

Kenneth W. Anderson, Jr.
Commissioner



Public Utility Commission of Texas

March 31, 2010

The Honorable Mark Stroehrer
101 W. Main, Unit #9
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Dear Judge Stroehrer:

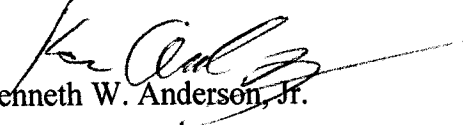
Thank you for your recent letter regarding LCRA's proposed CREZ transmission line certificate for convenience and necessity (CCN). Because much of the renewable energy transmission effort involves or will involve a contested case, I will file your letter in the appropriate docket (Docket No. 37448), together with my response.

Determining which route to use when granting a CCN for high capacity transmission lines is governed by both statute and Commission rules. The Commission is charged with choosing the ultimate route. Although the utility, in this case LCRA, will recommend a preferred route and numerous alternative routes.

The Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA Section 37.056) sets out some of the criteria used by the Commission in deciding where to site the transmission route. Those factors include, among other things, community values, recreational and park areas, historical and aesthetic values, environmental integrity, and the effect of granting the CCN on the state's ability to meet its renewable energy goals. Our rules also list routing criteria, such as whether the proposed routes use existing compatible rights-of-way, whether the routes parallel property lines or other natural or cultural features, and whether the routes conform to the policy of prudent avoidance. To that end, the Commission will also consider whether monopoles, which use a narrower right-of-way, should be used in residential and highly-populated areas.

The Commission will be considering this case at the April 15, 2010 open meeting. I appreciate you bringing your concerns to the attention of the Commission. One of the hardest decisions made by the Commission concerns the routing of transmission lines. The Commission faces many challenges in deciding this case and others resulting from the competitive renewable energy zones transmission plan.

Sincerely,


Kenneth W. Anderson, Jr.



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COUNTY OF GILLESPIE

COMMISSIONERS:

MARK STROEHER
County Judge



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Precinct No. 1

CALVIN RANSLEBEN
Precinct No. 3

MARY LYNN RUSCHE
County Clerk

W.A. (BILLY) ROEDER
Precinct No. 2

DONNIE SCHUCH
Precinct No. 4

FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS 78624
101 W. Main, Unit #9
830-997-7502
Fax: 830-992-2608

March 24, 2010

Chairman Smitherman
Commissioner Anderson
Commissioner Nelson
Public Utility Commission of Texas
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, Texas 78711

RE: Project #37448

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

We appreciate that the attached March 1, 2010 letter from the Gillespie County Commissioners Court to the Public Utility Commission was posted on the PUC website under Docket 37049. Consistent with the last paragraph of the letter, we ask that it also be posted under Docket 37448.

As is indicated, we strongly urge the use of monopoles rather than lattice structures for any line construction in Gillespie County. This includes the Gillespie to Newton line. Use of monopoles will be a small price to pay compared to the permanent scarring and huge negative impact that will occur if the lines are built in our beautiful, pristine area of the Texas Hill Country.

Sincerely,

Mark Stroehrer
County Judge

3/29/10
/r

COUNTY OF GILLESPIE

MARK STROEHER
County Judge

MARY LYNN RUSCHE
County Clerk



COMMISSIONERS:

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Precinct No. 1

CALVIN RANSLEBEN
Precinct No. 3

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Precinct No. 2

DONNIE SCHUCH
Precinct No. 4

FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS 78624
101 W. Main, Unit #9
830-997-7502
Fax: 830-992-2608
March 1, 2010


Public Utilities Commission of Texas
Attn.: Central Records
P. O. Box 13326
Austin, Texas 78711-3326


Gentlemen: (Re: Project No. 37049)

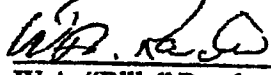
In our opinion, three (3) large transmission lines which connect in the center of Gillespie County, one of the most scenic areas in Texas, is unacceptable and should **NOT** be considered. Not only will the scenery of our county be severely damaged, the value of our real estate will plummet. In fact, a number of affected properties will lose a substantial amount of their value and in turn, much of the owner's lifesavings used for their real estate investments.

Due to a number of legitimate reasons, we ask the PUC to re-evaluate the CREZ project as it relates to Gillespie County and by-pass us completely. We are confident there are a number of alternate routes outside of our county that would welcome the CREZ project. However, if the McCamey D to Kendall transmission line has to be built and must go through our county, we feel it should follow the proposed Interstate 10 corridor.

Unfortunately, the Gillespie to Newton line, which could have the initial negative impact to our county, will undoubtedly, if built, scar that portion of our beautiful county. However, to decrease the visual impact, we strongly urge the use of monopoles rather than lattice structure for any line construction. After the lines are built, it is too late and they will be with us forever. Thank you.


Mark Stroehrer - County Judge


Curtis Cameron - Commissioner, Pct. 1


W.A. "Billy" Roeder - Commissioner, Pct. 2


Calvin Ransleben - Commissioner, Pct. 3


Donnie Schuch - Commissioner, Pct. 4

cc: Governor Rick Perry
Representative Doug Miller
Representative Harvey Hilderbran
Senator Troy Fraser
Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA)

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