnell is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Project that will support Oncor's application at the PUC. Burns & McDonnell is in the process of collecting and evaluating environmental data for the study area. As part of this effort, we ask that your agency or office communicate any environmental or land use concerns that you may have regarding potential community or environmental effects from the construction of the Project within the designated study area.

We would appreciate receiving information related to any permits, easements, or other approvals that your agency or office requires. We would also like to request information related to any major proposed development or construction projects that your agency or office may be planning, or aware of, within the study area. Your input on any of the following resources as they relate to your agency or office will assist the project team in evaluating the Project:

- Land use (current or proposed land development projects, park/recreation areas, etc.)
- Aesthetics

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Jessica Pena
Deputy Executive Administrator
Water Supply and Infrastructure
Texas Water Development Board



- Water quality and wetlands
- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
- Socioeconomics (population, growth, current/future development)
- Cultural resources (historic and archeological sites)
- Transportation and roads (proposed airport and roadway expansions, construction, operations, and maintenance)

Burns & McDonnell thanks you in advance for your comments, which will be an important consideration in our assessment of potential environmental and land use impacts of the proposed transmission line. If you have any questions concerning this Project or our request for information, please contact me at djgreen@burnsmcd.com or 737-236-0111. Your earliest reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Derek Green

Derek Green
Senior Environmental Scientist

Attachment (1)

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BURNS McDONNELL

August 19, 2024

The Honorable Mike Redwine
Mitchell County Judge
Courthouse
349 Oak Street
Colorado City, TX 79512

Re: Request for Information
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Ranger Camp Switch to Cattleman Switch 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Mitchell County, Texas

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- Aesthetics
- Water quality and wetlands

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