



Control Number: 41808



Item Number: 499

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September 18, 2013

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

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
FILING CLERK

RE: Project Number 41808

Dear Chairman Nelson:

I am writing in strong opposition to the planned Brazos Electric transmission line and substation expansion project currently planned for Frisco, TX. An initial plan and application was submitted by Brazos to use U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land and was denied, requiring Brazos to look at other routes. The proposed routes on Main Street and Stonebrook Parkway are in densely populated areas. These proposed routes are not viable and pose an immediate and chronic exposure to existing resident's health, property taxes, and the overall aesthetics of the area. Four schools, elementary through high school, exist or are planned along the proposed Stonebrook Parkway transmission line route. Our children's entire K-12 education would take place in an electromagnetic field with unknown and potentially dangerous health consequences. In addition, according to local realtors, our home values have the potential to decline almost 20%. This will have a negative impact on tax revenue collected by the City of Frisco, Denton County, and Frisco ISD, not to mention resident's personal loss in home value.

As a resident directly impacted by the Brazos Electric Plan, I request your immediate action. Brazos Electric should first be required to disclose proof that there is indeed a true need for a new 138,000 volt transmission line. Could we simply, add more capacity to our existing transmission lines and use the existing transmission rights of way and corridors? Has Brazos considered adding more arms to transmission towers that would accommodate double circuits or reconducting the lines?

If Brazos can prove there is indeed a need for what they are proposing, they need to consider all potential routes. We are one of the fastest growing cities, and there is a reason for it. As a master planned community, Frisco has given much thought and taken great care in the development of our beautiful city. If additional infrastructure is needed, the lines should be buried in compliance with existing City of Frisco ordinances. There are many benefits to burying lines such as fewer outages due to inclement weather and tornadoes, less maintenance, less street congestion, and a reduction in the negative health impacts of overhead electromagnetic fields. In addition, we would not have to look at the monstrous eyesores created by huge transmission towers all the time. There are research

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results out that show the cost to bury lines has significantly decreased as well as that maintenance costs are substantially lower. In this specific case, it's time for the Commission to "think outside the box" when ordering that transmission lines be built in heavily populated areas. I believe that when you examine the benefits, you will see that burying the lines is a better investment in the long run. We have a perfect opportunity here in burying the lines if the right route is found because, in some cases, there is little to no obstructions in the rights-of-way and now is the time. If the Commission loses the opportunity to be creative and innovative, the chance is gone forever. The citizens of Frisco would like to work with Brazos, but we have been told "No" with every compromise we suggest. I promote compromise but I also encourage doing the right thing and not just putting a band aid on the situation so that we have to go through this again in future years.

Chairman, I encourage you and the Commissioners to strongly influence Brazos and CoServ to do the right thing for Frisco! I also ask that all public hearings on this issue be conducted in Frisco to accommodate the many residents who will want to speak on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Dennis W. Sifonakra

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