

Control Number: 38354



Item Number: 58

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*Public Utility Commission of Texas*

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09 JUL 20 PM 2:47  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
FILING CLERK

July 17, 2009

JD Kidwell  
Kim Paxson  
P.O. Box 282  
Junction, Texas 76849

Dear Mr. Kidwell and Ms. Paxson:

Thank you for your recent letter on the LCRA CREZ transmission project. Because much the renewable energy transmission effort involves a contested case, I will file your letter in Docket No. 37049 along with my response.

I understand your concern about the siting of the transmission lines by LCRA. LCRA has not yet filed its application with the Public Utility Commission, and LCRA is responsible for setting the study area and developing the proposed transmission lines. However, once the application is filed at the Commission, there are several factors that the Commission will take into account when making its decision on the route. The Commission's determination of which route to use when granting a CCN is governed by both statute and PUCT rules. While LCRA will recommend a preferred route and alternative routes, the Commission may also examine alternative routes proposed by other parties.

The Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA Section 37.056) sets out the criteria used by the Commission in deciding to grant the CCN, and with it the ultimate location of the transmission route. Those factors include, among other things, community values, recreational and park areas, historical and aesthetic values, environmental integrity, and the effect of granting the CCN on the state's ability to meet its renewable energy goals. Commission rules also list routing criteria, such as whether the proposed routes utilize or parallel existing compatible rights-of-way, whether the routes parallel property lines or other natural or cultural features, and whether the routes conform to the policy of prudent avoidance.

The siting of high capacity transmission lines is of critical importance to our state, as the reliability of the transmission system ensures that the lights always stay on. Also, our state has made a commitment to renewable energy and most of that must be transported from West Texas and the Panhandle to the I-35 corridor and beyond. However, the process can be difficult and emotional for landowners. Therefore, it is very important that we follow the criteria listed in both statute and Commission rules. When the LCRA files its application, the Commission will take all these factors into account when making its decision on the route and design of the transmission line.

Sincerely

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

Barry T. Smitherman



58

**HACIENDA CALA DE CABRA  
190 MERRITT RANCH ROAD  
HARPER, TEXAS 78631**

**JULY 12, 2009**

**RECEIVED  
JUL 17 2009  
Chairman's Office**

**BARRY SMITHERMAN, CHAIRMAN  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS  
P. O. BOX 13326  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711**

**REFERENCE PUC CONTROL NUMBER 37049**

**DEAR MR. SMITHERMAN:**

**I AM WRITING TO ASK THAT YOU, THE PUC AND LCRA EXPAND THE STUDY AREA FOR THE PROPOSED MCCAMEY D STATION TO WESTWIND STATION AND ADOPT AN ALTERNATE ROUTE FOR THE PROPOSED 345 KV TRANSMISSION LINE WHICH WOULD THEN PARALLEL AN ALREADY EXISTING 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE THROUGH MENARD, MASON AND GILLESPIE COUNTIES.**

**MY HUSBAND AND I LIVE ON OUR FAMILY RANCE WHICH LIES ON ROUTE B32 OF THE PROPOSED MCCAMEY D TO WESTWIND TO KENDALL 345 KV TRANSMISSION LINE IN KIMBLE COUNTY. THIS LINE, AS DO MANY OF THE PROPOSED LINES WITHIN THE MCCAMEY D TO WESTWIND TO KENDALL STUDY AREA, NEGATIVELY IMPACTS THE PRISTINE ENVIRONMENT OF THE HILL COUNTRY OF TEXAS. NO UTILIZATION OF, OR PARALLELING OF EXISTING RIGHT-OF-WAYS, OR PARALLELING PROPERTY LINES IS EVIDENT. NO REGARD FOR RIPARIAN AREAS OR AIRPORT SAFETY IS APPARENT. IN FACT, THE MAGNITUDE OF THESE HUGE LINES/ LATTICE TOWERS HAPHAZARDLY CROSSING THIS AREA WILL DEVASTATE KIMBLE COUNTY ECONOMICALLY, ENVIRONMENTALLY, AESTHETICALLY--FOREVER.**

**WE URGE YOU PLEASE TO CONSIDER EXPANDING THE PRESENTLY-IDENTIFIED STUDY AREA FOR THE PROPOSED MCCAMEY D TO WESTWIND STATION AND ADOPTING A PROPOSED ALTERNATE ROUTE FOLLOWING, UTILIZING AND/OR PARALLELING THE EXISTING 138 KV LINES TRAVELING THROUGH MENARD, MASON AND GILLESPIE COUNTIES. (IDENTIFIED IN ATTACHMENT)**

**WE ALSO RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT ANYWHERE IN THE HILL COUNTRY A TRANSMISSION LINE RUNS, YOU REQUIRE THE USE OF MONOPOLES OR BURIED LINES.**

**BECAUSE OF THE MANDATED TIME RESTRAINTS FROM OUR LEGISLATURE, WE APPRECIATE THAT YOU MUST MAKE THE DECISION TO EXPAND THIS STUDY AREA IMMEDIATELY IN ORDER TO MEET YOUR DEADLINES. WE APPRECIATE THAT THIS WILL CERTAINLY INCREASE YOUR AND LCRA'S WORK-LOADS FOR AWHILE. WE APPRECIATE THAT YOU, THE PUC AND LCRA CERTAINLY WANT TO PROVIDE THE BEST, CHEAPEST POWER FOR TEXANS, BUT IN DOING SO, THAT YOU DO NOT WANT TO DESTROY THE BEAUTY AND QUALITY OF LIFE HERE THAT SO MANY TEXANS ENJOY AS A PLACE OF RESPITE, A PLACE OF CONNECTION TO NATURE AND AS A PLACE WHERE THEY CAN FEEL THE VERY PRESENCE OF GOD!**

**WE BEG YOU TO MAKE THE DECISION TO EXPAND THE STUDY AREA IMMEDIATELY BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE TO DO SO AND THEN TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED ALTERNATE ROUTE WHICH WILL FOLLOW ALREADY-ESTABLISHED RIGHT-OF-WAYS, SCAR ALREADY-SCARRED LAND, AND NOT BLEMISH ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL RECREATIONAL AREAS OF TEXAS WITH HUGE LATTICE TOWERS.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION OF THESE REQUESTS.**

**SINCERELY,**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jan & Earl Merritt".

**JAN AND EARL MERRITT**

The map displays a proposed transmission line route connecting the McCamey D Station (indicated by a cross-hatched circle) to the West Wind Station (indicated by a cross-hatched circle). The route is shown as a thick, solid black line. The map includes a legend with the following symbols:

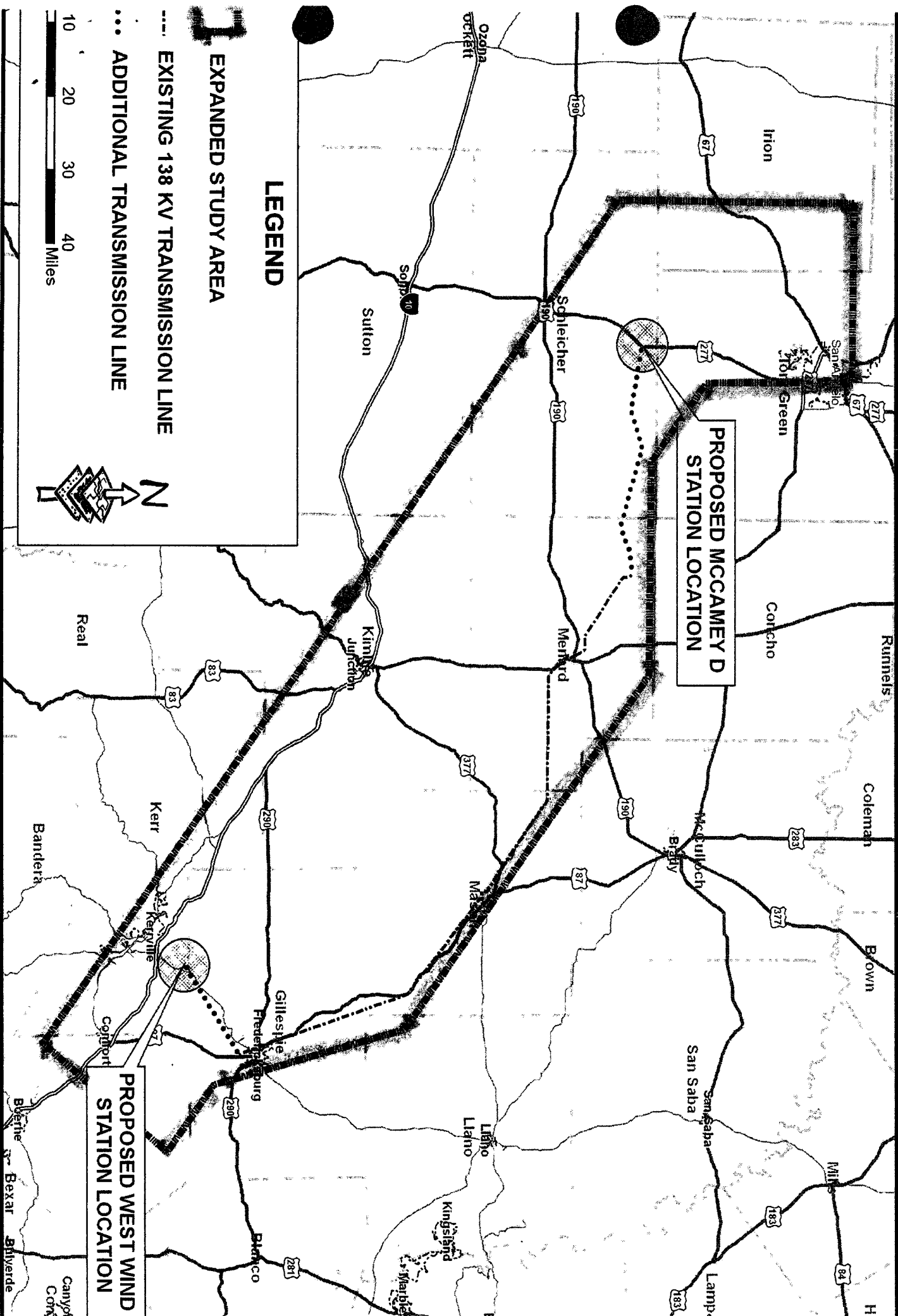
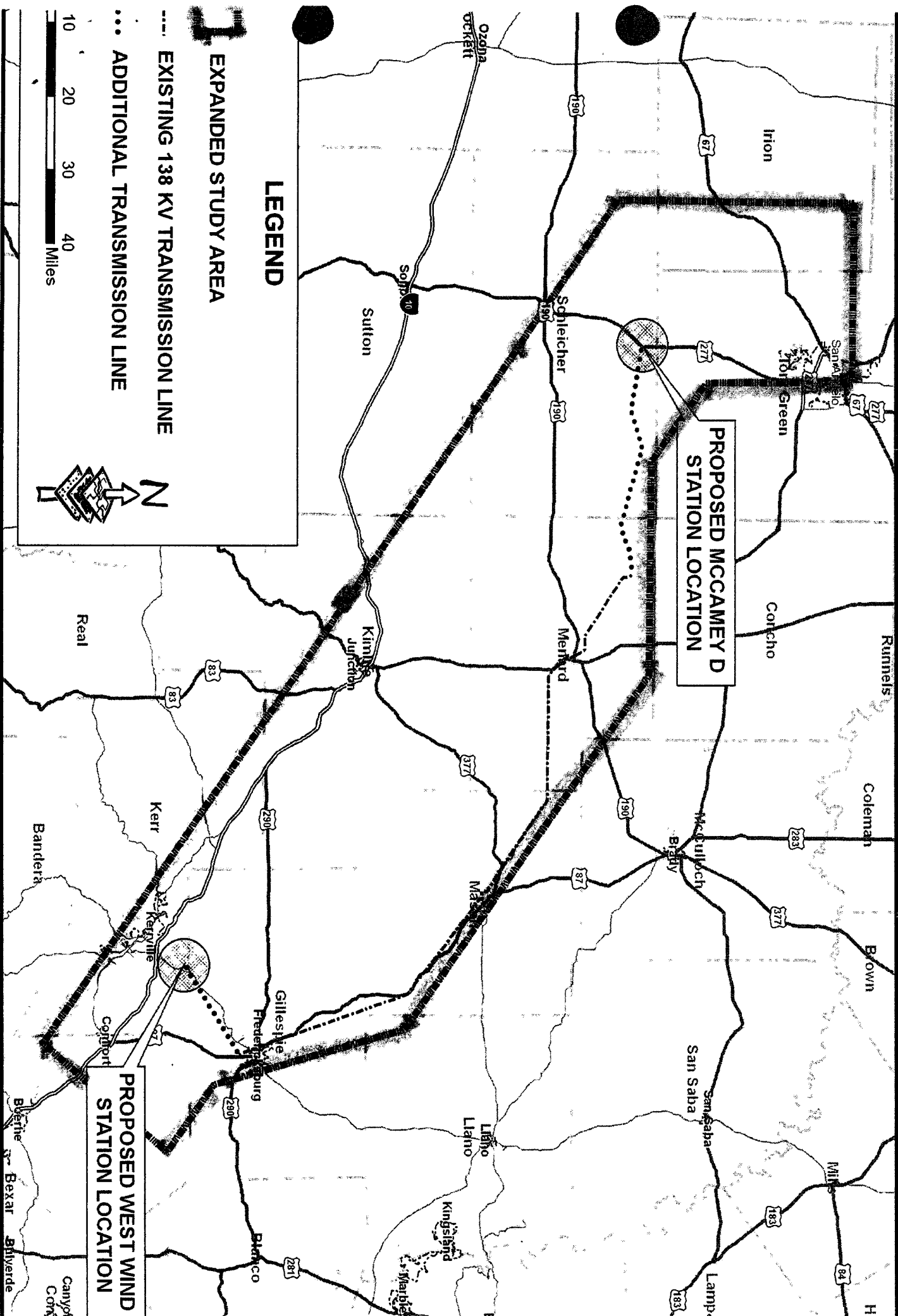
- EXPANDED STUDY AREA**: Represented by a thick, solid black line.
- EXISTING 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE**: Represented by a dashed line.
- ADDITIONAL TRANSMISSION LINE**: Represented by a dotted line.

The map also features a scale bar (0 to 40 miles) and a north arrow. Various counties and cities are labeled, including Irion, Corcho, Runnels, Coleman, Brown, San Saba, Lamp, Llano, Kingsland, Blanco, Kerr, Bandera, Real, and Gillespie. Major highways are marked with numbers such as 190, 277, 283, 87, 290, 83, 281, 183, and 84.

The map displays a proposed transmission line route connecting two substations: McCamey D and West Wind. The route is shown as a thick, dark line, with a solid section for the 'EXPANDED STUDY AREA' and a dotted section for 'ADDITIONAL TRANSMISSION LINE'. The map includes a legend, a scale bar (0 to 40 miles), and a north arrow. Key locations and roads are labeled, including Irion, Slaton, Schleicher, Meind, Corcho, Coleman, Brown, San Saba, Lamp, Kingsland, Marble, Llano, Llano, Kerr, Bandera, Real, and Bexar. The route starts near Schleicher and Meind, travels south through Corcho and Coleman, then west through San Saba and Lamp, and finally south through Kingsland and Marble to the West Wind station. The McCamey D station is located near Schleicher and Meind. The West Wind station is located near Kingsland and Marble.

The map displays a proposed transmission line route connecting two substations. The route is shown as a thick black line, with a dashed line indicating an expanded study area. The route starts at the McCamey D station (indicated by a circle with a cross) and extends south-southwest to the West Wind station (indicated by a circle with a cross). The route passes through or near the following locations: Schleicher, Sutton, Kinloch Junction, Gillespie, and Fredericksburg. The map also shows existing 138 KV transmission lines (dashed lines) and additional transmission lines (dotted lines). The map includes a legend, a scale bar (0 to 40 miles), and a north arrow. The map is labeled with various counties and cities, including Irion, Corchico, Runnels, Coleman, Brown, San Saba, Lamp, Llano, Kingsland, Marble, Blanco, Kerr, Bandera, Real, and Bexar. The map also shows major highways (e.g., 190, 277, 83, 290, 281, 183, 84) and smaller roads (e.g., 40, 87, 283, 277, 183, 84).

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[illegible]

The map displays a proposed transmission line route (thick solid line) connecting the McCamey D Station (indicated by a circle with a cross) to the West Wind Station (indicated by a circle with a cross). The route follows a path through the central and southern parts of the map, passing near towns such as Schleicher, Meind, Brady, and Gillespie. The map includes county names (Irion, Runnels, Coleman, Brown, Comanche, Lampasas, Llano, Kingsland, Blanco, Kerr, Bandera, Real, Bexar, Guadalupe, and Gillespie), major highways (e.g., 190, 277, 83, 290, 281, 84, 183, 87, 283, 297, 40, 130, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913,

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