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SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-10-1097

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APPLICATION OF LCRA	§	PUBLIC UTILITY
TRANSMISSION SERVICES CORPORATION	§	COMMISSION
TO AMEND ITS CERTIFICATE OF	§	
CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR	§	
THE GILLESPIE TO NEWTON 345-kv	§	
CREZ TRANSMISSION LINE IN	§	
GILLESPIE, LLANO, SAN SABA,	§	
BURNET, AND LAMPASSAS COUNTIES,	§	
TEXAS	§	OF TEXAS

INTERVENORS DAVID THOMPSON RESPONSES TO COMMISSION STAFF'S FIRST REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

David Thompson , pursuant to Public Utility Commission Procedural Rules 22.144, file these responses to the PUC Staff's first requests for information. The following answers may be treated by all parties as if the answers were filed under oath.

BA-1-1. Do you have a habitable structure (According to Subst. Rule 25.101, a habitable structure is a structure that is normally inhabited by humans or intended to be inhabited by humans on a daily or regular basis.) near one or more of the links of the proposed transmission line? If so, describe the structure, identify the link(s) and estimate how far the proposed line is from the habitable structure?

Answer: While it is difficult to discern from the maps and aerial photographs available from the LCRA, I believe that habitable structures are located near the C8 links of the proposed transmission lines. The primary residence is a 4 bedroom 2 bath home built around 1950 and significant improvements have been made to the home. Significant other improvements are in

close proximity to the home. I also maintain a two room one bath home which is rented each year. I maintain a cattle barn and other facilities for the lease of cattle. Link C8 is in close proximity to the homes and other structures. At this time, it is unknown how far the proposed Link C-8 is from the habitable structures.

BA-1-2. Will one or more of the links of the proposed transmission lines cross your property? If so, identify the links and any features like a property line, pipeline, power line or road that the proposed transmission line will follow through your property.

Answer: Yes. Link C-8 of alternative route GN-4 crosses our property. Link C8 does not follow a property line. Link C8 does not follow a pipeline. There is no pipeline on my property. Link C8 does not follow a power line on my property. Link C8 does not follow a road.

BA-1-3. Have you discussed any modifications to the proposed transmission line route on your property with a representative of LCRA TSC? If so, what were the modifications to the proposed route that you suggested and what was the response of LCRA TSC?

Answer: No

BA-1-4. What are your specific concerns about the proposed transmission line?

Answer: I am concerned about the impact of the high power transmission lines on the rental use of the property. Studies on the potential danger from power lines may have an impact on how people feel and behave if they believe that family members will be exposed the transmission lines. I do not believe individuals will continue to rent the two bedroom one bath house if dominated by the transmission line.

I further believe the beauty of the area most scenic portions of the property, including Hog Creek, dense native stands of ancient live oaks and broad leaf oaks and granite and quartz outcroppings and pristine creek beds (Hog Creek) will be destroyed by the leveling of the path to construct the power poles and result in lost business due to the destruction of the pristine Hill Country environment. The property is home to an abundance of native wildlife including whitetail deer, Rio Grande Turkey, coyotes, grey fox, audad, bobcats, and numerous species of birds including hawks, owls, migratory white tail doves, and sightings of falcons (a

protected bird) . The construction of the proposed transmission lines in the critical habitat of these animals will be devastated.

In addition, the unique out-cropping of eclogite in the creek bottoms close to the proposed C8 line would be in danger of being damaged. This garnet amphibolite has only been identified in seven (7) locations in the Hill Country. The Oxford location has a unique chemical composition and metamorphic history among the locations. The presence of eclogite indicates high-pressure metamorphism similar to what is found off the coasts of Japan and South America. The garnets found in this eclogite outcropping indicates Precambrian Himalayan scale mountain range in the Hill County. Where the continental collision zones in the Post-Precambrian period are common, the eclogite found in the Oxford location from the Precambrian (the first four (4) billion years of Earth's history) period is extremely rare. These rocks are needed to help settle an on-going debate if the plate tectonics behaved fundamentally different in the Precambrian period of Earth's history.

Located in the west back part of the property, there are thousands of feet of a preserved hand built rock wall fence built by our ancestors back in the 1800s. The rock wall fence will be lost by the construction of the transmission line. Destroying some of Texas history and the potential lost of artifacts along the rock wall fence.

I have concerns if the proposed lines cross the over the water wells and resulting in the potential pollution and damage to the only source of water for the property.

I have concerns about the transmission line impact on the rest of the operations of the property and the property in general.

The gate fence egress and regress that LCRA will add at the fence line will face the Texas State Highway 16. The access to the property during the construction and the potential careless access to the property may result in release of cattle on to highway 16. If the cattle were released due to construction workers or transmission line workers and result in a deadly car or motorcycle accident on the highway 16, the liability for the accident would create a significant financial and emotional hardship.

Property has been in the family over 125 years. Stories past down from one generation to another talk of horse drawn wagons passing through our property and stopping at the one of the water well dating back to the 1800s. An original road bridge remains on the property dating back before the current highway 16 was built. Texas artifacts have been found; therefore un-assessed artifacts from early settlers and Indians and potential archeological site may exist.

There is a public interest that the proposed Link C8 will disrupt and destroy the scenic corridor in the Oxford Valley. The proposed tall steel lattice towers positioned on the high terrain in this area would be an eye sore for all traveling down State Highway 16 in southern Llano county. Given the steep terrain and hillsides, more land will be taken as a result of the need to create off easement switchback roads to access the hilltops.

The transmission right of way will disturb the ground cover such as to increase the chance of rapid water flow from the hill sides that will result in the increased erosion to take place creating potential other damage to the property that cannot be determined at this time.

I have not had time to list or attempt to list all of the various ways that the purposed transmission line will damage our property that is located in C8, therefore this response is not intended to nor should be construed as an exhaustive list of the concerns raised by the proposed transmission line. I reserve the right to supplement this response at a later date.

BA-1-5. Did you attend any open houses presented by the utility concerning this proposed transmission line? If so, when and where? Did you provide written comments to LCRA TSC at or after the open house?

Answer: I was not provided notices of the open house.

BA-1-6. Are your property boundaries represented accurately on the maps provided by the utility? If not, please explain any discrepancies and provide a modified LCRA TSC map or drawing to indicate the discrepancies.

Answer: No, the property boundaries are not accurately represented on the maps provided with the October 28, 2009 CCN application. The LCRA mistakenly showed all of C8-027 as being owned by my brother, Robert F. Thompson Jr... I own the C8-027 tracts that are on the west side of Highway 16.

BA-1-7. What is the primary use for your property and, in your opinion, will this use be impacted by the proposed transmission line?

Answer: The property has been in the family since 1800s. While I have other activities on the property such as cattle, hunting, bird watching, wildlife preservation and other. All which provide a main source of income for the property. I see that these activities will be severely damaged by the transmission line.

Additionally the property will serve as the location of my long anticipated retirement home.

BA-1-9. In your opinion, is there any feature about your land that you believe should be considered when routing a transmission line on your property? If so, please explain.

Answer: The land represents our family heritage and legacy. As mentioned previously the property has important historical significance both to our family and Texas. The property provided a vital part of local history and traditions of this area. The topography of the ranch is both varied and beautiful with large veins of granite, quartz and a rare outcropping of eclogite. The property is one the remaining areas of the state with natural darkness and is free from light pollution that will be devastated by transmission tower flashing lights. Our family through many generations of family has taken special sense of pride and responsibility in maintaining the integrity and character as well preservation of the wildlife of the property. This land needs to be preserved and protected rather than damaged, degraded and devalued by the proposed transmission lines.

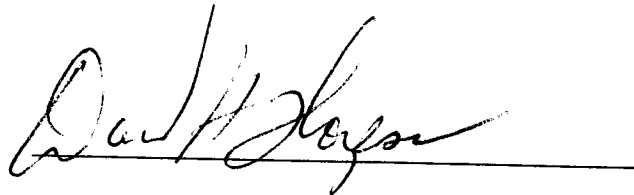
The elevations of the land make the use of C8 more expensive to construct.

Although the cost is passed on to the rate payers in the state, lines which are most expensive to construct as a result of right of way acquisition and land features should be avoided. The large granite outcroppings on the hillside would also create additional cost that could be avoided by using another link through this part of Llano County. Significant elevation changes occur as a

result of using C8 to cross Highway 16 and the Oxford Valley.

Dated: \_\_December 14, 2009

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Thompson", is written over a horizontal line.

David Thompson

### Certificate of Service

I certify that pursuant to Order No. 1 in this docket, this document will be served on December 15, 2009 on the party propounding these requests for information, and filed with the P.U.C. pursuant to Subchapter E of the Commission's procedural rules.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David A. Thompson", is written over a horizontal line.

David Thompson