



Control Number: 38354



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## Smitherman, Barry

**From:** Smitherman, Barry  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2010 8:12 AM  
**To:** 'Don Rutz'  
**Subject:** RE: PUC Docket Number 37049, Menard-Mason-Gillespie Route

RECEIVED  
10 JUL 27 AM 11:01  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
FILING CLERK

Dear Mr. Rutz,

Thank you for your email expressing your concerns about LCRA's proposed McCamey D to Kendall to Gillespie transmission lines. I have filed a copy of your email and my response in Docket Nos. 37049 and 38354.

When LCRA files its application for the proposed transmission line, the Commission, as required by statute, will consider various factors in its evaluation of the proposed routes, such as the community, historical, and aesthetic values and the environmental integrity associated with the transmission line. Commission rules also include other factors for consideration, such as whether the proposed routes utilize or parallel existing compatible rights-of-way, property lines or other features, and whether the routes avoid passing over habitable structures. The Commission can also evaluate different ways to construct the lines, such as the use of monopole or lattice structures, and will weigh the costs versus the benefits of different options in its decision. The Commission will weigh all these factors when deciding which of the proposed routes, if any, is the most appropriate.

I understand that this process can be difficult and emotional for landowners. Therefore, it is very important that the Commission follow the criteria listed in both statute and Commission rules and seek to minimize the impact of the line on landowners and the cost of the line to ratepayers.

Thank you again for writing.

Chairman Barry Smitherman  
Public Utility Commission of Texas

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**From:** Don Rutz [mailto:donr@mmgchicago.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 16, 2010 1:25 PM  
**To:** Smitherman, Barry  
**Cc:** Sara Morgenroth; troy.fraser@senate.state.tx.us; harvey.hilderbran@house.state.tx.us  
**Subject:** PUC Docket Number 37049, Menard-Mason-Gillespie Route

Mr. Barry T. Smitherman, Chairman  
Texas Public Utilities Commission

Chairman Smitherman;

Six years ago we bought property 8 miles west of Mason Texas, in the beautiful countryside around the Double Knobs hills. We built a home, improved the land, and planned to permanently locate there from Chicago in the future. This, after years of thoroughly investigating dozens of cities/towns throughout the length and breadth of the hill country, while doing business with the Continental Oil Company.

Mason County represented a perfect blend of Texas heritage – unspoiled scenic environmental charm and a local population that embraced preservation of the distinct quality of life for which this section of the hill country has become famous. This "brand image/reputation" has become an invaluable asset to the state, as increasing tourism and retirement relocations grow.

Now, we are faced with a power line routing decision that could deface the unspoiled topography

of Mason County and destroy the recreational, tourism, wildlife habitats, and even the historical Old Texas Heritage assets that are valued around the country.

Therefore, the question must be asked – why destroy this “virgin” hill country territory when there already exists a shorter, less expensive and “shovel ready” routing – the interstate 10 corridor, that contains plenty of industrial and commercial infrastructures?

In our opinion, history will record that no amount of lobbying by Kimble and Kerr Counties will ever justify a PUC decision to irrevocably scar Mason County with the subject power line routing.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Rutz  
Gate 10 Ranch  
2414 Streeter Lane  
Mason, TX 76856