



## Future water woes?

### New water project taking water out of the Panhandle

By [Brian Wilkerson](#)

Posted: Thursday, November 15, 2007 at 11:08 a.m.

Record low water levels in the Panhandle continue to cause concern for area officials especially when much of the water saved up in the Ogallala Aquifer will be sent out of the Panhandle in the future. T-Boone Pickens' plan to build a pipeline from Roberts County to the Dallas-Fort Worth area has raised many questions. With higher temperatures, less rain, and lower water levels, creating a pipeline to funnel water out of the Panhandle to other cities seems questionable at best. Senator Kel Seliger says the Ogallala Aquifer is a valuable resource that we should ration appropriately.

"Is there a single use that would risk turning parts of the Panhandle into a desert? And if there are they have to be examined very very carefully. But there's a lot of concern all over this part of the Senatorial District and this part of the State."

We also spoke with the General Manager of the Panhandle Water District who said that no matter if the project is sponsored by you, me or T-Boone Pickens, everybody must follow the same rules and regulations which is why we shouldn't over react just yet.

"The one thing you need to understand is we've got rules in place today that if they start producing and we see over depletion in one area, then we automatically go to cutting them and everybody else back in that particular area until we get that depletion back under control."

It seems for now we shouldn't worry and if a problem is uncovered in the future, the proper regulations should be put into action.

"That's what's being considered now in discussions by Groundwater Conservation Districts, Groundwater Management areas and clearly if the issues are of great importance and need to be resolved in the next term, Governor can always call a special session of the Legislature to deal with water issues," said Senator Seliger.

#### *FAIR USE NOTICE*

*This document contains copyrighted material whose use has not been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. The Texas Living Waters Project, which is a nonprofit undertaking, is making this article available in our efforts to promote comprehensive water planning in Texas. We believe that this constitutes a "fair use" of the copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law. If you wish to use this copyrighted material for purposes of your own that go beyond "fair use", you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.*