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Direct Testimony or Statement of Position for PUC Docket No. 45866

Please find my enclosed Direct Testimony and/or Statement of Position for PUC Docket No. 45866.

Please note that I am representing myself and I am Engineer by profession but not a Lawyer or attorney. If I had not followed any procedure, it is just due to lack of knowledge, so kindly please accept my apologies if I had made any mistakes filing this direct testimony. I believe all my statements made in direct testimony are true to my knowledge.

If there are any further questions or concerns regarding the enclosed information please let me know.

Bhavani Shekhawat

Thanks.
Sincerely,
Bhavani & Neelam Shekhawat,
121 E Adelanta Place,
Round Rock, TX, 78681

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INTRODUCTION

My name is Bhavani Shekhawat, I am an IT Engineer by profession. I am not an Attorney nor could I afford one to fight for residents on 1431 affected by LCRA selected route 31. All below facts are true to my knowledge. My wife's name is Neelam Shekhawat.

ISSUES WITH CURRENT ROUTING

Below are my concerns with this current project and proposed route 31.

When we bought our current house in 2013, the developer didn't inform anything about these power lines to us. If LCRA was doing research on this project for years, why didn't state or enforcing body implement a law or issued a direction to developers that the information about power lines should be revealed to potential buyers?. If the developers informed about this proposal and if we still brought the house, then it would have been our mistake. But in this case we homeowners are never aware of this project or power lines, we were never aware of these lines until 2014 when we got notices.

LCRA says that it had studied 13 other proposed substations and finally selected Round Rock substation as the source. I am not sure how these studies have been done and how LCRA has reached this conclusion. It would have been great if these studies have been accredited by some 3rd party company whom the public can trust. I couldn't find these studies online too. Even if these studies have been released, I am not sure if I have enough technical knowledge with respect Electrical Engineering to understand if all facts provided by studies are valid or not. I or other homeowners affected on 1431 doesn't have money to hire an expert witness who can verify the facts and confirm if the studies done by LCRA are valid or not. Few offline conversations which I had with few experts in Electrical Engineering domain, the basis on which LCRA selected Round Rock station is not valid.

I fail to understand why power lines need to be run through existing neighborhoods for providing power to new neighborhoods. Why can't LCRA bring power from west of these substations, where there is not much development. I don't have facts to prove but simple logic says this is all about money. Developers have developed current neighborhoods and sold them to homeowners like us and now the money is in the area where these substations are coming up, so developers don't want power lines in these areas where there is future growth, so current homeowners are being made the scapegoat for future potential growth. LCRA says Route 31 is selected because its 4th cheapest and 7th least affected number of people. If cost and least affected is the criteria, shouldn't LCRA select the cheapest route or least affected route. Also If LCRA/PUC is concerned about cost of the project, what about individual homeowners like us?. Our entire life savings have been put into the current house. I hope honorable judge for this case will understand how middleclass

Homeowner's lives are getting impacted due to this. And if LCRA chooses this route, will they compensate homeowners like me, who are taking the financial hit because of this decision?

I have two small girls with 4 and 8 years of age, they play in the backyard everyday with their other friends of the same age. I am sure the new electrical lines will have health hazards since my backyard is right on 1431. My kids will be always in fear while playing, also, it will have aesthetic impact, which will eventually reduce our home values. We did not pay less to the builder for our homes than others whose houses are not having backyard facing 1431 highway, so, why should we face the consequence of price reduction due to these giant power lines. I certainly hope that the LCRA will reconsider their decision and take the best approach whereby the lives of common man does not get disrupted.

PROPOSED ROUTE MODIFICATIONS

I personally would like to propose Route 3, which runs mostly parallel to I 35 and other Under developed areas and also affects the least number of people.