



Control Number: 41808



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September 18, 2013

Chairman, Donna Nelson  
Public Utility Commission of Texas  
1701 North Congress Avenue  
P.O. Box 13326  
Austin, Texas 78711-3326

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
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Subject: Docket Number 41808

Dear Chairman Nelson:

I am writing to you to voice my concern regarding Brazos Electric efforts to construct 138,000 volt lines in one of the most densely populated areas in Frisco, Texas (population: over 135,000 people). Frisco lies about 35 miles north of Dallas and straddles the Dallas North Tollway.

Homeowners recently received news that Brazos Electric is proposing to construct the 138 kV high-voltage transmission lines directly down Stonebrook Parkway or Main Street. Understandably, this news has caused our neighborhood and the western part of our city to unite in massive opposition of this proposal. Unfortunately, not all of the affected residents were notified nor was the "come and go" meeting held by Brazos effective or efficient. We were told that affected residents within 300 feet of the proposed high voltage transmission line and associated substation were notified. However, many people in our neighborhood were not. In many cases, affected people received the meeting notice only two days before the "come and go" meeting. When we arrived, the 60 x 30 foot meeting room was not conducive in allowing the 700 people that showed up to ask questions. Moreover, many people left rather than stand in a block long line in over 100 degree temperatures. As Chairman of the Commission, I am certain that hearing of such treatment by an out-of-town electric cooperative to affected citizens is disconcerting to you.

In reviewing information available on the ERCOT website, we have found that the proposed project is not listed in the TIPIT, nor is it in the ERCOT Five-Year Plan. We are troubled to learn that the proposed transmission lines may not even be necessary. That is, power flow analyses conducted by ERCOT show that the transmission lines in our area in the year 2014 are only projected to be at 69% of capacity and at 73% of capacity in 2018!

We believe that, given the above capacity analyses, there is time for Brazos to propose better alternatives such as the following:

- o Using existing transmission line Right-of-Ways and reconductor or double circuit existing transmission lines;
- o Finding better routes than through the highest population density area of Frisco. Neither Stonebrook Parkway or Main Street are acceptable routes, and they would be adjacent to these high voltage transmission lines; and
- o **BURYING THE LINES!** (Please note, however, we were told by Brazos personnel that the cost of burial was 60 times higher than overhead lines, a cost that is not true)!

Frisco, TX is a Master Planned Community and is not only the fastest growing community in Texas, but also the United States. Unfortunately, Brazos Electric and CoServ have given no consideration to the plans laid by our community leaders and have proposed the transmission lines in the wrong place. As proposed, these lines will adversely affect over 35,000 residents' property values and threaten our growing tax base.

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I think it is fair to say that families will be less inclined to purchase new or existing homes in a community that is adjacent to (or even underneath) these huge power lines forcing home prices to drop and that will affect real estate values and the tax base. It is one thing if a person/family chooses to purchase an existing home that is placed under large power lines, and quite another for the transmission lines to be added after you have purchased, built your home and/or have lived in your home for a long period of time.

At 120 feet tall, these power lines would dwarf all structures in Frisco and thus permanently affect the landscape by taking away our green space, limiting future growth and creating a permanent eye sore. Chairman, placing these lines in the middle of existing neighborhoods is a poor decision! I understand that Frisco City ordinances call for all overhead lines to be buried (although case law has made this particular point legally mute).

It should be noted that Frisco City Council officially and publicly opposes the transmission routes proposed by Brazos.

As a fellow Texan, I am writing to encourage you to strongly suggest that Brazos pursue other routes for these power lines and substation ... they do not belong so close to existing neighborhoods and schools.

Finally, I would also like to ask that the public hearing on this issue be held here in Frisco so we can better accommodate the thousands of residents who will want to speak in opposition.

Sincerely,

Avery Shiver  
Avery Shiver  
737 Sleepy Creek Dr  
Frisco, TX 75034