



Control Number: 45633



Item Number: 38

Addendum StartPage: 0

Docket

45633



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The State of Texas
House of Representatives
Austin, Texas

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
FILING CLERK

John Smithee

State Representative
District 86

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Deaf Smith
Hartley
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Randall

June 27, 2016

Committees:
Judiciary & Civil
Jurisprudence,
Chair
State
Affairs

The Honorable Brandy Marty Marquez, Commissioner
Public Utility Commission of Texas
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, Texas 78711-3326

Dear Commissioner Marquez:

I am writing on behalf of my constituents in House District 86 in the Texas Panhandle, who are customers of Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS). I understand that Lubbock Power & Light is seeking to disconnect from the Southwest Power Pool and interconnect with Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT).

I am neutral as to whether or not Lubbock Power & Light should be allowed to move, however I am deeply concerned with electric customers in the SPS area subsidizing this economic decision. If Lubbock Power & Light is allowed to interconnect with ERCOT, I believe they should only be able to do so after the Commission has ensured that SPS customers will be held harmless against any cost increases as a result of this transaction.

It is my understanding that when Sharyland Utilities moved portions of its service area into ERCOT, the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) considered and addressed the potential cost to other ratepayers. I believe a similar public interest case is appropriate to address the potential costs of moving Lubbock Power & Light into ERCOT and to make sure that no other ratepayers are financially harmed.

We owe it to all Texas ratepayers to make sure that they will not be burdened with costs for which they receive no benefit. To that end, I respectfully ask you to require Lubbock Power & Light to file an application to determine whether this transition is in the public interest, and to ensure that other ratepayers will be held harmless, prior to considering any new transmission projects to achieve the interconnection.

Yours very truly,

John Smithee