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SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-16-2751
PUC DOCKET NO. 45624

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APPLICATION OF THE CITY OF
GARLAND TO AMEND A
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE
AND NECESSITY FOR THE
PROPOSED RUSK TO PANOLA
DOUBLE CIRCUIT 345-KV
TRANSMISSION LINE IN RUSK AND
PANOLA COUNTIES, TEXAS

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BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE

OF

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

MEREDITH GAUTIER

APRIL 27, 2016

**SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-16-2751
PUC DOCKET NO. 45624**

APPLICATION OF THE CITY OF	§	BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE
GARLAND TO AMEND A	§	
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AND NECESSITY FOR THE	§	OF
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PANOLA COUNTIES, TEXAS	§	

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

MEREDITH GAUTIER

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APPLICATION OF THE CITY OF §
GARLAND TO AMEND A § BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE §
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PROPOSED RUSK TO PANOLA § OF
DOUBLE CIRCUIT 345-KV §
TRANSMISSION LINE IN RUSK AND §
PANOLA COUNTIES, TEXAS § ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

1 I. INTRODUCTION

2 Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND CURRENT ADDRESS FOR THE

3 RECORD.

4 A. Meredith Gautier

5 5125 stagecoach

6 Tyler, TX 75703

7 Q. ARE YOU AN INTERVENOR IN SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-16-2751 AND

8 PUC DOCKET NO. 45624 AND ON WHOSE BEHALF ARE YOU

9 TESTIFYING?

10 A. Yes. I am testifying on my behalf.

11 Q. HAVE YOU EVER TESTIFIED IN A PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF

12 TEXAS PROCEEDING?

13 A. No.

14 Q. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR OCCUPATION, EDUCATIONAL AND

15 WORK HISTORIES.

1 A. I am a retired educator. I worked in Texas Public Schools for 29 years. I
2 have a Master Degree in Education from North Texas State in Denton. I
3 attended Panola Junior College after high school graduation and went on
4 to receive my Bachelor of Science from North Texas State.

5 **Q. WHERE IS YOUR PROPERTY LOCATED?**

6 A. This property is located on County Road 414 in Segment 19 on both the
7 north and south side of the County Road. I requested at the Open House
8 in December to put PA 322 as property that I own. I also requested this
9 be added again on April 22, 2016 at the settlement meeting in Carthage.

10 **Q. HOW LONG HAVE YOU OWNED THE PROPERTY?**

11 A. I inherited the property in 2012 after the passing of my mother however;
12 the property has been in my family since the early 1800's. Additional
13 property joining the family land was purchased in the 1950's. I lived in
14 Gary until graduating from Panola College, and was and have been active
15 through the years in learning how to take care of the land.

16 **Q. ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THIS AREA OF PANOLA COUNTY?**

17 A. Yes, I lived in Gary, except when I was with my family in Port Arthur,
18 Texas during my pre-school years. We moved back to Gary, and I am an
19 only child and therefore I was expected to take an interest in the land for
20 future generations.

1 **II. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF TESTIMONY**

2 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?**

3 A. The purpose of this testimony is to (a) describe my property, (b) describe
4 the expected impact of the proposed transmission line on my property and
5 (c) voice my opposition against Project Path Route Segment 19.

6 **III. DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY AND THE LINE'S IMPACT**

7 **Q. ARE THERE ANY HABITABLE STRUCTURES ON THE PROPERTY?**

8 A. No.

9 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL, ECOLOGICAL
10 OR BIOLOGICAL FEATURES?**

11 The property that is being considered as the projected path will impact
12 both land tracts that I own. The 1st tract of land is approximately 299
13 acres that is on the north side of County Road 414. The other tract of
14 property is approximately 100 acres on the south side of County Road
15 414. I use streamside zone (SMZ) to guide us with careful use of our
16 land. The family's goal has been to care for the land and leave it in better
17 condition for future generations. This land has been in the family since the
18 early 1800's with purchase of additional land in the 1950's, therefore this
19 is invaluable property to this family unit. There are mature pines, and a
20 variety of hardwood and young pines that are under the care of Forrester.
21 This mix of trees attracts a diversity of wildlife and helps populate this area
22 for future generations.

1 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR PROPERTY'S CURRENT USES.**

2 A. The property is a tree farm. My father in the late 1940's began to convert
3 the farm land that was used to raise cattle and crops to a timber farm. He
4 worked endless hours to clear selected hardwood trees and backfilled all
5 water wells. In addition, he hand planted young pine trees for the future
6 generations.

7 **Q. HAVE YOU OR YOUR FAMILY UNDERTAKEN ANY EFFORTS TO**
8 **RESTORE THE LAND OR THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OF THE**
9 **PROPERTY?**

10 A. Yes. I have used the Texas Forest Service to help me manage this
11 amount of timber property. I utilize the suggested harvest techniques in
12 order to manage the property for timber production. I also maintain a
13 suitable habitat for wildlife while minimizing impacts on soil and water
14 quality.

15 **Q. ARE THERE ANY WATER WELL SITES ON THE PROPERTY? IF SO,**
16 **DESCRIBE THE GENERAL LOCATION.**

17 A. No.

18 **Q. ARE THERE ANY GAS WELLS ON THE PROPERTY? IF SO,**
19 **DESCRIBE THE GENERAL LOCATION.**

20 A. Yes. I have five well pad locations on the property of the north side of
21 County Road 414 of Segment 19. I have two well pad locations on the
22 property of the south side of County Road 414 of Segment 19. The

1 approximate acre of these combine wells, and gathering pipelines are
2 about 40 acres.

3 **Q. ARE THERE ANY PIPELINE EASEMENTS ON THE PROPERTY? IF**
4 **SO, DESCRIBE THE GENERAL LOCATION.**

5 A. I have a total of eight pipelines. Each of the pipelines has 30 ft. easement.
6 All of the lines are considered gathering line for well head gas.

7 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE ANY PLANNED FUTURE USES OF YOUR**
8 **PROPERTY IF THOSE USES ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE CURRENT**
9 **USES PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED.**

10 A. Again, I use streamside zone (SMZ) to manage this tree farm. I hope to
11 leave this property in the care of my future generations. This land has
12 been in the family since the early 1800's. It is invaluable property to this
13 family unit. The tree farm provides many jobs during harvesting and
14 planting operations. Day to day management also creates many jobs. At
15 this point, the tree farm is a valuable contributor to the economy for the
16 Gary school, Panola County, and federal taxes.

17 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE CURRENT AND PLANNED FUTURE USES**
18 **OF YOUR PROPERTY AND HOW THOSE USES CONTRIBUTE TO**
19 **THE COMMUNITY VALUES OF PANOLA COUNTY?**

20 A. I am a tax and rate paying Panola County customers. Because my land
21 consist of a mixture of mature pines and hardwood timber, the diversity
22 and interspersion of habitat present on the property will attract a wide
23 variety of wildlife species including white tailed deer, feral hogs, rabbits,

1 squirrels, raccoons, song birds, skunks, and opossums among other
2 animals. My goal is to attract, hold and benefit as many species as
3 possible for future generations in my family.

4 **Q. DO ANY EXISTING TRANSMISSION OR DISTRIBUTION LINES**
5 **CROSS YOUR PROPERTY? IF SO, PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW AND**
6 **WHERE THEY CROSS THE PROPERTY.**

7 A. Yes. They have one electric transmission line on the north side of County
8 Road 414 property own by Deep East Texas Co-Op.

9 **Q. ARE THERE CURRENT PLANS FOR OTHER UTILITY FEATURES ON**
10 **YOUR PROPERTY? IF SO, PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW AND WHERE**
11 **THEY CROSS THE PROPERTY.**

12 A. I hope not. I feel the current easements, well pads, and pipelines are
13 enough.

14 **Q. WOULD THE POWER LINE THAT MIGHT IMPACT YOUR PROPERTY**
15 **RUN ALONG ANY BOUNDARY LINES OF YOUR PROPERTY?**

16 A. No, it would cross the middle of the back portion of the 100 acre tract on
17 the south side on County Road 414. On the 299 acre tract is would start
18 at the property line of County Road 414 and continue through the middle
19 of the property heading east.

20 **The line would be right over the top of the only pond on this tract of**
21 **land.**

1 **Q. HOW WOULD A 345-KV ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE IMPACT**
2 **YOUR PROPERTY AND ITS OPERATIONS?**

3 A. First, it would devalue the property even more due to the already existing
4 well pads and pipelines. Second, it will affect the environmental status of
5 the property. Third, it will impact the timber. Last, the animal habitat will
6 be disturbed.

7 **Q. WOULD YOU HAVE TO REGULARLY DRIVE UNDER THE**
8 **TRANSMISSION LINE IF INSTALLED ON YOUR PROPERTY?**

9 A. Yes. I drive to this property and would have to regularly pass under this
10 line.

11 **Q. DESCRIBE THE AESTHETIC IMPACT TO YOUR PROPERTY IF**
12 **GARLAND LIGHT BUILDS A 345-KV TRANSMISSION LINE ON THEIR**
13 **PROPERTY?**

14 A. The transmission line would create more erosion and would affect the
15 overall tranquility of the enjoyment to the property.

16 **Q. DESCRIBE HISTORICAL, ARCHEOLOGICAL, OR CULTURAL**
17 **SIGNIFICANCE OF LAND THAT MIGHT BE CROSSED IF THE**
18 **TRANSMISSION LINE IS PLACED ON YOUR PROPERTY.**

19 A. There are manmade Indian mounds and a grave yard. There is history
20 that the Ingram family was among the early settlers in the East Texas
21 area.

1 Q. DESCRIBE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT, SPECIFIC TO THIS
2 AREA THAT WOULD BE CAUSED BY THIS TRANSMISSION LINE.

3 A. The environmental impact would be the wildlife habitat, the health concern
4 for the animals, the increase to an already erosion issue, and the effects
5 of the cathodic protection to the pipelines.

6 Q. IF THE TRANSMISSION LINE IS BUILT ON YOUR PROPERTY, DO
7 YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT GARLAND LIGHT HAVING
8 ACCESS TO YOUR PROPERTY?

9 A. Yes. I feel this will add to an already problem with trespassers. This will
10 also add to and already existing traffic that can access this property which
11 is a problem with keeping the land protected. The oil and gas workers
12 along with the contractors for these companies have continued to be
13 nuisances because of the gates not being kept locked.

14 Q. DO YOU OPPOSE THE ROUTING OF THE RUSK TO PANOLA 345KV
15 TRANSMISSION LINE BEING ON YOUR PROPERTY?

16 A. Yes, I do oppose the transmission line crossing my property on Segment
17 19. This line is going to add to an already existing erosion problem and
18 cause a great deal of disturbance to the wetland on the property. I have
19 also been more than generous with the pipelines, well pads, and constant
20 traffic on a Timber Farm. The more timber taken with an easement, the
21 less a log hauler gets to work.

1 **IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

2 **Q. IS THERE A ROUTE YOU SUPPORT AS BEING IN ACCORDANCE**
3 **WITH COMMUNITY VALUES?**

4 A. Yes, there was discussion of a route at a meeting held in Carthage that I
5 support. It includes Segments 1, 7,9,13,23,24,28,31,34,41, and 43.
6 There were very few intervenors that would be affected and the line would
7 be close to only three intervenors. It was also a route where one of the
8 intervenors preferred that the line to be routed to 43 rather than the other
9 2 Segments where the line would cross her property. I believe most if not
10 all, the other affected Intervenor could have concerns addressed if
11 Garland attempted to do so. For instance, most people prefer the line
12 follow their property line, rather than bisect their land.

13 **Q. DO YOU BELIEVE THE ROUTE YOU DESCRIBE WOULD BE IN THE**
14 **KEEPING WITH THE COMMUNITY VALUES?**

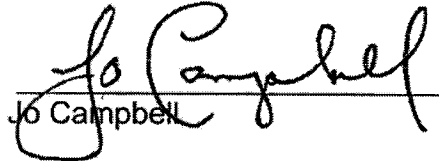
15 A. Yes.

16 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

17 A. Yes.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served on all parties in compliance with the Judge's Order No. 3 on the 27th day of April, 2016.


Jo Campbell