



Control Number: 37049



Item Number: 270

Addendum StartPage: 0



Public Utility Commission of Texas

March 18, 2010

Danny M. and Florence L. Smith
598 Brandenberger Rd.
Mason, Texas 76856-6501

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Smith:

Thank you for your letters raising your concerns about the proposed LCRA transmission line. Because the application for a CCN by the LCRA to build transmission lines will be filed here at the Commission, I have filed a copy of your letter and my response in Project No. 37049.

LCRA has developed several proposed routes for the transmission line through the Hill Country; however, LCRA has not yet filed an application with the Commission, so the Commission has not made a decision on which route will be used. When the application is filed, the Commission, as required by statute, will consider various factors in its evaluation of the proposed routes, such as the community, historical, and aesthetic values and the environmental integrity associated with the transmission line. Commission rules also include other factors for consideration, such as whether the proposed routes utilize or parallel existing compatible rights-of-way, property lines or other features, and whether the routes conform to the policy of prudent avoidance. The Commission can also evaluate different ways to construct the lines, such as the use of monopole structures or lattice structures, and will weigh the costs versus the benefits of different options in its decision.

I understand that this process can be difficult and emotional for landowners. That is why it is important that we follow the criteria listed in both statute and Commission rule. When making its decision, the Commission will evaluate the proposed routes based on these factors, and attempt to minimize the impact of the line on landowners and the cost of the line to ratepayers.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry T. Smitherman".

Barry T. Smitherman



270

RECEIVED

MAR 11, 2010

598 Brandenberger Rd Chairman's Office
Mason, TX 76856-6501
March 6, 2010

Mr. Barry Smitherman
Chairman Texas PUC
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, TX 78711-3326

Dear Mr. Smitherman,

I am writing to strongly oppose the erection of the high transmission lines through Mason County. I will point out lots of reasons why they should not come through our part of the beautiful Hill Country.

Mason County is a very historical county, i.e., it was founded by the famous colonizer John O. Meusebach in 1847. His home and grave are in Loyal Valley within the county. Mason became the site of a new fort to protect settlers from Indian depredations in 1851. Fort Mason served as a temporary home for such notable officers as Robert E. Lee and Albert Sidney Johnston. The fort was a very important part in fulfilling its purpose which helped in establishing the county.

The largest topaz stone was found in Mason County, one of the few places where this gem is found in Texas. We also have the Eckert James River Bat Cave, one of the world's largest Mexican free-tailed bat colonies. It is also a nursery for millions of bats ensuring continuance of the colony, thereby improving our environment. The county is rich in recreational activities such as white tail deer hunting, fishing in the rivers and creeks, kayaking in the Llano River, canoeing, hiking, topaz hunting, tennis playing & competitions, a 9-hole golf course, camping, and the Odeon Theater, one of the oldest theaters in the state showing movies every weekend.

Mason County boasts an abundance of wildlife, making it a paradise for hunters, birders, photographers and nature enthusiasts. In the spring people drive through our countryside and on the highways viewing our beautiful state flower, the bluebonnet.

I am the fourth generation to occupy the land which I inherited from my family. My great grandfather, Gottlieb Brandenberger, who immigrated from Switzerland purchased a large amount of acreage in 1856. Ranching has been in my family all these years and my husband and I are continuing this tradition. Ranching is the number one industry in Mason County. Routing the transmission lines through the ranch land will cause adverse effect on the cattle operation.

So you can easily realize the erection of the LCRA transmission lines would greatly impact the beautiful rolling hills landscape, the environment, the wildlife and property values. I would greatly appreciate it if you would take this all into consideration and re-route the transmission lines. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Florence L. Smith".

Florence L. Smith

cc: Ms. Sara Morgenroth
LCRA
P.O. Box 220
Austin TX 78767-0220

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2010

598 Brandenberger Road
Mason, TX 76856-6501
March 7, 2010

Chairman's Office

Mr. Barry Smitherman
Chairman Texas PUC
P.O. Box 13326
Austin TX 78711-3326

Dear Mr. Smitherman,

I understand plans are being made to route some very big and high transmission lines across Mason County. I am going to point out several reasons why this plan is not good.

Mason County is one of the most historical counties in the state. It was founded by John O. Meusebach, the famous colonizer, in 1847. He had a home in Loyal Valley (within the county) and is buried there. In 1851 Mason was the site of a new fort to protect the people that Mr. Meusebach was bringing to settle the land. The settlers were being attacked by the Indians. Fort Mason served as a temporary home for such notable officers as Robert E. Lee and Albert Sidney Johnston.

The county is rich in a variety of recreational activities: white tail deer hunting, fishing, kayaking in the Llano River, canoeing, hiking, tennis playing & competitions, a 9-hole golf course, and camping. Another pastime is hunting for topaz. The largest topaz stone was found in Mason County, one of the few places in Texas where it has been located. The Eckert James River Bat Cave is one of the world's largest Mexican free-tailed bat colonies. The cave is also home to a nursery for millions of bats which ensures the increase in their population. The Odeon Theater is one of the oldest continually running theaters in Texas showing the latest movies every weekend.

Mason County has plenty of wildlife, making it a paradise for hunters, birders, photographers and nature enthusiasts. In the spring people travel on the highways and in the countryside to view our beautiful state flower, the bluebonnet.

Ranching is the number one industry in Mason County. I am raising cattle on the same land that my wife's family raised their prize Herefords. I think it is important to continue that tradition. If the transmission lines went across the county it would cause adverse effect on the ranching business.

The beautiful rolling hills landscape, the environment, the wildlife and the property values would be greatly impacted if the LCRA transmission lines were erected through Mason County. Please take all the reasons I've stated into consideration and re-route the transmission lines. Thank you so much.

Sincerely



DANNY M. SMITH

cc: Ms. Sara Morgenroth
LCRA
P.O. Box 220
Austin TX 78767-0220