5.3 CULTURAL RESOURCE IMPACTS

The methodology for identifying, evaluating, and mitigating impacts to cultural resources has been established for federal projects and/or permitting actions, primarily with the National Historic Preservation Act. State regulations typically use similar methods when considering cultural resources affected by non-federal undertakings. This process requires identifying significant (i.e., National or State Register-listed or eligible) cultural resources potentially affected by an action, determining the potential impacts of that action, and implementing measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate those impacts.

5.3.1 Direct Impacts

Construction activities associated with any proposed project can adversely impact cultural resources when they alter the integrity of the characteristics that contribute to a property's significance as defined by the standards of the National Register of Historic Places or State registries. These characteristics may include location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Activities associated with the construction, operation, and maintenance of transmission lines could directly or indirectly impact significant cultural resources. For example, earth moving activities during construction typically have the highest potential to directly impact cultural resources by either destruction of all or part of a property or alteration of the setting. Direct visual impacts may occur when tower structures are built near significant cultural resources such as intact segments of historical trails and historical buildings that derive at least part of their significance from an unaltered historical setting.

5.3.2 Indirect Impacts

Indirect impacts include those effects caused by the project that are farther removed in distance or that occur later in time but are reasonably foreseeable. These indirect impacts might include introduction of visual or audible elements that are out of character with the resource or its setting. Indirect impacts might also occur as a result of alterations in the pattern of land use, changes in population density, accelerated growth rates, or increased pedestrian or vehicular traffic after construction. Indirect impacts, including vandalism and accidental disturbance, for instance, may result from increased pedestrian or vehicle access to cultural resource sites via new access and/or maintenance roads.

5.3.3 Mitigation

The preferred form of mitigation for direct and indirect impacts to cultural resources is avoidance during the detailed design phase, which occurs after a route has been approved by the PUCT. Additional mitigation measures for direct impacts may include implementing a program for data recovery excavations if an archaeological site cannot be avoided. Reductions in visual impacts to significant buildings and landscapes may also be accomplished by using berms or vegetation screens. Because a cultural resource survey has not been conducted for any of the routes, cultural resources may exist within the transmission ROW that have not been identified or evaluated and the potential of impacting undiscovered resources exists.

Due to the lack of previous systematic surveys along the proposed routes, high probability areas for prehistoric and historical cultural resources were identified along the routes. Based on a review of the Llano and San Antonio map sheets in the BEG atlas, high probability areas for prehistoric resources include secondary terraces along major rivers and streams, intact Holocene-era sediments, broad floodplains, in areas mapped to contain soils series that contain chert lithic resources, and the edge of terraces above floodplains. High probability areas for historic archaeological sites were identified based on a review of historic Cain City (USGS 1963a), Crabapple Creek (USGS 1963b), Hye (USGS 1954), Rafter Hollow (USGS 1964), Stonewall (USGS 1961), and Whitworth (USGS 1963c) USGS topographic quadrangles available on line through the University of Texas Library Perry Castaneda map collection. These areas include historic towns, ranches, and the locations of historic buildings, structures, and features indicated on the historical topographic maps and along existing primary and secondary roads.

High probability areas for prehistoric and historic resources were mapped using GIS and the length of each route across these areas was tabulated (Tables 5-1 and 5-2). Following approval of a route by the PUCT, a cultural resources assessment will be conducted in accordance with a research design prepared by LCRA and approved by the THC for new transmission line projects.

5.3.4 Summary of Cultural Resource Impacts

The distance of each recorded archeological site, NRHP property, and cemetery located within 1,000 feet of the nearest route was measured using GIS software and aerial photography interpretation. No recorded cultural resources are crossed by the alternative ROWs. Nine

recorded archeological sites, five cemeteries, one OTHM, and one NRHP property are recorded within 1,000 feet of the alternative centerlines. No impacts are expected for these cultural resources. It is anticipated that potential impacts to these sites will be mitigated through routing and/or engineering design and construction measures. The cultural resources recorded within 1,000 feet of the centerlines are discussed below.

The nine recorded archeological sites located within 1,000 feet of the primary alternative route centerlines, 41KE18, 41KE19, 41KE20, 41GL56, 41GL140, 41GL142, 41GL143, and 41GL396 are briefly described in Table 2-16, and listed in Table 5-25 along with their distances from the route centerlines. All but two of the sites, 41GL143 and 41GL396, are recorded as prehistoric sites. 41GL143 has both a prehistoric and a historic component, and no site form is available for 41GL396.

TABLE 5-25 KNOWN ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES WITHIN 1,000 FEET OF THE PRIMARY ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

SITE TRINOMIAL	DISTANCE IN FEET FROM CENTERLINE	PRIMARY ALTERNATIVE ROUTE(S)	COMMENTS
41KE18	426	1, 3, 5, 7, 11, 20	NRHP Eligibility undetermined
41KE19	495	1	NRHP Eligibility undetermined
41KE20	945	1	NRHP Eligibility undetermined
41GL56	252	10	NRHP Eligibility undetermined
41GL140	124	8, 12, 16	NRHP Eligibility undetermined
41GL142	366	10	NRHP Eligibility undetermined
41GL143	535	2, 14	NRHP Eligibility undetermined
	269	10	
41GL396	470	8, 18	NRHP Eligibility undetermined
41GL397	105	8, 18	NRHP Eligibility undetermined

As discussed in Section 2.0, a majority of the prehistoric archeological sites in the study area contain burned rock. Of the nine archeological sites with prehistoric components recorded within 1,000 feet of the alternative centerlines, all but two contain burned rock. Site 41KE18 is described as a layer of burned rock and ash that has been bisected by county roads. A seep is reported approximately 100 feet from the site. Nolan projectile points, attributed to the Middle Archaic (Turner and Hester 2011), are reported from the site. The centerline of Routes 1, 3, 5, 7, 11, and 20 are 426 feet from 41KE18. Similarly, 41KE19 is described as a mound of burned rock adjacent to the west branch of Hunters Creek. A Tortugas-like projectile point, scraper fragment, core, and rough biface are reported from the site. Tortugas points dated to the Middle to Late Archaic periods (Turner and Hester 2011). The centerline of Route 1 is 495 feet from 41KE19. A burned rock midden is also reported at 41GL56, located 252 feet from Route 10.

Metates (grinding slabs) and arrow points are reported from 41GL56. Burned rock, bifaces, cores, and Archaic period points are reported from 41GL140, a site that has been impacted by agriculture. The centerlines of Routes 8, 12, and 16 are 124 feet from the site. Burned rock, manos, cores, bifaces, and projectile points are all reported from 41GL142, a shallow site that, like 41GL140, has been impacted by agriculture. The centerline of Route 10 is 366 feet from 41GL142. Site 41GL397 also contains burned rock, and is described as a lithic scatter and lithic quarry. Amongst exposed chert gravels, burned rock, a thin biface, and debitage were observed at the site. Soils at the site appear to be deflated. Like 41KE18, a seep is reported near the site. Site 41KE20 is described as a quarry site, covered in chert nodules weathering out of limestone. Many of the nodules have been tested, and scrapers, cores, biface fragments, and debitage were also observed at this lithic procurement area. The centerline of Route 1 is 945 feet from 41KE20. Site 41GL143 contains a prehistoric and historic component. Core choppers, bifacial cores, and historic materials are listed on the largely uninformative site form for 41GL143. The centerlines of Routes 2 and 14 are 535 feet from 41GL143 and the centerline of Route 10 is 269 feet from the site.

The Brodbeck Family Cemetery, a designated Historic Texas Cemetery, is 361 feet west of the centerlines of Routes 1, 3, 5, 7, 11, and 20. The Luckenbach / South Grape Creek Catholic Cemetery is 540 feet east of the centerlines of Routes 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 20. Two graves are recorded north of the Luckenbach / South Grape Creek Catholic Cemetery on South Grape Creek, approximately 741 feet north of the centerlines of Routes 6 and 19. The Wilke Cemetery of Albert, Texas, is recorded 134 feet northeast of the centerlines of Routes 2 and 14. A landowner reported a cemetery 128 feet south of the centerline of Route 2. These cemeteries should not experience any physical impacts from construction of the project if structures and access roads are placed outside of the cemetery boundaries.

One property listed on the NRHP is located within 1,000 feet of the alternative centerlines. The Williams Creek School is located 928 feet north of the centerlines of Routes 2 and 14. The Williams Creek School was established in 1891 as the Albert School. Six years later, a school was built on Williams Creek to replace the Albert School. As discussed in Section 2.11.2, Lyndon Baines Johnson attended the school in the early 1920s. The school is now a community center. One OTHM, commemorating Texas Ranger General E. Kirby Smith, C.S.A. - (1824-1893), is mapped approximately 409 feet east of the centerlines of routes 2, 4, 8, 10, 12 and 20.

No known prehistoric or historical sites are crossed by any of the primary alternative centerlines. Two prehistoric sites, 41GL140 and 41GL397 are less than 150 feet from primary alternative centerlines, as shown in Table 5-5. Neither site has been excavated nor tested. The potential for subsurface cultural deposits to extend even closer to the centerline exists. The THC may recommend additional investigation of the sites prior to construction if a nearby route is chosen as the final alignment. These investigations may include better defining the site boundaries and determining the information potential of the site. Following PUCT approval of a route, a detailed Cultural Resources Assessment (CRA) will be performed by LCRA TSC on the approved transmission line route.

As mentioned previously, the majority of the primary segments have not been systematically surveyed for cultural resources and the potential for undiscovered cultural resources exists. All of the routes cross through areas with high probability for archaeological sites (prehistoric and historic). High probability areas for historic archaeological sites were identified based on a review of historic maps, and includes areas near historic towns, ranches, and the locations of historic buildings, structures, and features and along existing primary and secondary roads. Prehistoric high probability areas include secondary terraces along major rivers and streams, intact Holocene-era sediments, broad floodplains, areas mapped to contain soils series that contain chert lithic resources, and the edge of terraces above floodplains. Routes 3 and 11 have the least amount of length through areas of high archaeological/historical site potential, approximately 8.3 miles. Route 6 has the most amount of length through areas of high archeological/historical potential, with approximately 12.7 miles.

6.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

This EA and Alternative Route Analysis was prepared for LCRA TSC by POWER. LCRA TSC provided information in Section 1.0. A list of the POWER employees with primary responsibilities for the preparation of this document is presented below.

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Appendix A

Agency and Other Correspondence

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Correspondence Copy

INDEX TO APPENDIX A

Correspondence Copy

Blumenthal Substation and 138 kV Transmission Line
Federal, State, and Local Agency Contact List
July 26, 2013

FEDERAL	
Mr. Chris Shoulders National Operations Supervisor Obstruction Evaluation Group Federal Aviation Administration 4500 Mercantile Plaza Fort Worth, TX 76137	Mr. Adam Zerrenner Field Supervisor U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 10711 Burnet Rd., Ste. 200 Austin, TX 78758-4455
Mr. Salvador Salinas State Conservationist NRCS Texas State Office 101 South Main Street Temple, TX 76501	Colonel Charles H. Klinge, Jr. Commander USACE - Fort Worth District P.O. Box 17300 Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300
Mr. Ron Curry Region 6 Administrator U. S. Environmental Protection Agency 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200 Dallas, TX 75202	Mr. John Wessels Intermountain Regional Director National Parks Service IMRextrev@nps.gov
Mr. Tony Robinson Region 6 Regional Administrator Federal Emergency Management Agency FRC 800 N. Loop 288 Denton, TX 76209-3698	
STATE	
Ms. Kathy Boydston Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program Texas Parks and Wildlife Department 4200 Smith School Road Austin, TX 78744	Mr. Joel Anderson Regional Director Texas Commission on Environmental Quality 14250 Judson Rd. San Antonio, TX 78233-4480
Mr. Greg Miller Director, Planning & Programming Texas Department of Transportation Department of Aviation 125 E. 11th Street Austin, TX 78701-2483	Mr. Jerry Patterson Commissioner Texas General Land Office 1700 N. Congress Ave., Suite 935 Austin, TX 78701-1495
Mr. Carlos Swonke Director, Environmental Affairs Division Texas Department of Transportation 125 E. 11th Street Austin, TX 78701-2483	Mr. Milton Rister Executive Director Railroad Commission of Texas P.O. Box 12967 Austin, TX 78711-2967

Blumenthal Substation and 138 kV Transmission Line
Federal, State, and Local Agency Contact List
July 26, 2013

STATE CONTINUED	
Mr. David Van Soest Regional Director Texas Commission on Environmental Quality P.O. Box 13087 Austin, TX 78711-3087	Ms. Melanie Callahan Executive Administrator Texas Water Development Board P.O. Box 13231 Austin, TX 78711-3231
Mr. Mark Wolfe Executive Director Texas Historical Commission P.O. Box 12276 Austin, TX 78711	
LOCAL	
Ms. Betty Voights Executive Director Capital Area Council of Governments 6800 Burleson Road Building 310, Suite 165 Austin, TX 78744	**Blanco County**
Mr. Dean Danos Executive Director Alamo Area Council of Governments 8700 Tesoro Dr., Suite 700 San Antonio, TX 78217	Ms.Sherry Jenkins Chair Blanco County Historical Commission 8791 RR 1320 Johnson City, TX 78636
Kendall County	**Gillespie County**
Ms. Theda Sueltenfuss Chair Kendall County Historical Commission 128 Little Joshua Creek Rd. Boerne, TX 78006	Ms. Doris Eckert Chair Gillespie County Historical Commission 309 Old San Antonio Road Fredericksburg, TX 78624

POWER ENGINEERS, INC.

7600B N CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY
SUITE 320
AUSTIN, TX 78731 USA

PHONE 512-795-3700
FAX 512-795-3704

POWER ENGINEERS

August 15, 2013
(Via Mail)

ENERGY
FACILITIES
COMMUNICATIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL

Mr. Chris Shoulders
National Operations Supervisor
Obstruction Evaluation Group
Federal Aviation Administration
4500 Mercantile Plaza
Fort Worth, TX 76137

Re: Proposed Blumenthal Substation and 138-kV Transmission Line Project
Blanco, Gillespie, and Kendall Counties, Texas
POWER Engineers Project No. 131356

Dear Mr. Shoulders:

LCRA Transmission Services Corporation (TSC) and Central Texas Electric Cooperative (CTEC) are working together to add electric infrastructure needed to serve a growing area east of Fredericksburg. LCRA TSC is proposing to build a new single circuit 138-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Gillespie County and, depending upon the final route, in a portion of eastern Blanco or northern Kendall counties. The new transmission line will connect the planned CTEC Substation (to be located in eastern Gillespie County in the general vicinity of Blumenthal, and is presently named Blumenthal Substation) and LCRA TSC's existing Kendall to Mountain Top 138-kV transmission line (T-342), which is located in northern Kendall and western Blanco Counties. The entire project will be about 10 to 15 miles long, depending on the final route. The project is needed to help maintain electric system reliability and meet the growing demand for electricity in CTEC's service area. The location of the project study area is shown on the enclosed map.

POWER Engineers, Inc. (POWER) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Alternative Route Analysis for LCRA TSC to support its application for an amendment to its existing Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) from the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC). POWER is gathering data on the existing environment and identifying environmental and land use constraints within the study area that will be used in the creation of an environmental and land use constraints map. POWER will also identify potential alternative route segments that consider environmental and land use constraints.

We are requesting that your agency/office provide information concerning environmental and land use constraints or other issues of interest to your agency/office within the study area. Your input will be an important consideration in the delineation and evaluation of alternative routes and in the assessment of potential impacts of those alternative routes. In addition, we would appreciate receiving information about any permits, easements, or other approvals by your agency/office that you believe could affect this project, or if you are aware of any major proposed development or construction in the study area. Upon certification of a final route for the proposed project, LCRA TSC will identify and obtain necessary permits, if required, from your agency/office.

Thank you for your assistance with this proposed electric transmission line project. Please contact me at 512-795-3700, extension 6908 or by e-mail at rob.reid@powereng.com if you have any questions or require additional information. We would appreciate receiving your reply by September 20, 2013.

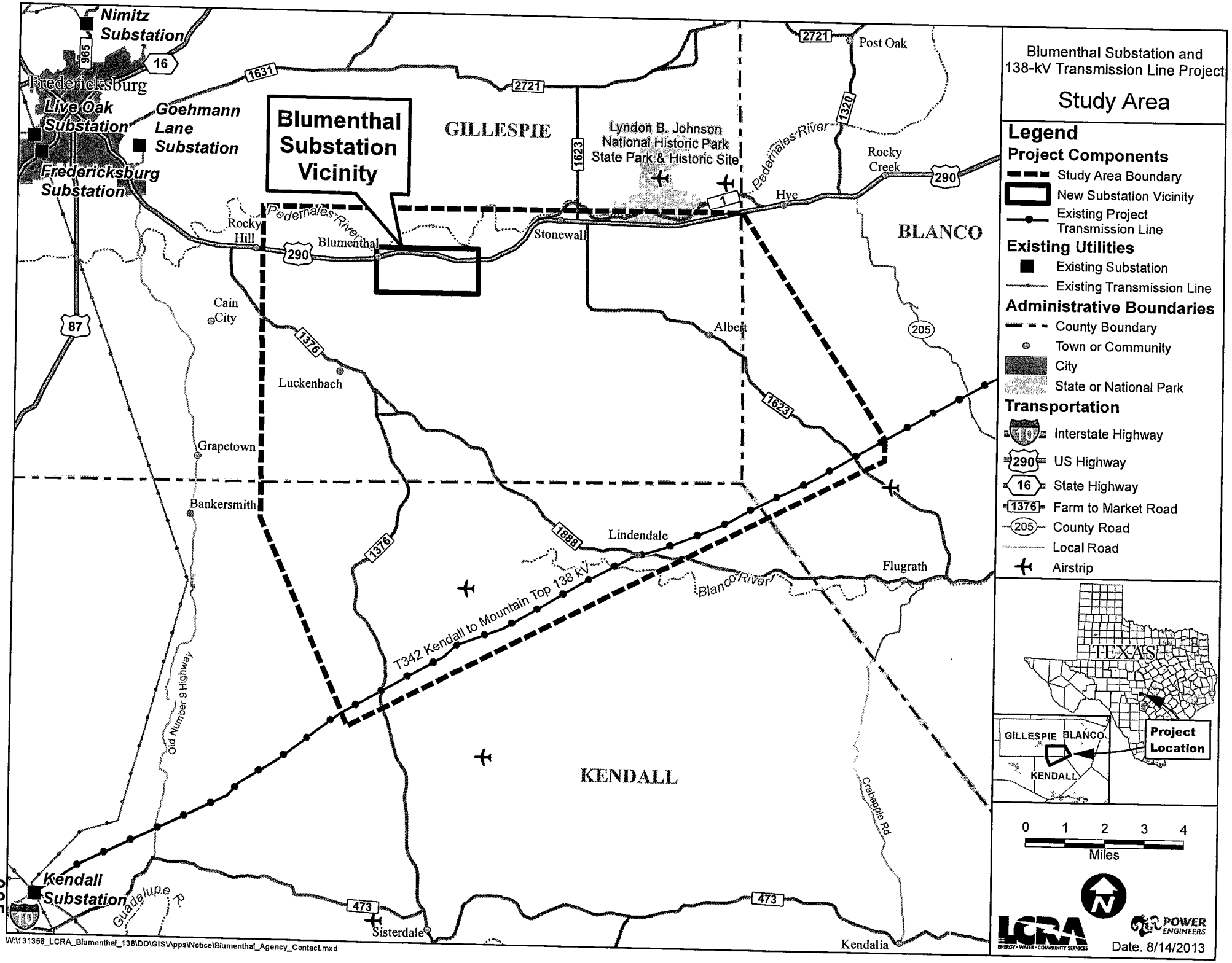
Sincerely,

Rob R. Reid

Rob Reid
Project Director

Enclosure(s): Study Area Map
Sent Via Mail

c: DMS 131356
PER-01



Blumenthal Substation and 138-kV Transmission Line Project

Study Area

Legend

Project Components
- Study Area Boundary
- New Substation Vicinity
- Existing Project Transmission Line

Existing Utilities
- Existing Substation
- Existing Transmission Line

Administrative Boundaries
- County Boundary
- Town or Community
- City
- State or National Park

Transportation
- Interstate Highway
- US Highway
- State Highway
- Farm to Market Road
- County Road
- Local Road
- Airstrip

0 1 2 3 4
Miles

LCRA ENERGY • WATER • COMMUNITY SERVICES
POWER ENGINEERS

Date. 8/14/2013

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Blumenthal State Federal Elected Officials List 2013

Organization	Prefix	Contact	Formal	FormalTitle	Address1	City	State	Zip
Texas House of Representatives	The Honorable	Jason Isaac	Representative Isaac	State Representative	P.O. Box 2910	Austin	TX	78768
Texas House of Representatives	The Honorable	Doug Miller	Representative Miller	State Representative	P.O. Box 2910	Austin	TX	78768
Texas Senate	The Honorable	Donna Campbell	Senator Campbell	State Senator	P.O. Box 12068	Austin	TX	78711
Texas Senate	The Honorable	Troy Fraser	Senator Fraser	State Senator	P.O. Box 12068	Austin	TX	78711
United States House of Representatives	The Honorable	Lamar Smith	Representative Smith	United States Representative	2409 Rayburn House Office Building	Washington	DC	20515
United States Senate	The Honorable	John Cornyn	Senator Cornyn	United States Senator	517 Hart Senate Office Building	Washington	DC	20510
United States Senate	The Honorable	Ted Cruz	Senator Cruz	United States Senator	3133 General Hudnell Dr., Suite 120	San Antonio	TX	78226

Blumenthal Public Officials List 2013

Organization	FormalTitle	Prefix	Contact	Formal	Address	City	State	Zip
City of Fredericksburg	Mayor	The Honorable	Jeryl Hoover	Mayor	126 West Main St.	Fredericksburg	TX	78624
City of Fredericksburg	Council Member	The Honorable	Graham Pearson	Council Member	126 West Main St.	Fredericksburg	TX	78624
City of Fredericksburg	Council Member	The Honorable	Tim Dooley	Council Member	126 West Main St.	Fredericksburg	TX	78624
City of Fredericksburg	Council Member	The Honorable	Kathy Sanford	Council Member	126 West Main St.	Fredericksburg	TX	78624
City of Fredericksburg	Council Member	The Honorable	Gary Neffendorf	Council Member	126 West Main St.	Fredericksburg	TX	78624
City of Fredericksburg	City Manager	Mr.	Kent Myers	Mr. Myers	126 West Main St.	Fredericksburg	TX	78624
City of Fredericksburg	Director of Development Services	Mr.	Brian Jordan	Mr. Jordan	126 West Main St	Fredericksburg	TX	78624
Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce	President/CEO	Ms.	Penny Reeh	Ms. Reeh	302 East Austin St.	Fredericksburg	TX	78624
Gillespie County	County Judge	The Honorable	Mark Stroeher	Judge	101 West Main St.	Fredericksburg	TX	78624
Gillespie County	Commissioner	The Honorable	Curtis Cameron	Commissioner, Pct. 1	101 West Main St.	Fredericksburg	TX	78624
Gillespie County	Commissioner	The Honorable	William A. Roeder	Commissioner, Pct. 2	101 West Main St.	Fredericksburg	TX	78624
Gillespie County	Commissioner	The Honorable	Calvin Ransleben	Commissioner, Pct. 3	101 West Main St.	Fredericksburg	TX	78624
Gillespie County	Commissioner	The Honorable	Donnie Schuch	Commissioner, Pct. 4	101 West Main St.	Fredericksburg	TX	78624
Gillespie County Economic Development Commission	Executive Director	Mr.	Tim Lehmberg	Mr. Lehmberg	302 East Austin St.	Fredericksburg	TX	78624
Stonewall Chamber of Commerce	President	Mr.	Shane Frantzen	Mr. Frantzen	PO Box 1	Stonewall	TX	78671
Kendall County	County Judge	The Honorable	Darrel Lux	Judge	201 East San Antonio St.	Boerne	TX	78006
Kendall County	Commissioner	The Honorable	Mike Finke	Commissioner, Pct. 1	201 East San Antonio St.	Boerne	TX	78006
Kendall County	Commissioner	The Honorable	Gene Miertschin	Commissioner, Pct. 2	201 East San Antonio St.	Boerne	TX	78006
Kendall County	Commissioner	The Honorable	Richard Chapman	Commissioner, Pct. 3	201 East San Antonio St.	Boerne	TX	78006
Kendall County	Commissioner	The Honorable	Kenneth Rusch	Commissioner, Pct. 4	201 East San Antonio St.	Boerne	TX	78006
Kendall County	County Engineer	Mr.	Terry Anderson	Mr. Anderson	201 East San Antonio St.	Boerne	TX	78006
Kendall County Economic Development Corporation	President/CEO	Mr	Dan Rogers	Mr. Rogers	1221 S. Main St., Ste 100	Boerne	TX	78006
Blanco County	County Judge	The Honorable	Bill Guthrie	Judge	PO Box 387	Johnson City	TX	78636
Blanco County	Commissioner	The Honorable	John Wood	Commissioner, Pct. 1	PO Box 471	Johnson City	TX	78636
Blanco County	Commissioner	The Honorable	James Sultemeier	Commissioner, Pct. 2	PO Box 471	Johnson City	TX	78636
Blanco County	Commissioner	The Honorable	Chris Liesmann	Commissioner, Pct. 3	PO Box 471	Johnson City	TX	78636
Blanco County	Commissioner	The Honorable	Paul Granberg	Commissioner, Pct. 4	PO Box 471	Johnson City	TX	78636
Blanco County Economic Development Corporation	President	Mr	Joe Stewart	Mr. Stewart	PO Box 1315	Johnson City	TX	78636

Blumenthal Utilities List 2013

Organization	Prefix	Contact	Formal	FormalTitle	Address1	City	State	Zip
City of Fredericksburg Utilities	Mr.	Clinton Bailey, P.E.	Mr. Bailey	Director of Public Works & Utilities	126 West Main St.	Fredericksburg	TX	78624
Pedernales Electric Cooperative	Mr.	John D. Hewa	Mr. Hewa	Chief Executive Officer	PO Box 1	Johnson City	TX	78636
Central Texas Electric Cooperative [no letter]	Mr.	Robert A. Loth III	Mr. Loth	Chief Executive Officer	PO Box 553	Fredericksburg	TX	78624
Other Groups or Stakeholders								
Save Our Scenic Hill Country Environment	Mr.	Robert Weatherford	Mr. Weatherford	President	10212 Ranch Rd. 965	Fredericksburg	TX	78624

Organization	Prefix	Contact	Formal	FormalTitle	Address1	City	State	Zip
Fredericksburg ISD	Dr.	Marc Williamson	Dr. Williamson	Superintendent	234 Friendship Ln.	Fredericksburg	TX	78624
Fredericksburg ISD	Ms.	Lorrie Hess	Ms. Hess	Board President	234 Friendship Ln.	Fredericksburg	TX	78624
Fredericksburg ISD	Ms.	Leola Mills	Ms. Mills	Board Vice-President	234 Friendship Ln.	Fredericksburg	TX	78624
Fredericksburg ISD	Mr.	Mark Cornett	Mr. Cornett	Board Secretary	234 Friendship Ln.	Fredericksburg	TX	78624
Fredericksburg ISD	Mr.	Dave Campbell	Mr. Campbell	Board Member	234 Friendship Ln.	Fredericksburg	TX	78624
Fredericksburg ISD	Mr.	Jerry Durst	Mr. Durst	Board Member	234 Friendship Ln.	Fredericksburg	TX	78624
Fredericksburg ISD	Mr.	Dale Geistweidt	Mr. Geistweidt	Board Member	234 Friendship Ln.	Fredericksburg	TX	78624
Fredericksburg ISD	Ms.	Kay Stech	Ms. Stech	Board Member	234 Friendship Ln.	Fredericksburg	TX	78624
Johnson City ISD	Mr.	David Shanley	Mr. Shanley	Superintendent	PO Box 498	Johnson City	TX	78636
Johnson City ISD	Mr.	Randy Brodbeck	Mr. Brodbeck	Board President	PO Box 498	Johnson City	TX	78636
Johnson City ISD	Ms.	Cynthia Keene	Ms. Keene	Board Vice-President	PO Box 498	Johnson City	TX	78636
Johnson City ISD	Mr.	Kip Thompson	Mr. Thompson	Board Secretary	PO Box 498	Johnson City	TX	78636
Johnson City ISD	Ms.	Shelly Wenmohs	Ms. Wenmohs	Board Member	PO Box 498	Johnson City	TX	78636
Johnson City ISD	Mr.	Randy Rutherford	Mr. Rutherford	Board Member	PO Box 498	Johnson City	TX	78636
Johnson City ISD	Mr.	Greg Wessels	Mr. Wessels	Board Member	PO Box 498	Johnson City	TX	78636
Johnson City ISD	Mr.	Matt Pletcher	Mr. Pletcher	Board Member	PO Box 498	Johnson City	TX	78636
Comfort ISD	Dr.	John Chapman	Dr. Chapman	Superintendent	PO Box 398	Comfort	TX	78013
Comfort ISD	Mr.	Eric Lantz	Mr. Lantz	Board President	PO Box 398	Comfort	TX	78013
Comfort ISD	Mr.	Brad Spenrath	Mr. Spenrath	Board Vice-President	PO Box 398	Comfort	TX	78013
Comfort ISD	Mr.	Ray Avery	Mr. Avery	Board Secretary	PO Box 398	Comfort	TX	78013
Comfort ISD	Ms.	Tillie Moldenhauer	Ms. Moldenhauer	Board Member	PO Box 398	Comfort	TX	78013
Comfort ISD	Ms.	Nora Lozano	Ms. Lozano	Board Member	PO Box 398	Comfort	TX	78013
Comfort ISD	Mr.	Ron McPherson	Mr. McPherson	Board Member	PO Box 398	Comfort	TX	78013
Comfort ISD	Ms.	Lilly Edwards	Ms. Edwards	Board Member	PO Box 398	Comfort	TX	78013
Blanco ISD	Dr.	Buck Ford	Dr. Ford	Superintendent	814 Eleventh St.	Blanco	TX	78606
Blanco ISD	Mr.	Matt Herden	Mr. Herden	Board President	814 Eleventh St.	Blanco	TX	78606
Blanco ISD	Mr.	Troy Immel	Mr. Immel	Board Vice-President	814 Eleventh St.	Blanco	TX	78606
Blanco ISD	Mr.	Charles Riley	Mr. Riley	Board Member	814 Eleventh St.	Blanco	TX	78606
Blanco ISD	Mr.	Kirk Phelps	Mr. Phelps	Board Member	814 Eleventh St.	Blanco	TX	78606
Blanco ISD	Mr.	Bernie San Miguel	Mr. San Miguel	Board Member	814 Eleventh St.	Blanco	TX	78606
Blanco ISD	Mr.	Darrel Wagner	Mr. Wagner	Board Member	814 Eleventh St.	Blanco	TX	78606
Blanco ISD	Mr.	Tim Nance	Mr. Nance	Board Member	814 Eleventh St.	Blanco	TX	78606

Central Texas Electric Co-op

LCRA
ENERGY • WATER • COMMUNITY SERVICES
TRANSMISSION SERVICES CORPORATION

August 15, 2013

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senator
United States Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Re: LCRA Transmission Services Corporation and Central Texas Electric Cooperative
Proposed Blumenthal Substation and 138-kV Transmission Line Project in
Gillespie, Kendall and Blanco counties

Dear Senator Cornyn:

LCRA Transmission Services Corporation (LCRA TSC) and Central Texas Electric Cooperative (CTEC) are working together to add infrastructure and electric load capacity to reliably serve a growing area east of Fredericksburg. An initial step in the state-regulated transmission line routing process is to solicit input about the study area from local elected officials and public agencies. ***Please review the study area on the enclosed map and provide us with any information that may help us identify the future location of transmission infrastructure.***

Project Description

LCRA TSC is proposing to build a new single-circuit 138-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Gillespie County and a portion of eastern Blanco County or northern Kendall County, depending on the final route. This new transmission line will connect a planned CTEC electric substation to LCRA TSC's existing Kendall-to-Mountain Top 138-kV transmission line (T-342) in northern Kendall and western Blanco counties. CTEC plans to construct its substation (currently called Blumenthal Substation) in the Blumenthal area of eastern Gillespie County. The entire project will be about 10 to 15 miles long, depending on the final route chosen. The project is needed to help maintain electric system reliability and meet the growing demand for electricity in this part of CTEC's service area. The enclosed map shows the project study area.

Your Role in the Regulatory Process

LCRA TSC requests that your office provide any information that could affect the transmission line route in this area. The Public Utility Commission (PUC) regulates transmission line routing in Texas. As part of that process, transmission companies routinely solicit input from local elected officials and surrounding agencies that may know of potential impacts to the study area. Specifically, we ask you to consider any impacts that involve:

- Environmental and land use constraints
- Current or proposed land development projects
- Construction projects
- Other areas of interest within the study area

Your input is important in evaluating alternative routes and assessing potential impacts. Additionally, we would appreciate receiving information about any of the following conditions that you believe could affect this project:

- Permits
- Easements
- Other required approvals by your agency/office

After the PUC selects the final route for the project, LCRA TSC and CTEC will obtain any necessary permits from your agency/office.

Next Steps in Regulatory Process

The LCRA TSC consultant for this project, Power Engineers, is preparing an Environmental Assessment and Alternative Route Analysis for LCRA TSC's application to amend its existing Certificate of Convenience and Necessity from the PUC. As part of the Environmental Assessment, Power Engineers is gathering data on the project study area and identifying environmental and land use constraints for a map to submit to the PUC as part of the Environmental Assessment. Power Engineers will use this map to identify potential alternative route segments that take into account these constraints.

Once Power Engineers identifies preliminary alternate route segments and substation locations for the project, we will invite you and potentially affected landowners to an open house to review the environmental and land use constraints maps as well as many other exhibits.

Please note the enclosed PUC Certification Process for Transmission Lines. We hope this chart will provide you with an understanding of the regulated process we must follow and your role in it. In addition, we have project information posted on our website at: http://www.lcra.org/energy/trans/line_routing/project_list/blumenthalsubtlp.html along with information on the transmission line routing process at: http://www.lcra.org/energy/trans/line_routing/index.html

We appreciate your assistance with this project. Please send your input to me by mail, telephone or email:

Lance Wenmohs
Manager, Siting and Certification
Lower Colorado River Authority
P.O. Box 220
Austin, Texas 78767-0220
1-800-776-5272, Ext. 4495, or (512) 578-4495
lance.wenmohs@lcra.org

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like additional information. We appreciate receiving your reply by September 20, 2013.

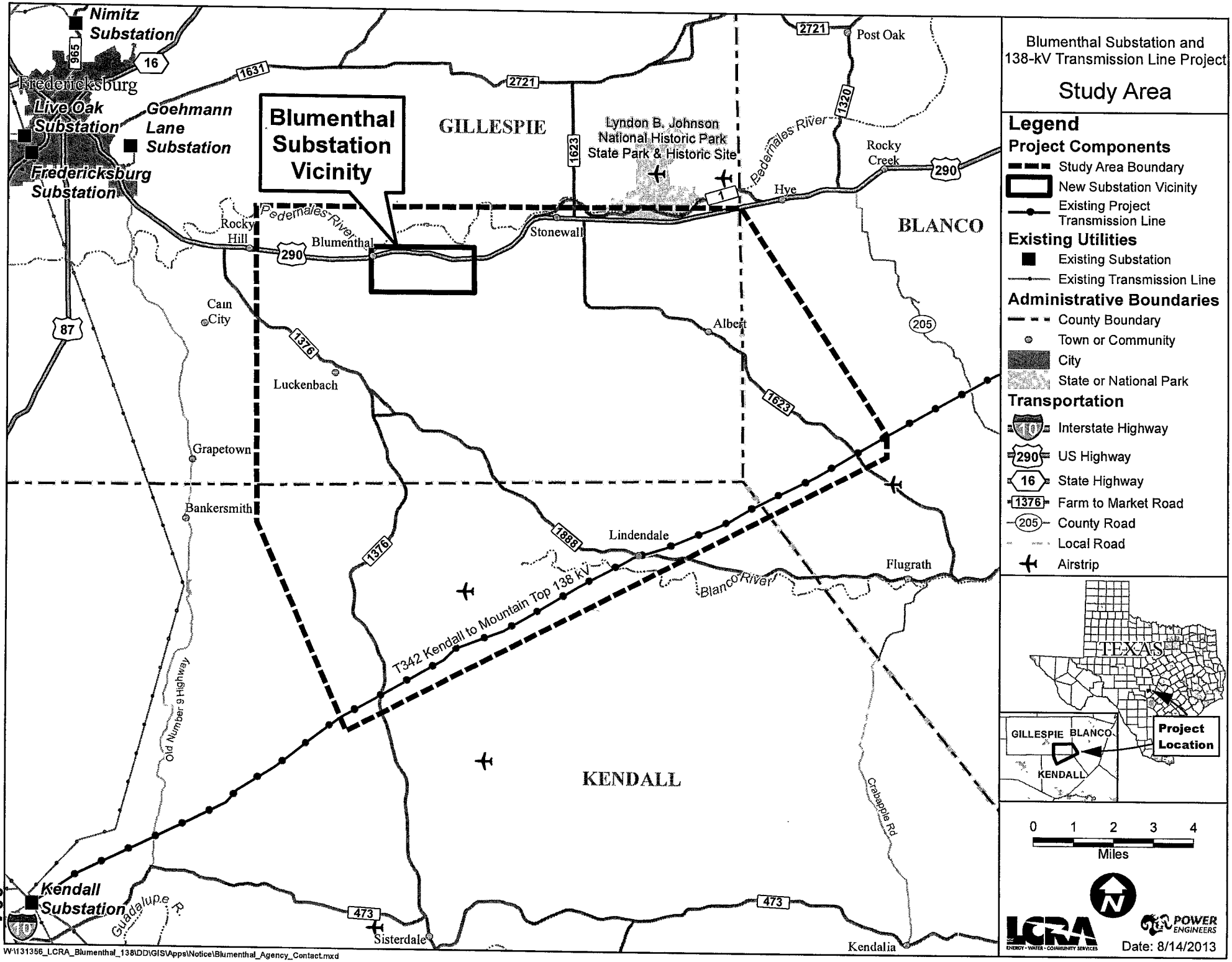
Sincerely,

Lance Wenmohs

Lance Wenmohs
Manager, Siting and Certification
Lower Colorado River Authority

Enclosures

cc: David W. Peterson, P.E. (CTEC)
Rob R. Reid (Power Engineers)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Existing Substation
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US Highway
State Highway
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County Road
Local Road
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Kendall Substation
Fredericksburg
GILLESPIE
BLANCO
KENDALL
Lyndon B. Johnson National Historic Park State Park & Historic Site
Pedernales River
Blanco River
Rocky Hill
Blumenthal
Stonewall
Hye
Rocky Creek
Post Oak
Cain City
Luckenbach
Albert
Grapetown
Bankersmith
Lindendale
Flugrath
Sisterdale
Kendalia
T342 Kendall to Mountain Top 138 kV
Old Number 9 Highway
Crabapple Rd
Guadalupe R.
TEXAS
Project Location
0 1 2 3 4
Miles
Date: 8/14/2013
W:\131356_LCRA_Blumenthal_138\DD\GIS\Apps\Notice\Blumenthal_Agency_Contact.mxd

Public Utility Commission

Certification Process for Transmission Lines

Define Project

- Identify beginning and end points for project

(e.g., existing LCRA TSC Kendall-to-Mountain Top line and proposed new CTEC Blumenthal Substation)

Environmental Assessment and Routing Analysis

- Identify study area based on project definition.
- Gather data about study area. WE ARE HERE
- Map environmental and land use constraints in study area.
- Determine preliminary routing segments based on maps, aerial photos, constraints data, and field visits.
- Hold open house to gather public input.
- Analyze preliminary routing segments to develop the primary alternative routes.
- Prepare Environmental Assessment Report.

PUC Application Process

- Submit an application to the PUC to amend LCRA Transmission Services Corporation's Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN).
- Upon filing of the application, notices will be sent to landowners whose property may be crossed or is within 300 feet of any alternative routes.
- Notices also will be sent to municipalities and electric utilities that are within five miles of the project and to municipal and county governments where the project is located.
- Following the filing of the application, interested parties will have an opportunity to participate in an intervention process.

PUC Staff Review

PUC staff conducts review and makes recommendation to approve project as submitted or approve with modifications.

NO — **Intervention?** — YES

Administrative Hearing

- Technical review of project routing
- Testimony filed by all parties
- Administrative hearing
- Administrative law judge prepares proposed final order

Within 12 months after application is submitted.

PUC Makes Decision

- Approve application
- Approve application with modifications
- Deny

- PUC approval of a CCN application gives LCRA Transmission Services Corporation the authorization to build the new transmission project along the route selected by the PUC.

Blumenthal Substation and 138 kV Transmission Line Project

Central Texas Electric Co-op

LCRA ENERGY • WATER • COMMUNITY SERVICES

U. S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region 6
800 North Loop 288
Denton, TX 76209-3698

FEMA

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
REGION VI
MITIGATION DIVISION

NOTICE REVIEW/ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION

☐ We have no comments to offer. ☒ We offer the following comments:

WE WOULD REQUEST THAT THE COUNTIES FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATORS BE CONTACTED FOR THE REVIEW AND POSSIBLE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS PROJECT. IF FEDERALLY FUNDED, WE WOULD REQUEST PROJECT TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH EO11988 & EO 11990.

REVIEWER:

Mayra G. Diaz
Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch
Mitigation Division
(940) 898-5541

DATE: August 26, 2013

POWER ENGINEERS, INC.

POWER ENGINEERS

7600B N CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY
SUITE 320
AUSTIN, TX 78731 USA

PHONE 512-795-3700
FAX 512-795-3704

2013 AUG 19 P 2:13

August 15, 2013
(Via Mail)

ENERGY
FACILITIES
COMMUNICATIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL

Mr. Tony Robinson
Region 6 Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
FRC 800 N. Loop 288
Denton, TX 76209-3698

Re: Proposed Blumenthal Substation and 138-kV Transmission Line Project
Blanco, Gillespie, and Kendall Counties, Texas
POWER Engineers Project No. 131356

Dear Mr. Robinson:

LCRA Transmission Services Corporation (TSC) and Central Texas Electric Cooperative (CTEC) are working together to add electric infrastructure needed to serve a growing area east of Fredericksburg. LCRA TSC is proposing to build a new single circuit 138-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Gillespie County and, depending upon the final route, in a portion of eastern Blanco or northern Kendall counties. The new transmission line will connect the planned CTEC Substation (to be located in eastern Gillespie County in the general vicinity of Blumenthal, and is presently named Blumenthal Substation) and LCRA TSC's existing Kendall to Mountain Top 138-kV transmission line (T-342), which is located in northern Kendall and western Blanco Counties. The entire project will be about 10 to 15 miles long, depending on the final route. The project is needed to help maintain electric system reliability and meet the growing demand for electricity in CTEC's service area. The location of the project study area is shown on the enclosed map.

POWER Engineers, Inc. (POWER) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Alternative Route Analysis for LCRA TSC to support its application for an amendment to its existing Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) from the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC). POWER is gathering data on the existing environment and identifying environmental and land use constraints within the study area that will be used in the creation of an environmental and land use constraints map. POWER will also identify potential alternative route segments that consider environmental and land use constraints.

We are requesting that your agency/office provide information concerning environmental and land use constraints or other issues of interest to your agency/office within the study area. Your input will be an important consideration in the delineation and evaluation of alternative routes and in the assessment of potential impacts of those alternative routes. In addition, we would appreciate receiving information about any permits, easements, or other approvals by your agency/office that you believe could affect this project, or if you are aware of any major proposed development or construction in the study area. Upon certification of a final route for the proposed project, LCRA TSC will identify and obtain necessary permits, if required, from your agency/office.

United States Department of Agriculture
NRCS
Natural Resources Conservation Service

101 S. Main Street
Temple, TX 76501-6624
Phone: 254-742-9826
FAX: 254-742-9859

August 23, 2013

Power Engineers
7600B N Capital of Texas Hwy
Suite 320
Austin, Texas 78731

Attention: Rob Reid

Subject: LNU-Farmland Protection
Proposed Blumenthal Substation and Transmission Line
Blanco, Gillespie, and Kendall Counties, Texas

We have reviewed the information provided in your correspondence dated August15, 2013 concerning the proposed substation and transmission line in Blanco, Gillespie, and Kendall Counties, Texas. This review is part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) evaluation for Public Utility Commission (PUC). We have evaluated the proposed site as required by the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA).

Based on the map provided, a determination regarding the environmental effects of the proposed project cannot be made without knowing the exact location of the site. There are approximately 1100 acres of prime farmland in your area of interest. There are some hydric soils listed. If the project is being funded by a federal agency it may require a FPPA rating. If federal funds or technical assistance are not involved, the project is exempt per (Part 523-Farmland Protection Policy Act Manual; Subpart B; 523.10, B., (8)).

If you have any questions, please contact me at (254) 742-9854, Fax (254) 742-9859 or by email at drew.kinney@tx.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Drew Kinney

Drew Kinney
NRCS GIS Specialist

Attachment

United States Department of Agriculture
NRCS
Natural Resources Conservation Service

101 S. Main Street
Temple, TX 76501-6624
Phone: 254-742-9960
FAX: 254-742-9859

For Informational Purposes

To Whom It May Concern:

The official source for current soil survey information is Web Soil Survey at http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov. Enclosed is a pamphlet about the website.

Farmland Classification maps can be obtained by following the steps below:

Delineate your area of interest (AOI) and create an AOI, or create an AOI from a zipped shape file. Go to the Soil Data Explorer tab, then the Suitability's and Limitations for Use tab, and then under the Land Classifications list of reports, run the Farmland Classification report. Print or save the report to a file, or add it to the shopping cart and produce a Custom Soil Resource Report to submit to us electronically, or print it out for mailing.

NRCS Farmland Policy Protection Act Form AD-1006 or NRCS-CPA-106 can be obtained at the following URL's respectively:
http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/pdf/ad1006.pdf
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1045395.pdf

NRCS Conservation Easements for Texas can be obtained at the following URL to determine if your project overlaps with any conservation easements:
http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/easements.html

NRCS Conservation Easements by state can be obtained at the following URL:http://datagateway.nrcs.usda.gov/GDGOrder.aspx

If you have any questions, please contact the Texas State Soil Scientist at (254) 742-9863.

Soil Survey Data

Soil survey data are a product of the National Cooperative Soil Survey, a joint effort of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and other Federal agencies, State agencies including the Agricultural Experiment Stations, and local participants.

Web Soil Survey (WSS)

The Web Soil Survey provides agricultural producers, agencies, Technical Service Providers, and others electronic access to relevant soil and related information needed to make land-use and management decisions. The WSS:

- Provides an alternative to traditional hardcopy publication,
- Provides the means for quicker delivery of information,
- Provides electronic access to full soil survey report content,
- Provides access to the most current data, and
- Allows customers to get just the information they want.

Current, Custom Soil Maps & Reports: Fast. Free. Friendly.

Print a Hydric Soil Map

- Complete Steps 1, 2, and 3
- From the "Soil Data Explorer" tab, click on the "Suitabilities and Limitations for Use" tab
- Click on "Land Classifications"
- Click on "Hydric Rating by Map Unit"
- Click the "View Rating" button
- Click the "Legend" tab to open or close the map symbol legend
- Click the "Printable Version" button
- Click the "View" button
- On the browser menu bar, select File and Print; or click the print icon

Print a Soil Chemical Properties Report

- Complete Steps 1, 2, and 3
- From the "Soil Data Explorer" tab, click the "Soil Reports" tab
- Click on "Soil Chemical Properties"
- Click on "Chemical Soil Properties"
- Click the "View Soil Report" button
- Click the "Printable Version" button
- Click the "View" button
- On the browser menu bar, select File and Print; or click the print icon

USDA NRCS

National Cooperative Soil Survey

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

October 2010

USDA NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

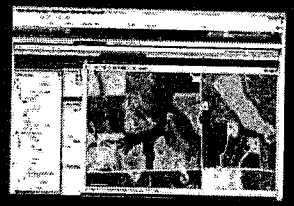
Web Soil Survey

http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov

Define.

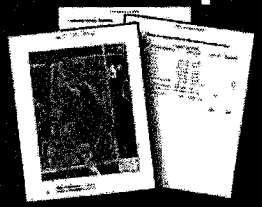
Search / Locate

Collect.



Analyze Data

Develop.



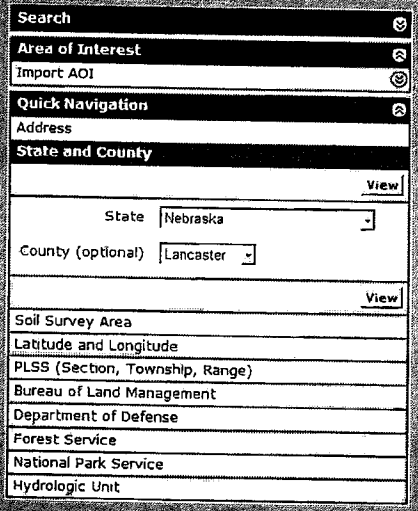
Custom Reports & Maps

"Helping People Help the Land"

Accessing Web Soil Survey

- Open the Web Soil Survey (WSS) site at: http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov and click the "Start WSS" button.

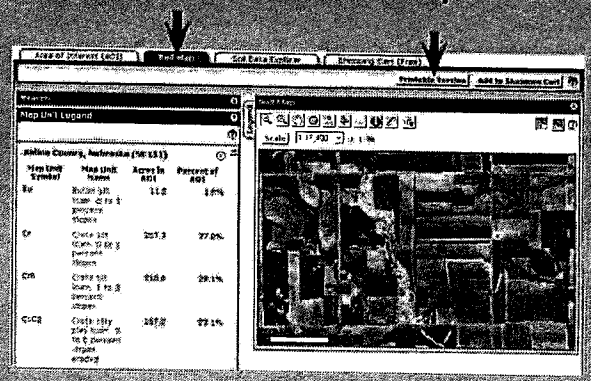
Step 1. Define Your Area of Interest (AOI)



- Several methods are available to zoom into a geographic area of interest. You can enter an address; select a state and county; enter section, township, and range information; or you can import a boundary file from your local computer to set the AOI.
- Click the "View" button to see the area.

- Use the zoom in tool (plus sign) to click and drag a rectangular box around a specific area. Repeat, as necessary, to zoom further.
- Select an AOI tool to draw a rectangular box or irregular polygon that defines the AOI and allows selection of associated soil data. Once the AOI has been defined, you can save it for use at a later date.

Step 2. View and Print Your Soil Map

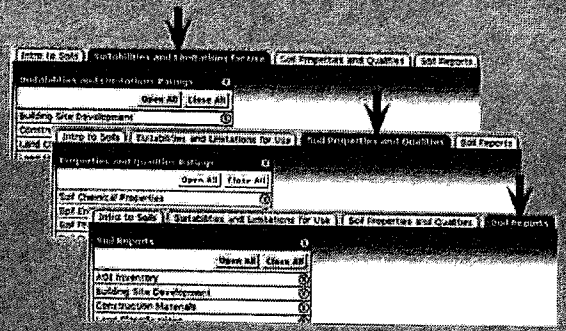


- Click on the "Soil Map" tab.
- Click on a map unit name to view a map unit description. Click the X to close the narrative.
- Print your soil map by clicking on the "Printable Version" button; then click the "View" button. On the browser menu bar, select File and Print; or click the print icon. Close the window.

Step 3. Explore Your Soil Information

WSS generates thematic maps of soil interpretations and chemical or physical properties. Tabular data reports are also available.

- Click on the "Soil Data Explorer" tab.

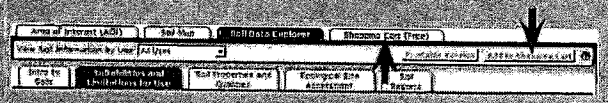


- Click on the tabs and explore available information (default tab is "Suitabilities and Limitations for Use").

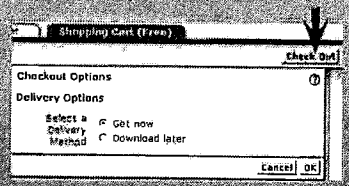
Step 4. Add Items to the Free Shopping Cart and Check Out

WSS allows you to collect a variety of thematic maps and reports in the Shopping Cart, then print or download the content into one file or document.

- Soil map, map unit legend, and map unit descriptions are automatically added.

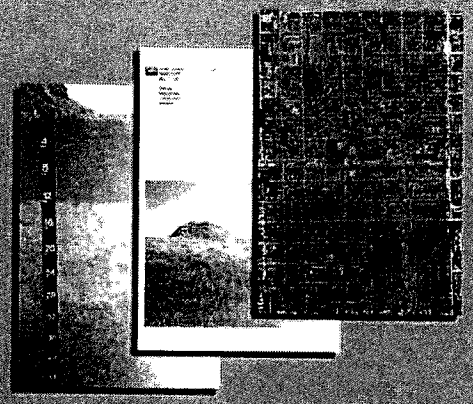


- Items viewed in Step 3 can be added by clicking the "Add to Shopping Cart" button.
- View your cart contents by clicking the "Shopping Cart (Free)" tab. Items checked on the Table of Contents are included.



- Get your Custom Soil Resource report.
  - Click the "Check Out" button
  - Select a delivery option and click OK

NOTE: At any time during Steps 2, 3, or 4, you can redefine the soil map location by clicking on the "Area of Interest" tab and clicking the "Clear AOI" button. Repeat Step 1.



From: david_hurd@nps.gov on behalf of IMRextrev, NPS
To: Lea Davenport 6900
Subject: Re: Proposed Blumenthal Substation and 138-kV Transmission Line Project
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2013 3:00:20 PM
Attachments: AR-M620U_20130918_135651.pdf

Dear Ms. Davenport

Thank you for the opportunity for the National Park Service (NPS) to be involved in your project. I have attached the document that you have requested from the NPS. If you have any questions or need additional assistants, please contact me.

Sincerely,

David Hurd

National Park Service
Intermountain Region External Review Team
Serving MT, UT, WY, CO, AZ, NM, OK, TX
imrextrev@nps.gov

On Thu, Aug 15, 2013 at 3:51 PM, Lea Davenport <lea.davenport@powereng.com> wrote:

> August 15, 2013
>
> *(Via Email)*
>
> Mr. John Wessels
>
> Intermountain Regional Director
>
> National Parks Service
>
> IMRextrev@nps.gov
>
> Re: Proposed Blumenthal Substation and 138-kV Transmission Line Project
>
> Blanco, Gillespie, and Kendall Counties, Texas
>
> POWER Engineers Project No. 131356
>
> Dear Mr. Wessels:

LCRA Transmission Services Corporation (TSC) and Central Texas Electric Cooperative (CTEC) are working together to add electric infrastructure needed to serve a growing area east of Fredericksburg. LCRA TSC is proposing to build a new single circuit 138-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Gillespie County and, depending upon the final route, in a portion of eastern Blanco or northern Kendall counties. The new transmission line will connect the planned CTEC Substation (to be located in eastern Gillespie County in the general vicinity of Blumenthal, and is presently named Blumenthal Substation) and LCRA TSC's existing Kendall to Mountain Top 138-kV transmission line (T-342), which is located in northern Kendall and western Blanco Counties. The entire project will be about 10 to 15 miles long, depending on the final route. The project is needed to help maintain electric system reliability and meet the growing demand for electricity in CTEC's service area. The location of the project study area is shown on the enclosed map.

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We are requesting that your agency/office provide information concerning environmental and land use constraints or other issues of interest to your agency/office within the study area. Your input will be an important consideration in the delineation and evaluation of alternative routes and in the assessment of potential impacts of those alternative routes. In addition, we would appreciate receiving information about any permits, easements, or other approvals by your agency/office that you believe could affect this project, or if you are aware of any major proposed development or construction in the study area. Upon certification of a final route for the proposed project, LCRA TSC will identify and obtain necessary permits, if required, from your agency/office.

Thank you for your assistance with this proposed electric transmission line project. Please contact me at 512-795-3700, extension 6908 or by e-mail at rob.reid@powereng.com if you have any questions or require additional information. We would appreciate receiving your reply by September 20, 2013.

Sincerely,

Rob Reid

Project Director

Please let me know if you have any issues with this email or its attachment.

Regards,

Lea M. Davenport

Office Administrator

Central Region Env Svc PM Group Austin

7600B North Capital of Texas Hwy

Suite 320

Austin, TX 78731

512.795.3700

POWER Engineers, Inc.
Energy ▪ Facilities ▪ Communications ▪ Environmental

www.powereng.com

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
12795 West Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

IN REPLY REFER TO:
IMR-EQ-L7617

SEP 18 2013

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL: NO HARD COPY TO FOLLOW

Lea M. Davenport
Office Administrator
Power Engineers
Central Region Env Svc PM Group Austin
7600B North Capital of Texas Hwy, Suite 320
Austin, TX 78731

Re: Proposed Blumenthal Substation and 138-kV transmission Line Project

Dear Ms. Davenport:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Proposed Blumenthal Substation and 138-kV transmission Line project. The National Park Service requests that the contracting party provide a more detail map of the location of the transmission line in relation to the substation. Please see attached document Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Parks comment in regard to this project.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact David Hurd at david_hurd@nps.gov or by phone at 303-987-6705.

Sincerely,

Laurie Domler
Regional Environmental Quality Chief (Acting)

cc: David Hurd, NPS-IMR

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park
P.O. Box 329
Johnson City, Texas 78636

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1.A.2

September 17, 2013

David Hurd
National Park Service
12795 Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80225

Dear Mr. Hurd:

Thank you for contacting Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park in regards to the proposed Blumenthal Substation project. After consulting with Baird Todd, Curator and several other members of the Interdisciplinary Natural/Cultural Compliance Team, we prefer if the contracting party (Texas Power Engineers) would provide a map, showing where the transmission lines to the proposed substation would be placed. This would help determine if there would be any significant effects upon the National Park. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Baird Todd
Curator

Alexander Shane
Park Historian (trainee)

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

August 27, 2013

Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division
Regulatory Branch

SUBJECT: Project Number SWF-2013-00396, Blumenthal Substation and 138-kV Tranmission Line

Rob Reid
Power Engineers
7600B North Capital of Texas Highway
Suite 320
Austin, TX 78731

Dear Mr. Reid:

Thank you for your letter received August 23, 2013, concerning a proposal by LCRA Transmission Services Corporation and Central Texas Electric Cooperative to construct a new single circuit 138 kilovolt transmission line located in Blanco, Gillespie, and Kendall Counties, Texas. This project has been assigned Project Number SWF-2013-00396. Please include this number in all future correspondence concerning this project.

Mr. Blake Brannon has been assigned as the regulatory project manager for your request and will be evaluating it as expeditiously as possible.

You may be contacted for additional information about your request. For your information, please reference the Fort Worth District Regulatory Branch homepage at www.swf.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx and particularly guidance on submittals at www.media.swf.usace.army.mil/pubdata/environ/regulatory/introduction/submital.pdf and mitigation at www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permitting/Mitigation.aspx that may help you supplement your current request or prepare future requests.

If you have any questions about the evaluation of your submittal or would like to request a copy of one of the documents referenced above, please contact Mr. Blake Brannon at the address above or telephone 817-886-1838 and refer to your assigned project number. Please note that it is unlawful to start work without a Department of the Army permit if one is required.

Please help the Regulatory Program improve its service by completing the survey on the following website: http://per2.nwp.usace.army.mil/survey.html.

Stephen L Brooks
Chief, Regulatory Branch

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78758
512 490-0057
FAX 490-0974

AUG 2 0 2013

Dear Mr. Reid:

This responds to your August 15, 2013, letter, to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) requesting a project area review of the proposed Blumenthal Substation and 138-kV transmission line project in Blanco, Gillespie, and Kendall counties, Texas. This line is a joint project between LCRA transmission Services Corporation and Central Texas Electric Cooperative. Exact line placement has not yet been determined; therefore, we are providing a response regarding species that may occur within all three counties.

Generally, as a first step, we recommend a review of the possibility of a proposed project impacting any federally listed, proposed, or candidate species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). Proposed species are those species that are currently being proposed for listing under the Act, and candidate species are those that are being considered for possible addition to the threatened and endangered species list. Proposed and candidate species currently have no legal protection. If you find your project may potentially impact these species, the Service would like to provide technical assistance to help avoid or minimize adverse effects. Addressing these species at an early stage could better provide for overall ecosystem health in the local area and may avert potential future listing.

A complete list of federally listed, proposed, or candidate species by county of occurrence in Texas can be found at: http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/ES_Lists_Main.cfm. Additionally, information related to the life history and ecology of each of the species that may occur in the project area can be found at: http://endangered.fws.gov/. For your convenience, we've attached a list of the species that are known to occur in Blanco, Gillespie, and Kendall counties.

If there is potential for a federally listed, proposed, or candidate species to occur within the project area, the Service recommends a presence/absence survey be conducted within the project area by persons with appropriate biological expertise (for listed species a section 10(a)(1)(A) scientific research and recovery permit may be required). If assessments indicate that suitable habitat is likely to be affected either directly or indirectly, we recommend that you consult with us further. If listed, proposed, or candidate species or their habitats are present, the project can often be modified to avoid or minimize impacts. Please send any completed surveys or habitat assessments to our office for assistance in evaluating potential impacts.

If a Federal agency is to fund or permit all or part of the project, the project may affect any listed species, and impacts cannot be avoided, then the Federal agency must consult with our office pursuant to section 7 of the Act. If no Federal agency is involved, you may choose to get a section 10(a)(1)(B) permit (also referred to as a Habitat Conservation Plan), if take of listed species is expected to occur, as a result of the proposed project. Take, as defined by the Act, means "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct." Take is further defined to include "significant habitat modification

where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly interfering with essential behavioral patterns such as breeding, feeding and sheltering" (50 Code of Federal Regulations 17.3).

Thank you for your concern for endangered and threatened species and other natural resources. If you have any questions about any of the information provided in this letter, or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Tanya Sommer at 512-490-0057, extension 222. Please refer to the Consultation Number listed above in any future correspondence regarding this project.

Sincerely,

Adam Zerrenner
Field Supervisor

Attachment