



Control Number: 37049



Item Number: 296

Addendum StartPage: 0



Public Utility Commission of Texas

April 5, 2010

Christopher Dyer
1132 Post Hill
PO Box 1457
Mason, TX 76856

RECEIVED
10 APR - 7 PM 3:14
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
FILING CLERK

Dear Mr. Dyer:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns with the proposed transmission line through Mason County. Because this matter will be addressed in a contested case proceeding at the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission), I will file a copy of your letter and my response to you in Docket No. 37049 so that all interested parties will have the benefit of your comments.

The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) is the entity responsible for developing the routes and filing an application for this transmission line. While LCRA has developed several proposed routes, they have not yet filed an application for the line with the Commission. 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 avoid passing over habitable structures. 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. 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 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



296

RECEIVED

MAR 29, 2010

Chairman's Office Christopher Dyer
1132 Post Hill
P.O. Box 1457
Mason, TX 76856

March 18, 2010

To: Mr. Barry T. Smitherman
Chairman, Public Utilities Commission of Texas
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, TX 78711-3326

Re: Docket Number 37049


Dear Mr. Smitherman:

As a resident of Mason County I am deeply disturbed by the PUC/LCRA proposal to route the new CREZ powerline through Mason County. The 180 foot tall lattice towers and the 200 foot cleared right of way will be a permanent scar on one of the most beautiful parts of Texas. They will also be placed directly behind our home in full view.

Mason County derives much of its income from recreational use of ranch and river properties, and tourism supports many of our local businesses. The looming lattice power line towers will mar much of the charm which makes Mason a popular tourist destination. The clear cutting of the right of way will adversely affect wildlife and livestock operations.

Other routes have been proposed by the LCRA and several public officials. These alternatives are less destructive to the landscape and more cost effective for LCRA. The 277/IH-10 route is much less disruptive to the environment than the Mason plan and is also acceptable to many landowners in Kimble County. All of us here in Mason County urge you and the Commission to choose one of these alternate routes.

Sincerely,


USMC/RETIRED