

Control Number: 37448



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

APPLICATION OF LCRA  
TRANSMISSION SERVICES  
CORPORATION 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 LAMPASAS  
COUNTIES, TEXAS

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BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE  
  
OF  
  
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

RECEIVED  
10 JAN - 7 PM 12:13  
UTILITY COMMISSION  
FILING CLERK

STATEMENT OF POSITION OF  
FRIENDS OF ENCHANTED ROCK STATE NATURAL AREA

In accordance with the Procedural Schedule established in this case, the Friends of Enchanted Rock State Natural Area (the Friends Group) respectfully files this Statement of Position.

I.

The Friends Group is opposed to the selection of any alternative route that incorporates Links C7 or C8<sup>1</sup> because of the adverse affect such a selection would have on the aesthetic, cultural and natural characteristics of Enchanted Rock State Natural Area (ERSNA or the Park). Link C7 is located approximately 2.8 miles from the summit of the Park's most prominent geological feature, the Main Dome of Enchanted Rock. Similarly, Link C8 is located approximately 2.1 miles from Enchanted Rock's summit.

II.

ERSNA is administered by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department TPWD as part of the Texas State park system and is open to the public. It possesses valuable and unique natural, cultural, and geological resources of statewide significance. According to TPWD's Land and

<sup>1</sup> These alternative routes include GN1, GN2, GN3, and GN4.

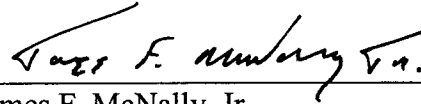
Water Resources Conservation and Recreation Plan, very little of the state's 266,807 square miles is available to the public. With a growing urban population and limited public lands, access to outdoor recreation is becoming more limited for most Texans. Texas parks provide one of the few opportunities in the state where the public can recreate and enjoy the natural environment on public lands. Enchanted Rock is critical in this effort. Year after year, it is the second most visited park in the State park system, with in excess of 200,000 visitors each year.

Further, ERSNA is preserved, not just as park land, but as a State "Natural Area" so that the citizens of Texas can enjoy the benefits of recreating in an area with nominal development or influences beyond the natural environment. Its most prominent natural feature, the Main Dome of Enchanted Rock, is the second largest granite exfoliation dome in North America. Rising in excess of 400 feet above the surrounding terrain, it provides unobstructed 360 degree views of the surrounding landscape that extend for miles. Every year thousands of Park visitors journey to the top of the Main Dome for the purpose of enjoying the uniquely scenic views of the surrounding Texas Hill Country.

### III.

Construction of the transmission line along any alternative route that includes Links C7 or C8 would permanently mar the views from much of Park and diminish the aesthetic, cultural, natural and scenic beauty of ERSNA. For these reasons, the Friends Group respectfully opposes the selection of any alternative route that includes Links C7 and C8.

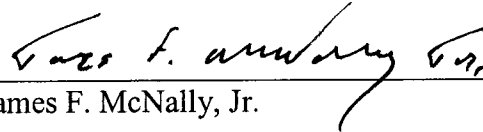
Respectfully Submitted



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served upon all parties of record by electronic or first-class mail this 7th day of January 2010.



James F. McNally, Jr.