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SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-10-4398
PUC DOCKET NO. 38230

APPLICATION OF LONE STAR	§	BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE
TRANSMISSION COMPANY FOR	§	
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE	§	
AND NECESSITY FOR THE	§	
CENTRAL A TO CENTRAL C TO	§	OF
SAM SWITCH TO NAVARRO	§	
PROPOSED CREZ	§	
TRANSMISSION LINE	§	ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
	§	

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF W.A. SCHMID, III
ON BEHALF CHALK MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY ALLIANCE, LLC

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August 16, 2010

**SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-10-4398
PUC DOCKET NO. 38230**

APPLICATION OF LONE STAR TRANSMISSION COMPANY FOR CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR THE CENTRAL A TO CENTRAL C TO SAM SWITCH TO NAVARRO PROPOSED CREZ TRANSMISSION LINE	§ § § § § § § § §	BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
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**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF W.A. SCHMID, III
ON BEHALF CHALK MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY ALLIANCE, LLC**

**1 Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND RELATIONSHIP TO THIS
2 PROCEEDING.**

3 A. My name is W.A. Schmid, III. My mailing address is P.O. Box 389, Hico, Texas
4 76457. I am the Trustee of the Schmid Family Trust, which is a landowner affected by
5 proposed Link KK2.

6 Q. ON WHOSE BEHALF ARE YOU TESTIFYING?

7 A. I am testifying on behalf of the Schmid Family Trust and Chalk Mountain Community
8 Alliance, LLC, which I support.

**9 Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY
10 COMMISSION (COMMISSION)?**

11 A. No.

**12 Q. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR OCCUPATION AND EDUCATIONAL AND WORK
13 HISTORIES.**

14 A. I received a B.A. in history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in
15 1971. I currently manage the Schmid family ranch in Glen Rose, which will be
16 affected by proposed Link KK2, as well as ranches west of Fort Worth and a ranch in
17 Walters, Oklahoma. I have worked on the family's ranches since 1974 and have been
18 in the cattle business my whole life.

19 Q. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE RANCH OPERATION ON YOUR PROPERTY.

1 A. The Glen Rose ranch has approximately 1000 head of cattle. My family started the
2 ranch in the mid 1950's. We use the ranch primarily as a "stocker operation" where
3 we develop calves purchased at auction for later sale.

4 **Q. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE SCHMID FAMILY TRUST.**

5 A. The Schmid family trust is comprised of the Glen Rose ranch and a few other non-
6 agricultural properties. My primary duty as Trustee is to manage the Glen Rose
7 ranch.

8 **Q. ARE YOU A PART OF THE CHALK MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY?**

9 A. Yes.

10 **Q. ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE AREAS IN THE CHALK MOUNTAIN**
11 **COMMUNITY THROUGH WHICH LONE STAR TRANSMISSION COMPANY**
12 **(LONE STAR) HAS PROPOSED A PREFERRED OR ALTERNATIVE ROUTE FOR**
13 **THE INSTALLATION OF A TRANSMISSION LINE?**

14 A. Yes.

15 **Q. HOW ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THIS AREA?**

16 A. My family has owned property in the Chalk Mountain community since the mid
17 1950's. We both historically have and currently do use our property as a residence,
18 for cattle ranching, and for outdoor recreation, including hunting.

19 **Q. DESCRIBE HOW THE TRANSMISSION LINE WOULD CROSS YOUR PROPERTY.**

20 A. Proposed Link KK2 follows our west property line along a part of our property used
21 for cattle grazing.

22 **Q. WOULD PROPOSED LINK KK2, IF BUILT, AFFECT YOUR HOME OR HOW YOU**
23 **USE YOUR PROPERTY?**

24 A. Yes. There is a house, barn, and workshed on our property approximately one-
25 quarter mile from proposed Link KK2. Our house is on top of a 300-foot bluff running
26 the length of the property from north to south. The line and its clear-cut right-of-way
27 would be clearly visible from the house. Also, all access to our property would pass
28 under the line.

29 **Q. WOULD YOU AND VISITORS TO YOUR PROPERTY REGULARLY HAVE TO**
30 **DRIVE UNDER THE TRANSMISSION LINE?**

31 A. Yes. Whenever we enter or leave our property, we would have to drive under the line,
32 and be exposed to the electromagnetic fields generated by it.

1 Q. WOULD PROPOSED LINK KK2, IF BUILT, AFFECT YOUR RANCHING
2 OPERATION?

3 A. Yes. I am concerned that construction and maintenance of proposed Link KK2 would
4 cause breaches of our property's fence lines that would result in the loss of livestock
5 and income.

6 Q. IS THERE AN FAA VORTAC GROUND STATION ON YOUR PROPERTY?

7 A. Yes. There is an FAA VORTAC ground station on our property approximately one-
8 quarter mile from proposed Link KK2 at 32° 09.322' N, 97° 52.684' W.

9 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR PROPERTY'S TERRAIN AND ECOLOGICAL
10 FEATURES.

11 A. Our property is rough, largely untouched, and covered with old-growth Ashe Juniper,
12 Live Oak, and Red Oak. I am concerned that construction of the transmission line
13 would destroy wildlife habitat that my family has worked for years to preserve and
14 improve, including many of our trees.

15 There are also five stock tanks and a water well on our property. Three of the stock
16 tanks are within 500 feet of proposed Link KK2. I am concerned that construction
17 and maintenance of the transmission line would negatively affect these stock tanks.

18 Q. DESCRIBE THE AESTHETIC IMPACT OF INSTALLING A TRANSMISSION LINE
19 ACROSS THE PROPERTY.

20 A. Our property has a pristine view of the Chalk Mountain area from atop the 300-foot
21 bluff where our home sits. Proposed Link KK2 would destroy that view.

22 Q. HAS YOUR FAMILY UNDERTAKEN EFFORTS TO RESTORE THE
23 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OF THE LAND YOU OWN?

24 A. Yes. We regularly improve the wildlife habitat on our property by selectively clearing
25 areas to encourage re-growth of native grasses. We have spent tens of thousands of
26 dollars over the years on this effort.

27 Q. DESCRIBE ANY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT SPECIFIC TO THIS AREA THAT
28 WOULD BE CAUSED BY THE TRANSMISSION LINE.

29 A. I am concerned that the construction and maintenance of proposed Link KK2 would
30 destroy wildlife habitat on our property, including the habitat of the endangered
31 Golden-Cheeked Warbler and Black-Capped Vireo.

1 **Q. WHY HAVE YOU JOINED CHALK MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY ALLIANCE, LLC, TO**
2 **OPPOSE THE ROUTING OF THE LONE STAR TRANSMISSION LINE THROUGH**
3 **THE CHALK MOUNTAIN AREA?**

4 **A.** My family has long been committed to protecting the environment in and around the
5 Chalk Mountain area. We support the Chalk Mountain Community Alliance because
6 allowing the construction of a transmission line through our community goes against
7 everything we believe in.

8 **Q. WHAT SUGGESTIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR THE COMMISSION REGARDING**
9 **THE TRANSMISSION LINE?**

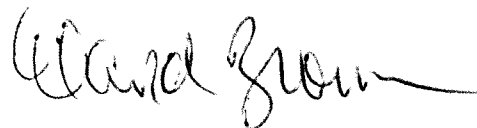
10 **A.** I suggest that the Commission select a route away from the Chalk Mountain
11 community to an area that would be less impacted by the line.

12 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

13 **A.** Yes.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of this document was served in accordance with PUC and SOAH Rules and the Orders in this proceeding on August 16, 2010.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David F. Brown", written in black ink.

David F. Brown