

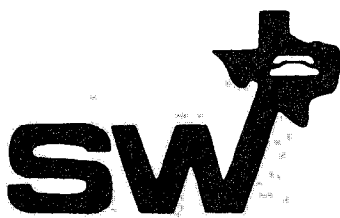


Control Number: 32182



Item Number: 167

Addendum StartPage: 0



SOUTHWEST TEXAS TELEPHONE COMPANY  
Founded 1898

SOUTHWEST TEXAS  
TELEPHONE COMPANY

P.O. BOX 128

ROCKSPRINGS, TEXAS 78880

Telephone (830) 683-2111 • FAX (830) 683-4190

October 20, 2008

Filing Clerk  
Public Utility Commission of Texas  
1701 North Congress Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78701

RE: Project No. 32182 – PUC Investigation of Methods to Improve Electric and Telecommunications Infrastructure to Minimize Long Term Outages and Restoration Costs Associated with Gulf Coast Hurricanes

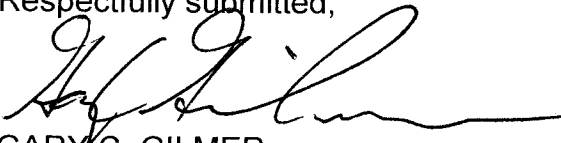
Dear Filing Clerk:

On behalf of Southwest Texas Telephone Company ("SWT" or "the Company"), I am filing an original and ten (10) copies of this response to the PUC Staff's Information Request in the above referenced Project. The Staff has requested updated information concerning; (1) SWT's on-going vegetation management program for overhead facilities and, (2) the Company's on-going ground based inspection program for structural integrity for overhead facilities.

Almost all of SWT's outside plant infrastructure consists of direct buried and underground facilities. Its minimal amount of aerial outside plant consists of a relatively small number of customer drops and small portions of rural lines that are placed on poles to traverse obstacles such as streams, roads, or bluffs. The Company's outside plant personnel are responsible for reporting any overgrown vegetation, obstructions or hazardous conditions to management to insure those conditions are investigated and resolved. However, in most cases, SWT personnel are able to employ tree trimming tools carried in their vehicles to trim any overgrowth that might interfere with any aerial distribution cables or drops.

If you need any additional information, please contact Steve Evans, General Manager, at 830-683-2111 or [steve@swtexas.com](mailto:steve@swtexas.com).

Respectfully submitted,

  
GARY C. GILMER  
President