



Control Number: 38354



Item Number: 3096

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Commissioner Donna L. Nelson
Commissioner Kenneth W. Anderson, Jr.
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Mark Stroeher, County Judge
Gillespie County Courthouse
101 W. Main St.
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

Billy Roeder, County Commissioner
Gillespie County Courthouse
101 W. Main St.
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

In Reference to SOAH Docket # 473-10-5546, PUC Docket # 38354

Dear Madam and Sirs,

I own property on the Tierra Linda Ranch and I'm writing to request that the PUC please select route MK13 or MK33 (through Kerrville) for the proposed transmission line, and **NOT** the MK 15/MK 15 Alternate route that would run through the Tierra Linda Ranch.

Tierra Linda Ranch is a subdivided, residential community with hundreds of residents. Most of the residents, including my mother, are retirees who have invested much of their life savings in their homes so that they can enjoy a rural life and the beauty of the Texas hill country. Most residents would find it quite painful and costly to relocate to avoid living near a major electrical transmission line, and many simply could not afford to do so.

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JUL 14 2010
PM 9:29
CLERK

The construction of this power line through the Tierra Linda Ranch would adversely impact the community by:

- Creating a significant safety hazard for residents. Although I own property on Tierra Linda Ranch, I live near San Bruno, CA, which you may know recently experienced a major gas pipeline explosion resulting in the tragic loss of many lives and complete destruction of an entire residential neighborhood, despite having multiple city and county first responder resources close at hand. I am *extremely* concerned about the safety risk of installing a major electrical transmission line in the near vicinity of a 35 year old gas pipeline, as would be the case if the MK15/MK15 Alternate route is chosen. This is especially concerning given that the Tierra Linda community is remote and relies on *volunteer* first responders in the event of fires and similar emergencies. A pipeline-related fire or explosion would have a devastating impact on this community, and many elderly residents may not have the capability to leave quickly in the event of such an emergency. *It seems highly irresponsible to me to site and undertake the construction of a major electrical power transmission line close to an aging gas pipeline running through a community that is predominantly elderly and has little access to professional, emergency first responder resources.*
- Lowering property values and disrupting the scenic beauty of the community; the transmission line would be visible for miles around and from many, if not most, of the properties on the ranch.
- Damaging the sensitive hill country habitat, in which the Tierra Linda Ranch community has invested significant amounts of time and funding to preserve. Texas Parks and Wildlife opposes the MK15/MK15 Alternate route because most of it would cut across unfragmented wildlife habitat on the Edwards Plateau, having an irreversible impact on the wildlife in the area. The MK33 (I-10 route) is better suited for this power line from an environmental perspective. It is already a significantly more fragmented habitat area and the line could parallel existing highways, thereby causing far less new habitat fragmentation.
- Causing disruption to the relationships within the residential community, as at least 13 houses on the Tierra Linda Ranch would be directly impacted and at least 2 homes would have to be destroyed to complete the construction along this route. Those whose homes would have to be destroyed may have few options other than leaving the community, as all tracts on the ranch have been sold.
- And, by causing additional wear and tear on the private ranch roads that the community must pay to maintain.

The MK15/Modified/MK 15 Alternate route is longer, will cost more, impacts more homes and lives, presents a potentially *much* greater safety risk and more adverse environmental impacts than other options.

I hope you will consider this appeal when making your final decision and choose the MK33 or one of the many other routes available, other than the MK15/MK 15 alternate route.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Green
920 Diamond Street
San Francisco, CA 94114
415.369.2025

cc: Helen Green, 798 N. Spanish Oak Trail, Kerrville, TX 78028
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Office of Fred Henneke at btvl85@gmail.com