



Control Number: 38829



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December 5, 2010

Chairman Barry T. Smitherman  
Commissioner Donna L. Nelson  
Commissioner Kenneth W. Anderson Jr.  
Public Utility Commission of Texas  
P.O. Box 13326  
Austin, Texas 78711-3326

2010 DEC 14 PM 2:11  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS

**Subject: PUC DOCKET 38829 - Proposed CREZ Transmission Line in Armstrong, Briscoe, Carson, Donley, Gray and Swisher Counties, Texas**

Dear Chairman Smitherman and Commissioners Nelson and Anderson:

I am writing to oppose the proposed CREZ transmission lines through **Routes 9, 10, and 11**; and especially the links **V, U, and BB** along the Whitdeer to Silverton route. These proposed lines transverse the beautiful SJ Ranch. I have been fortunate enough to have hunted quail and dove on this Texas Panhandle treasure. There are fewer and fewer places to enjoy native rangeland that is basically unchanged since the area was settled in the late 1870's and 1880's. The ranch consists of some of the last unbroken mixed grass native prairie in the Southern Plains. This is a treasure to the people of the Texas Panhandle. Giant power lines crossing native prairie with no respect to property lines or to such a unique environment is unconscionable.

The ranch has a very diverse population of wildlife. Game animals consist of White-tailed deer, Mule deer, Antelope, Scaled Quail, Bobwhite Quail, and Mourning Doves. Waterfowl use the spring fed ponds and wetlands on the Salt Fork of the Red River. Mule Deer, Antelope, Scaled Quail, and Bobwhite Quail populations have been in decline largely because of habitat fragmentation. A giant transmission line across this area would greatly fragment prime habitat for these species. Links U and BB are especially detrimental to the riparian areas of the Salt Fork.

Non-game species, such as the Bald Eagle, have a significant winter roost in directly in the path of the links U and BB. They have even been documented to nest on the ranch along the Salt Fork. This is one of the very few nesting sites for Bald Eagles in the State of Texas, especially in the Texas Panhandle. The Bald Eagle is a "Threatened Species" according to the United States Fish & Wildlife Service. Neo-tropical migrants use the mature Cottonwoods, Willows and Hackberries as an important rest stop on their migration in the spring and fall area along the Salt Fork.

This area is unique to the State of Texas and should be preserved for future generations. Surely there are other routes that use existing right-of-ways, follow property lines, and preserve ecological treasures such as this ranch and its surrounding area. Thank you for time and consideration.

Respectfully,

  
Frates Seeligson

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