



Control Number: 38484



Item Number: 138

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**SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-10-5919  
PUC DOCKET NO. 38484**

<b>APPLICATION OF WIND ENERGY</b>	§	<b>BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE</b>
<b>TRANSMISSION TEXAS, LLC</b>	§	
<b>(WETT) FOR A CERTIFICATE OF</b>	§	
<b>CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY</b>	§	
<b>(CCN) FOR THE SCURRY COUNTY</b>	§	
<b>SOUTH – LONG DRAW – GRELTON -</b>	§	OF
<b>ODESSA 345-KV CREZ</b>	§	
<b>TRANSMISSION LINES IN SCURRY,</b>	§	
<b>MITCHELL, BORDEN, HOWARD,</b>	§	
<b>DAWSON, MARTIN, MIDLAND, AND</b>	§	
<b>ECTOR COUNTIES</b>	§	<b>ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS</b>

FILED  
PUBLIC CLERK  
JUL 21 12 11 PM '07  
MIDLAND

**CRAIG HUBBARD’S DIRECT TESTIMONY  
ON BEHALF OF OX BOW RANCH, LTD.**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

**Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.**

A. My name is Craig Hubbard, and my address is P.O. Box 3282, Midland, Texas 79702.

**Q. WHAT IS YOUR BACKGROUND and CURRENT OCCUPATION?**

A. My professional career has centered on working as a petroleum landman, as well as working in ranch management positions. Today, I serve as the Manager of the Ox Bow Ranch, Ltd., (hereinafter “Ox Bow”) as well as a petroleum landman.

**Q. HAVE YOU EVER TESTIFIED IN A PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS (“PUC” OR “COMMISSION”) PROCEEDING?**

A. No.

**Q. ON WHOSE BEHALF ARE YOU PRESENTING TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING?**

A. I am testifying on behalf of Ox Bow, an intervenor in this proceeding.

**Q. ARE YOU AN INTERVENOR?**

A. Yes, in my capacity as the Manager of the Ox Bow, an intervenor in this proceeding.

## **II. PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY**

**Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING?**

A. The purpose of my testimony is to describe the Ox Bow and to explain which links would adversely affect our property. I am also providing this testimony, because the Ox Bow Ranch is a large operation and is impacted by nearly all of the alternative routes; therefore, my testimony serves to clarify that the northern routes crossing our property would be the most detrimental to our property. Moreover, in the event a portion of our property is impacted, the Ox Bow is staunchly opposed to construction of the proposed transmission line using lattice towers.

**Q. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE PREFERRED ROUTE?**

A. No; the Ox Bow Ranch is opposed to Alternative Route 2-2, the preferred route for the Scurry South – Long Draw portion of the proposed transmission line.

**Q. DO YOU OPPOSE ANY OTHER ROUTES?**

A. Yes, the Ox Bow is opposed to the following routes, as they would all directly affect the Ox Bow Ranch: Alternative Routes 1-2, 2-2, 3-2, 4-2, 5-2, 6-2, 7-2, 8-2, 9-2, 12-2.

## **III. DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY**

**Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR PROPERTY.**

A. The Ox Bow is a large ranch in Borden County, covering 30,424 acres. This is often referred to as “Caprock Country” because of our location close to, and along, the Caprock Escarpment in the Texas Panhandle. We have a commercial cow/calf ranching operation on the Ox Bow. As a result, we have various sets of working pens across our entire ranch, and the Headquarters portion of the ranching operation is located just off of Highway 180. The Ox Bow also serves as a prime location for hunters, with various species of wildlife found on our property.

**Q. WHAT SEGMENTS ADVERSELY AFFECT YOUR PROPERTY?**

A. The following Links would directly affect Ox Bow Ranch property: Links BY2, CY2, VY2, DY2, EY2, HY2, QY2, and FY2.

## **IV. LAND USE**

**Q. ARE THERE ANY STRUCTURES ON YOUR PROPERTY? PLEASE DESCRIBE THEM.**

A. Yes, we have a house and several barns at the Headquarters portion of the Ox Bow, which is located, just off of Highway 180, east of Gail. Therefore, the Ox Bow is

adamantly opposed to the alternative proposed routes that include Links BY2 and VY2, as these proposed links would come very close to the Headquarters area.

**Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY BODIES OF WATER OR WATER TANKS ON YOUR PROPERTY?**

A. Yes, there are many natural and man-made water tanks that are spread liberally across the entire ranch. In addition, the Colorado River cuts through the southwest portion of the ranch.

**V. ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE PROPERTY**

**Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW LINKS BY2, CY2, VY2, DY2, EY2, HY2, QY2, and/or FY2, AS CURRENTLY PROPOSED, WILL IMPACT YOUR PROPERTY, AND EXPLAIN WHAT YOUR OBJECTIONS ARE TO ROUTING THE TRANSMISSION LINE ALONG LINKS BY2, CY2, VY2, DY2, EY2, HY2, QY2, and/or FY2.**

A. **COMMERCIAL IMPACT**

The commercial cow/calf operation is critical to the Ox Bow. Links BY2, CY2, VY2, DY2, EY2, HY2, QY2, and/or FY2 would all have a direct effect on that cow/calf operation. These links are a part of the following proposed alternative routes: Alternative Routes 1-2, 2-2, 3-2, 4-2, 5-2, 6-2, 7-2, 8-2, 9-2, 12-2. These routes would hamper our ability to move and work cattle in the same fashion that we do today, and would have a negative effect on our commercial operation. In addition, the northern alternative proposed routes would have a severe negative effect on the Headquarters portion of our ranch; therefore, the Ox Bow is steadfastly opposed to routing the transmission line along these links.

In addition, most importantly, the proposed transmission line, routed along any of these links, would likely result in a dramatic negative effect on the property value of the ranch. The Ox Bow is concerned about these devastating commercial impacts, which would result in a significant monetary burden for the ranch to bear.

**Q. DO YOU HAVE A PREFERENCE AS TO WHAT KIND OF UTILITY POLES ARE USED, SINGLE POLE OR LATTICE STRUCTURE?**

A. Yes; while Ox Bow Ranch is opposed to the construction of the proposed transmission line on our property, if the approved transmission line route does impact the Ox Bow Ranch property, monopole structures are preferred.

**VI. CONCLUSION**

**Q. WILL YOU PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

A. The Ox Bow intervened in this proceeding, because our Borden County ranch is affected

by nearly all of the proposed alternative routes in this proceeding. The Ox Bow is opposed to the construction of the proposed transmission line; of the alternative routes that would impact the Ox Bow, the northern routes crossing our property would be the most detrimental to our property. Moreover, in the event a portion of our property is impacted by the proposed transmission line, the Ox Bow is staunchly opposed to construction of the proposed transmission line using lattice towers.

**Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

A. Yes. However, in the event the Commission issues an Order with additional issues to be addressed in this proceeding, I reserve the right to supplement my testimony.