



November 4, 2024

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

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Leslie Savage:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

Burns & McDonnell is preparing an environmental assessment and alternative route analysis to support Oncor's application to amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) for the Project. Burns & McDonnell is currently in the process of collecting and evaluating information to identify environmental, cultural, and land use constraints that exist in the study area. Burns & McDonnell will consider and evaluate these constraints when developing and evaluating potential alternative routes between the Project's endpoints. As part of this effort, we are asking that your agency or office communicate any environmental or land use concerns that you may have regarding the siting and potential environmental effects from the construction of these facilities within the designated study area.

Upon certification of the Project, Oncor will determine the need for other approvals or permits. We appreciate any information you can provide related to any permits, easements, or other approvals that your agency or office requires. If permits or approvals are required from your office, Oncor will contact your office following route approval and certification from the PUC. Burns & McDonnell also requests that you provide information related to any major proposed development or construction projects that your agency or office may be planning, or is aware of, within the study area. Your input on any of the following study area characteristics as they relate to your agency or office will assist in evaluation of the Project:

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

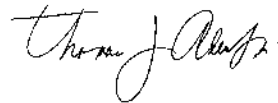
Leslie Savage
Railroad Commission of Texas

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

Thank you in advance for your comments, which provide us with a more comprehensive understanding of the study area as we assess potential environmental and land use impacts of the Project. If you have any questions concerning the Project or this request for information, please contact me at (737) 236-0106. Electronic data or responses can also be shared at tjademski@burnsmcd. Your earliest reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)

CHRISTI CRADDICK, CHAIRMAN
WAYNE CHRISTIAN, COMMISSIONER
JIM WRIGHT, COMMISSIONER



DANNY SORRELLS
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DIRECTOR, OIL AND GAS DIVISION
PAUL DUBOIS
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, TECHNICAL PERMITTING

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

OIL AND GAS DIVISION

November 8, 2024

455-19
BURNS & MCDONNELL
6200 BRIDGE POINT PARKWAY
BUILDING 4 SUITE 400
AUSTIN TX 78730

Re: Request for Information
Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch 345 kV Transmission Line Project
Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties, Texas

We have received your letter dated November 4, 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 512-463-3840 or at environmental.permits@rrc.texas.gov if you have any questions or need additional information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JBolton".

James Bolton
Environmental Permits & Support
Technical Permitting

cc: Thomas J. Ademski
tjademski@burnsmcd.com



November 4, 2024

Reagyn (Ryan) Slocum
Regional Director – Regions 6 & 7
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
ClayDesta Plaza
10 Desta Drive, Suite 350E
Midland, TX 79705

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Reagyn (Ryan) Slocum:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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Reagyn (Ryan) Slocum
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

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Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)

Ademski, Thomas J (Tommy)

From: Vickie Mclean <vickie.mclean@tceq.texas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2024 10:40 AM
To: Ademski, Thomas J (Tommy)
Subject: Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch 34 5 kV Transmission Line Project

Region 7 TCEQ has no concerns with this project.

Vickie L Mclean

TCEQ Region 7

Work Lead

432-570-1359 (office)

Note new fax number: 432-620-6110 (fax)

**PLEASE NOTE: WE HAVE MOVED. New address is 10 Desta Drive,
Ste. 350E, Midland, TX 79705**

How are we doing?

Customer Satisfaction Survey - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality - www.tceq.texas.gov



November 4, 2024

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

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Doug Booher:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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Doug Booher
Texas Department of Transportation

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Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

Eric Lykins, P.E.
District Engineer
Odessa District
Texas Department of Transportation
3901 E. Highway 80
Odessa, TX 79761

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Eric Lykins, P.E.:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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Eric Lykins, P.E.
Texas Department of Transportation

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Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



3901 E Highway 80 | Odessa, Texas 79761
432.498.4697
txdot.gov

11/14/2024

Thomas J. Adamski
6200 Bridge Point Parkway
Building 4, Suite 400
Austin, Tx 78730

Re: Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch 345 Kv
Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving and Winkler Counties, Texas

To Whom It May Concern:

The Odessa District of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has completed its review of the proposed project information received on 11/07/2024, concerning the above transmission line project.

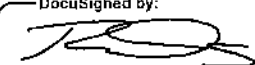
Due to lack of specific project information, the Odessa District can only speculate as to the additional potential environmental and land use issues and impacts within the broad corridor shown and, as such, no additional comments are offered. However, Oncor Electric Delivery Company should be advised of potential required coordination with other state, federal and local entities.

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC should also be made aware that utility installation requests are required for accommodation of utility facilities on the state highway right of way. All requests must be submitted through the Right of Way Utility and Leasing Information System (RULIS) found at <https://www.txdot.gov/business/right-of-way/rulis.html>

Additionally, driveway/access permits are required for access connections to the state highway system. TxDOT Form 1058 - Permit to Construct Access Driveway Facilities on Highway Right of Way, coupled with the Commercial and Industrial Driveway Access Request Form shall be completed and submitted to TxDOT for consideration of each proposed access/driveway location.

Thank you for affording TxDOT the opportunity to comment on this proposed project. If you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact me at (432) 498-4772 or robert.ornelas@txdot.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

3811713A844D484...

Robert Ornelas, P.E.
Director of Transportation
Planning and Development
Odessa District



November 4, 2024

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

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Dan Harmon:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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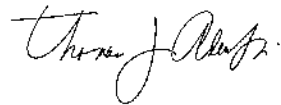
Dan Harmon
Texas Department of Transportation

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Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

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

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Dawn Buckingham, M.D.:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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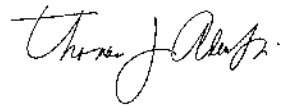
Dawn Buckingham, M.D.
Texas General Land Office

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Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



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

November 12, 2024

Thomas J. Ademski
Burns McDonnell
6200 Bridge Point Parkway, Building 4, Suite 400
Austin, TX 78730-5000

Re: Request for Information

Oncor Electric Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch 345 kV
Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties, Texas

Dear Mr. Ademski:

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



November 4, 2024

Joseph Bell
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Joseph Bell:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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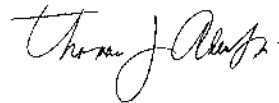
Joseph Bell
Texas Historical Commission

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Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)

Ademski, Thomas J (Tommy)

From: noreply@thc.state.tx.us
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 1:55 PM
To: Ademski, Thomas J (Tommy); reviews@thc.state.tx.us
Subject: Border Switch to Clearfork Switch 345 kV Transmission Line Project



Re: Project Review under the Antiquities Code of Texas

THC Tracking #202503436

Date: 11/25/2024

Border Switch to Clearfork Switch 345 kV Transmission Line Project
6 miles S. of TX-New Mexico border

Description: Construct 3345 kV transmission line between planned Border Switch to existing Clearfork Switch.

Dear Thomas J. Ademski:

Thank you for your submittal regarding the above-referenced project. This response represents the comments of the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission (THC), pursuant to review under the Antiquities Code of Texas.

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:

Archeology Comments

- An archeological survey is required. You may obtain lists of archeologists in Texas through the Council of Texas Archeologists and the Register of Professional Archaeologists. Please note that other qualified archeologists not included on these lists may be used. If this work will occur on land owned or controlled by a state agency or political subdivision of the state, a Texas Antiquities Permit must be obtained from this office prior to initiation of fieldwork. All fieldwork should meet the Archeological Survey Standards for Texas. A report of investigations is required and should meet the Council of Texas Archeologists Guidelines for Cultural Resources Management Reports and the Texas Administrative Code. In addition, any state-owned buildings 50 years old or older that are located on the tract should be documented with photographs and included in the report. Shapefiles of the area surveyed must be submitted via the tab on eTrac with submission of the draft report to facilitate review and make project information available through the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas. For questions on how to submit these please visit our video training series at: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLONbbv2pt4cog5t6mCqZVaEAX3d0MkgQC>

We have the following comments: While multiple (<48) archeological projects have occurred within the proposed study area, most of the study area has never been formally surveyed for cultural resources. A review of the Texas Historical Commission's Texas Archeological Sites Atlas indicates that 133 previously documented cultural resources are present within the study area. Furthermore, the study

area overlaps named drainages, such as Rudd, Cheynne, and Monument draws, as well as playa lakes, that would have attracted indigenous and historic-age occupation. Therefore, the potential for the proposed transmission line to affect cultural resources within the proposed study area is high and an archeological survey is warranted prior to breaking ground. Archeological survey methods should include an inspection of the ground surface along transects spaced no greater than 10 meters apart. Shovel tests should be reserved for settings that have the potential for shallowly buried cultural materials, poor surface visibility, and within the vicinity of artifacts and cultural features. Areas excluded from shovel testing should be clearly delineated on maps, photo-documented, and discussed in the report. Regardless of surface visibility and past ground disturbance, SOME shovel tests should still be excavated to assess the project area's overall potential for buried deposits, to provide a general soil description, and to demonstrate the nature of disturbance. In the event shovel testing fails to encounter the bottom of Holocene-age deposits, deep testing may be warranted. When historic-age sites are encountered, the Texas Historical Commission's Guidance for Studying Late 19th-Century and Early 20th-Century Sites must be followed, which includes conducting deed research to identify the individual(s) associated with recorded historic-age resource(s). We recommend consulting with a professional archeologist early in the project process to perform a comprehensive records search for previously recorded historic properties to be avoided, and to identify high-probability areas for archeological survey. Federal regulations require consultation with the USACE and other appropriate agencies to determine if there are any jurisdictional lands along the route. If the project will ultimately involve a federal undertaking, compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act will be required. If any portion of the project should cross lands or waters owned or controlled by the State of Texas or any political subdivision thereof or have the potential to affect a State Antiquities Landmark, those areas will also be subject to the Antiquities Code of Texas, and a Texas Antiquities Permit will be required before conducting survey across these lands. Once the route has been finalized and all regulatory jurisdictions have been established, a qualified professional archeologist should submit a scope of work meeting all applicable state and federal requirements for our review. We welcome submissions through our online eTRAC system. Links to the eTRAC portal and a user guide can be found on our website at <https://www.thc.texas.gov/etrac-system>. Regarding above-ground resources, there are known historic resources in the project's Study Area. Should this project ultimately include Federal involvement, additional consultation with our office would be required.

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 Joseph Bell, State Historic Preservation Officer
Executive Director, Texas Historical Commission

Please do not respond to this email.



November 4, 2024

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

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Laura Zebehazy:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

Burns & McDonnell is preparing an environmental assessment and alternative route analysis to support Oncor's application to amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) for the Project. Burns & McDonnell is currently in the process of collecting and evaluating information to identify environmental, cultural, and land use constraints that exist in the study area. Burns & McDonnell will consider and evaluate these constraints when developing and evaluating potential alternative routes between the Project's endpoints. As part of this effort, we are asking that your agency or office communicate any environmental or land use concerns that you may have regarding the siting and potential environmental effects from the construction of these facilities within the designated study area.

Upon certification of the Project, Oncor will determine the need for other approvals or permits. We appreciate any information you can provide related to any permits, easements, or other approvals that your agency or office requires. If permits or approvals are required from your office, Oncor will contact your office following route approval and certification from the PUC. Burns & McDonnell also requests that you provide information related to any major proposed development or construction projects that your agency or office may be planning, or is aware of, within the study area. Your input on any of the following study area characteristics as they relate to your agency or office will assist in evaluation of the Project:

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

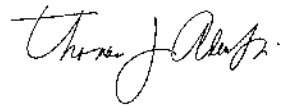
Laura Zebehazy
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

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- Aesthetics
- Water quality and wetlands
- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
- Socioeconomic factors (population, employment, growth, current/future development, etc.)
- Cultural resources (*e.g.*, historic and archeological sites)
- Transportation and roads (proposed airport and roadway expansions, construction, operations, maintenance, etc.)

Thank you in advance for your comments, which provide us with a more comprehensive understanding of the study area as we assess potential environmental and land use impacts of the Project. If you have any questions concerning the Project or this request for information, please contact me at (737) 236-0106. Electronic data or responses can also be shared at tjademski@burnsmcd. Your earliest reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

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

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear David Yoskowitz, Ph.D.:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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Upon certification of the Project, Oncor will determine the need for other approvals or permits. We appreciate any information you can provide related to any permits, easements, or other approvals that your agency or office requires. If permits or approvals are required from your office, Oncor will contact your office following route approval and certification from the PUC. Burns & McDonnell also requests that you provide information related to any major proposed development or construction projects that your agency or office may be planning, or is aware of, within the study area. Your input on any of the following study area characteristics as they relate to your agency or office will assist in evaluation of the Project:

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

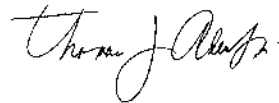
David Yoskowitz, Ph.D.
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

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

Thank you in advance for your comments, which provide us with a more comprehensive understanding of the study area as we assess potential environmental and land use impacts of the Project. If you have any questions concerning the Project or this request for information, please contact me at (737) 236-0106. Electronic data or responses can also be shared at tjademski@burnsmcd. Your earliest reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Adamski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



Life's better outside.®

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David Yuskowitz, Ph.D.
Executive Director

December 18, 2024

Mr. Thomas J. Adamski
Project Manager, Environmental Services
Burns & McDonnell
6200 Bridge Point Parkway, Bldg. 4 Ste. 400
Austin, TX 78730

RE: Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC Proposed Border Switch to Clear Fork
Switch 345-kilovolt Transmission Line Project; Andrews, Ector, Loving, and
Winkler Counties, Texas

Dear Mr. Adamski:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) received the coordination request regarding the above-referenced proposed transmission line project. TPWD staff have reviewed the information provided and offer the following comments and recommendations 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 53089 in any return correspondence regarding this project.

Project Description

The information provided states "Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181.

Burns & McDonnell is preparing an environmental assessment and alternative route analysis (EA) to support Oncor's application to amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) for the Project. Burns & McDonnell is currently in the process of collecting and evaluating information to identify environmental, cultural, and land use constraints that exist in the study area. Burns & McDonnell will consider and evaluate these constraints when developing and evaluating potential alternative routes between the Project's endpoints."

Mr. Thomas J. Ademski
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General Construction Recommendations

TPWD would like to provide the following general construction recommendations to assist with 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 other utility rights-of way (ROW) and easements to reduce habitat fragmentation. By utilizing previously disturbed, existing utility corridors, county roads and highway ROW, adverse impacts to fish and wildlife resources would be reduced by avoiding and minimizing the impacts to undisturbed habitats.

Recommendation: 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).

Recommendation: 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 will be 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.

Recommendation: During construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed transmission line, 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.

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Recommendation: 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.

Conservation Easements

There are no conservation easements (known to TPWD) located within the study area. 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. TPWD notes that although there are no conservation easements known to TPWD within the study area, there still may be conservation easements located within the study area.

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 online databases such as the Protected Areas Data Portal 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 presented in the EA.

International Dark Skies Designation/Lighting

The International Dark Sky Places (IDSP) Program was founded in 2001 to encourage communities, parks, and protected areas around the world to preserve and protect dark sites through responsible lighting policies and public education. As of August 2023, there are over 200 certified IDSPs in the world with 20 certified IDSPs in Texas. The International Dark-sky Association utilizes a rigorous designation process to designate IDSPs. The IDSP Program offers five types of designations: IDS

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Communities, IDS Parks, IDS Reserves, IDS Sanctuaries, and Urban Night Sky Places. Sky glow as a result of light pollution can have negative impacts on wildlife and ecosystems by disrupting natural day and night cycles inherent in managing behaviors such as migration, reproduction, nourishment, sleep, and protection from predators. Wildlife impacts from light pollution and potential impacts to IDSPs is of concern to TPWD.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends certified IDSPs be identified in the constraints analysis and avoided during development of alternative routes. The locations of certified IDSPs can be found on the International Dark-Sky Association website. If certified IDSPs would be affected, TPWD recommends the length of routes through these properties/places/communities be included in any accounting of alternative route impacts presented in the EA. TPWD recommends committing to dark-sky lighting practices for the proposed transmission line project, including lighting for substations (if lighting is proposed for this project). When lighting is added, TPWD recommends minimizing sky glow by focusing light downward, with full cutoff luminaires to avoid light emitting above the horizontal. TPWD recommends using the minimum amount of night-time lighting needed for safety and security and to use dark-sky friendly lighting that is on only when needed, down-shielded, as bright as needed, and minimizing blue light emissions. Appropriate lighting technologies and beneficial management practices (BMPs) can be found on the International Dark-Sky Association and McDonald Observatory websites.

Managed Areas

State Law: Parks, Public Recreation Areas, Scientific Areas, Wildlife Refuges, or Historic Sites

The following publicly managed areas tracked by TPWD are present within the study area:

Kermit the Frog Park (City of Kermit)
 Vest Park (City of Kermit)
 Winkler County Park
 Winkler County Golf Course
 Boy Scout Park (City of Kermit)
 Plaza Park (City of Kermit)
 Walton Park (City of Kermit)

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

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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.

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.

Migratory Birds

Federal Law: 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) Migratory Bird Office can be contacted at (505) 248-7882 for more information on potential impacts to migratory birds.

Within the project area, potential impacts to migratory birds may occur during site preparation and grading activities through the disturbance of existing vegetation and bare ground that may be occupied by active bird nests, including nests that may occur in grass, shrubs, and trees and on bare ground.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends any vegetation clearing be scheduled outside of the general bird nesting season of March 15th to September 15th. 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. Raptor nesting occurs in late winter through early spring; TPWD recommends construction activities be

Mr. Thomas J. Ademski
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excluded from a minimum zone of 100 meters (approximately 328 feet) surrounding any raptor nest during the period of February 1st through July 15th. The USFWS can be contacted at the number listed above for further information.

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.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends bird collision and electrocution risks be considered during project routing and design and recommends incorporating design features that will minimize those risks. For additional information, please see the guidelines published by USFWS and the Avian Power Lines Interaction Committee (APLIC) in the updated guidance document *Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines: State of the Art in 2012*. This manual, released on December 20, 2012, identifies beneficial practices and provides specific guidance to help electric utilities and cooperatives reduce bird collisions with power lines. A companion document, *Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines*, was published by APLIC and the USFWS in 2006.

State Law: 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 Chapter 64 of the PWC compliance.

Water Resources

Federal Law: 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.

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Environmental 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.

According to publicly available topographic maps and other publicly available data, there are multiple water resources within the study area, including streams, wetlands, and playa lakes.

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.

State Law: Aquatic Resources

If the project requires work within streams, rivers, or lakes, the project may need to be coordinated with the TPWD Kills and Spills Team (KAST) for appropriate authorization and to ensure protection of native aquatic wildlife.

PWC section 1.011 grants TPWD authority to regulate and conserve aquatic animal life of public waters. TAC section 57.157 regulates take of mussels, including mussels that are not state listed. TPWD regulates the introduction and stocking of fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants into public waters of the state under PWC 12.015, 12.019, and 66.015 and TAC 52.101-52.105, 52.202, and 57.251-57.259.

Dewatering activities can impact aquatic resources through stranding fish and mussels. Other harmful construction activities can trample, dredge or fill areas exhibiting stationary aquatic resources such as plants and mussels. Relocating aquatic life to an area of suitable habitat outside the project footprint avoids or reduces impacts to aquatic life. Relocation activities are done under the authority of a TPWD *Permit to Introduce Fish, Shellfish or Aquatic Plants into Public Waters* with an approved Aquatic Resource Relocation Plans (ARRP). The permit allows for movement (i.e., introduction, stocking, transplant, relocation) of aquatic species in waters of the state. ARRPs are used to plan resource handling activities and assist in the permitting process. If dewatering activities and other project related activities cause mortality to fish and wildlife species, then the responsible party would be subject to investigation by the TPWD KAST and will be liable for the value of lost resources under the authority of PWC sections 12.0011 (b) (1) and 12.301.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends that impact avoidance measures for aquatic organisms, including all native fish and freshwater mussel species, regardless of state listing status, be considered during project planning and construction activities.

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Recommendation: If construction occurs during times when water is present and dewatering, fill, or trampling activities are involved, then TPWD recommends relocating native aquatic resources, including fish and mussels, in conjunction with a *Permit to Introduce Fish, Shellfish or Aquatic Plants into Public Waters* and an ARR. The ARR should be approved by the department 30 days prior to activity within project waters or resource relocation and submitted with an application for a no-cost permit. ARRs can be submitted to Travis Tidwell, TPWD Region 1 KAST Biologist at (512) 389-8612 or Travis.Tidwell2@tpwd.texas.gov.

Rare and Protected Species

Federal Law: Endangered Species Act

Federally listed animal species and their habitats are protected from “take” on any property by the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Take of a federally listed species can be allowed if it is “incidental” to an otherwise lawful activity and must be permitted in accordance with Section 7 or 10 of the ESA. Federally listed plants are not protected from take except on lands under federal/state jurisdiction or for which a federal/state nexus (i.e., permits or funding) exists. Any take of a federally listed species or its habitat without the required take permit (or allowance) from the USFWS is a violation of the ESA.

Dunes sagebrush lizard (*Sceloporus arenicolus*) - Endangered

There are five Texas Natural Diversity Database (TXNDD) records for the state and federally endangered dunes sagebrush lizard (DSL) located within the study area. The DSL was listed as endangered by the USFWS on June 20, 2024. The DSL is found in active and semi-stable shinnery oak sand dunes in New Mexico and a small area of West Texas.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends avoiding routing the proposed transmission line through suitable DSL habitat. If complete avoidance is not feasible, TPWD recommends surveying the PUC-selected route for suitable DSL habitat and avoiding adverse impacts to this species and its habitat during construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed transmission line. TPWD recommends contacting the USFWS for species occurrence data, guidance, permitting, survey protocols, and mitigation for this federally listed species, if coordination has not been initiated to date.

Parks and Wildlife Code, Section 68.015 – State listed Species

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

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TPWD. A copy of TPWD *Protection of State Listed Species Guidelines*, which includes a list of penalties for take of species, can be found online at the TPWD Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program: Laws and Regulations Applicable to TPWD Review website. For purposes of relocation, surveys, monitoring, and research, state listed species may only be handled by persons with the appropriate authorization obtained through the TPWD Wildlife Permits Program. For more information on this authorization, please contact the Wildlife Permits Office at (512) 389-4647.

Texas horned lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*)

There is a TXNDD record for the state listed threatened Texas horned lizard located within the study area, and an additional TXNDD record located approximately 0.75-mile outside of the study area.

The Texas horned lizard inhabits open, arid and semi-arid regions with sparse vegetation, including grass, cactus, scattered brush or scrubby trees and soil may vary in texture from sandy to rocky. If present in the project area, the Texas horned lizard could be impacted by ground disturbing activities from construction. A useful indication that the Texas horned lizard may occupy the site is the presence of harvester ant (*Pogonomyrmex barbatus*) mounds since harvester ants are the primary food source of Texas horned lizards. Texas horned lizards may hibernate on-site in loose soils a few inches below ground during the cool months from September/October to March/April. Construction in these areas could harm hibernating lizards. Horned lizards are active above ground when temperatures exceed 75 degrees Fahrenheit. If horned lizards (nesting, gravid females, newborn young, lethargic from cool temperatures or hibernation) cannot move away from noise and approaching construction equipment in time, they could be affected by construction activities.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends implementing the following BMPs to assist in minimizing potential impacts to the Texas horned lizard. TPWD notes that implementing the following BMPs could also help minimize impacts to a variety of native wildlife species that may inhabit the project area:

Contractor Training for Protected Species – TPWD recommends providing training for project contractors prior to the construction of the proposed project. Wildlife training should consist of identification of Texas horned lizards and their primary food source (harvester ants), and the proper protocol to avoid impact if a Texas horned lizard or other rare or protected species is encountered. TPWD recommends instructing contractors to avoid impacts to harvester ant mounds where feasible. TPWD understands that ant mounds in the direct path of construction would be difficult to avoid, but contractors should be mindful of these areas when deciding where to place project specific locations and other disturbances associated with construction.

Mr. Thomas J. Ademski

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Biological Monitor and Horned Lizard Encounters – TPWD recommends a biological monitor be present during construction to identify and relocate Texas horned lizards or other state listed species if found. If the presence of a biological monitor during construction is not feasible, state listed species observed during construction should be allowed to safely leave the site on their own or be relocated to a nearby area with similar habitat that would not be disturbed during construction. Individuals handling listed species will need to abide by applicable federal or state law and can contact the TPWD Wildlife Permits Office for additional information. TPWD recommends that any translocations of reptiles be the minimum distance possible no greater than one mile, preferably within 100 to 200 yards from the initial encounter location. After horned lizard removal, the area that will be disturbed during active construction and project specific locations should be fenced off to exclude horned lizards and other reptiles.

Work During Cold Weather – If construction activities take place during cold weather, it is recommended that construction personnel stay observant of activities that may harm the Texas horned lizard, such as disruption of burrows. In cold weather, this species will use burrows or pallets near the base of vegetation for shelter. Their slow metabolism in cold weather can reduce movements, restricting their ability to flee from danger.

No Kill Wildlife Policy – TPWD recommends implementing a “No Kill Wildlife Policy” during the construction and operation of the project. This policy prevents inadvertently killing protected species that may be mistaken for common species.

Dune umbrella-sedge (*Cyperus onerosus*)

There are five TXNDD records for the state listed threatened dune umbrella-sedge located within the study area. Dune umbrella-sedge can be found in moist to wet sand in swales and other depressions among active or partially stabilized sand dunes. This species flowers/fruits late summer through fall.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends surveying the PUC-selected route for the state listed dune umbrella-sedge where suitable habitat may be present, prior to construction. The survey should be performed by a qualified biologist at the time of year when this species is most likely to be found, usually during the flowering period. If dune umbrella-sedge is present, plans should be made to avoid adverse impacts to the greatest extent possible. If plants are found within the proposed construction area, including in areas being considered for the placement of staging areas and other project related sites, this office should be contacted for further coordination and possible salvage of plants and/or seeds for seed banking. Plants

Mr. Thomas J. Adamski
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not within the active construction area should be protected by markers or fencing and instructing construction crews to avoid any harm.

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

In addition to state and federally protected species, TPWD tracks Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and other special features and natural communities that are not listed as threatened or endangered. These species and communities are tracked in the TXNDD and TPWD actively promotes their conservation. TPWD considers it important to evaluate and minimize impacts to SGCN and their habitat to reduce the likelihood of endangerment and preclude the need to list as threatened or endangered in the future.

There are TXNDD records present within the study area for the following plant SGCN:

Neglected sunflower (*Helianthus neglectus*)
Dune unicorn plant (*Proboscidea sabulosa*)
Cory's ephedra (*Ephedra coryi*)
Hinckley's spreadwing (*Eurytaenia hinckleyi*)

Recommendation: TPWD recommends reviewing the TPWD Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species of Texas by County online application (RTEST or TPWD county list) for Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties as plant SGCN, in addition to those listed above, may be present depending upon suitable habitat availability. Please refer to the recommendations stated above for the dune umbrella-sedge, as they would be applicable in minimizing impacts to the other plant SGCN as well.

Western box turtle (*Terrapene ornata*)

There is a TXNDD record for the western box turtle located just outside of the study area boundary (approximately 1,600 feet). The western box turtle inhabits prairie grasslands, pastures, fields, sandhills, and open woodlands. They are essentially terrestrial but sometimes enter slow, shallow streams and creek pools. For shelter, they burrow into soil (e.g., under plants such as yucca) or enter burrows made by other species. This species is active spring through fall with courtship and mating occurring primarily in the spring. Eggs are laid in nests dug in soft well-drained soil in open areas. This species is threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation, vehicle strikes on roads, and collection for the pet trade and food markets.

Western massasauga (*Sistrurus tergeminus*)

Mr. Thomas J. Ademski
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There is a TXNDD record for the western massasauga located within the study area. The western massasauga is common in gently rolling prairies occasionally broken by creek valleys or rocky hillsides.

Recommendations: TPWD recommends implementing the following BMPs to minimize impacts to the above-listed terrestrial reptile SGCN.

- As previously stated, TPWD recommends the use of no-till drilling, hydromulching and/or hydroseeding due to a reduced risk to wildlife. If erosion control blankets or mats are used, the product should not contain netting, but if it must contain netting it should contain loosely woven, natural fiber netting in which the mesh design allows the threads to move, therefore allowing expansion of the mesh openings. TPWD recommends avoiding the use of plastic mesh matting and hydromulch containing microplastics.
- As previously stated, for open trenches and excavated pits, install escape ramps at an angle of less than 45 degrees (1:1) in areas left uncovered. Visually inspect excavation areas for trapped wildlife prior to backfilling.
- Identify locations of burrows on the project site and avoid impacts to burrows if feasible.
- TPWD recommends that any translocations of reptiles be the minimum distance possible no greater than one mile, preferably within 100 to 200 yards from the initial encounter location.
- Inform contractors that if reptiles are found on the project site allow species to safely leave the project area.
- Avoid or minimize disturbing or removing downed trees, rotting stumps, and leaf litter where feasible.
- Contractors should be advised of potential occurrence in the project area, and to avoid harming these species if encountered.
- Due to increased activity (mating) of reptiles during the spring, construction activities like clearing or grading should attempt to be scheduled outside of the spring (April-May) season. Also, timing ground disturbing activities before October when reptiles become less active and may be using burrows in the project area is also encouraged.

Recommendation: Because snakes are generally perceived as a threat and killed when encountered, and since the project area contains potential suitable habitat for the western massasauga, TPWD recommends construction personnel and contractors be advised to avoid injury or harm to all snakes encountered during clearing and construction. Injury to humans usually occurs when the snake becomes agitated following harassment or when someone attempts to handle a recently dead venomous snake that still contains its bite reflex. Therefore, contractors should avoid contact with snakes if encountered and allow all native snakes to safely leave the premises.

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Evaluation of Species in the Environmental Assessment

TPWD notes that it is the responsibility of the project proponent to evaluate all the species listed on the TPWD county list (not just state and federally listed species) and to determine if those species have habitat within the study area and if those species have the potential to be impacted by the construction of the proposed project. The presence or absence of known occurrences of species in the study area does not provide a definitive statement as to the presence or absence of these species within the study area and cannot be substituted for field surveys.

Recommendation: Please review the most recent TPWD county lists for Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties because species in addition to those discussed in this letter could be present within the project area depending upon habitat availability. 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. The USFWS should be contacted for species occurrence data, guidance, permitting, survey protocols, and mitigation for federally listed species.

Vegetation

The Ecological Mapping Systems of Texas (EMST) provide recently mapped vegetative cover based on the NatureServe Ecological System Classification System as described by Comer (2003). Additionally, TPWD has made available a web application useful for viewing EMST data; the Texas Ecosystem Analytical Mapper (TEAM) is a user-friendly way to access EMST data, view these data in the context of other data layers (e.g., soils or hydrology), export custom maps, and more. More information about the EMST, including a link to download shape files or access to the TEAM, can be found at the TPWD Maps and Data website.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends utilizing EMST data during project planning and minimizing impacts to native vegetation to the maximum extent feasible during project planning, design, and construction.

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 native 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.

Monarch and Pollinator Conservation

In December 2024, the USFWS proposed to list the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) as threatened under the ESA. There is widespread concern regarding the

Mr. Thomas J. Adamski

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December 18, 2024

decline of monarch butterflies and other native insect pollinator species due to reductions in native floral resources. To support pollinators and migrating monarchs, TPWD encourages the establishment of native wildflower habitats on private and public lands. Infrastructure ROW can provide habitat for a diverse community of pollinators, providing forage for food and breeding or nesting opportunities. Infrastructure ROW extends across a variety of landscapes and can aid dispersal of pollinators by linking fragmented habitats. By acting as refugia for pollinators in otherwise inhospitable landscapes, this habitat can contribute to the maintenance of healthy ecosystems and provide ecological services such as crop pollination. Recent publications on conserving pollinators in Texas can be found at the TPWD Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program: Planning Tools and Best Management Practices website.

Recommendation: To contribute to pollinator conservation efforts, TPWD encourages the project proponent to revegetate impacted areas with vegetation that provides habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinator species. Species appropriate for the project area can be found by accessing the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, working with TPWD biologists to develop an appropriate list of species, or utilizing resources found at the Monarch Watch website or the Xerces Society's Guidelines website.

Recommendation: To create benefits for grassland wildlife and pollinators, TPWD recommends revegetating areas disturbed by project activities with site-specific native species to mitigate for unavoidable loss of native vegetation, with attention to providing habitat for pollinator species. TPWD recommends incorporating native grass and floral species into the permanent revegetation plan for the project as funding and seed availability allows. TPWD also recommends incorporating pollinator conservation into maintenance plans for the ROW, to promote and sustain the availability of flowering species throughout the growing season. ROW maintenance should be scheduled to occur once the seed from pollinator plants has been released.

Data Reporting and the Texas Natural Diversity Database

TPWD maintains records of occurrence for protected and rare species, or SGCN, within the TXNDD and these data are publicly available by request. The TXNDD is intended to assist users in avoiding harm to rare species or significant ecological features. The TXNDD is updated continuously, and relies partially on information submitted by private parties, such as developers or their consultants. Given the small proportion of public versus private land in Texas, the TXNDD does not include a comprehensive inventory of rare resources in the state. These data are not inclusive and cannot be used as presence/absence data. They represent species that could potentially be in your project area. This information cannot be substituted for field surveys.

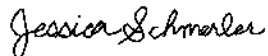
Mr. Thomas J. Adamski
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December 18, 2024

Recommendation: The TXNDD is updated continuously based on new, updated and undigitized records; therefore, TPWD recommends requesting the most recent TXNDD data on a regular basis. For questions regarding a record or to request the most recent data, please contact TexasNatural.DiversityDatabase@tpwd.texas.gov.

Recommendation: To aid in the scientific knowledge of a species' status and current range, TPWD encourages reporting encounters of protected and rare species to the TXNDD according to the data submittal instructions found at the TPWD Texas Natural Diversity Database: Submit Data website. An additional method for reporting observations of species is through the iNaturalist community application where plant and animal observations are uploaded from a smartphone. The observer then selects to add the observation to specific TPWD Texas Nature Tracker Projects appropriate for the taxa observed, including Herps of Texas, Birds of Texas, Texas Eagle Nests, Texas Whooper Watch, Mammals of Texas, and Rare Plants of Texas.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide preliminary input on potential impacts related to this project, and I look forward to reviewing the EA and Alternative Route Analysis. Please contact me at (512) 389-8054 or Jessica.Schmerler@tpwd.texas.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jessica E. Schmerler, CWB
Environmental Review Biologist
Ecological & Environmental Planning Program
Wildlife Division

JES:53089



November 4, 2024

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

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Jessica Pena:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

Burns & McDonnell is preparing an environmental assessment and alternative route analysis to support Oncor's application to amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) for the Project. Burns & McDonnell is currently in the process of collecting and evaluating information to identify environmental, cultural, and land use constraints that exist in the study area. Burns & McDonnell will consider and evaluate these constraints when developing and evaluating potential alternative routes between the Project's endpoints. As part of this effort, we are asking that your agency or office communicate any environmental or land use concerns that you may have regarding the siting and potential environmental effects from the construction of these facilities within the designated study area.

Upon certification of the Project, Oncor will determine the need for other approvals or permits. We appreciate any information you can provide related to any permits, easements, or other approvals that your agency or office requires. If permits or approvals are required from your office, Oncor will contact your office following route approval and certification from the PUC. Burns & McDonnell also requests that you provide information related to any major proposed development or construction projects that your agency or office may be planning, or is aware of, within the study area. Your input on any of the following study area characteristics as they relate to your agency or office will assist in evaluation of the Project:

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

Jessica Pena
Texas Water Development Board

Page 2

- Aesthetics
- Water quality and wetlands
- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
- Socioeconomic factors (population, employment, growth, current/future development, etc.)
- Cultural resources (*e.g.*, historic and archeological sites)
- Transportation and roads (proposed airport and roadway expansions, construction, operations, maintenance, etc.)

Thank you in advance for your comments, which provide us with a more comprehensive understanding of the study area as we assess potential environmental and land use impacts of the Project. If you have any questions concerning the Project or this request for information, please contact me at (737) 236-0106. Electronic data or responses can also be shared at tjademski@burnsmcd. Your earliest reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

The Honorable Sam Jones
Andrews County Judge
201 N. Main
Room 104
Andrews, TX 79714

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear The Honorable Sam Jones:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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- Aesthetics

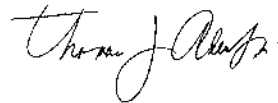
The Honorable Sam Jones
Andrews County Judge

Page 2

- Water quality and wetlands
- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
- Socioeconomic factors (population, employment, growth, current/future development, etc.)
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Thank you in advance for your comments, which provide us with a more comprehensive understanding of the study area as we assess potential environmental and land use impacts of the Project. If you have any questions concerning the Project or this request for information, please contact me at (737) 236-0106. Electronic data or responses can also be shared at tjademski@burnsmcd. Your earliest reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

Kerry Pack
Andrews County Precinct 1 Commissioner
420 SE 401
Andrews, TX 79714

Re:
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Kerry Pack:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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- Aesthetics
- Water quality and wetlands


Kerry Pack
Andrews County Precinct 1 Commissioner

Page 2

- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
- Socioeconomic factors (population, employment, growth, current/future development, etc.)
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Thank you in advance for your comments, which provide us with a more comprehensive understanding of the study area as we assess potential environmental and land use impacts of the Project. If you have any questions concerning the Project or this request for information, please contact me at (737) 236-0106. Electronic data or responses can also be shared at tjademski@burnsmcd. Your earliest reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

Mark Savell
Andrews County Precinct 2 Commissioner
2900 N U.S. 385
Andrews, TX 79714

Re:
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Mark Savell:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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- Water quality and wetlands

Mark Savell
Andrews County Precinct 2 Commissioner

Page 2

- Soils and geology
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Thank you in advance for your comments, which provide us with a more comprehensive understanding of the study area as we assess potential environmental and land use impacts of the Project. If you have any questions concerning the Project or this request for information, please contact me at (737) 236-0106. Electronic data or responses can also be shared at tjademski@burnsmcd. Your earliest reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

Jeneane Anderegg
Andrews County Precinct 3 Commissioner
854 E. Broadway
Andrews, TX 79714

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Jeneane Anderegg:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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- Water quality and wetlands


Jeneane Anderegg
Andrews County Precinct 3 Commissioner

Page 2

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Thank you in advance for your comments, which provide us with a more comprehensive understanding of the study area as we assess potential environmental and land use impacts of the Project. If you have any questions concerning the Project or this request for information, please contact me at (737) 236-0106. Electronic data or responses can also be shared at tjademski@burnsmcd. Your earliest reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

Jim Waldrop
Andrews County Precinct 4 Commissioner
900 W. Broadway
Andrews, TX 79714

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Jim Waldrop:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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Jim Waldrop
Andrews County Precinct 4 Commissioner

Page 2

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- Socioeconomic factors (population, employment, growth, current/future development, etc.)
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Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

Christine Mergelman
Executive Director
Gaines County Farm Service Agency (Serving Andrews County)
FSA Service Center Office
1301 S. Main Street
Seminole, TX 79360-5525

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Christine Mergelman:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

Burns & McDonnell is preparing an environmental assessment and alternative route analysis to support Oncor's application to amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) for the Project. Burns & McDonnell is currently in the process of collecting and evaluating information to identify environmental, cultural, and land use constraints that exist in the study area. Burns & McDonnell will consider and evaluate these constraints when developing and evaluating potential alternative routes between the Project's endpoints. As part of this effort, we are asking that your agency or office communicate any environmental or land use concerns that you may have regarding the siting and potential environmental effects from the construction of these facilities within the designated study area.

Upon certification of the Project, Oncor will determine the need for other approvals or permits. We appreciate any information you can provide related to any permits, easements, or other approvals that your agency or office requires. If permits or approvals are required from your office, Oncor will contact your office following route approval and certification from the PUC. Burns & McDonnell also requests that you provide information related to any major proposed development or construction projects that your agency or office may be planning, or is aware of, within the study area. Your input on any of the following study area characteristics as they relate to your agency or office will assist in evaluation of the Project:

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

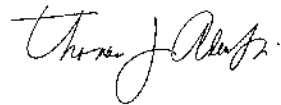
Christine Mergelman
FSA Service Center Office

Page 2

- Aesthetics
- Water quality and wetlands
- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
- Socioeconomic factors (population, employment, growth, current/future development, etc.)
- Cultural resources (*e.g.*, historic and archeological sites)
- Transportation and roads (proposed airport and roadway expansions, construction, operations, maintenance, etc.)

Thank you in advance for your comments, which provide us with a more comprehensive understanding of the study area as we assess potential environmental and land use impacts of the Project. If you have any questions concerning the Project or this request for information, please contact me at (737) 236-0106. Electronic data or responses can also be shared at tjademski@burnsmcd. Your earliest reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

Jessalynne Wells
Chair
Andrews County Historical Commission
201 N. Main Street
Andrews, TX 79714

Re:
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Jessalynne Wells:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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- Aesthetics

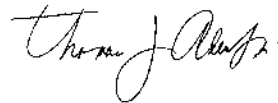
Jessalynne Wells
Andrews County Historical Commission

Page 2

- Water quality and wetlands
- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
- Socioeconomic factors (population, employment, growth, current/future development, etc.)
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Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

The Honorable Dustin Fawcett
Ector County Judge
300 North Grant
Room 227
Odessa, TX 79761

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear The Honorable Dustin Fawcett:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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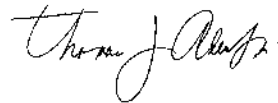
The Honorable Dustin Fawcett
Ector County Judge

Page 2

- Water quality and wetlands
- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
- Socioeconomic factors (population, employment, growth, current/future development, etc.)
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Sincerely,



Thomas J. Adamski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

Mike Gardner
Ector County Precinct 1 Commissioner
1010 East 8th Street, Suite 500
Odessa, TX 79761

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Mike Gardner:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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


Mike Gardner
Ector County Precinct 1 Commissioner

Page 2

- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
- Socioeconomic factors (population, employment, growth, current/future development, etc.)
- Cultural resources (*e.g.*, historic and archeological sites)
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Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

Greg Simmons
Ector County Precinct 2 Commissioner
1010 East 8th Street, Suite 500
Odessa, TX 79761

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Greg Simmons:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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


Greg Simmons
Ector County Precinct 2 Commissioner

Page 2

- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
- Socioeconomic factors (population, employment, growth, current/future development, etc.)
- Cultural resources (*e.g.*, historic and archeological sites)
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Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

Don Stringer
Ector County Precinct 3 Commissioner
1010 East 8th Street, Suite 500
Odessa, TX 79761

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Don Stringer:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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

Don Stringer
Ector County Precinct 3 Commissioner

Page 2

- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
- Socioeconomic factors (population, employment, growth, current/future development, etc.)
- Cultural resources (*e.g.*, historic and archeological sites)
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Thank you in advance for your comments, which provide us with a more comprehensive understanding of the study area as we assess potential environmental and land use impacts of the Project. If you have any questions concerning the Project or this request for information, please contact me at (737) 236-0106. Electronic data or responses can also be shared at tjademski@burnsmcd. Your earliest reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

Billy Hall
Ector County Precinct 4 Commissioner
1010 East 8th Street, Suite 500
Odessa, TX 79761

Re:
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Billy Hall:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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- Aesthetics
- Water quality and wetlands


Billy Hall
Ector County Precinct 4 Commissioner

Page 2

- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
- Socioeconomic factors (population, employment, growth, current/future development, etc.)
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Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

Jill Halfmann
Executive Director
Ector-Crane-Midland County Farm Service Agency
801 S. Pagewood Ave., Suite 4
Odessa, TX 79761

Re:
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Jill Halfmann:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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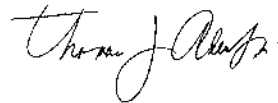
Jill Halfmann
Ector-Crane-Midland County Farm Service Agency

Page 2

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



Thomas J. Adamski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

The Honorable Skeet Jones
Loving County Judge
P.O. Box 193
Mentone, TX 79754

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear The Honorable Skeet Jones:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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


The Honorable Skeet Jones
Loving County Judge

Page 2

- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
- Socioeconomic factors (population, employment, growth, current/future development, etc.)
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Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

Harlan Hopper
Loving County Precinct 1 Commissioner
P.O. Box 121
Mentone, TX 79754

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Harlan Hopper:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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- Aesthetics
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Harlan Hopper
Loving County Precinct 1 Commissioner

Page 2

- Soils and geology
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Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

Ysidro Renteria
Loving County Precinct 2 Commissioner
P.O. Box 162
Mentone, TX 79754

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Ysidro Renteria:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

Burns & McDonnell is preparing an environmental assessment and alternative route analysis to support Oncor's application to amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) for the Project. Burns & McDonnell is currently in the process of collecting and evaluating information to identify environmental, cultural, and land use constraints that exist in the study area. Burns & McDonnell will consider and evaluate these constraints when developing and evaluating potential alternative routes between the Project's endpoints. As part of this effort, we are asking that your agency or office communicate any environmental or land use concerns that you may have regarding the siting and potential environmental effects from the construction of these facilities within the designated study area.

Upon certification of the Project, Oncor will determine the need for other approvals or permits. We appreciate any information you can provide related to any permits, easements, or other approvals that your agency or office requires. If permits or approvals are required from your office, Oncor will contact your office following route approval and certification from the PUC. Burns & McDonnell also requests that you provide information related to any major proposed development or construction projects that your agency or office may be planning, or is aware of, within the study area. Your input on any of the following study area characteristics as they relate to your agency or office will assist in evaluation of the Project:

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


Ysidro Renteria
Loving County Precinct 2 Commissioner

Page 2

- Soils and geology
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries (including threatened and endangered species)
- Socioeconomic factors (population, employment, growth, current/future development, etc.)
- Cultural resources (*e.g.*, historic and archeological sites)
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Thank you in advance for your comments, which provide us with a more comprehensive understanding of the study area as we assess potential environmental and land use impacts of the Project. If you have any questions concerning the Project or this request for information, please contact me at (737) 236-0106. Electronic data or responses can also be shared at tjademski@burnsmcd. Your earliest reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

Raymond King
Loving County Precinct 3 Commissioner
P.O. Box 193
Mentone, TX 79754

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Raymond King:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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Raymond King
Loving County Precinct 3 Commissioner

Page 2

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Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

Brad Cook
Loving County Precinct 4 Commissioner
P.O. Box 135
Mentone, TX 79754

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Brad Cook:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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Brad Cook
Loving County Precinct 4 Commissioner

Page 2

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Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

Michelle Strain
Executive Director
Reeves-Loving-Ward-Winkler County Farm Service Agency
1417 W. 3rd Street
Pecos, TX 79772-2732

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Michelle Strain:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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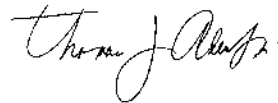
Michelle Strain
Reeves-Loving-Ward-Winkler County Farm Service Agency

Page 2

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



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

Mozelle Carr
District Clerk
In care of:
Loving County Historical Commission
100 Bell Street
Mentone, TX 79754

Re:
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Mozelle Carr:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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Mozelle Carr
Loving County Historical Commission

Page 2

- Aesthetics
- Water quality and wetlands
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Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

The Honorable Charles M. Wolf
Winkler County Judge
100 E. Winkler
P.O. Drawer Y
Kermit, TX 79745

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear The Honorable Charles M. Wolf:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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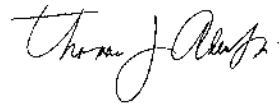
The Honorable Charles M. Wolf
Winkler County Judge

Page 2

- Water quality and wetlands
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Sincerely,



Thomas J. Adamski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

Billy Stevens
Winkler County Precinct 1 Commissioner
100 E. Winkler
P.O. Drawer Y
Kermit, TX 79745

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Billy Stevens:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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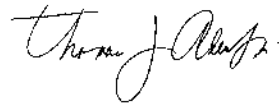
Billy Stevens
Winkler County Precinct 1 Commissioner

Page 2

- Water quality and wetlands
- Soils and geology
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Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

Robbie Wolf
Winkler County Precinct 2 Commissioner
100 E. Winkler
P.O. Drawer Y
Kermit, TX 79745

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Robbie Wolf:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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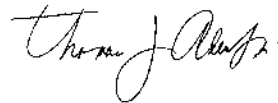
Robbie Wolf
Winkler County Precinct 2 Commissioner

Page 2

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Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

Victor Berzoza
Winkler County Precinct 3 Commissioner
100 E. Winkler
P.O. Drawer Y
Kermit, TX 79745

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Victor Berzoza:

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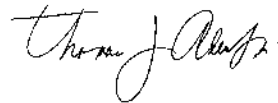
Victor Berzoza
Winkler County Precinct 3 Commissioner

Page 2

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Sincerely,



Thomas J. Adamski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

Homero Lujan
Winkler County Precinct 4 Commissioner
100 E. Winkler
P.O. Drawer Y
Kermit, TX 79745

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Homero Lujan:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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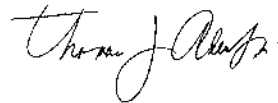
Homero Lujan
Winkler County Precinct 4 Commissioner

Page 2

- Water quality and wetlands
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Sincerely,



Thomas J. Adamski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

Michelle Strain
Executive Director
Reeves-Loving-Ward-Winkler County Farm Service Agency
1417 W. 3rd Street
Pecos, TX 79772-2732

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Michelle Strain:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

Burns & McDonnell is preparing an environmental assessment and alternative route analysis to support Oncor's application to amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) for the Project. Burns & McDonnell is currently in the process of collecting and evaluating information to identify environmental, cultural, and land use constraints that exist in the study area. Burns & McDonnell will consider and evaluate these constraints when developing and evaluating potential alternative routes between the Project's endpoints. As part of this effort, we are asking that your agency or office communicate any environmental or land use concerns that you may have regarding the siting and potential environmental effects from the construction of these facilities within the designated study area.

Upon certification of the Project, Oncor will determine the need for other approvals or permits. We appreciate any information you can provide related to any permits, easements, or other approvals that your agency or office requires. If permits or approvals are required from your office, Oncor will contact your office following route approval and certification from the PUC. Burns & McDonnell also requests that you provide information related to any major proposed development or construction projects that your agency or office may be planning, or is aware of, within the study area. Your input on any of the following study area characteristics as they relate to your agency or office will assist in evaluation of the Project:

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

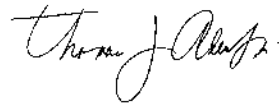
Michelle Strain
Reeves-Loving-Ward-Winkler County Farm Service Agency

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

Thank you in advance for your comments, which provide us with a more comprehensive understanding of the study area as we assess potential environmental and land use impacts of the Project. If you have any questions concerning the Project or this request for information, please contact me at (737) 236-0106. Electronic data or responses can also be shared at tjademski@burnsmcd. Your earliest reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Adamski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

Vicki Pigmon
Chair
Winkler County Historical Commission
P.O. Box 525
Kermit, TX 79745

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Vicki Pigmon:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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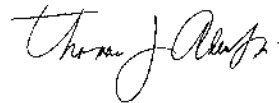
Vicki Pigmon
Winkler County Historical Commission

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Sincerely,



Thomas J. Adamski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

David Holbrook
Mayor
Kermit City Hall
110 South Tornillo Street
Kermit, TX 79745

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear David Holbrook:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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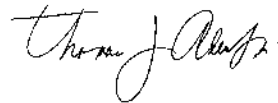
David Holbrook
Kermit City Hall

Page 2

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Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

Attachment (1)



November 4, 2024

Cesar Ramirez
Public Works (Director)
City of Kermit
110 S. Tornillo Street
Kermit, TX 79745-2612

Re:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Proposed Border Switch to Clearfork Switch
345 kV Transmission Line Project in Andrews, Ector, Loving, and Winkler Counties,
Texas

Dear Cesar Ramirez:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) proposes to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Oncor's planned Border Switch in Loving County, Texas, and Oncor's existing Clearfork Switch in Andrews County, Texas (Project). The planned Border Switch will be located approximately 6.0 miles south of the Texas-New Mexico border, and the existing Clearfork Switch is located approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 115 and Farm-to-Market Road 181. Please refer to the attached map for the location of the Project study area, endpoints, and the regional road network and landmarks.

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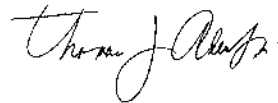
Cesar Ramirez
City of Kermit

Page 2

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Thomas J. Ademski
Project Manager

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