



Control Number: 41808



Item Number: 34

Addendum StartPage: 0

41808

Dear Ms Nelson,

I am writing you as a constituent.

My husband and I built our dream house in Frisco, TX 1 years ago so we could watch our children; 5 years old and 2 years old, grow up. We recently received news that Brazos Electric is proposing to construct high-voltage transmission lines directly down Stonebrook Pkwy and completely surround our neighborhood. In addition to wrapping our neighborhood in huge high-voltage transmission lines they also plan to place a 5 acre substation extremely close to our neighborhood. Learn more: <http://www.brazoselectric.com/projects/stonebrook/>

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PUBLIC FILING CLERK

(Please see images below)



**ABOUT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD:**

The neighborhood we live in is Stonewater Crossing. Our neighborhood has approximately 350 homes. However, it now runs the risk of having these high-voltage transmission lines surround our neighborhood! Hundreds of homeowners and our entire community will be affected. Home values will drop and the potential health ramifications are huge. We have been provided little options by Brazos Electric but clearly this news has generated massive concern and opposition in our community. We were offered an information session that left everyone frustrated and extremely worried about the possibility of this project.

**ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY:**

The majority of the Frisco community has young families and many of us moved to this area for better schools, to avoid the big city issues and have a safe environment to raise our families ... all of which will be compromised greatly by the impact of these high-voltage power lines. There are multiple schools slated to be built alongside Stonebrook Pkwy in the next 2 years due to the growing number of families living in and/or moving to the Frisco area.

We do understand that the growth in our community is the cause for this project. What we DO NOT understand is why this project would be proposed so close to existing neighborhoods and communities.

**HEALTH RAMIFICATIONS:**

When the question was raised during the information session about the health ramifications the Brazos representatives passed this off as being "unsubstantiated". While that is a politically correct response for their company, I have to ask you ...

- Why has there been so much research conducted on the effects of these power lines?
- WHAT IF THESE STUDIES ARE CORRECT?
  - **If the studies are correct** – what responsibility will Brazos Electric take for the negative impacts this will have on our health, our home values and our entire community?
- **Do you want an entire community impacted?**

Research proves that high voltage power lines, such as those carrying electricity to a municipal grid, do indeed pose serious health risks to humans. The U.S. National Institute on Environmental Health Sciences identifies the electromagnetic field from high voltage power lines as a carcinogen--a cancer causing agent. Children living within 600 meters--approximately 656 yards--have a greater risk of developing leukemia than other children. Adults are at higher risk for brain cancer and breast cancer. You can see from the images below that these lines will be entirely too close to our communities and could cause serious health issues for everyone impacted.

According to the 2001 California Health Department Report on the dangers of electromagnetic radiation, other potential dangers to humans who live near high voltage power lines are increased depression and risk of suicide, impairment of the immune system, miscarriage, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)--a disease affecting motor functions and the nervous system.

**From the British Medical Journal, June, 2005:**

Researchers found that children living within 650 feet of power lines had a 70% greater risk for leukemia than children living 2,000 feet away or more.

**From Epidemiology, 2003 Jul;14(4):413-9:**

"Several studies have identified occupational exposure to extremely low-frequency electromagnetic fields (EMF) as a potential risk factor for neurodegenerative disease."

**From Epidemiology, 2002 Jan;13(1):9-20**

There is "strong prospective evidence that prenatal maximum magnetic field exposure above a certain level (possibly around 16 mG) may be associated with miscarriage risk."

From the Internal Medicine Journal, 2007

In a study of 850 lymphoma, leukemia and related conditions, researchers from the University of Tasmania and Britain's Bristol University found that living for a prolonged period near high-voltage power lines increased the risk for these conditions later in life.

- People who lived within 328 yards of a power line up to age 5 were five times more likely to develop cancer as an adult.
- People who lived within 328 yards of a power line at any point up to age 15 years were three times more likely to develop cancer as an adult.

Dr. David Carpenter, Dean of the School of Public Health (SUNY), believes that up to 30% of all childhood cancers come from exposure to high voltage power lines.

Even the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cautions citizens that "There is reason for concern" and advises "prudent avoidance" of high voltage power lines.

PLEASE NOTE: Where the existing high-voltage transmission lines run (Legacy Drive) there are no residences in the immediate vicinity.



— Proposed Transmission Line	⊠ Existing Substation
▨ Proposed Transmission ROW	— Existing Transmission Line
□ Proposed Substation	— Stream
■ Proposed Tap Station	

**OPTIONS:**

Originally one of the proposed options was to run the lines across land owned by the US Army Corp of Engineers (this area is South of Lebanon Rd, East of 423/Main). This land is completely vacant, no homes anywhere near it. It is truly a perfect option. However the USACE immediately rejected it. I have included the formal response letter from Rob Jordan, Lake Manager for Lewisville Lakes.

We are still in the early stages of this process, but I urge you to please help put pressure on the USACE to reconsider and allow Brazos Electric to run their transmission lines through the area. They already have lines running through an area almost due-east, so this option does have precedent. <http://www.brazoselectric.com/projects/stonebrook/left.aspx#>



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
 FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
 ELM FORK PROJECT OFFICE  
 1801 N. MILL STREET  
 LEWISVILLE, TEXAS 75057-1821

July 26, 2011

Lewisville Lake Office

Mr. Richard Chambers  
 Project Regulatory Coordinator  
 Brazos Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.  
 2404 LaSalle Avenue  
 P.O. Box 2585  
 Waco, TX 76702

RE: Request for Easement

Dear Mr. Chambers:

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated July 24, 2013 in which Brazos Electric Power cooperative, Inc. is requesting an easement across US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) property at Lewisville Lake for the purpose of constructing a 138 KV transmission line. The proposed easement would be 70 feet wide and would cross USACE property at a location along Stewart Creek for a distance of approximately 1,600 feet.

After reviewing the information submitted, our office has determined that the proposed easement and transmission line are incompatible with the land use objectives set forth in the Master Plan for Lewisville Lake. The federal land in question serves multiple purposes, foremost of which is storage of flood waters during major flood events, fish and wildlife habitat, and low intensity recreation activities such as hiking and fishing. Of particular concern is the fast pace of development on private lands surrounding Lewisville Lake which in turn significantly increases the value of the federal lands around the lake for wildlife habitat and passive outdoor recreation activities dependent on large tracts of undeveloped open space. The proposed transmission line will have serious negative impacts on both wildlife habitat and the aesthetics of the land relative to its value as recreational open space. In addition, the area in question has previously been approved as a site for a Section 105 project in which modifications will be made to restore, improve and protect wetland habitat for plants, fish and wildlife to benefit the environment.

On December 6, 2001, USACE completed a Master Plan supplement at Lewisville Lake wherein 42 utility corridors were designated. The purpose of these corridors is to encourage consolidation of numerous utility line proposals around the lake to reduce environmental impacts to natural resources and loss of recreational open space. The route you have proposed does not follow one of these designated corridors. The loss of habitat and negative impacts to passive outdoor recreation and visual aesthetic resulting from the proposed line certainly

outweigh any minimal benefit that USACE would derive from having the alignment on federal land.

We understand the difficulty you face in determining the route of new utility line easements, and we believe our cooperation with city and county governments, as well as publicly-regulated utilities around the lake, shows that we are sensitive to the utility-related problems in areas experiencing rapid urbanization. Brazos Electric Cooperative, Inc., as well as many other utility companies, have easements across USACE lands in areas where no practical alternative route exists. However, the transmission line in question appears to have very viable, practical alternative alignments on private land.

Thanks for your cooperation in this matter. If you have questions or comments, please contact me at the Lewisville Lake Office at (469) 645-9107.

Sincerely,



Rob Jordan  
Lake Manager  
Lewisville/Ray Roberts Lakes

Please take note of the comment from Rob Jordan.

**"The proposed transmission line will have serious negative impacts on both wildlife habitat and the aesthetics of the land relative to its value as recreational open space."**

How would these negative impacts not be the same for our community?

#### HOW CAN YOU HELP:

- Please help convince the USACE to allow Brazos to construct these transmission lines on their land.
- **OR** urge Brazos Electric to look for other routes/options for these transmission lines that are not in existing communities/neighborhoods.
  - **Pursue undeveloped land that is North of Frisco (Highway 380)?**
    - **Highway 380 & FM423 intersect**
  - **Further exploration of placing the lines underground?**
    - **The North sections of FM423 are slated to be expanded ... could additional lines be added underground with that expansion?**
    - **If these are these routes are the only options can these lines be place underground?**

I speak not only for myself, but for hundreds, if not thousands of other families that need your help to make this happen.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

Meredith O'Keefe