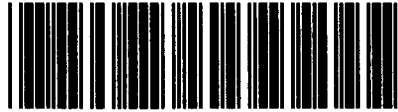




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DOCKET NO. 38290 PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
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APPLICATION OF SHARYLAND § BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE
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 CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE § OF
 AND NECESSITY FOR THE §
 PROPOSED HEREFOR TO § ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
 WHITE DEER 345 KV CREZ §
 TRANSMISSION LINE IN §
 ARMSTRONG, CARSON, DEAF §
 SMITH, OLDHAM, POTTER, AND §
 RANDALL COUNTIES, TEXAS §

**SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY'S
 RESPONSES TO CIELO WIND SERVICES, INC.'S
 FIRST REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

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**SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-10-4790
DOCKET NO. 38290**

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RANDALL COUNTIES, TEXAS	§	
	§	

**SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY'S
RESPONSES TO CIELO WIND SERVICES, INC.'S
FIRST REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

Southwestern Public Service Company ("SPS") files these responses to Cielo Wind Services, Inc.'s ("Cielo") First Set of Requests for Information.

I. WRITTEN RESPONSES.

SPS's written responses to Cielo's First Set of Requests for Information are attached and incorporated by reference. Each response is stated on or attached to a separate page on which the request has been restated. SPS's responses are made in the spirit of cooperation without waiving SPS's right to contest the admissibility of any of these matters at hearing. Pursuant to P.U.C. PROC. R. 22.144(c)(2)(A), each response lists the preparer or person under whose direct supervision the response was prepared and any sponsoring witness. When SPS provides certain information sought by the request while objecting to the provision of other information, it does so without prejudice to its objection in the interests of narrowing discovery disputes pursuant to P.U.C. PROC. R. 22.144(d)(5). Pursuant to P.U.C. PROC. R. 22.144(c)(2)(F), SPS stipulates that its responses may be treated by all parties as if they were made under oath.

II. INSPECTIONS.

If responsive documents are more than 100 pages but less than eight linear feet in length, the response will indicate that the attachment is VOLUMINOUS and, pursuant to P.U.C. PROC. R. 22.144(h)(2), the attachment will be made available for inspection at SPS's voluminous room at 816 Congress Ave., Ste. 1650, Austin, Texas 78701, telephone number (512) 478-9229. If a response or the responsive documents are provided pursuant to the protective order in this docket, the response will indicate that it or the attachment is either CONFIDENTIAL or HIGHLY SENSITIVE as appropriate under the protective order. Highly sensitive responses will be made available for inspection at SPS's voluminous room, unless they form a part of a response that exceeds eight linear feet in length; then they will be available at their usual repository in accordance with the following paragraph. Please call in advance for an appointment to ensure that there is sufficient space to accommodate your inspection.

If responsive documents exceed eight linear feet in length, the response will indicate that the attachment is subject to the FREIGHT CAR DOCTRINE, and, pursuant to Commission Procedural Rule 22.144(h)(3), the attachment will be available for inspection at its usual repository, SPS's offices in Amarillo, Texas, unless otherwise indicated. SPS requests that parties wishing to inspect this material provide at least 48 hours' notice of their intent by contacting Paul M. Guinn, Xcel Energy Services Inc., 816 Congress Ave., Ste. 1650, Austin, Texas 78701; telephone number (512) 478-9229; facsimile transmission number (512) 478-9232. Inspections will be scheduled to accommodate all requests with as little inconvenience to the requesting party and to SPS's operations as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

XCEL ENERGY SERVICES INC.

By: Paul Guinn by Susan Bryner

Paul M. Guinn

Texas Bar No. 24012751

e-mail: paul.m.guinn@xcelenergy.com

816 Congress Ave., Suite 1650

Austin, Texas 78701

(512) 478-9229

(512) 478-9232 (FAX)

ATTORNEY FOR SOUTHWESTERN
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY

RESPONSES

REQUEST NO. 1-1:

A number of Sharyland's proposed route segments in this application are placed adjacent and parallel to existing transmission lines. What is the opinion of Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS) concerning the appropriate minimum horizontal spacing between Sharyland's proposed 345 kV line and adjacent parallel 69 kV lines? Is the answer different for the horizontal spacing from 115 kV lines? From 230 kV lines? Please describe your rationale for the answers to this question, together with specific references to applicable technical or industry publications, if any.

RESPONSE:

To date, SPS has not encountered circumstances wherein transmission lines operating on a separate grid system are constructed adjacent and parallel to SPS's transmission lines. With that being the case, prudence would suggest that new transmission towers that are part of another grid should be located in such a way that if they were to topple, they would not hit an existing transmission line. Therefore, a transmission structure should be placed at a minimum distance of the new structure height, plus twice the phase spacing distance of the existing transmission line, as reflected in the table below. For example, if a new 120 foot tall structure with a proposed phase spacing of 27 feet is to be placed adjacent to a 115 kV transmission line, the centerline of that structure should be located 172 feet from the centerline of the existing transmission line. This value is derived as follows:

Distance = (structure height) + (proposed line phase spacing) + 2(existing line phase spacing):
172 feet = 120 feet + 27 feet + 2*12.5 feet.

This distance will be adequate under most circumstances to prevent an outage on the existing transmission line due to the failure of a parallel structure, and provides adequate room to work on one line while the other line is energized.

Typical SPS transmission line right-of-way widths:

Voltage	Typical ROW width	Phase spacing
69 kV	60 feet	12.5 feet
115 kV	70 feet	12.5 feet
230 kV	90 feet	20 feet
345 kV	150 feet	27 feet

Preparer: Jeff Stebbins

Sponsor: Jeff Stebbins

REQUEST NO. 1-2:

Does SPS have any experience in constructing and operating transmission lines in and around wind generation projects? If so, please provide a brief description of that experience.

RESPONSE:

Yes. SPS operates several transmission lines in close proximity to wind farms. There is a 115 kV transmission line adjacent to the Llano Wind Farm near White Deer, Texas. There are 345 kV and 115 kV transmission lines adjacent to the Noble Wind Farm north of Gruver, Texas. There is a 115 kV transmission line adjacent to the JD-4 wind farm northeast of Gruver, Texas. There is a 230 kV transmission line adjacent to the San Juan Wind Farm southwest of Elida, New Mexico. To my knowledge, there have been no operational issues caused by the wind farms on any of these transmission lines.

SPS has not built any new lines near or through a wind farm to date. The wind farms will be treated like any other man-made obstruction encountered during routing activities.

Preparer: Jeff Stebbins
Sponsor: Jeff Stebbins

REQUEST NO. 1-3:

Does SPS have an opinion concerning the appropriate horizontal clearance between a 345 kV transmission line and adjacent wind generation towers? If so, please state that opinion. If the tenor of your answer is that the appropriate horizontal clearance depends on circumstances, please identify the circumstances and state how those circumstances affect the conclusion.

RESPONSE:

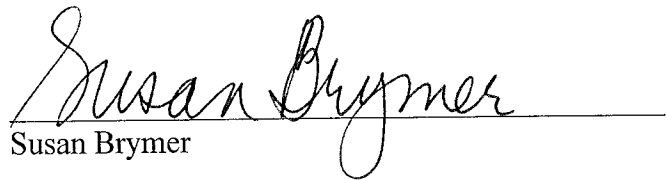
SPS has not addressed this issue to date, but believes a “fall zone” approach to locating structures near wind turbines would be a conservative value to use. As stated in response to Request No. 1-2, to date, SPS has not built any new lines near wind turbines. Instead, the wind turbines have been erected at a distance from existing transmission lines, such that both the turbine and the transmission line can be maintained without interfering with the operation of the other facility.

Preparer: Jeff Stebbins

Sponsor: Jeff Stebbins

Certificate of Service

I certify that on the 26th day of July 2010, a true and correct copy of the foregoing instrument was served on all parties of record by hand-delivery, Federal Express, regular first class mail, certified mail, or facsimile transmission.


Susan Brymer