

**TEXAS SCORECARD**

Robert Montoya <rmontoya@texasscorecard.com>

Media Inquiry—765-kV Bell County East to Big Hill

Whitney Ingram <[REDACTED]>
To: Robert Montoya <rmontoya@texasscorecard.com>
Cc: Jody Williams <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Jul 30, 2026 at 4:53 PM

Robert,

I apologize for the delayed response, but I was on vacation with my family earlier this week. In the future, I'm happy to provide responses with more notice. Even though your deadline has passed, the responses to your questions are below. We have also completed your request for open records and responded accordingly. This follow-up simply provides more insight to your questions regarding this project.

Has Oncor formally coordinated with Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District regarding aquifer protection measures, potential impacts to local groundwater resources, or expectations for construction activities when it comes to their proposed 765-kilovolt Bell County East to Big Hill transmission line?

No, however, we are aware of the project. The Belton EDC hosts an annual utility round table event. Both Clearwater UWCD and Oncor representatives were present for the event in April 2026, and both presented during the meeting. Clearwater UWCD does maintain a public GIS map platform which includes all registered wells in Bell County. This information can be cross referenced with proposed routes and may serve as a useful tool for landowners and project managers alike.

Has Clearwater informed Oncor of what the expectations are if Oncor encounters undocumented, unrecorded, or abandoned wells?

No. Oncor is the largest transmission provider in Texas. Whether they are working in a county with a groundwater district or not, their process for encountering abandoned water wells should have the same core standards set by the TDLR. We know that abandoned and/or deteriorated wells serve as direct conduits to groundwater. It's the best policy for Oncor to make the District formally aware of construction activities within the county and regarding any water wells that are encountered during construction. The landowner of record is responsible for plugging or bringing an abandoned or deteriorated well into compliance. If an unregistered well is identified during construction, we encourage the responsible party to contact the District for guidance. If plugging is determined necessary by a licensed driller or a landowner, a report must be filed with TDLR within 30 days. The District will intercept that information and add it to our database. Landowners should also consider all proposed construction activities around existing wells with considerations for regular well maintenance and plugging the well, should it become deteriorated.

Clearwater UWCD has received calls from individual landowners who own property near the proposed routes. On an individual basis, we've heard their concerns and helped landowners understand the process to intervene with the PUC. We also have navigated landowners to the District's local studies and resources, if useful. It's also important for landowners to understand the District's authority under Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code.

I hope you find the responses helpful. Please let me know if you have any other questions.

Whitney Ingram
General Manager

Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District
Bell County, Texas



www.cuwcd.org



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From: Robert Montoya <rmontoya@texasscorecard.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 11:18 AM
To: Whitney Ingram 
Subject: Media Inquiry — 765-kV Bell County East to Big Hill

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