

Update on Bell County East–Big Hill 765-kV Transmission Project

March 5th, 2026

While Bell County itself (as a government entity) has not officially declared formal opposition like some of its neighbors, there is significant and active resistance from residents and stakeholders within the county regarding the Bell County East–Big Hill 765-kV Transmission Project.

Residents and some elected officials from Salado and Temple voiced intense opposition over property devaluation, the use of eminent domain and health and environmental concerns.

Due to the unexpected high volume of public feedback, Oncor and LCRA recently delayed their state filing to mid-March.

Burnet County and the City of Burnet have each passed resolutions for the creation of a 391 Commission. A 391 commission does not automatically stop this project, nor does it remove authority from the PUC. The Commission will have the ability to intervene, retain counsel, and advocate on behalf of the broader community's interest. As an intervenor, the Commission will have a formal seat at the table, along with every other intervenor, but it does not control the outcome. Its influence comes from the fact that it represents governmental entities and carries institutional weight within the process. It provides a structured and potentially more coordinated way for our local governments to engage in this process.

Besides the 391 commission, Burnet is also pushing for delays on this project to push the approval until after the start of the next Texas legislative session. Along with that, they might ask for interim charges. Interim charges are specific topics, policy issues, or studies assigned by the Texas Lt. Governor (for the Senate) and the Speaker of the (for the House) to legislative committees to investigate during the 18-month break between regular legislative sessions. They act as a roadmap for upcoming legislation, allowing lawmakers to review, monitor, and report on critical state issues before the next session begins.

Concerned landowners and residents are encouraged to send in a letter for entry to the public comment docket opened for the transmission line projects.

<http://www.puc.texas.gov/industry/filings/FilingProceed.aspx>

Here is the docket number where to file such letters:

Project	Comment Docket	Amendment App Docket
Bell County E to Big Hill	58559	Not yet opened

Here is a sample letter:

Name:
Address:
City, State, Zip:
Phone:
Email:
Date:

Public Utility Commission of Texas
William B Travis Building
1701 N Congress Avenue, Suite 7-110
Austin, TX 78701

RE: Protest Letter Against Oncor & LCRA Bell County East to Big Hill 765kV Transmission Project (Docket 58559)

Dear Chairman Gleeson and Commissioners,

Thank you for your service to our state and for your continued commitment to protecting Texas communities from irresponsible infrastructure projects.

I am writing today to express my protest against the Bell County East to Big Hill 765kV transmission project proposed by Oncor and LCRA.

As a resident of Bell County, I can confirm that this project does not fit our community values, Bell County has intentionally pursued measured, deliberate growth, prioritizing rural character, land stewardship, and community over rapid or infrastructure-driven expansion.

And while it brings no benefit to our area, it also poses serious risks, and I would like to highlight several specific concerns:

- Ruination of the scenic and historic Bell Country landscape, which is an irreplaceable part of our county's identity.
- Proximity to homes, raising safety, health, and quality-of-life concerns for families who have built their lives here.
- Destruction of historic ranches, archaeological sites, and valuable cultural resources that help define the legacy of our region.
- Economic impacts, including decreased property values, reduced county tax revenue, and increased costs from road degradation during construction.
- Safety concerns, including increased wildfire risk and the loss of safe airspace needed for EMS helicopter access during emergencies.

Given the magnitude of these concerns, and the overwhelming lack of public support, I respectfully request that you deny any future applications for amendment to the current CCN for this project.

Thank you again for your time and dedication to our state. I appreciate your consideration on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Aside from the possible impact of the bell county transmission line for RRR, there still is the question why these markers had been placed in our private community, who ordered the placement and who has an interest in aerial mapping.

Data centers, crypto mining, gas fracking and oil drilling require huge amounts of electricity; power generation but also power storage are interconnected with transmission lines.

Three new projects have been listed in a Multi-County Energy Infrastructure Report for Texas. Two BESS (Battery Energy Storage Systems) and one combination Solar/Storage Project in Bell County.

I just found two databases where these projects are listed but as of today I have not been able to determine locations and/or project owners. I will invest in more research to find out and provide an update soon after.

As always, please contact me directly if you have any questions, suggestions and/or are willing to help with my research.

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