



News Release

Public Affairs Office
PO Box 1306
Albuquerque, NM 87103
505/248-6911
505/248-6915 (Fax)

Southwest Region (Arizona • New Mexico • Oklahoma • Texas) www.fws.gov/southwest/

For Immediate Release

Contacts: Christina Williams, 512-490-0057 ext. 235
Lesli Gray, 972-569-8588

Service Hosts Three Public Hearings to Obtain Comments on the Oncor Draft Habitat Conservation Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), in cooperation with Oncor Electric Delivery Company, LLC (Oncor), will conduct three Public Hearings to obtain comments on Oncor's draft Habitat Conservation Plan (dHCP) and the draft Environmental Impact Statement (dEIS).

On July 15, 2011, the Service announced in the *Federal Register* the Notice of Availability of the draft Environmental Impact Statement, and an incidental take permit application for Oncor that includes a draft Habitat Conservation Plan. The dHCP and dEIS present an evaluation of potential impacts to the proposed issuance of an Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 10(a)(1)(B) Permit to Oncor for incidental "take" of eleven federally -listed species from activities associated with maintenance and repair of existing facilities and installation and operation of new facilities within Oncor's service area in north Texas.

The Public Hearings are scheduled for 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at each location. The dates and locations are:

Tuesday, August 23

Ruthe Jackson Center
Ballroom
3113 S. Carrier Pkwy.
Grand Prairie, TX 75052

Wednesday, August 24

Texas State Technical College
Center Seminar Room
300 Homer K. Taylor Drive
Sweetwater, TX 79556

Thursday, August 25

Bellmead Civic Center
Senior Room
3900 Parrish Street
Waco, TX 76705

Public Hearings will consist of an Open House/Exhibit Review from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. that will provide an opportunity to view the dHCP, dEIS, maps, and exhibits and to learn more about the proposed action, permit area, and species covered. A formal presentation of the proposed action and summary of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process will be given from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The Hearing will be conducted from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. during which citizens are invited to provide written or oral comments in an informal, open-house setting.

Oncor's proposed incidental take includes 100 counties of Oncor's service area, excluding Williamson and Travis counties, with the addition of Runnels County. Additional Public Hearings will be considered upon request. All requests for a Public Hearing must be submitted in writing and received by Wednesday, August 31, 2011. Requests should be sent to the following address: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oncor HCP/EIS Public Hearing Request, Attention: Christina Williams, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfws, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwshq, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq>.

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/>