



# Village of Salado

301 N. Stagecoach Rd., P.O. Box 219, Salado, Texas, 76571

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Michael Coggin, Mayor - Rodney Bell, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Aldermen - Amber Dankert, John Cole, Paul Cox, Jason Howard  
Don Ferguson, Village Administrator

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May 3, 2021

Allen Nye  
Chief Executive and Director  
Oncor  
1616 Woodall Rodgers Freeway  
Dallas, TX 75202

Dear Mr. Nye,

Residents of Salado and its extraterritorial jurisdiction experienced widespread power outages this past February because of *Winter Storm Uri*. Many were forced to endure dangerous weather conditions without electricity for almost a week, while others were simultaneously faced with not only the loss of power, but also the disruption of water and other critical utility services.

This dangerous storm identified the inability of the State's existing power grid to withstand rare winter conditions. Efforts are underway at the State level to make sure Texans do not have to endure such a devastating "nightmare" again.

In addition to the statewide issues noted above, the winter storm brought into focus the deteriorating condition of Oncor's infrastructure in Salado.

Rusted transformers and leaning poles are visible throughout the community. In many neighborhoods, power lines are hidden by overgrown trees. In those limited areas where preventive tree trimming has occurred, power lines show signs of damage from the constant rubbing of trees and they remain unrepaired.

Residents report repeated issues with transformers and power lines on their properties. There have also been repeated issues with an unbalanced three-phase power feed at the Village of Salado's Wastewater Treatment Plant putting operation of the plant at risk.

It is not just residents and elected officials expressing concerns about the deteriorating condition of the Oncor power grid in Salado.

Out-of-state crews dispatched to assist Oncor with restoration of power in Salado also voiced concerns regarding the apparent lack of Oncor infrastructure maintenance. Crews found themselves having to work around power lines damaged prior to the storm, which

extended the "nightmare" for many residents who were without power and facing dangerously cold temperatures.

Very few improvements have been made to Oncor's power grid in Salado in recent years. With this lack of reinvestment into the local system, and the system's deteriorating condition, I am sure you understand the Village of Salado's growing concern regarding the integrity of the local power grid and its future reliability, especially considering the large number of senior citizens in Salado who rely on power for their medical devices.

We find ourselves in a situation that puts profits first for utilities such as Oncor and reliability second. This is unacceptable. It is time to put reliability first again.

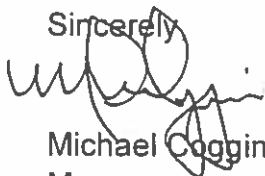
In granting a franchise for Oncor to operate in our community, the Village of Salado has entrusted your company to provide one of the most life-critical services to its residents and businesses. To do so, it is imperative that the infrastructure used to deliver power to the customer be improved and maintained on a regular basis, not just when problems occur.

Accordingly, please allow this letter to serve as a formal request that Oncor undertake a comprehensive review of the local power grid in the Village of Salado to evaluate its ability to provide power effectively and reliably to Salado residents. Upon completion of your review, I would ask that you please present a summary of your findings to the Village of Salado Board of Aldermen.

The Village of Salado values its long-standing relationship with Oncor and recognizes Oncor is committed to serving the residents of Salado as their power provider. Please know the Village of Salado is prepared to assist Oncor in any way possible to facilitate any maintenance and/or improvements needed to ensure the reliability of Oncor's power grid in Salado.

Thank you in advance for your response to this request. Please feel free to contact me at 254.541.3311 or Village Administrator Don Ferguson at 254.947.5060.

Sincerely



Michael Coggin  
Mayor

CC: Hon. Brad Buckley, State Representative  
Jim Greer, Oncor Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer