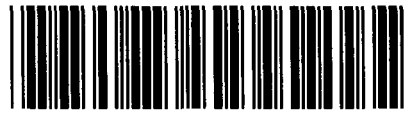


Control Number: 47884



Item Number: 149

Addendum StartPage: 0

Response to First Request for Information - Tammy R Smith

I.

Q. Please state the name of the witness who will respond to the request for additional information.

A. My name is Tammy R Smith. My address is 2313 FM 1553, Bonham, Tx 75418

Q. Refer to page 2 of your testimony, "we immediately began construction on our new home..." Describe the current stage of this home and shop's construction, and produce any construction designs and plans, surveys, plats, or pictures of construction.

A. We have completed construction on our shop and are currently living in our shop while we finish our home. Our shop has two rooms – a full bathroom with shower, sink, and toilet; and an open room where we have temporarily set up a bedroom, living room, and dining area. We are about 70% complete on our home. (See exhibit A). The exterior of the home is complete except for gutters, shutters, installation of exterior lights, and metal on the chimney. The gutters have been measured and ordered. Those will be installed, along with the metal on the chimney, as soon as the gutters come in – approx. one to two weeks. The exterior and interior lights are in and will be installed when the interior lights are installed. The interior dry-in is complete. Spray foam and interior insulation is complete. Walls and ceilings have been sheet rocked, textured, and painted, (See exhibit B). The rough electrical and plumbing is complete. Flooring has been ordered and is set to be installed this week. Once the flooring is finished, we will begin installing cabinets and bathroom fixtures, begin final plumbing tasks, and complete all electrical tasks including connecting lights, plugs, fans, and removing the temporary electrical pole. The temporary electrical pole has been disconnected and the permanent line is complete, (see exhibit C). HVAC is almost complete. The interior unit has been set and ducts are complete. Our fireplace insert is in and is waiting on the metal to be installed on the chimney so they can complete it. We have purchased all kitchen appliances including a wall oven, refrigerator, dishwasher, and cooktop. Those will be delivered and installed on August 2nd. Outside we have completed some projects and are working on others. We have installed about 30% of our driveway and are waiting for dirt work to be completed to finish the rest. We have dug a pond in the back for livestock, (see exhibit D), and begun clearing the land for our garden, orchard, loafing shed, (see exhibit E) and barn, (see exhibit D). We anticipate a move-in date in late August to early September. We are planning for retirement and are using life-savings to pay for our home's construction in cash. As stated in my previous testimony, when we purchased the land and began construction on our home we were unaware that a transmission line could possibly be installed so close to our planned home. The sellers did not disclose this fact to us. Our home is situated approximately 100 feet from the road and falls directly within the right of way if the line is placed along route A, segment 14. We would have never selected this location for the building site for our home if we had known about the possible line. We chose this site for several reasons; close proximity to utilities which made installing the utilities cheaper, close proximity to very large established trees on the west side of our home which block the hot sun in the afternoon (see exhibit F), and the privacy along the roadside provided by established trees and undergrowth, (see exhibit G). In addition, my elderly mother, Loretta Price, purchased the land next to us with plans to build a home close to us so we can care for her when she is no longer able to care for herself. The installation of a transmission line would directly negatively impact our new home in several ways; by placing us directly within the right-of-way, eliminating, through maintenance and clearing the right-of-way, the large established trees on our west that we specifically chose to build beside; and eliminating the privacy we specifically chose to build within range of due to, again, maintenance and

Direct Testimony of Tammy Smith

1

RECEIVED
2018 JUL 19 AM 10:20
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
FILING CLERK

clearing of the right-of-way. Moreover, we selected this land and the location of our new home specifically so that we could build beside my elderly mother, Loretta Price, who purchased the adjoining land beside ours after we purchased our acreage. As stated previously, my mother is a widow and we will be her primary caretakers. A transmission line installed in segment 14 would run DIRECTLY CENTER of the acreage she purchased which would eliminate the possibility of building her home beside us, (see exhibit H & I). This proposed line would pose a direct hardship on myself, my husband, and my mother because she would be forced to build somewhere else. For all of these reasons, we are extremely opposed to the construction of this proposed transmission line along route A, segment 14

Q. Refer to page 2 of your testimony, "future plans for a barn, loafing shed, garden, and fruit orchard." Describe in detail the current stage of your planned construction or creation of each of these structures and features, and produce any construction designs and plans, surveys, plats, pictures of construction, or other documents reflecting the stage of construction.


A. We have dug a pond that will be used to water our livestock (see exhibit D). We've cleared portions of land that will be used for the garden, loafing shed, and fruit orchard, (see exhibit E) and barn, (see exhibit D). I've attached a copy of the survey showing planned placement of those items, (see exhibit H). We plan to continue to clear land toward the hill for livestock grazing. However, we also plan to protect the natural habitat of the deer and other animals that cross our land. We plan to leave all established trees and much of the undergrowth on the hill and only clear portions of the land in the valley.

Q. Refer to RFI Nos. 1-1 and 1-2 above. Please produce an annotated diagram or detailed description of the location of the existing or planned structures or features on your property.

A. As stated above, our home and shop are located approximately 100 feet from the road, which falls directly within the right-of-way if the line is built along route A, segment 14. The large, established trees on the west side of our home, (estimated to be over 100 years old, would also fall within the ROW, (see exhibit F). Our planned garden, loafing shed, and fruit orchard would also fall within the ROW, (see exhibit E).

I respectfully request that the transmission line NOT be installed along route A, segment 14.

Thank you



Tammy R Smith

Exhibit A –

On the day this picture was taken the dry-wall workers were finishing blowing the texture on the walls.
Our shop is the small building to the left, (east), of our house.



Exhibit B - interior living area showing completed drywall, texture, and paint





Exhibit C – shows disconnected temporary pole, covered trench, and permanent electrical pole installed.



Exhibit D – pond dug for livestock. Barn will be placed on the east side, (far left in this picture).



Exhibit E – area cleared for garden and partially cleared for fruit orchard and loafing shed. Shows some trees and brush waiting to be burned. Undergrowth being cleared in the valley section include trees that are small saplings to larger trees 12 to 14 feet tall.



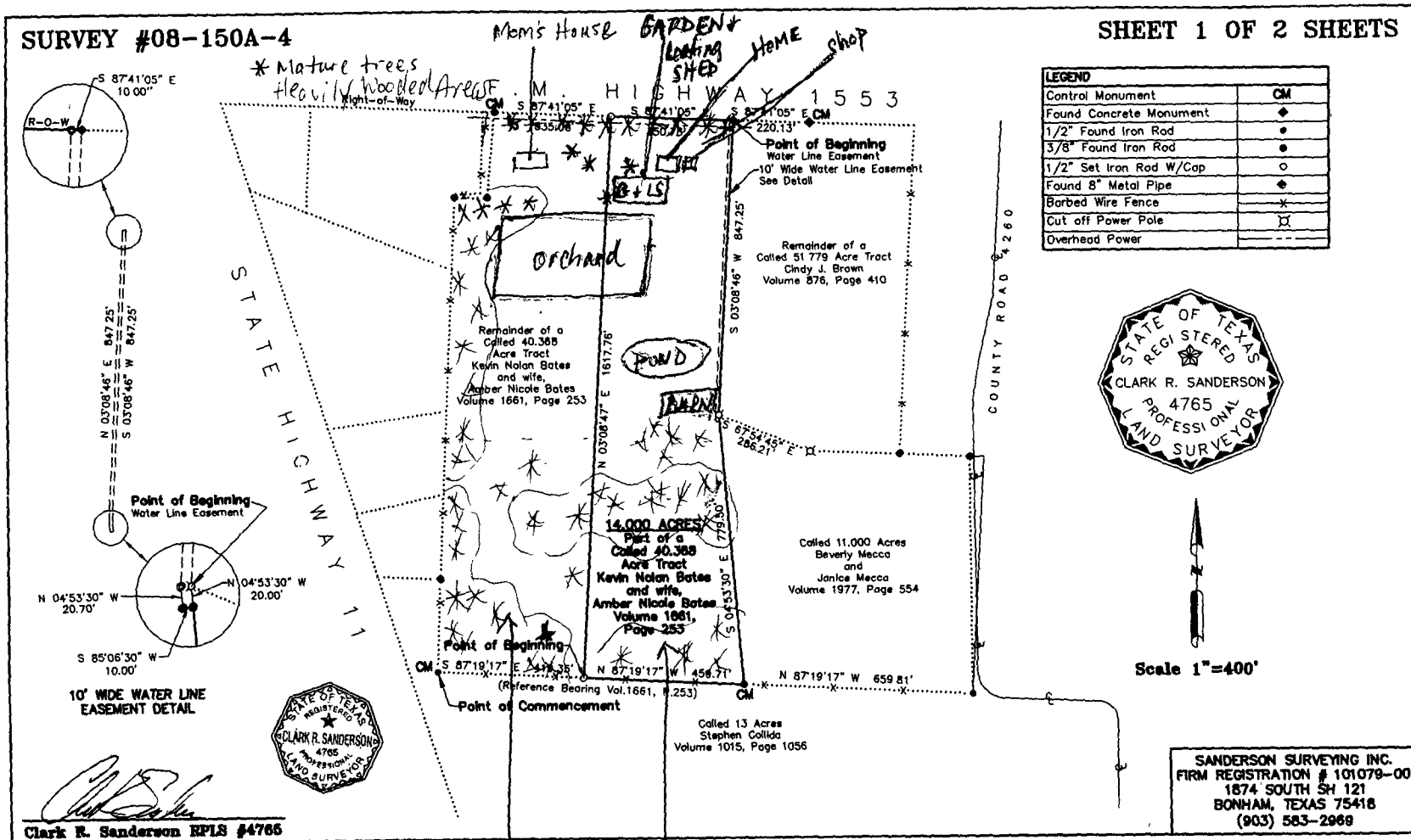
Exhibit F – large established trees on the west side of our house. Estimated at 100+ years old.



Exhibit G – natural privacy screen between our house and the road. Extends the length of our property and my mom’s adjoining property.



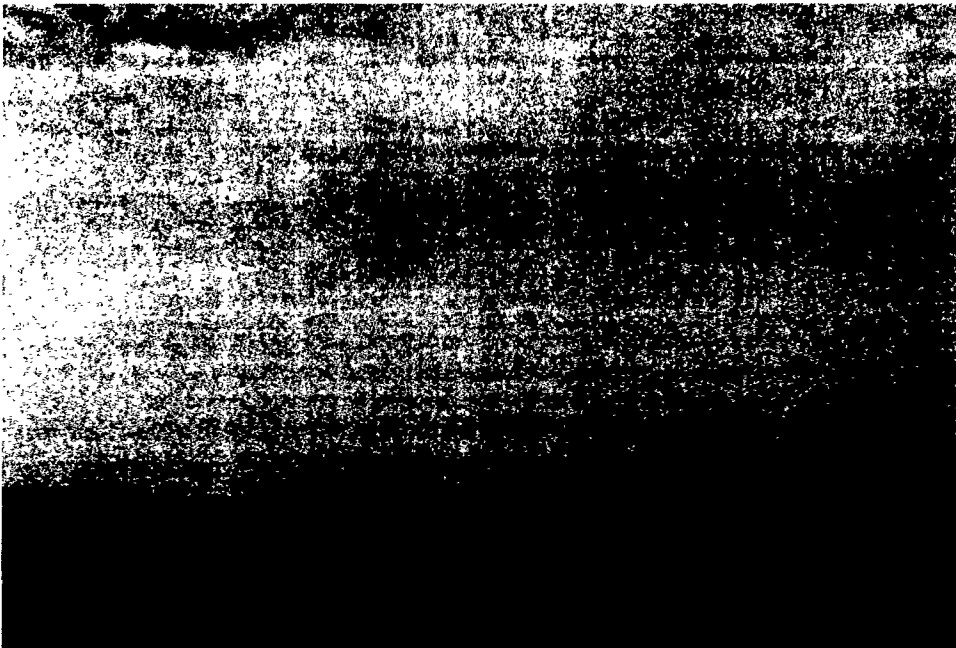
Exhibit H - copy of survey showing approximate placement of house & shop (100 feet from road) and other planned structures and projects



SOAH Docket No. 473-18-2500

PUC Docket No. 47884

Exhibit I – shows heavily wooded areas that would all be lost to clearing and maintenance of right-of-way. Contains old, mature trees of various hard-wood varieties – oaks, pecan, bois-d-arc, etc.



Trees in foreground are saplings and trees up to 12 to 15 feet tall. Mature trees beyond are hard-woods estimated at 100+ years old. Would be lost to clearing and maintenance of right-of-way.

