



Control Number: 38324



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October 30, 2010

Public Utility Commission of Texas
Attention: Chairman Barry T. Smitherman
1701 North Congress Avenue
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, Texas 78711-3326

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Subject: Docket Number (38324)

Opposition to Settlement Agreement: " Willow Creek-Hicks 345kV Transmission Line Project"

Dear Chairman Smitherman,

I live in the Vista Ranch community, north of Fort Worth and west of Haslet. I am writing you in regard to the settlement agreement for the Willow Creek-Hicks transmission line project. Modified route 368 was selected which includes link "HHH", which is near my home and community.

Prior to Oncor's official application, several homes within my neighborhood were within the 500' notification area. The residents of Vista Ranch sent many letters of strong opposition to Oncor and the Public Utility Commission (PUC). Oncor moved the "HHH" link in their application, so that no home within our community was considered eligible as an intervenor in the legal proceedings. Link "HHH" was an alternate route, not part of Oncor's preferred route. The preferred route used links that prudently avoided most residential neighborhoods. I was shocked to learn that during the SOAH hearings, Oncor and the PUC staff encouraged the very route that would endanger families in many residential communities. Some links on the preferred route parallel existing electrical easements and do not affect any homes. Why would these links not be used? If these line are placed near residences, ignoring the EPA's warning of "prudent avoidance", they must be buried underground. The cost of human exposure is much greater than the cost that Oncor would incur during the construction.

I was told that I was not allowed to be an intervenor, because my home was more than 500' from the proposed power line. Therefore, I submitted letters to you and the other commissioners asking for link "HHH" to not be considered in your final decision. Recently it has come to my attention that I could have intervened. **It is very disturbing that critical information, from multiple sources at the PUC, changes during the approval process.**


Illness and disease from continued exposure to EMF and ELF frequencies are proven. **The Internal Medicine Journal September 2007: 37(9):614-9 published a study that shows increased cancer risks to children, under the age of 15, that live within 1000 feet of high-voltage transmission lines.** There are homes within my community that are within 1000 feet of the proposed line.

The property devaluation of my home and other homes in my community can range from 10-30%, based on current statistics. I have spent a large amount of money for my home and landscaping all predicated around the lovely view of the countryside. That never included 120 foot tall, 345kV transmission towers littering the landscape near my home. This project would prevent me from selling my property at market value, **and create economic disaster to the local, residential, real estate market.**

The proximity of the "HHH" segment to our local "Hicks Airfield" could create hazards that could affect the take-off and landing of local aircraft. Birds are known to roost on these towers causing potential "bird strike" concerns.

My final concern is the visual eyesore that these towers and voltage lines would project onto my property and the future retail and business development of the surrounding community. There are numerous plans for increased infrastructure and development in our immediate area. This transmission project will negatively affect the entire community. There are many alternate routes and segments that would not be close to communities filled with children. Existing electrical easements are numerous and should be utilized first, as well as farm and ranch land. Please hear my plea and deny approval to the settlement agreement for this route.

I ask you to **reselect the route for this transmission project.** Please **eliminate segment "HHH"** from any consideration within this proposed project.

Sincerely, 
DARIN BECK
12035 VISTA RANCH WAY
SAGINAW, TX 76179