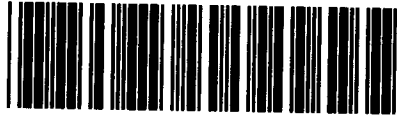




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24 July 2010

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
FILING CLERK

Public Utility Commission of Texas
P. O. Box 13326
Austin, Texas 78711-3326

Reference: **Docket #37956**

Dear Members of the Public Utility Commission of Texas:

The Texas Panhandle Audubon Society (TPAS) was established in 1952 and represents members across the 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle. The letter expresses the concerns of the Board of Directors and membership of the TPAS about your proposed routes for electrical power transmission lines.

Although we are generally supportive of green energy development, the ethical and social impacts of degrading the archeological, historic and natural resources of one region for the convenience of populations in other regions needs to be examined. We realize that the question today is not whether, but how, wind energy development will proceed.

This letter addresses our concerns about the routes and regional impacts of proposed power transmission lines.

Routes selected for new transmission lines should impact the least areas and minimize the total impacts to the extent possible, and should NOT cut across intact natural areas. To accomplish this, the routes necessarily must be as short as possible and routed through areas that have already been impacted by development (such as industrial or agricultural areas and major highways), and avoid large areas of intact native prairie uplands, wetland communities, and riparian areas. Routes selected must also consider the sensitive nature of specific natural communities and their substrates for the reasons listed below:

- Undeveloped rough and broken lands and prairie, including ranchlands, provide quality habitat that is no longer present in developed areas. Row agricultural fields do not provide the quality wildlife habitat comparable to ranchland.
- What may seem like a small acreage affected by construction actually results in impacts on a much larger area. The impacts initiated by building of in-roads and ancillary infrastructure (that will only increase over time) enable the introduction of exotic weed species that begin the processes that degrade the quality of natural systems. Once initiated, these degradation processes are often irreversible.

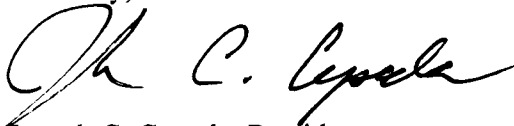
- As fragmentation of the Panhandle landscape continues to take its toll on our region's native and natural habitats, it is important to minimize the injuries and damages that result from each and every project such as this one.

The Panhandle region may, indeed, be the last stronghold of some species considered important to the state of Texas – such as Texas Horned Lizards, Round-tail Horned Lizards, Lesser Prairie Chickens, and other species of regional and national interest. Thus, we believe that these are critical decisions.

It is important that any development you select and authorize result in the least harm. Thus, the TPAS asks that routes through natural areas should not be considered. Rather, routes selected for implementation must be confined to already-developed routes, such as those adjacent to present highways.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. C. Cepeda", written in a cursive style.

Joseph C. Cepeda, President