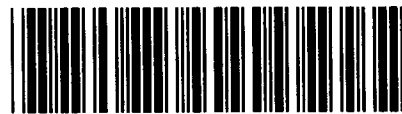




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Addendum StartPage: 0

SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-10-1097
PUC DOCKET NO. 37448

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 §

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.

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Q 7: Did you prepare a report describing the result of your investigative work with respect to the Indian Falls Ranch?

A 7: Yes.

Q 8: Is Exhibit "B" a true and correct copy of the report prepared by you or under your direct supervision and was it prepared based on your own personal observations and work effort, including the review of the referenced literature resources?

A 8: Yes.

Q 9: Do you have a professional opinion as to whether Indian Falls Ranch has any unique archaeological or historic significance?

A 9: Yes, I have such an opinion.

Q 10: What is that opinion?

A 11: Based on my observations and literature review, Indian Falls Ranch has unique historic cultural significance dating back to the late 1800s and early 1900s as being part of Willbern's Glen, a location visited and written about due to its natural beauty. The property also is in an area populated by Native Americans dating back to prehistoric times. Though, due to time constraints, I did not perform an extensive archaeological site investigation, it is my professional opinion that significant relics associated with Native American activities are likely present on Indian Falls Ranch in the area of Willbern's Glen where spring-fed waters and lush vegetation in the area of the Little Llano River were attractive to native populations.

Aside from the potential for earlier Native American relics, the historic graffiti in the Indian Falls caves has recently been registered with the Texas Historical Commission due to its historic significance.

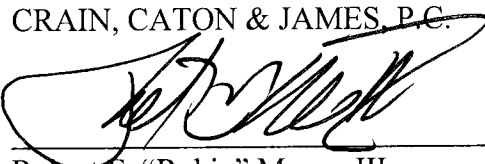
Q 12: Does this conclude your direct testimony?

A 12: 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

**Resume
Principal Investigator
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Education

PhD-2009-University of Texas at San Antonio
MA-2000-University of Texas at San Antonio
BA-1986-Humanities- University of Texas at San Antonio

Professional Experience

President, TAS Inc. 2007—
Vice President and Principal Investigator, TAS Inc. 2002-2007
Supervising Archeologist, TAS, Inc. 1993-2002
Supervising Archeologist, Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, 1992-93, UT-Austin.
Terrestrial and Underwater Archeologist, various contract firms, 1986-1992
Supervising Archeologist, 1984-86, Texas A&M University
Field Archeologist, Texas Archeological Survey, 1979-1984, UT-Austin

Representative Projects and Publications 1993-2007

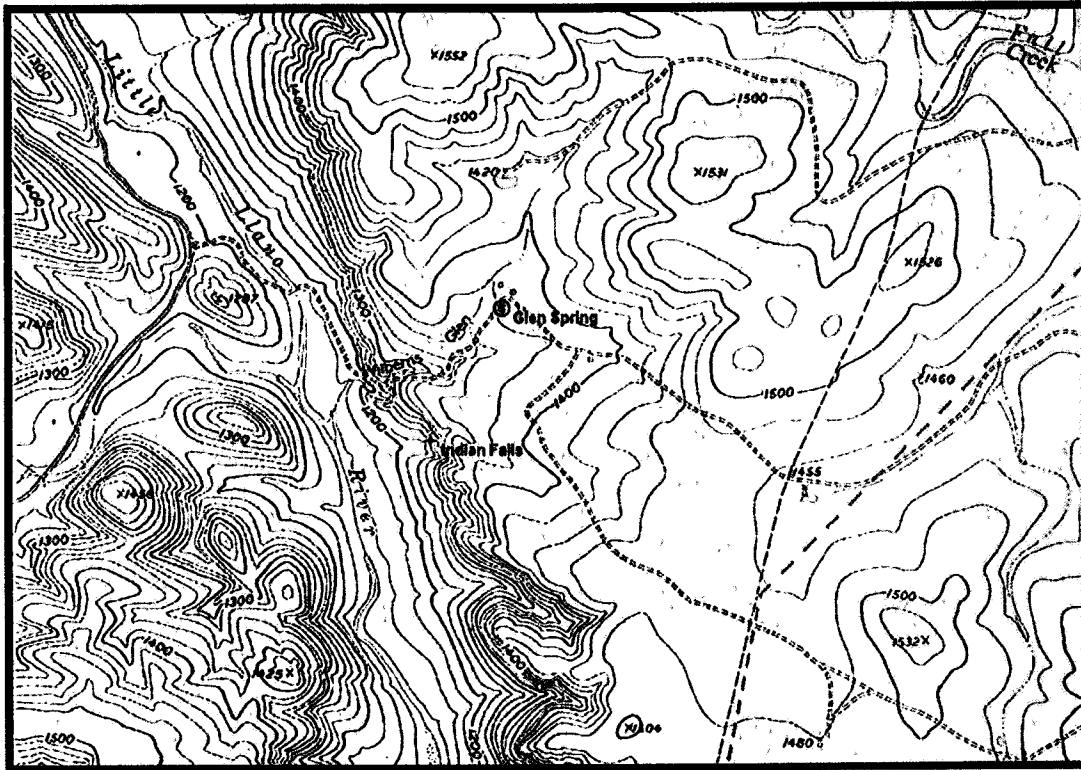
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- 1999 National Register of Historic Places Eligibility Testing of Six Prehistoric Sites in the Rachal Lease, Webb County, Texas. Cultural Resources Report 14. FARCO, Inc.
- 1995 A Cultural Resources Reassessment of Seven Archeological Sites in the Trevino Mining Permit Area, Webb County, Texas. Technical Report 3 prepared for FARCO Inc. by Jeff Turpin.
- 1993 Cultural Resource Survey of the Proposed Round Mountain Park, Blanco County, Texas. Sponsored by community of Round Mountain. Jeff Turpin. TAC Permit 1302.

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.



Excerpt from Indian Hills USGS quad map showing location of spring-fed Indian Falls, the Little Llano River and Glen or Spicewood Springs.

The only recorded site on the Indian Hills quadrangle is 41LL404, the Spanish Smelter, documented by members of the Llano Uplift Archeological Society in 1992, on the Little Llano River less than 2 miles from Indian Falls (Atlas). Visible on aerial photographs and maps but still unrecorded is an old trail that leads to the site at the confluence of the Little Llano River and one of its major tributaries. Although no archival documentation of the site's affiliation with early Spanish exploitation is cited, this area is well within the range of mineral exploration that has made the region famous in lore and legend. The location of the fabled mines of Los Almagres has long been disputed but it is clear that the rich lodes of silver reported by the Miranda expedition of 1756 brought the long arm of the Spanish colonial empire to the Llano Uplift (Texas Beyond History). The story of the ill-fated mission of San Lorenzo and its sister presidio San Sabá are among the most dramatic accounts of frontier hardship and Native American resistance (Tunnell and Newcomb 1969; Weddle 1964, 2007).

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.

He tried to exploit it commercially, opening a quarry in 1924. In 1898, he purchased the First National Bank of Llano, which was built in 1891, converting it to a residence that is a listed Texas Historic Landmark.

Other evidence of llanite prospecting may be related to graffiti left in a small cave near Indian Falls. An early 20th-century date can be attached to the signature of G.A. Parkinson, who owned several granite quarries and whose name appears in and on articles about granite in scholarly journals (Nash 1917; Granite Cutters Journal 1910). Other signatures in a second cave belong to locally prominent families, such as the Striblings, McCalls, and Templetons, who could undoubtedly be traced in genealogical records to families still residing nearby.



Graffiti caves near Indian Falls and the pencilled names in Cave 2.

More specifically, Indian Falls was once part of Willbern's Glen, described by the many visitors who extolled its natural wonders as a Garden of Eden in the

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

undiscovered features and archeological deposits from many different time periods associated with the flowing springs and the Little Llano River. The archeological and historical potential is untapped but the potential for significant discoveries is clearly high.

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