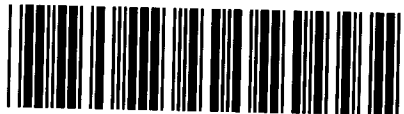




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Statement of Position PUC Docket No. 44837

L. J. Cohen
504 Cohen Rd
Goliad, TX

473-15-5258

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Mailing address:
210 Mitchell St
Corpus Christi, TX 78411

December 3, 2015

We are on the proposed MM and QQQ lines with property on Manahuilla Creek. We have a cow/calf operation and manage for wildlife. We have a plan with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to improve our land for livestock and wildlife. We are also life members of the Goliad County Wildlife Management Association and participate each year in the Texas Parks & Wildlife game counts. We have done brush sculpting to provide needed cover for wildlife. A large part of our brush sculpting will be impacted by the MM line by removing a line of brush used to harbor wildlife (see attached map A).

The MM line would run on our property from across the Manahuilla Creek all the way to FM1726. The west boundary of MM would be a neighbor's high game fence and the east side is our improved and native pasture. A cleared right of way will cause most, if not all of the harborage brush to be removed for almost three quarters of a mile. This will severely impact our management plan. This pasture has improved grasses and is narrow enough that the cattle will be impacted by the electro-magnetic field.

There are two areas on our property that cross Manahuilla Creek. One is at the Metting Rd/Dye Rd area that was once the wagon creek crossing to Weesatche, TX. This and the adjacent area was part of a riparian buffer that the NRCS pays us not to graze or disturb. The second crossing is at the Y of PP/QQQ/MM. There is a 30ft bluff on the south side of the creek with a huge Live Oak hanging over the swimming hole. It would be very difficult not to disturb the riparian buffer in this area. There is absolutely no way to access both sides of the Manihuilla without driving back to 183 and going approx 3 1/2 miles.

We recently had David Mahler of Environmental Survey Consulting at the ranch. He became very excited to find a rare plant, *Calliandra biflora*, which was on the endangered species list at one time. He dug some specimens to be planted at the Cesar Kleberg Wildlife Center in Kingsville. We have native prairie with this plant that the MM line would run through.

The above is the near term impact.

The long term impact will greatly reduce the value of our property. We have a residential building site at the end of Metting Rd on the QQQ line that will be in the right of way (see attached map B).

We are only 1 1/4 mile from Goliad High School and 2 miles from town. We have ingress and egress on 4 county roads. We have had discussions about subdividing to provide housing close to town. The proposed MM line will negatively impact access to FM1726 and the potential to develop our property.

The QQQ & MM lines will have a very negative affect on the families around the area and also the potential for growth to the north of Goliad. We ask that a more rural, less invasive route be considered.

L. J. Cohen
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