

Statement Opposing Oncor 765kV Transmission Lines

Introduction

My name is Donna Elwell, and I reside at The Ranches at Blackbuck Ridge. I am here today to express my opposition to Oncor's plans for the 765kV transmission lines.

Personal Health Concerns

I have a deep brain stimulator (DBS) implant, which functions similarly to a pacemaker but for my brain. This device is vital for my health and well-being. Neurologists and DBS manufacturers consistently advise patients like myself to avoid electromagnetic scanners commonly found at airports and sports venues. Instead, they recommend opting for a handheld wand to minimize exposure to electromagnetic interference (EMI).

Risks

There are both unintentional and intentional sources of external EMI that can cause DBS devices to malfunction or even become damaged, potentially resulting in injury to human tissue. Comprehensive studies on this subject are limited, leaving many questions about the safety of these devices in environments with high electromagnetic fields.

Through induction, conduction, or radiated energy transfer, DBS systems can be susceptible to unwanted currents. These currents may lead to neurological risks for patients or cause the device to malfunction. While technological advances have been made to shield DBS components, interference remains a practical concern for those living with these implants. Some case reports have documented instances where EMI has caused DBS devices to switch off unexpectedly.

Request

I seek absolute certainty that the proposed high-capacity transmission lines will not affect my stimulator. Can Oncor guarantee that these transmission lines will have no impact on human health?

Conclusion

I urge everyone to continue opposing the Oncor transmission lines in Burnet County. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.