



Control Number: 37448



Item Number: 252

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Comments in Docket No. 37448

If you want to be a PROTESTOR only, please complete this form. Although public comments are not treated as evidence, they help inform the PUC and its staff of the public concerns and identify issues to be explored. The PUC welcomes such participation in its proceedings.

Mail this completed form and 10 copies to:

Public Utility Commission of Texas
Central Records
Attn: Filing Clerk
1701 N. Congress Ave.
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, TX 78711-3326

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
FILING CLERK

First Name: Thomas Bruce & Patsy W. Last Name: Nichols
Phone Number: 512-536-4532 Fax Number: 512-536-4598 (ATTN: Patsy Nichols)
Address, City, State: 3301 River Road, Austin, TX 78703-1028

I am NOT requesting to intervene in this proceeding. As a PROTESTOR, I understand the following:

- I am NOT a party to this case;
- My comments are not considered evidence in this case; and
- I have no further obligation to participate in the proceeding.

Please check one of the following:

- ☐ I own property with a habitable structure located near one or more of the utility's proposed routes for a transmission line.
- ☒ One or more of the utility's proposed routes would cross my property.
- ☐ Other. Please describe and provide comments. You may attach a separate page, if necessary. _____

Please see attached page.

Signature of person submitting comments:

Thomas Bruce Nichols
Patsy W. Nichols

Date: 12/3/09

Thomas Bruce and Patsy W. Nichols own the following land parcel in Gillespie County, Texas:

Owner ID: 290313
Property ID: 61623
Abstract A0043, J.C. Burke #187
76.33 Acres

Our land parcel has two existing LCRA high-voltage electrical transmission easements which traverse the property. These two easements are contiguous to each other and are described as follows:

1. LCRA Circuit T-130, 69-kilovolt. August Bruns to Lower Colorado River Authority, 100 ft. wide easement granted on April 6, 1954. Wooden H-frame poles.
2. LCRA Circuit T-191, 138-kilovolt double circuit. Milda Gruns Grosenbacher to Lower Colorado River Authority. 75-ft. wide easement granted on March 15, 1974. Steel Lattice Towers.

LCRA notified us on October 28, 2009 of its intent to select the route and to construct a double circuit capable 345-kilovolt line. The letter identifies the route including link C 5 as the preferred route.

Mr. Dennis Palafox, Senior Regulatory Case Manager, Regulatory Affairs, LCRA, sent us an e-mail on November 4, 2009 which contains link C 5 on an aerial photo of our land parcel. Mr. Palafox also stated in the e-mail that if segment C 5 is included in the final route approved by the PUC, the existing wooden H-frame transmission line (circuit T-130, 69 kilovolt) on our property would be replaced by the new double circuit 345 kilovolt line and its pole structures. He further states that the other existing 138-kilovolt circuit (T-191) with its steel lattice structures would remain. And finally, Mr. Palafox states that LCRA may need additional right-of-way for the new 345-kilovolt lines.

We have researched 345-kilovolt transmission lines and determined that the rights-of-way range from 150 feet to 200 feet in width.

Given the configurations of the two existing easements on our property, there is one predictable direction for width expansion of the existing 100 ft., 69-kilovolt circuit T-130 easement. Expansion in width by any amount will encroach into a grove of large-diameter, tightly spaced live oak trees. Adding incremental easement width of 50 to 100 feet will require removal of many (to be determined) trees in a prime location.

Thomas B. and Patsy W. Nichols protest this anticipated action as follows:

1. We protest the expansion of right-of-way and the impact on our grove of live oak trees.
2. We protest the construction of steel lattice transmission towers with heights in excess of 100 feet adjacent to the existing steel lattice towers. We strongly suggest the use of monopole towers to reduce the visual issues of steel lattice towers.

Please contact us to discuss these issues and to work with us to mitigate the damages outlined above.