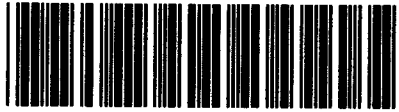




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Tierra Linda Ranch
118 North Spanish Oak Trail
Kerrville, TX 78028-2089
December 17, 2010

2010 DEC 27 AM 9:35

RE: SOAH No. 473-10-5546 PUC Docket Number 38354

Dear PUC Commissioners:

On paper, it seems to make good sense to consolidate utility right-of-ways, by running transmission lines along pipelines, existing power lines or highways. Building 180 ft towers adjacent to a gas pipeline might work in East Texas where they have deep soil. In the Hill Country we usually have thin soil over rock, as evidenced by the many 60 ft tall roadcuts along Interstate-10. We live in Tierra Linda Ranch where we have a 40 year old high pressure gas pipeline in close proximity to 13 homes and the PUC is currently proposing to run transmission lines adjacent to this old pipeline. **We are Interveners and live within one-half mile of the pipeline.**

From our backyard, 3 miles from the Ranch entrance on Harper Rd (Rt 783), I can hear a pneumatic attachment on a large power shovel breaking rock and the loud scraping of a backhoe trying to pick up the broken limestone as TXDOT tries to build a 6 ft wide, level shoulder along a one-half mile section of Harper Rd. along the west side of Tierra Linda Ranch. They have been working daily on this half-mile section with a large crew for several months.

When the high-pressure gas pipeline was put in 40 years ago, they probably blasted the rock loose as they did for the roadcuts on I-10. Clearly blasting is not possible so close to an old high-pressure gas pipeline. **Attempts to fracture the bedrock and dig numerous 30 ft footings for the towers adjacent to the gas pipeline and homes will substantially increase our risk of having a high-pressure gas-fueled fire storm as we have seen recently on the news in California and North Texas.** Since we do not have fire hydrants in the country and have only a volunteer fire department, any gas-fueled fire that occurred would cause a huge wildfire. We often have prolonged droughts, which coupled with our wildland vegetation could result in a wildfire spreading over the ranch, killing residents and destroying homes. We protect our homes by avoiding starting fires that could become wildfires. There is nothing that we can do about construction causing a gas-fueled fire storm. Even if the construction didn't cause a fire, the pipeline and its many welds could be stressed and fail at any time in the future.

In September and October 2000, the Sheppard-Rees wildfire in Kerrville burned 2 square miles over 10 days, despite the best efforts of fire departments from all over Texas and beyond and the Texas Forest Service with both water-scooping helicopters, fixed-wing aircraft dropping flame retardant and bulldozed fire lines.

The risk to our over 500 residents, our homes and everything we own, is just too great to go forward with transmission lines adjacent to a 40 year old high-pressure gas pipeline. Please select the LCRA recommended route or one of the alternatives not involving a gas pipeline. Please do not make us spend the rest of our lives fearing that we will be burned alive in our homes or while trying to evacuate from a firestorm. A problem on the pipeline gives every owner access to only one ranch exit. Normally we all have a choice of two ranch exits as recommended by the Texas Forest Service in our FEMA Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan. Thank you for your attention to this letter.

Very truly yours,

Priscilla B. Stanley & James P. Stanley

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