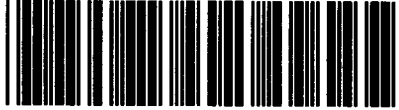




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Smitherman, Barry

38354

From: Smitherman, Barry
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2010 1:55 PM
To: 'ppincoffs@wortham-austin.com'
Cc: Cantwell, Garnet
Subject: Re: PUC Docket Number 37049, Menard-Mason-Gillespie Route

Peter. Thanks for your email. Since this is about to become a live docket at the PUC, I will file your email and my response. We are looking forward to LCRA's filing so that we can analyze the various route options presented. We understand that the Mason community has a strong point of view. Rest assured that in deciding the ultimate route, we will follow both the statute and our rules. Thanks for your service to our State. Barry

From: Peter Pincoffs <ppincoffs@wortham-austin.com>
To: Smitherman, Barry
Cc: smorgenroth@lcra.org <smorgenroth@lcra.org>; rmotal@lcra.org <rmotal@lcra.org>; tmason@lcra.org <tmason@lcra.org>
Sent: Tue Jun 29 13:45:28 2010
Subject: PUC Docket Number 37049 Menard-Mason-Gillespie Route

Dear Barry:

I'm writing to follow up comments made to you in a letter last fall regarding my opposition to the Menard-Mason-Gillespie route for the proposed LCRA TSC 345-kilovolt transmission line as part of the CREZ project.

Louise and I live in Austin, but have owned a ranch in Mason County since 1996, and spend as much time as possible there. I serve on the board of the Texas Hill Country Heritage Conservation Association, and was formerly and LCRA Board member and Chairman in 1999.

A couple of issues stand out to me regarding this route:

1. The existing right-of-way in Mason County is old, sixty ft., and is for a small transmission line vs. the 160 ft. proposed right-of-way for 180 ft. lattice towers.
2. The original IH 10 Route makes sense to me, as a major roadway already exists, and if the line were located along it, that it would not be necessary to cut a huge swath through a pristine area of the hill country that has great historical and environmental features that are unique and should be left undisturbed.

Mason itself is in my opinion one of the best preserved towns in the hill country, and is a great treasure in Texas that would be greatly disturbed by this line. South of town and west of Hwy. 87 is the James River Bat Cave, managed by the Nature Conservancy, and one of the great bat colonies in the country which would potentially be disturbed by this line location.

We greatly appreciate your work at the PUC, and know that this is a difficult process for you all. I am available at any time if you would like to discuss this issue.

Thanks for your consideration.

Regards,

Peter

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