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Kenneth W. Anderson, Jr.  
Commissioner



37448

## Public Utility Commission of Texas

January 22, 2010

Mr. John Pluenneke  
17123 Simmonville Road  
Mason, TX 76856

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Pluenneke:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding LCRA's proposed CREZ transmission line certificate for convenience and necessity (CCN). Because much of the renewable energy transmission effort involves or will involve a contested case, I will file your letter in the appropriate docket (Docket No. 37448), together with my response.

Determining which route to use when granting a CCN for high capacity transmission lines is governed by both statute and Commission rules. The Commission is charged with choosing the ultimate route. Although the utility, in this case LCRA, will recommend a preferred route and numerous alternative routes.

The Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA Section 37.056) sets out some of the criteria used by the Commission in deciding where to site the transmission route. Those factors include, among other things, community values, recreational and park areas, historical and aesthetic values, environmental integrity, and the effect of granting the CCN on the state's ability to meet its renewable energy goals. Our rules also list routing criteria, such as whether the proposed routes use existing compatible rights-of-way, whether the routes parallel property lines or other natural or cultural features, and whether the routes conform to the policy of prudent avoidance. The economic and aesthetic issues you discussed in your letter will be taken into consideration.

I appreciate you bringing your concerns to the attention of the Commission. One of the hardest decisions made by the Commission concerns the routing of transmission lines. The Commission faces many challenges in deciding this case and others resulting from the competitive renewable energy zones transmission plan.

Sincerely,

Kenneth W. Anderson, Jr.



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Kenneth W. Anderson  
Public Utility Commission of Texas  
P.O. Box 13326  
Austin, Texas 78711

Need  
Response

Re: Docket # 37049

LCRA/CREZ Transmission Line

Dear Commissioner Anderson:

This letter is a protest to the actions of the Kimble County Commissioners Court and a landowners group called "Clear View Alliance" to have the new LCRA/CREZ power transmission lines and support towers routed away from the originally designated Junction area, and instead run through Mason County.


Their proposal suggests utilizing the existing 138kV transmission line right-of-way that currently runs through my property in Mason County. I am adamantly opposed to such routing for the following reasons:

- Recent news accounts citing officials familiar with the transmission line study state "that running the line through Mason County would add ~\$75 million dollars to the cost of the project". In the current economic climate why would we waste tens of millions of tax payers' dollars?
- A 345 kilovolt power line, supported on massive towers eighteen stories tall, running through or by some of the most beautiful towns in Texas (Fredericksberg, Mason, etc) will hurt tourism and the long-term economic effects of our local communities including diminishing land values. Clearly agricultural production, wildlife, livestock and farming enterprises will suffer great economic effects, not to mention the decrease in land value and sales. These communities have little industrial base and are heavily reliant on tourism and hunting.
- The proposal suggests following the existing power line that roughly parallels Hwy 87 through my property. This would require clear cutting additional 150-foot-wide right-of-way for these massive new lines. The Pluenneke family including my parents and grandparents has had to endure the inconveniences associated with the existing power line for over 80 years. In addition, we suffered greatly when Hwy 87 was expanded to four lanes through our property taking a wide track of our property for the road and the extensive right of ways along the road. My family and I have already provided our fair share of property to state.

✓

I respectfully request that the Public Utility Commission of Texas firmly and clearly reject the route proposed by the Kimble County Commissioners Court and the Clear View Alliance.

Sincerely,

  
John Pluenneke  
17123 Simmonville Rd  
Mason, TX 76856

1/21/10  
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