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**Statement of Position
Albert A. & Beverly Solomon**

To: SOAH Docket No. 473-10-1097
PUC Docket No. 37488- 37448

Reasons to consider the negative impact of the proposed power transmission line across C25-17 property of Albert A. and Beverly Solomon—known nationally as Historic Moses Hughes Ranch:.

1. Short description of property. The property consists of 42 acres located 7 miles west of Lampasas, Texas at 7075 W FM 580. The home of famous Texas Ranger Moses Hughes, built in 1856 and designated a state historic home in 1966 is located about in the middle of the property. Moses Hughes is considered to be the first permanent white settler of Lampasas County and was instrumental in the founding of Lampasas. Moses Hughes' name appears on 4 other historic markers statewide. A creek with a spring cuts through the property and is an environmental treasure.
2. Specifics—
 - A. The house and property have significant historic value. In addition to Moses Hughes, famous Texas Ranger William Banta lived in the home in the 1880-90s. From this home, he wrote the definitive book on the Texas Rangers in early Texas—27 Years on the Texas Frontier—published by UT Austin. Banta was a scout to Robert E. Lee before the Civil War and was the first person married in Burnet Co.
The wife of Moses Hughes was Hanna Berry, daughter of John Berry founder of Georgetown, Texas. Moses and Hanna had two children, but Hanna became very ill. Moses heard from the Native Americans about the healing waters at what is now Lampasas. Moses took Hanna and she drank the sulfur water and bathed in the springs. She became so much better that she went on to have 10 more children. The fame of the springs spread and eventually Lampasas was known as the Saratoga of the South.
In addition to the historic value of the property, Native Americans lived on this site for at least 7,000 years. So a complete archeological and historical evaluation must be completed before this project should be allowed.
 - B. This property was designated Texas Wildscape #114 in 1994 and was nominated in 1997-98 for the highest award in Texas for conservation--The Texas Land Stewardship Award. We are on an exemption for Wildlife Management and are part of the Donaldson Creek Wildlife Management Association. The property is home to such rare species as the Alligator Lizard, Golden Cheeked Warbler, Bald and Golden Eagles(in winter), etc.
 - C. Because the Solomon's make their living as artists, the property contributes greatly to their livelihood. In art, name recognition and image

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are very important. The house and property are part of a carefully crafted image developed over decades. Dozens of photographers have come to the ranch because of the overall beauty and the lifestyle of the artist that they can capture. The house and the Solomon's have been featured in magazines, newspapers, books, TV and even a short film. Among the publications are Texas Highways, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas Monthly, National Geographic, Alaska Airways, Good Housekeeping, Woman's Day, Discover, Chevy Outdoors, etc. The house was rented by Spiegel Catalogue to advertise their rustic furniture.

- D. For the years 1991 to 2005, the Solomon's rented some of their rooms as a bed and breakfast. If the economy does not improve, this may be necessary again. An electric transmission line would hurt that business.
 - E. General property value. A 153 year old home is not the same as a new home. Its value lies in its history and in the beautiful setting. Our property value would be negatively impacted to a substantial degree.
 - F. As mentioned before our ability as artists to get the massive amount of free publicity would be hurt. In addition, because the Solomon's have been active in environmental issues worldwide and Mr. Solomon is recognized for his environmental writing and visionary environmental designs, allowing this project to do environmental damage would hurt their image as conservationists.
3. Lack of cooperation. While everyone that we have spoken with has been polite, no one has been able or willing to give such basic information as exactly where on our property the proposed line would run, exactly how many towers and of what type would be erected, how wide a cut would be made, where the towers would be erected, etc.

In summary—this project would negatively impact a significant historic site, an environmental gem, the Solomon's ability to make a living and the value of their property. As self employed persons, our property is in essence our "nest egg" for our older years. This project would for all practical purposes reduce our "savings" drastically.

Thank you for your consideration,

Albert A. & Beverly Solomon

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