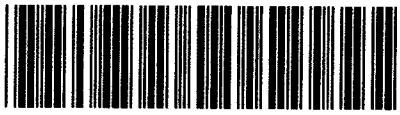
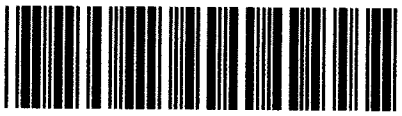


Control Number: 42087



Item Number: 668

Addendum StartPage: 0

PUC DOCKET NO. 42087

APPLICATION OF ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY LLC TO AMEND A CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR A PROPOSED 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE IN DENTON, TARRANT, AND WISE COUNTIES, TEXAS	§	BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS

RESPONSE OF ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY LLC TO VINSON'S SECOND REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

TO THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS:

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC ("Oncor") files this Response to the aforementioned requests for information.

I. Written Responses

Attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference are Oncor's written responses to the aforementioned requests for information. Each such response is set forth on or attached to a separate page upon which the request has been restated. Such responses are also made without waiver of Oncor's right to contest the admissibility of any such matters upon hearing. Oncor hereby stipulates that its responses may be treated by all parties exactly as if they were filed under oath.

II. Inspections

In those instances where materials are to be made available for inspection by request or in lieu of a written response, the attached response will so state. For those materials that a response indicates may be inspected at the Austin voluminous room, please call at least 24 hours in advance for an appointment in order to assure that there

6068

is sufficient space and someone is available to accommodate your inspection. To make an appointment at the Austin voluminous room, located at 1005 Congress, Suite B-50, Austin, Texas, or to review those materials that a response indicates may be inspected at their usual repository, please call Teri Smart at 214-486-4832. Inspections will be scheduled so as to accommodate all such requests with as little inconvenience to the requesting party and to company operations as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY LLC

By: _____

Matthew A. Henry
State Bar No. 00790870
Jaren A. Taylor
State Bar No. 24059069
Winston P. Skinner
State Bar No. 24079348

Trammell Crow Center
2001 Ross Avenue, Suite 3700
Dallas, Texas 75201-2975
Telephone: 214-220-7700
Facsimile: 214-999-7700
mhenry@velaw.com
jarentaylor@velaw.com
wskinner@velaw.com

ATTORNEYS FOR ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY LLC

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

It is hereby certified that a copy of the foregoing has been hand-delivered or sent via courier service, email, fax, overnight delivery or first class United States mail, postage prepaid, to all parties of record, on this the 3rd day of July, 2014.

Jaren A. Taylor

3

REQUEST:

2-1 PUC Subst. R. 25.101(b)(3)(B) provides that, relative to "routing," "An application for a new transmission line shall address the criteria in PURA §37.056(c) and considering those criteria, engineering constraints, and **costs,** the line shall be routed to the extent reasonable to moderate the impact on the affected community and landowners unless grid reliability and security dictate otherwise." [Emphasis added] Regarding **cost** of the proposed transmission line, please provide the following:

a. How will Oncor recover the cost of the transmission line in rates? Please include in your answer a description of the kind of application and proceeding in which Oncor will seek to recover the cost of the proposed transmission line, the dates that Oncor expects to submit such application(s), the data that Oncor will submit in support of its request, the notice that Oncor expects to provide, including whether notice will be provide to landowners and whether landowners whose property is crossed by the transmission line will have standing to intervene, the timeline or any statutory deadlines or limits for such applications, and the standards and criteria by which the application will be decided;

RESPONSE:

The following response was prepared by or under the direct supervision of Thomas J. Yamin, the sponsoring witness for this response.

The costs for transmission lines are recovered in the Transmission Cost of Service ("TCOS") filings pursuant to, and consistent with, the requirements of Public Utility Commission.

REQUEST:

With regard to the cost of the proposed transmission line, please provide the following:

a. list and describe with particularity operating costs of the proposed line that are variable as a function of and dependent upon length of the route;

b. list and describe with particularity maintenance costs of the proposed line that will be variable as a function of and dependent upon length of the route;

c. list and describe with particularity administrative and general costs of the proposed line that will be variable as a function of and dependent upon length of the route;

d. list and describe with particularity capital costs of the proposed line that will be variable as a function of and dependent upon length of the route;

e. list and describe with particularity taxes and other taxes of the proposed line that will be variable as a function of and dependent upon length of the route;

f. list and describe with particularity depreciation and amortization of the proposed line that will be variable as a function of and dependent upon length of the route;

g. list and describe with particularity any other costs of the proposed line that will be variable as a function of and dependent upon length of the route;

RESPONSE:

The following response was prepared by or under the direct supervision of Thomas J. Yamin, the sponsoring witness for this response.

a. The operating costs are not tracked on a per length basis and the operating costs of this line are not known at this time.

b. The maintenance costs are not tracked on a per length basis and the maintenance costs of this line are not known at this time.

c. The administrative and general costs are not tracked on a per length basis and the administrative and general costs of this line are not known at this time.

d. The estimated capital costs of this project are included in the Hicks – Elizabeth Creek application attachment 2.

e. Taxes are not tracked on a per length basis and the taxes for this line are not known at this time.

f. Depreciation and amortization are not tracked on a per length basis and depreciation and amortization for this line are not known at this time.

g. Other costs are not tracked on a per length basis and other costs of this line are not known at this time.

REQUEST:

For each of the cost categories requested above, please describe how length causes cost to vary.

RESPONSE:

The following response was prepared by or under the direct supervision of Thomas J. Yamin, the sponsoring witness for this response.

Costs associated with the line are generally proportional to the length of the line.

REQUEST:

Please provide a table in a format similar to Table 2 that shows Oncor's anticipated annual operating and capital cost (or revenue requirement) for each of the 53 proposed routes, including in your response separate rows for each of the cost categories described in Request 2-2 above and any other cost categories that are appropriately included. Please include at the bottom of the table:

a. a row that tabulates the total cost or revenue requirement for each route resulting from adding the costs quantified and listed in the table; and

b. a row that provides the total cost for each route over the life of the transmission line;

RESPONSE:

The following response was prepared by or under the direct supervision of Thomas J. Yamin, the sponsoring witness for this response.

a. No such table exists.

b. No such table exists.

REQUEST:

What is the expected life of the transmission line? Please explain your answer.

RESPONSE:

The following response was prepared by or under the direct supervision of Michael J. Juricek, the sponsoring witness for this response.

Oncor considers the life of the transmission line to be perpetual, because the need for the line to serve customers does not go away over time.

REQUEST:

Please list and describe:

a. electrical effects, amperage effects, voltage effects, phase and synchronization issues, performance results, performance issues, reliability effects, outages, longevity, maintenance requirements, incident proneness, or other operational, maintenance, and performance issues that vary as a function of length of the line;

b. line losses that vary as a function of length of the line;

c. transformation needs, requirements, and capacities that vary as a function of the length of the line;

d. vulnerabilities, incident frequency, dangers, or hazards that vary as a function of the length of the line;

RESPONSE:

The following response was prepared by or under the direct supervision of Michael J. Juricek, the sponsoring witness for this response.

a. The length of the line will affect the impedance of the line, because the impedance increases with length. Increased impedance will cause higher voltage drop and higher losses. Exposure to events that can increase the number of outages of the line such as weather and maintenance increase with length because there is more line exposed to events and more line to maintain.

b. See Oncor's response to Vinson RFI Set No. 2, Question No. 2-6a.

c. Transformation needs, requirements and capacities of the line do not vary as a function of line length.

d. See Oncor's response to Vinson RFI Set No. 2, Question No. 2-6a.

REQUEST:

Please list and describe:

e. conductor sizing and grade, insulator sizing and grade, structure sizing and grade, footing sizing and grade, or other physical and component differences that vary as a function of length of the line;

RESPONSE:

The following response was prepared by or under the direct supervision of Thomas J. Yamin, the sponsoring witness for this response.

e. Conductor sizing for the proposed transmission line is included in the submitted application for Hicks – Elizabeth Creek. All other requested items are not determined at this phase of the CCN process and won't be determined until the design and construction phase.

REQUEST:

Please list and describe:

f. surveying methods and practices, construction methods and practices, structure size and construction, right of way clearing and preparation that vary as a function of the length of the line;

RESPONSE:

The following response was prepared by or under the direct supervision of Thomas J. Yamin, the sponsoring witness for this response.

f. Scope of surveying, construction, and right of way clearing and preparation generally increase proportionally to the length of the line. Methods, practices, structure size generally are not affected by the length of the line.

REQUEST:

Please list and describe:

g. operation and maintenance requirements, crew requirements, vehicle requirements, tool requirements, or other operational requirements that vary as a function of the length of the line;

h. any other physical, electrical, electromechanical, or other operational and maintenance effects, impacts, costs, or requirements that vary as a result of the length of the line; and

RESPONSE:

The following response was prepared by or under the direct supervision of Thomas J. Yamin, the sponsoring witness for this response.

g. Generally, operation requirements, maintenance requirements, and crew requirements vary proportionally to the length of the line. Generally, tool requirements, vehicle requirements, and other operational requirements do not vary due to the length of the line.

h. Generally, other physical, electrical, electromechanical, or other operational and maintenance effects, impacts, costs, or requirements do not vary as a result of the length of the line.

REQUEST:

Please list and describe:

i. for each, please explain how and why it varies as a result of length of line.

RESPONSE:

The following response was prepared by or under the direct supervision of Michael J. Juricek and Thomas Yamin, the sponsoring witnesses for this response.

i. If any item varies, it is proportional to the length of the line. Further explanations are included in Oncor's responses to Vinson RFI Set No. 2, Question No 2-6a through 2-6h.

REQUEST:

Please state whether Oncor maintains that its proposed routes in this Application are "merely indicative." If so, please describe in detail what Oncor means by that term as it applies to the Application in this proceeding. Please provide all support for Oncor's claim.

RESPONSE:

The following response was prepared by or under the direct supervision of Brenda J. Perkins and Thomas J. Yamin, the sponsoring witnesses for this response.

Please see Oncor's First Amended Application filed in this Docket on March 13, 2014.

REQUEST:

Please state whether Oncor maintains that the route that will be approved by the Commission is "merely indicative." If so, please describe in detail what Oncor means by that term as it applies to the route approved in the Order in this proceeding. Please provide all support for Oncor's claim.

RESPONSE:

The following response was prepared by or under the direct supervision of Brenda J. Perkins and Thomas J. Yamin, the sponsoring witnesses for this response.

Please refer to Oncor's response to Vinson RFI Set No. 2, Question No. 2-07.

REQUEST:

Admit that PUC Subst. R. 25.101(b)(3)(B) requires Oncor to identify all landowners whose properties are crossed by the proposed transmission line. If you deny, please explain your answer.

RESPONSE:

The following response was prepared by or under the direct supervision of Brenda J. Perkins, the sponsoring witness for this response.

Oncor admits that PUC Substantive Rule 25.101(b)(3)(B) discusses "landowners whose property is crossed by the proposed line" as follows:

"**Routing:** An application for a new transmission line shall address the criteria in PURA §37.056(c) and considering those criteria, engineering constraints, and costs, the line shall be routed to the extent reasonable to moderate the impact on the affected community and landowners unless grid reliability and security dictate otherwise. The following factors shall be considered in the selection of the utility's alternative routes unless a route is agreed to by the utility, the landowners whose property is crossed by the proposed line, and owners of land that contains a habitable structure within 300 feet of the centerline of a transmission project of 230 kV or less, or within 500 feet of the centerline of a transmission project greater than 230 kV, and otherwise conforms to the criteria in PURA §37.056(c):

(i) whether the routes utilize existing compatible rights-of-way, including the use of vacant positions on existing multiple-circuit transmission lines;

(ii) whether the routes parallel existing compatible rights-of-way;

(iii) whether the routes parallel property lines or other natural or cultural features; and

(iv) whether the routes conform with the policy of prudent avoidance."

Otherwise, denied.

REQUEST:

Admit that PUC Subst. R. 25. 101(b)(3)(B) requires Oncor to identify all landowners with habitable structures within 300 feet of the centerline of the proposed transmission project. If you deny, please explain your answer.

RESPONSE:

The following response was prepared by or under the direct supervision of Brenda J. Perkins, the sponsoring witness for this response.

Oncor admits that PUC Substantive Rule 25.101(b)(3)(B) discusses "owners of land that contains a habitable structure within 300 feet of the centerline of a transmission project of 230 kV or less" as follows:

"**Routing:** An application for a new transmission line shall address the criteria in PURA §37.056(c) and considering those criteria, engineering constraints, and costs, the line shall be routed to the extent reasonable to moderate the impact on the affected community and landowners unless grid reliability and security dictate otherwise. The following factors shall be considered in the selection of the utility's alternative routes unless a route is agreed to by the utility, the landowners whose property is crossed by the proposed line, and owners of land that contains a habitable structure within 300 feet of the centerline of a transmission project of 230 kV or less, or within 500 feet of the centerline of a transmission project greater than 230 kV, and otherwise conforms to the criteria in PURA §37.056(c):

(i) whether the routes utilize existing compatible rights-of-way, including the use of vacant positions on existing multiple-circuit transmission lines;

(ii) whether the routes parallel existing compatible rights-of-way;

(iii) whether the routes parallel property lines or other natural or cultural features; and

(iv) whether the routes conform with the policy of prudent avoidance."

Otherwise, denied.

REQUEST:

Admit that for Oncor to identify landowners with habitable structures within 300 feet of the centerline of the proposed transmission project, Oncor must measure 300 feet from the centerline of Oncor's proposed routes. If you deny, please explain your answer.

RESPONSE:

The following response was prepared by or under the direct supervision of Brenda J. Perkins, the sponsoring witness for this response.

Admitted in part and denied in part. Oncor identified habitable structures within **310** feet of each alternative route's assumed centerline. This measurement accounts for a horizontal accuracy of ± 7 feet of the aerial photography on which the mapping of the proposed routes is based. The assumed centerline takes into account the amount of information known to Oncor and HDR at the time the map of the proposed routes is prepared prior to filing of the CCN application, acknowledging that the design and construction phase following the CCN process may result in refinement of the route chosen based on the results of on-the-ground surveys of the route selected by the Commission.

REQUEST:

Admit that for Oncor to measure 300 feet from the centerline of Oncor's proposed route, Oncor must establish the centerline of its proposed routes. If you deny, please explain your answer.

RESPONSE:

The following response was prepared by or under the direct supervision of Brenda J. Perkins, the sponsoring witness for this response.

Admitted in part and denied in part. Oncor provides an assumed centerline for each of the proposed routes based on information available at this point in the CCN process, with the understanding that the centerlines of the proposed routes are subject to refinement during the design and construction phase of the project following CCN approval. Please also see Oncor's Response to Vinson RFI Set No. 2, Question No. 2-11.

REQUEST:

Under PUC Subst. R. 25.101(b)(3)(B), does Oncor bear the burden of proof regarding the criteria in PURA §37.056(c), engineering constraints, and costs?

RESPONSE:

The following response was prepared by or under the direct supervision of Brenda J. Perkins, the sponsoring witness for this response.

PURA § 37.056(c) states:

"The commission shall grant each certificate on a nondiscriminatory basis after considering:

(1) the adequacy of existing service;

(2) the need for additional service;

(3) the effect of granting the certificate on the recipient of the certificate and any electric utility serving the proximate area; and

(4) other factors, such as:

(A) community values;

(B) recreational and park areas;

(C) historical and aesthetic values;

(D) environmental integrity;

(E) the probable improvement of service or lowering of cost to consumers in the area if the certificate is granted; and

(F) to the extent applicable, the effect of granting the certificate on the ability of this state to meet the goal established by Section 39.904(a) of this title."

PUC Subst. R. 25.101(b)(3)(B) states:

"**Routing:** An application for a new transmission line shall address the criteria in PURA §37.056(c) and considering those criteria, engineering constraints, and costs, the line shall be routed to the extent reasonable to moderate the impact on the affected community and landowners unless grid reliability and security dictate otherwise. The following factors shall be considered in the selection of the utility's alternative routes unless a route is agreed to by the utility, the landowners whose property is crossed by the proposed line, and owners of land that contains a habitable structure within 300 feet of the centerline of a transmission project of 230

kV or less, or within 500 feet of the centerline of a transmission project greater than 230 kV, and otherwise conforms to the criteria in PURA § 37.056(c):

> (i) whether the routes utilize existing compatible rights-of-way, including the use of vacant positions on existing multiple-circuit transmission lines;
>
> (ii) whether the routes parallel existing compatible rights-of-way;
>
> (iii) whether the routes parallel property lines or other natural or cultural features; and
>
> (iv) whether the routes conform with the policy of prudent avoidance."

As these provisions provide, a CCN application is required to address, and the Commission is required to consider, the factors in PURA § 37.056(c), engineering constraints, and costs.

REQUEST:

What is Oncor's obligation under PUC Subst. R. 25.101(b)(3)(B) to identify and consider engineering constraints in the CCN proceeding? Does Oncor have an obligation to identify *all* engineering constraints in the CCN proceeding? Is there some threshold, measure, standard, or criteria for determining which engineering constraints Oncor is not required to identify and consider in the CCN proceeding? What are the threshold, measure, standard, or criteria for determining which engineering constraints Oncor is not required to identify and consider in the CCN proceeding? Has the Commission identified, articulated, or applied any standards for the utility's obligation to identify and consider engineering constraints?

RESPONSE:

The following response was prepared by or under the direct supervision of Thomas J. Yamin, the sponsoring witness for this response.

PUC Subst. R. 25.101(b)(3)(B) requires a CCN application for a new transmission line to address, and requires the Commission to consider, engineering constraints. No statute or Commission Rule defines what qualifies as an engineering constraint. As with all aspects of its operations, Oncor must identify and consider engineering constraints based on the information available using good utility practice as defined by Commission Rules.

REQUEST:

Admit that any engineering constraints that exist but are not identified by Oncor in the CCN proceeding but identified by Oncor after the CCN proceeding will not have been identified and considered by Oncor, the parties, and the Commission in the CCN proceeding.

RESPONSE:

The following response was prepared by or under the direct supervision of Thomas J. Yamin, the sponsoring witness for this response.

Deny.

REQUEST:

Admit that for any potential engineering constraints that are not known, not fully known, not precisely identified or located, or require further investigation, Oncor may contact the landowner and ask for permission to enter to investigate, identify, classify, and locate the engineering constraint.

RESPONSE:

The following response was prepared by or under the direct supervision of Thomas J. Yamin, the sponsoring witness for this response.

Admit. However, contacting land owners to access private property is not industry practice at this stage of the process.

REQUEST:

Admit that for any potential engineering constraints that are not known, not fully known, not precisely identified or located, or require further investigation, Oncor may conduct a windshield survey from nearby roads, streets, and highways to investigate, identify, classify, and locate the engineering constraint.

RESPONSE:

The following response was prepared by or under the direct supervision of Thomas J. Yamin, the sponsoring witness for this response.

Admit. However, engineering constraints that are not known, not fully known, not precisely identified or located may not be identified because of the limited information available before Commission approval of a route.

REQUEST:

Admit that for any potential engineering constraints that are not known, not fully known, not precisely identified or located, or require further investigation, Oncor may conduct a flyover survey to investigate, identify, classify, and locate the engineering constraint.

RESPONSE:

The following response was prepared by or under the direct supervision of Thomas J. Yamin, the sponsoring witness for this response.

Admit. However, engineering constraints that are not known, not fully known, not precisely identified or located may not be identified because of the limited information available before Commission approval of a route.

REQUEST:

Admit that any engineering constraints that exist but are not identified by Oncor in the CCN proceeding but identified by Oncor after the CCN proceeding will not have been identified and considered by Oncor, the parties, and the Commission in any Commission contested case proceeding or other Commission proceeding.

RESPONSE:

The following response was prepared by or under the direct supervision of Thomas J. Yamin, the sponsoring witness for this response.

See Oncor's Response to Vinson RFI Set No. 2, Question No. 2-15.

REQUEST:

Admit that any rerouting, realignment, deviation, or movement of the line made as a result of the discovery of engineering constraints that exist but were not identified by Oncor in the CCN proceeding but identified by Oncor after the CCN proceeding will not have been proposed and considered by Oncor and the parties and adjudicated by the Commission in any CCN proceeding or other Commission proceeding.

RESPONSE:

The following response was prepared by or under the direct supervision of Thomas J. Yamin, the sponsoring witness for this response.

Deny.

REQUEST:

Admit that each of Oncor's proposed links and routes shown on Figures 3-2A and 3-2B has a centerline.

RESPONSE:

The following response was prepared by or under the direct supervision of Brenda J. Perkins, the sponsoring witness for this response.

When the PUC approves a route, it approves a general routing corridor. This routing corridor is subject to refinement during the design and construction phase. Following the Commission's approval of a route, Oncor's assumed centerline for that PUC approved route will undergo refinement and modification during the design and construction process.