



# **Oncor Connell 345/138-kV Switch and Connell to Rockhound 345-kV Double- Circuit Line Project – ERCOT Independent Review Status Update**

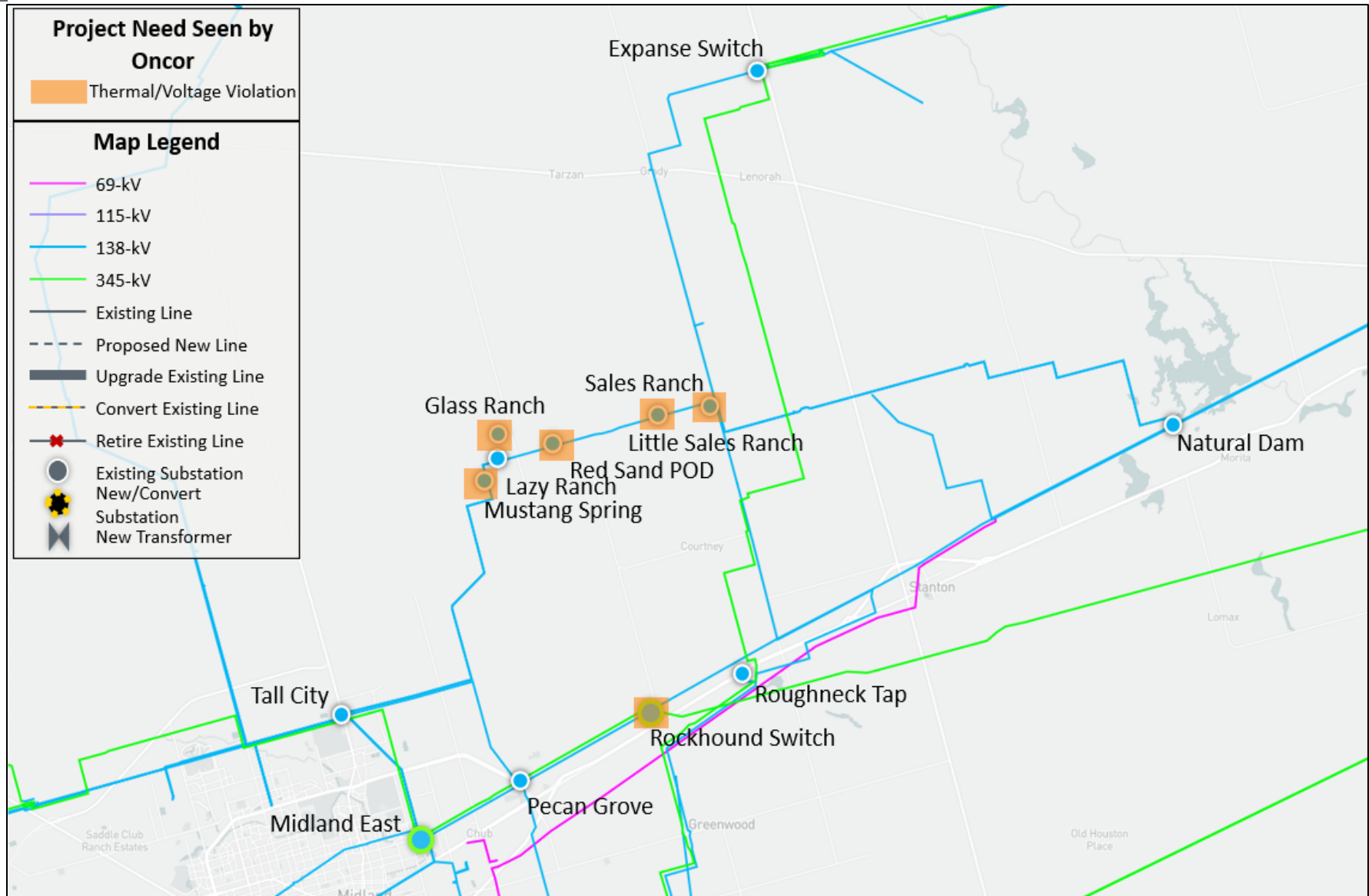
Ben Richardson

RPG Meeting  
September 25, 2025

# Introduction

- Oncor submitted the Connell 345/138-kV Switch and Connell to Rockhound 345-kV Double-Circuit Project for Regional Planning Group (RPG) review in June 2024
  - This Tier 1 project is estimated to cost \$110.62 million and will require a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN)
  - Estimated in-service date (ISD) is December 2026
  - Addresses low voltages and thermal overloads expected as early as summer 2025 as a result of significant load growth primarily in oil and gas industry
- Oncor presented overview August 2024 RPG Meeting:
  - <https://www.ercot.com/calendar/08132024-RPG-Meeting>
- ERCOT provided status updates at previous RPG Meetings:
  - <https://www.ercot.com/calendar/09252024-RPG-Meeting>
  - <https://www.ercot.com/calendar/07292025-RPG-Meeting>
- This project is currently under ERCOT Independent Review (EIR)

# Study Area Map with Violations seen by Oncor



# Study Assumptions – Update (Cont.)

- Load in study area
  - Loads in the WFW Weather Zones have been updated to be consistent with the 2024 RTP Assumptions
  - Oil & Gas loads in the FW Weather Zone were updated based the S&P Global Load Forecast
  - New confirmed loads were added to the study base case
- Study Region focused on transmission elements in the Martin and Midland Counties resulting from confirmed load updates

# Preliminary Results of Reliability Assessment – Need Analysis

- ERCOT conducted steady-state load flow analysis for the study base case according to the NERC TPL-001-5.1 and ERCOT Planning Criteria

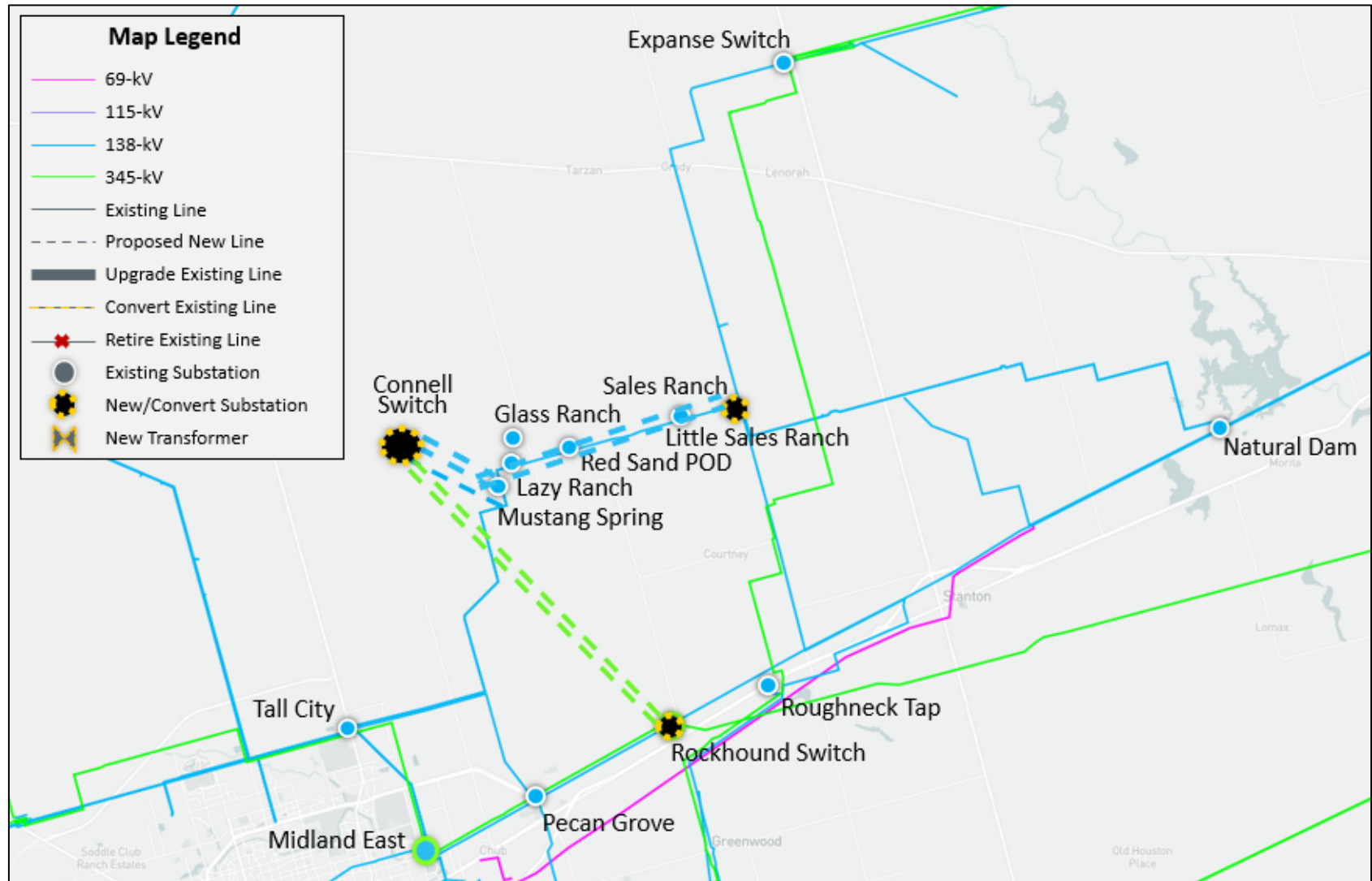
Contingency Category*	# of Unsolved Contingencies	# of Thermal Overloads	# of Bus Voltage Violations
N-0 (P0)	None	None	None
N-1 (P1, P2-1, P7)	None	0	0
G-1+N-1 (P3)*	None	0***	0***
X-1+N-1 (P6-2)**	None	2***	0***

\*G-1 Generator tested: Odessa Ector CC1

\*\*X-1 Transformers tested: Midland East T1, Morgan Creek T3, Rockhound T1

\*\*\* Violations seen in the basecase under P1 events were also seen under G-1 and X-1 events

# Option 1 (Oncor proposed project)



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- Construct a new Connell 345/138-kV switching station approximately 1.0 mile west of existing Oncor Glass Ranch Switch, with two new 600 MVA (nameplate) 345/138-kV transformers, in a 6-breaker 345-kV breaker-and-a-half bus arrangement and a 10-breaker 138-kV breaker-and-a-half bus arrangement, with all 345-kV equipment will be rating at least 2988 MVA and 138-kV at least 765 MVA
- Construct two new Connell to Rockhound 345-kV lines, with conductors rated to at least 2988 MVA, in a new (estimated 13.0 mile) right of way (ROW), installed on new, common double-circuit towers
- Install two new 345-kV circuit breakers at Oncor's existing Rockhound 345-kV Switch, rated at least 2988 MVA
- Install two new 138-kV circuit breakers at Oncor's existing Sale Ranch 138-kV Switch, rated at least 765 MVA
- Disconnect Oncor's existing Tall City to Sale Ranch 138-kV line at structure 1/9

## Option 1 (Oncor proposed project) – cont.

- Rebuild 9.0-mile portion of Oncor's existing single circuit 19.2-mile Sale Ranch to Glass Ranch to Tall City 138-kV line from Sale Ranch to existing 1/9 Structure and replace 9.0-mile portion with two new conductors, rated to at least 614 MVA, installed on new, common double-circuit towers
- Construct two new Connell Switch to 1/9 structure 138-kV lines, with conductors rated to at least 614 MVA, in a new (estimated 0.1-mile) ROW, installed on new, common double-circuit towers configured to create a Connell Switch to Sale Ranch 138-kV double-circuit line
- Construct a new single Connell Switch to 1/9 structure 138-kV line, with conductor rated to at least 614 MVA, in a new (estimated 0.1-mile) ROW, installed in one position on new double-circuit towers leaving one position vacant and configured to create a new Connell Switch to Tall City 138-kV line
- Reconfigure Oncor's existing Red Sand 138-kV POD to be connected to the south circuit on the new Connell to Sale Ranch 138-kV double circuit line



# Option 2



## Option 2

- Add a new 600 MVA (nameplate) 345/138-kV transformers to the existing Rockhound substation

# Option 3



## Option 3

- Install 6 capacitor banks (18.4 MVAR each) to a feasible location near the Expanse 138-kV substation
- Install 6 capacitor banks (18.4 MVAR each) to a feasible location near the Lazy Ranch 138-kV substation

# Deliverables

- Tentative Timelines
  - Status updates at future RPG meetings
  - Final recommendation – Q4 2025

# *Thank you!*



Stakeholder comments also welcomed through:

[Ben.Richardson@ercot.com](mailto:Ben.Richardson@ercot.com)

[Robert.Golen@ercot.com](mailto:Robert.Golen@ercot.com)

# Appendix A – Transmission Projects

- List of transmission projects added to study base case

TPIT No	Project Name	Tier	Project ISD	County
72007	Ranger Camp 345/138/69 kV Switch	Tier 1	In-service	Mitchell
78374	Rockhound 345/138 kV Switch	Tier 3	In-service	Midland Martin
73368	Grey Well Draw – Buffalo 138 kV Second Circuit	Tier 3	In-service	Midland Martin
76705	Prairieland 345/138 kV Switch and 138 kV Line	Tier 2	In-service	Glasscock
80913	Sloan 138 kV Switch	Tier 4	5/1/2025	Midland
71960	Upgrade Grady – Expanse 138 kV Line	Tier 4	12/1/2024	Martin
81223	Range Rider 138 kV Switch	Tier 1	12/1/2025	Mitchell
72009	Cattleman 345/138 kV Switch	Tier 1	12/1/2025	Mitchell
87861	Range Rider – Ranger Camp 138 kV Double-Circuit Line	Tier 1	12/1/2025	Mitchell
81274	Ranger Camp – Cattleman 345 kV Double-Circuit Line	Tier 1	12/1/2025	Mitchell
81270	Construct the new Prong Moss 345 kV switch	Tier 1	12/1/2025	Howard

# Appendix A – Transmission Projects (Cont.)

- List of transmission projects added to study base case

TPIT No	Project Name	Tier	Project ISD	County
81232	Cattleman – Bitter Creek/Champion Creek 345 kV Reroute	Tier 1	12/1/2026	Mitchell
81410	Reiter Switch Synchronous Condenser	Tier 1	1/1/2027	Ector
81415	Tonkawa Switch Synchronous Condenser	Tier 1	1/1/2027	Scurry
80870	Bakersfield Dynamic Reactive Substation Upgrade	Tier 1	5/1/2027	Pecos
81299	Ranger Camp – Prong Moss 345 kV Line Rebuild	Tier 1	5/1/2027	Mitchell Howard
81227	Cattleman – Gasconades 345 kV Reroute	Tier 1	6/1/2027	Mitchell
87633	WETT Buck Canyon Synchronous Condenser	Tier 1	7/1/2027	Borden
87635	WETT Pitchfork Synchronous Condenser	Tier 1	9/1/2027	Dickens
87629	WETT Binturong Synchronous Condenser	Tier 1	11/1/2027	Glasscock
72011	Tonkawa – Ranger Camp 345 kV Line Rebuild	Tier 1	12/1/2027	Mitchell Scurry
81296	Prong Moss – Rockhound 345 kV Line Rebuild	Tier 1	12/1/2027	Midland Howard



# Appendix A – Transmission Projects (Cont.)

- List of transmission projects added to study base case

TPIT No	Project Name	Tier	Project ISD	County
81175	Salt Flat Road 138 kV Switch and Salt Flat Road - Barr Ranch - Reiter 138 kV Second Circuit	Tier 3	12/1/2025	Ector, Midland
81305	Expanse - Vealmoor 138 kV Line Rebuild (Tredway 138-kV Switch and Expanse to Tredway 138-kV 2nd Circuit)	Tier 1	12/1/2025	Borden, Howard, Martin

# Appendix B – Transmission Projects - Updated

- List of transmission projects removed from the study base case

TPIT No	Project Name	County
2021-FW4	Rio Pecos – Rankin – Texon Tap – Atlantic Best Tap – Kemper Tap – Big Lake 69-kV to 138-kV Line Conversion	Pecos, Upton, Reagan
2021-FW19	Morgan Creek SES - Longshore Switch 345-kV Line Upgrade	Mitchell, Howard
2021-FW20	Lamesa – Key Sub – Gail Sub – Willow Valley Switch 138-kV Line Upgrade	Dawson, Borden
2023-FW4	Buzzard Draw Switch – Koch Tap – Vealmoor 138-kV Line Upgrade	Howard
2023-FW9	East Stiles 138-kV Cap Bank Addition	Reagon
2023-FW13	Bulldog – Elbow – Eiland – Einstein – Carterville 138-kV Line Upgrade	Howard, Midland
2022-WFW1	Twin Buttes – Hargrove – Pumpjack – Jerry – Russek Street – Big Lake 138-kV line Upgrade	Tom Green, Irion, Reagan

# Appendix C – Generation Projects

- List of generation projects added to study base case

GINR	Project Name	Fuel	Project COD	Capacity (~MW)	County
None	None	None	None	None	None