



Control Number: 37049



Item Number: 80

Addendum StartPage: 0

September 14, 2009

Chairman Barry T. Smitherman  
Commissioner Donna Nelson  
Commissioner Kenneth Anderson  
Public Utility Commission of Texas  
P.O. Box 13326  
Austin, Texas 78711-3326

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
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RE: Docket 37049/McCamey D to Kendall

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to you on behalf of Clear View Alliance, a group of concerned landowners along the route of LCRA's proposed transmission line (McCamey D to Kendall). We wish to bring to your attention the fact that LCRA refuses to discuss the line with us, and, apparently, with other interested stakeholders. All lines of communication have been shut down and various sources within LCRA have said that LCRA staff is no longer allowed to discuss this proposed CREZ line with affected landowners. Our attorneys, likewise, have been told that LCRA counsel will not meet with them to discuss the line and the upcoming contested case. This development is especially troubling given the prior advice to commentators that "you remain in contact with LCRA to receive the latest information on their proposal."<sup>1</sup>

It is our belief that input from stakeholders is essential prior to filing given the expedited time frame that the Legislature has imposed. Our ability to communicate and have our concerns considered by LCRA prior to the selection of the route for this CREZ line is imperative. This is particularly important in this case given that the LCRA study area for this line is insufficient to allow LCRA and the PUCT to consider routes that comport with LCRA's own transmission line routing criteria listed on its website:

- 1) To attempt to run new transmission lines along existing transmission ROW when feasible, and
- 2) To attempt to run new transmission lines along roadways, railroads, and some other forms of existing ROWs.

In our case, the two most obvious alternatives that comply with these criteria lie outside the current LCRA study area. For example, it may be possible to parallel an existing 138 kV transmission line for all but approximately 30 miles. In the alternative, it may be possible to parallel an existing 138KV and then Interstate 10 for the remainder of the way. The fact that LCRA is not even considering the relative merits of these alternatives is especially troubling given the Commission's direction to LCRA, in a July 30, 2009 open meeting, "to consider as many routes as possible."<sup>2</sup> LCRA is clearly not following this direction.

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<sup>1</sup> Chairman Smitherman Letter of June 1, 2009 to Mr. Robert W. Chase; Chairman Smitherman Letter of June 5, 2009 to Ms. Kelli McDonald.

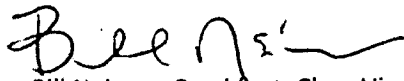
<sup>2</sup> Chairman Smitherman Letter of August 4, 2009 to K. Vivian Saiz, City Secretary, City of Junction.

We understand that wind energy must be transmitted and that this line will be built. But we believe that it should be sited with extreme care and precision. The Hill Country is every Texan's backyard and there will be no second chances for our water, our wildlife and our rapidly disappearing open spaces. In addition, given the high cost of the easements recently purchased in the region by Next Era Energy for transmission ROW, the suggested alternatives could save ROW costs and help lessen the numbers of disgruntled landowners.

As a result, we respectfully urge the Commission to consider this matter at its next open meeting and direct the LCRA to widen its study area in order to consider the two alternatives depicted on the attached map. We would also respectfully request that the Commission direct the LCRA to engage us, and other affected parties, in discussions regarding this line before the case is filed with the Commission. Unless these alternative routes are included in LCRA's pre-filing analysis, the Commission will never have the option of considering what, in the end, could be the best routing option.

Thank you for your consideration and your tireless efforts on the behalf of Texas.

Sincerely,

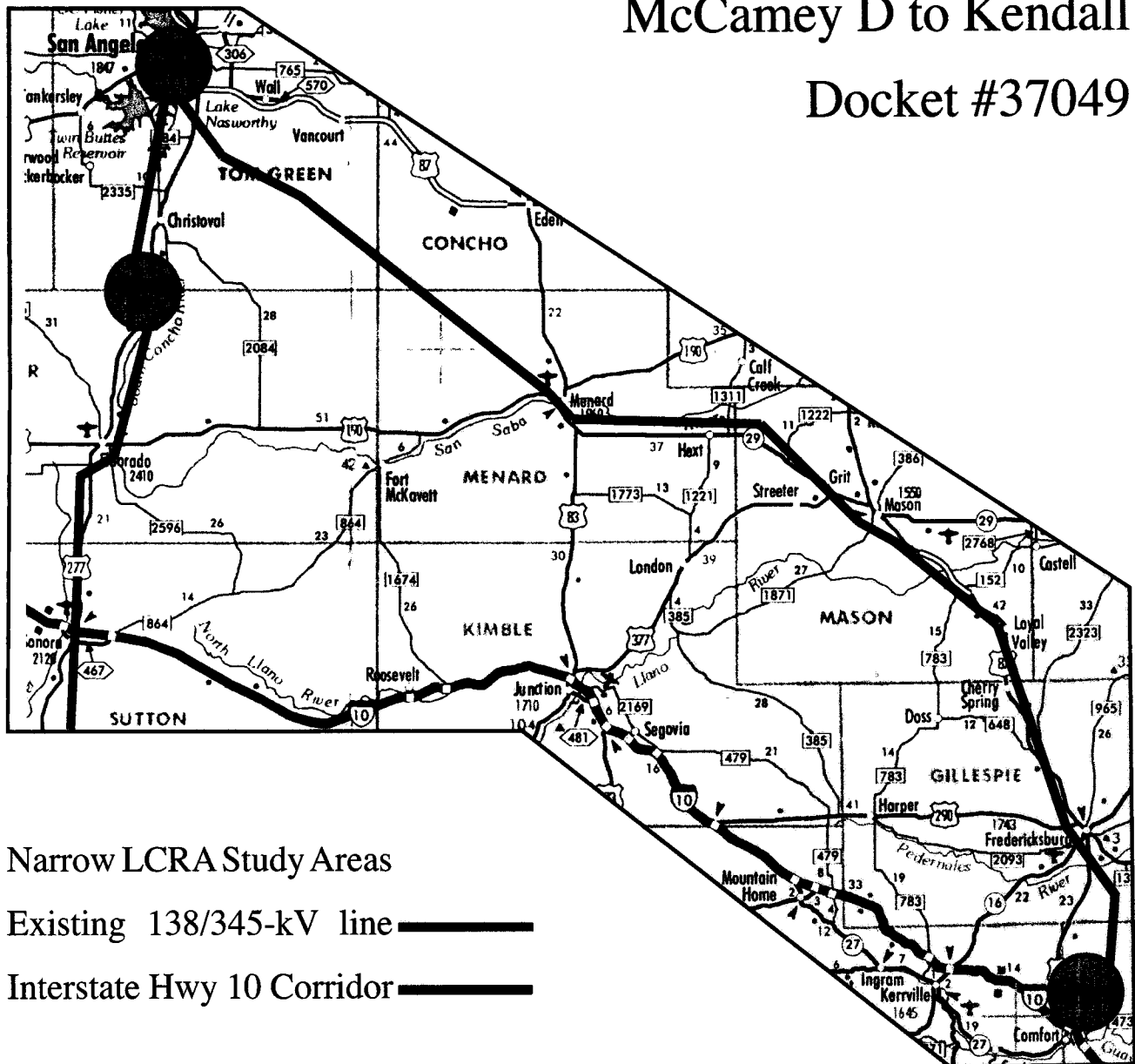
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Neiman", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bill Neiman, President, Clear View Alliance

# EXPANSION OF CURRENT STUDY AREA

McCamey D to Kendall

Docket #37049



Narrow LCRA Study Areas

Existing 138/345-kV line —————

Interstate Hwy 10 Corridor —————

## Map Sources:

- TXDOT Official State Hwy Map
- ERCOT Transmission Map
- FAA San Antonio Aeronautical Sectional Chart
- PBSJ / LCRA Study Area Twin Buttes to Kendall Map
- PBSJ / LCRA Study Area Kendall to Newton Map

Prepared by Clear View Alliance  
September 10, 2009

Exhibit A