



Control Number: 38354



Item Number: 334

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Barry T. Smitherman  
Chairman

38354  
Rick Perry  
Governor



*Public Utility Commission of Texas*

March 29, 2010

Sarah Kettner Hearn  
7 Myrtle Avenue  
Claymont, DE 19702

Dear Ms. Hearn:

Thank you for your letter expressing your opposition to the LCRA proposed transmission line through Mason and echoing your father's concerns. As with your father's letter, I will file a copy of your letter and my response in Docket No. 37049.

LCRA is the entity responsible for developing the routes and filing an application for this transmission line with the Public Utility Commission. While LCRA has developed several proposed routes, LCRA has not yet filed an application for the line with the Commission. When the application is filed, 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 conform to the policy of prudent avoidance. The Commission can also evaluate different ways to construct the lines, such as the use of monopole structures or lattice structures, and will weigh the costs versus the benefits of different options in its decision.

I understand that this process can be difficult and emotional for landowners. That is why it is important that we follow the criteria listed in both statute and Commission rule. When making its decision, the Commission will evaluate the proposed routes based on these factors, and attempt to minimize the impact of the line on landowners and the cost of the line to ratepayers.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry T. Smitherman".

Barry T. Smitherman



PUC Docket Number 37049

March 17, 2010

7 Myrtle Avenue  
Claymont, DE 19702

RECEIVED  
MAR 23, 2010  
Chairman's Office

Barry Smitherman, Chairman Texas Utilities Commission  
P.O. Box 13326  
Austin, Texas 78711-3326


Dear Chairman Smitherman,

I am writing to express my opposition to the routing of the 345 kv power line through Mason, Texas. The Mason route would pass through my father's property. Obviously, I share my father's concerns since I am his heir. I will be the 5<sup>th</sup> generation to own and be guardian of this property and of our heritage.

Below please find my father's letter of February 01, 2010.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sarah Kettner Hearn, M.Ed.

Docket Number 37049

February 01, 2010

2411 Chatham Drive  
Wilmington, DE 19803

Barry Smitherman, Chairman Texas Utilities Commission  
P.O. Box 13326  
Austin, Texas 78711-3326

Dear Chairman Smitherman,

This is a follow-up to my email of November 15, 2009 in which I objected strongly to the re-routing of the LCRA 345 kv power line through Mason County rather than using the originally proposed route along the existing I-10 and US 277 right-of-ways.

Citizens of Kimble County have opposed the original route under the guise of maintaining the countryside although at much greater expense. What about maintaining the countryside of Mason County? Granted the right-of-way for the 68 kv and 138 kv lines exists, but it is much smaller (40-60 ft crosol poles) and blends into the landscape. There is no comparison to what the effect of erecting 180 ft. metal towers would be. If the Mason County route is chosen, it will have a profound effect on me. Earlier, I believed that the proposed route would be along

the 68 kv right-of-way. However, both the 68 and 138 kv lines run through my property and the use of either right-a-way will have a profound effect, but more so for the 138 kv line. This property has particular historical significance to my family and to Mason County. My ancestors were among the first settlers in Mason County and have owned this land since 1871. Our ancestral home, which was built in the mid 1850s and has been carefully maintained, is within 400 yards of the 138 kv line. See Figure 1. Our property and heritage are a source of pride. It is hard to think that my ancestors endured many dangers and hardships only to have the land they settled and passed on to their heirs be scarred by this construction. My ancestor's struggles are chronicled in *Die Kettner Briefe* published in 2008 and available through Amazon.com.

Personal sentiment aside, this new construction will have a great effect on my property value. We all know the value of land in Mason County is not based on agricultural use, but rather on its potential for recreation or development. No one wants to live under or near a 345 kv power line or look out at a series of 180 ft. metal towers. I would estimate that property values would be decreased by more than 50%. Also see Figure 2 showing just a small segment of the wooded landscape which would be cleared (160 ft wide clear cut) if the right-of-way for the 138 kv line is used.

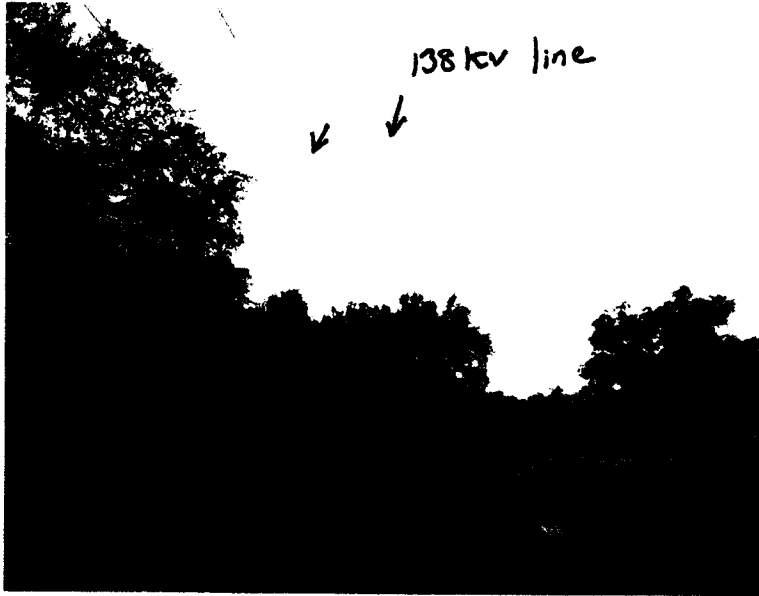
Please consider the impact that re-routing the 345 kv will have on me and the other citizens of Mason.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Kettner, Ph.D.



Figure 1. View of the 138 kv right-of-way from the ancestral Kettner home.



**Figure 2. Landscape along the 138 kv line and Comanche Creek.**

Cc: Ms Sarah Morgenroth  
LCRA  
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Austin, Texas 78767-0220

Representative Harvey Hilderbran  
Rm CAP GW 12  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768

Senator Troy Faster  
P.O. Box 12068  
Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711