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APPLICATION OF LCRA §
TRANSMISSION SERVICES §
CORPORATION TO AMEND ITS § BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE §
AND NECESSITY FOR THE GILLESPIE § OF
TO NEWTON 345-KV CREZ §
TRANSMISSION LINE IN GILLESPIE, § ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
LLANO, SAN SABA, BURNET AND §
LAMPASAS COUNTIES §

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JEFF TURPIN
FILING CLERK

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF DR. JEFF P. TURPIN

Q 1: Please state your name and business address.

A 1: Dr. Jeff P. Turpin, and my business address is TAS, Inc., 2047 Lake Shore Drive, Canyon Lake, Texas 78133.

Q 2: Please describe your education, training and experience since leaving high school.

A 2: I have undergraduate and graduate degrees in archaeology from the University of Texas at San Antonio, and I consider myself a professional archaeologist. My Curriculum Vitae is attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

Q 3: Were you asked to perform studies of the Indian Falls Ranch in Llano County, Texas?

A 3: Yes.

Q 4: By whom were you asked?

A 4: By James Dudley Morse.

Q 5: What investigative studies did you perform in connection with the Indian Falls Ranch?

A 5: On December 8-9, 2009, I met Mr. Morse at the ranch and toured the property, personally observing several areas of potential archaeological significance. This included the springs and caves in the uplift area above the Little Llano River Valley, which is an area historically known as Willbern's Glen. I also performed literature review work.

Q 6: As a professional archeologist, are the literature sources you reviewed a type of information that a reasonably prudent person in your field commonly relies upon in the conduct of your work?

A 6: Yes.

Respectfully Submitted,

CRAIN, CATON & JAMES, P.C.

By:



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of this document was served on the following parties of record on this 6th day of January 2010, in accordance with P.U.C. Proc. R. §22.74.

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Robert E. "Robin" Morse, III

Indian Falls Ranch

This assessment of the potential for significant cultural resources on the Indian Falls Ranch was compiled from archival research, map reviews, informant interviews, documentary sources and a brief field reconnaissance. This report was generated from information gathered by landowner Dudley Morse, Dr. Jeff Turpin, Terry Burgess and the author, Dr. Solveig A. Turpin.

Indian Falls Ranch is at the juncture of four geologic formations that conjoin to support a rich and diversified habitat. The permeable limestone meets the impermeable granite, creating a water table that is expressed in the many springs that dot the landscape. The abundant water and the biotic community it supports have attracted people to the Indian Falls Ranch for thousands of years. The ranch takes its name from spring-fed Indian Creek which rises within its bounds, falling 150 ft en route to Indian Falls and on to the Little Llano River. Its access easement follows the valley cut by the spring flow from Spicewood Springs, or as it is sometimes currently called, Glen Springs. These permanent water sources encourage the growth of lush and varied vegetation which in turn attracts a wide array of animals and the predators that exploit both flora and fauna, including human hunters and gatherers who have been harvesting plants and game on Indian Falls for millennia.

Based on well-dated projectile point styles in local collections, Native American occupation began at least 8000 years ago. Although no intensive archeological studies have been conducted on the ranch proper, Llano County can claim almost 500 recorded sites representing every period in prehistory and history. The very names bestowed on the ranch – Indian Falls – and on the USGS quadrangle map – Indian Hills – reflect the high potential for undiscovered archeological sites on the ranch.

One of the legendary tales recounted by J. Frank Dobie (1978:8-9) tells of a miner, Harp Perry, a veteran of the McGee Expedition, who claimed to have used a force of 35 Mexicans to extract gold and silver from the Little Llano River area. They transported the ore to their smelter where it was melted and poured into hollow canes, then buried. When Comanches attacked the smelter in 1834, only three people survived, among them Harp Perry. He returned in 1865 in search of the buried gold and silver but his quest was unsuccessful. Shortly thereafter he was killed in a fall from a horse. Thirteen years later, a sheepherder named Medlin supposedly relocated the smelter and other of Perry's landmarks but his extensive diggings produced no gold or silver. Whether 41LL404 is Perry's smelter is speculative but there can be little doubt that the Little Llano is another of those fabled sites of buried treasure waiting to be uncovered.

The "lost" silver mines became further entrenched in Texas lore in 1836 when legendary hero of the Alamo Jim Bowie joined the myriad treasure seekers. Although his expedition failed, the mother lode came to be called the lost Bowie mine and was immortalized by J. Frank Dobie (1978) in his accounts of elusive treasures and persistent prospectors. In the 20th century, historian Herbert Bolton joined in an effort to relocate and reopen Los Almagres but again the yield failed to meet expectations and the mines were abandoned. Decades later the focus of the search changed from an emphasis on material richness to the accumulated geological, archeological and historical information. On the Stotts Ranch on Packsaddle Mountain, evidence of Spanish, Mexican-Early Anglo and late Anglo mining techniques testify to the longevity and futility of the mythic mines of Llano County (Caran 2000). Despite the lure of silver and gold, far more wealth has been generated by quarrying the more prosaic but much-prized granites that have supplied the state with building materials since 1888.

A unique vein of opalized granite, found nowhere else in the world, crosses the Indian Falls Ranch and parallels the proposed route of an LCRA transmission line. This formation was discovered by Theodore Comstock in 1889 but soon adopted by French geologist N.J. Badu who named it Llanite in 1901.

Texas Hill Country. In 1886, Ferdinand C. Willbern brought his family of six sons and three daughters to the Little Llano valley. Although the exact location has yet to be ascertained, his original home was reportedly on the Indian Falls Ranch near the modern entrance where an ancient dry-laid stone wall is thought to have delimited his homestead. If confirmed, the location of the Willbern first home should be recorded for its archeological potential as the structure is no longer standing.

Willbern was a man of strong principles having been pressed into the Confederate Army only to join the Union forces which undoubtedly did not contribute to his popularity in his original home in Karnes County. He was to serve as Llano County postmaster from 1890 to 1894 but his greatest claim to fame was his avowed love of Willbern's Glen and his hospitality to any and all comers. He gave the various natural features romantic names – such as Lover's Leap, Elijah's Cave and the Devil's Washbowl - and wove fanciful stories around them. Indian Falls and Engagement Pond are now part of the Indian Falls Ranch. Engagement Pond was so-called for a fallen log that bridged the water. Supposedly if an engaged couple could successfully keep their balance on the log, theirs would be a long and happy marriage.

Willbern believed in sharing the natural beauty of the Glen to the extent that he hosted the county's annual Fourth of July picnic. The columns he contributed to the local newspaper (1900-1903) were devoted to praising the wonders of the Glen, inviting people to come one, come all, and listing the visitors who had most recently availed themselves of his hospitality. His greatest delight was serving as an escort to newcomers and regaling them with stories woven in his imagination. The many compliments paid to him and to nature are recorded in three major published and in numerous more scattered accounts compiled by local amateur historians (see Fry 1992, Oatman 1988, Willbern 1991; Llano County 1989).

In summary, it is clear that the Indian Falls Ranch occupied a preeminent place in Llano County history by virtue of the popularity of Willbern's Glen. On a much larger scale, the abundant natural resources suggest that there are

Willbern, Roy
1991 *The Old Man of the Glen*. Nortex Press.