



Control Number: 41606



Item Number: 1036

Addendum StartPage: 0

STATEMENT OF POSITION

PUC DOCKET NO 41606  
SOAH DOC 473-13-5207  
ITEM NO. 128

BEATRICE V. THOMPSON, ALSO REPRESENTING MY FOUR CHILDREN (ALEIDA G. AGADO, ANTONIO D. GARCIA, ALISA G. GODINICH, AND ALEJANDRO (HONDO) GARCIA

1814 MOCKINGBIRD

HARLINGEN, TEXAS 78550

OPPOSITION TO LINK 264

THE ADVERSE IMPACT OF LINK 264 ON ALL OF US CANNOT BE MEASURED BY ANYONE OTHER THAN THE OWNERS OF ONES PROPERTY. AS A FAMILY, WE STRIVE AND WORK SO HARD TO ENJOY WHAT WE CAN; HOWEVER THE ENJOYMENT OF OUR PIECE OF LAND IS CURRENTLY BEING THREATENED BY LINK 264. OUR LAND IS THREATENED TO BE DIMINISHED IN VALUE AND THREATENED TO BE AESTHETICALLY OFFENSIVE IF LINK 264 IS AN APPROVED ROUTE. THERE ARE ALREADY EXISTING ROUTES THAT RUN TO THE SOUTH ALONG 281 AND THE NORTHERN ROUTES OF THE VALLEY. WHY NOT USE EXISTING LINES OR USE UNDERGROUND TRANSMISSION LINES? WHY NOT USE THE "BORDER CORRIDOR" (FENCE, LEVEE, FISH & WILDLIFE AREAS) MADE UP OF LAND ALREADY "TAKEN" OUT OF LANDOWNERS' USE. MY FAMILY AND I HAVE ALREADY SUFFERED ENOUGH THROUGH THE CONDEMNATION OF OUR LAND USED FOR THE CONTROVERSIAL BORDER FENCE WHICH CERTAINLY DOES NOT KEEP THE CROOKS OUT. WE WERE ALSO FORCED TO SELL A TRACT OF LAND BECAUSE A LOCAL UTILITIES COMPANY DECIDED TO USE A STRAWMAN TO PURCHASE ADJACENT LAND TO INSTALL WHAT WE CALLED AN OPEN 100 AC CESSPOOL RATHER THAN INSTALL A 2 AC MECHANICAL PLANT FOR SEWAGE. THIS FIASCO HAD DEEP "POLITICAL" ROOTS WE AS A FAMILY COULD NOT FIGHT. (PER WELL KNOWN AUSTIN, TX ATTORNEY WILLING TO TAKE CASE PRO-BONO) THE LAND WE ALL OCCUPY NOW IS A RESULT OF "FLEEING" FROM THE HIGHWAY 281 AREA AND NOW WE ARE THREATENED WITH THE SAME TYPE OF CONDEMNATION.

WE ARE A CLOSE FAMILY. MY FOUR CHILDREN ARE ALL WITHIN A STONE'S THROW FROM LINK 264 THAT AFFECTS US. MY DAUGHTER, ALEIDA AGADO AND HER FAMILY, LIVE ACROSS THE STREET (ON HUDSON ROAD) FROM OUR LAND AND MY SON TONY GARCIA AND HIS FAMILY LIVE ON LEAL RD AND MY OTHER SON ALEJANDRO (HONDO) GARCIA AND HIS FAMILY AND DAUGHTER ALISA GODINICH WITH HER FAMILY HAVE THEIR

2013 OCT 16 AM 9:16

PUC DOC 41606  
SOAH DOC 473-13-5207  
ITEM NO 128  
BEATRICE V. THOMPSON

2

HOMES ON THE PROPERTY. WE HAVE DREAMS OF HAVING A "GREEN FARM". WE ALREADY HAVE REFRAINED FROM USING CHEMICALS SO WE CAN QUALIFY FOR ORGANIC FARMING: HAY, CATTLE, AND YOUTH (4-H AND FFA) STOCK SHOW PIGS.

LINK 264 CROSSES OUR FAMILY PROPERTY ON HUDSON ROAD BETWEEN LEAL ROAD AND OYAMA ROAD. WE HAVE 120 ACRES WHICH WERE PLATTED IN 2004 INTO FIVE PARCELS FOR MY FOUR CHILDREN, TEN GRANDCHILDREN, THREE GREAT GRANDCHILDREN AND MY HUSBAND AND ME. THERE ARE 24 OF US WHO DEPEND AND USE THIS LAND WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN ERODED BY OYAMA ROAD, LEAL ROAD AND HUDSON ROAD AS BOUNDARY LINES GO TO ONE HALF OF EACH OF THE THREE ROADS. FURTHER, CAMERON COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT #3 HAS A HUGE DRAINAGE CANAL THAT TAKES 100 FEET OF EASEMENT. LINK 264 PROPOSES A 150 FOOT EASEMENT. IF LINK 264 IS SELECTED, BETWEEN THE TWO EASEMENTS, WE WOULD LOSE 15 ACRES JUST ON THESE TWO EASEMENTS (250' X 2640') AND WHO REIMBURSES US FOR THIS LOSS AND THE PERMANENT LOST VALUE ON THE LAND WE AS A FAMILY SUFFERED? FURTHER, WHO WANTS THEIR DREAM HOME IMPACTED BY THESE MONSTROUS 140-165 FT TRANSMISSION TOWERS? THIS IS A HUGE IMPACT ON US AND FROM OUR VIEWPOINT, WE HAVE SO MANY RESTRICTIONS, WE NO LONGER HAVE CONTROL OR USE OF WHAT WE WORK AND STRIVE SO HARD TO PURCHASE AND MAINTAIN. AND THIS DOES NOT COUNT "ALL THE OTHER" EASEMENTS ON OYAMA ROAD AND LEAL ROAD. AFTER EVERY STATE, COUNTY OR PUBLIC UTILITIES COMPANIES TAKE THEIR SHARE OF "EASEMENTS", WILL THERE BE ANY LAND LEFT FOR OUR FAMILY TO ENJOY? ON TOP OF ALL THIS WE PAY TAXES ON ALL OF IT EVEN WHAT IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR OUR USE! I ALMOST WISH WE HAD SOME ENDANGERED INSECT OR ANIMAL ON OUR LAND SO ALL ENTITIES WOULD JUST LEAVE US ALONE. IT SEEMS ENDANGERED INSECTS AND ANIMALS HAVE MORE RIGHTS THAN WE HUMANS HAVE AS LANDOWNERS. IN ADDITION, WE ARE IN A FLOODPLAIN SO WE HAVE THE GOVERNMENT TELLING US WE HAVE TO PURCHASE FLOOD INSURANCE IF WE STILL HAVE A MORTGAGE. MY SON AND HIS TWO SONS HAVE THEIR RESIDENCE ON THE PROPERTY AS DOES MY DAUGHTER AND HER FAMILY OF FIVE. IN MY LIFETIME, IBWC HAS TAKEN OUR LAND FOR A LEVEE, THE GOVERNMENT FOR A BORDER FENCE, TXDOT 8 FT OUT OF 100 FT DEEP LOT FOR EXPANDING THE HIGHWAY LEAVING OUR FRONT DOOR IN HARM'S WAY 20

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SOAH DOC 473-13-5207  
ITEM NO 128  
BEATRICE V. THOMPSON

3

FEET AWAY FROM A BUSY HIGHWAY AND I COULD GO ON AND ON! DO WE WANT TO GIVE UP YET ANOTHER 150 FT BY 2640 FEET FOR TRANSMISSION LINES THAT COMPROMISE THE AESTHETICS AND VALUE OF THIS PIECE OF LAND WE CALL HOME? NO, WE DO NOT!! THIS IS ALL WE HAVE FOR OUR FAMILY AND ALL WE LEAVE BEHIND.

THE HEALTH HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH BEING CLOSE TO THESE TRANSMISSION LINES ARE ALSO OF GREAT CONCERN BUT NOT NECESSARILY ADDRESSED FOR THE SAME REASONS THE TOBACCO COMPANIES FOUGHT THE DANGERS OF SMOKING AND NFL FIGHTS THE BAD EFFECTS OF HEAD TRAUMA ON ITS FOOTBALL PLAYERS. AND HOW NECESSARY ARE THESE LINES? ONE FIFTH OF OUR LAND IS SERVICED BY MAGIC VALLEY ELECTRIC COOP (MVEC) AND WE HAVE BEEN A COOP MEMBER FOR OVER 50 YEARS AND WE HAVE NEVER HAD POWER OUTAGES FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME EVEN DURING HURRICANES. WHEN WE BROUGHT ELECTRICITY TO OUR LAND IN 2006, WE WANTED MVEC TO EXTEND SERVICE TO MY DAUGHTER'S HOUSE LESS THAN 500 FT AWAY BUT AEP/CPL WERE TOO GREEDY AND WOULD NOT ALLOW IT. IT COST US \$6,637 FOR AEP TO BRING ELECTRICITY FROM ACROSS THE STREET; AND THEY JUST BROUGHT IT TO THE EDGE OF OUR PROPERTY--WE DID OUR OWN DIGGING TO BRING IT TO THE HOUSE. WE COULD HAVE SAVED MORE THAN \$5000.00 WERE IT NOT FOR AEP'S GREED AND REFUSAL TO RELEASE THE ADJACENT BLOCK TO MVEC.

THE POINT OF ALL THIS IS THAT WHERE THERE IS SO MUCH MONEY AT STAKE, ETT'S INTEREST IS NOT REALLY OUR WELFARE OR OUR HEALTH--IT'S HOW MUCH THEY WILL GET OUT OF IT BECAUSE AS THEY TOLD US AT THE MEETING, ALL THE COST WILL BE PASSED ON TO US, THE CONSUMER.

AT THIS STAGE OF MY LIFE ALL I CAN DO IS VOICE WHAT IS JUST NOT RIGHT AND TO TRY TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PLANET FOR OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN AND FUTURE GENERATIONS. THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY IS ONE OF THE POOREST AREAS IN THE STATE AND SOMETIMES BIG COMPANIES JUST COME IN AND BULLDOZE OVER US WITH LITTLE REGARD FOR WHAT THEY DO TO US AND OUR LANDSCAPE. A 1% SHOWING AT THE ETT AND SHARYLAND UTILITIES HEARINGS DOES NOT INDICATE THE OTHER 99% APPROVE THE PLAN. IT JUST MEANS THEY ARE EITHER NOT KNOWLEDGEABLE OR DON'T CARE, BUT WE DO CARE: WE DO NOT WANT LINK 264!