



Control Number: 41606



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Suggestion for the State of Texas, Governor Rick Perry and General PUC Commentary

**Although I spoke briefly at the PUC Open Meeting March 6<sup>th</sup>, this is commentary about Texas, processes at the PUC, but not a specific docket.** I said streamline? I don't know where that came from. My intent was to stress that In My Humble Opinion (IMHO) I've been through two of these cases as a pro se intervenor, and I question if there has been much thought put to updating the processes from both legal and common sense points of view. **Are we doing it the same way it was done 50 years ago? Can we do better? Why not request input?**

- A. Newspaper notices of Open Houses are more and more outdated for public notice. Additional notice methods should be found. Take into account there are more and more absent owners. I don't know what that could be besides billboards. Unless....
- B. For the "think bigger crowd". With the growing dominance of the Internet, perhaps the State of Texas could be so proactive as to have a single, notification web page. It CAN be easy. A general idea or rough draft follows, made brief due to filing restrictions and the desire to make this no more than 2 pages. Please do not get locked into specifics or be looking for perfection, just the general idea.
  - 1. Familiar with NOTAMS? Notice to Airmen by the FAA? Where pilots can easily find notices for flying in a particular area? (<https://pilotweb.nas.faa.gov>) Why not an online database where there is Notice to Texas? It can be incredibly simple. Users can search by area, counties, cities down to zip codes, etc. The PUC would be able to identify a project and could point to a web page for more information.

Example: Transmission Line Project, Cameron and Hidalgo Counties, Filing Deadline xx/xx/2013, end date, PUC filing 41606, and [www.CrossValleyProject.com](http://www.CrossValleyProject.com)

That's it. **Less than 25 words, two links and done in perhaps 5 minutes.** The "PUC filing 41606" could link direct to the docket. Perhaps one graphic image, in this case a map. Keep "Tweet like" limits.

- 2. Name. "NoTex" doesn't work, something like "TexNotes.gov" points to: Notes.state.tx.us
- 3. Other applications. Note that the web page is a database. ALL, REPEAT ALL, the brief content comes ONLY from the government entities with authority to add brief information, time line/duration and links for more information.
  - a. Counties could identify burn bans or advisories. With links to their standard county home page, perhaps appraisal district page.
  - b. Highway departments could identify closures, detours, construction delay operation times, etc. Including future scheduled events for trip planning or high traffic for games like Texas-OU traffic warnings.
  - c. Cities could do the same for street closings for events, etc.
  - d. Amber Alerts. (Also Blue, Silver, Endangered)

- e. Health Department – Food recalls, etc
- f. Flooding/Weather/Emergencies. Bid Requests. Zoning. ETC., ETC. The unlimited ability to timely notify people of Texas notices, from one web page, whatever the event by identifying the area with LINKS POINTING TO where more information can be obtained. “Opened Government”.
- 4. Cost? Perhaps it could make money for Texas. One example, a monthly contract could be auctioned for having the sole commercial ad/link on the “TexNotes” web page, providing payment to the state and requiring they display a reciprocal ad on their web page(s) for “TexNotes”.
- 5. There will be an app for this. If the online database is designed from the start with it in mind. Perhaps TexNotes can Tweet about some of these automatically if the database is designed for it. But more efficiently that could come from the entity making the submission by way of an optional link to be notified of events so Texans could sign up for receiving information (email or tweets) for certain types or certain locations. KISS – don’t bog down or cause expense to the “TexNotes” page. It’s a pointer.
- 6. In the weeds. If there is a fight over where the revenue goes, users of the “TexNotes” web page could “vote” from a supplied list of Texas programs, including schools.

This is just the start of an outline. I’ll again suggest keep it simple. 25-50 words besides the link for more info and optional link to be notified of more by area and perhaps one graphic image.

C. Back to the PUC Processes - The open house and initial filing notification suggestions:

- 1. Both times I intervened there were people who didn’t realize how serious the mailing was and didn’t open it until after the open house or didn’t even think they got the notice. IMHO there needs to be a MORE serious mandated standard warning on the initial mailing to the landowners. We have serious warnings on cigarettes, why not these? Something needs to distinguish these from junk mail.
- 2. The initial mailing letter should **BOLDLY and CLEARLY** identify which link(s) the recipient is believed to be on that is causing them to get this mailing. This should be at the top of the letter also, IMHO.
- 3. The provided protest and intervention should have a blank insisting on not just the name, but the link(s) identified in their letter. Also all lawyers and pro se intervenors should be made aware to put the link(s) next to the owner name on all filings. To easily identify like minded.
- 4. Officially updating notice requirements away from “snail mail” sent to everyone on everything.
- 5. Someday - cutting down the paper filing requirements? Electronic documents can work. <g>
- 6. Perhaps the PUC should have an “Open House” for input on the processes and request all to input.

Thank you,



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