

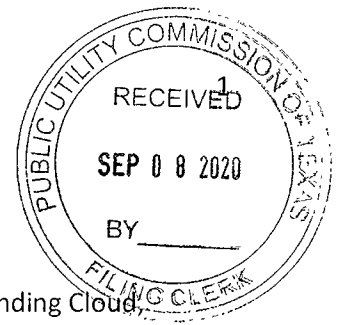


Control Number: 51023



Item Number: 285

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As the current owners of 26714 Karsch Road, we, Joshua and Kristi-Marie Standing Cloud, strongly object to the placement of Segment 46 as part of the proposed Scenic Loop 138-kV Transmission Line Project Route. The proposed Segment 46 runs directly along a portion of our property line and solidly within full view of our home.

We purchased the property in April 2020 with the intention of raising our family here. We currently have 2 young children, an infant and a toddler, and worry about the impact the placement of the power lines may have on the health of our family, now and in the future. Many studies have been conducted on the impact of high voltage power lines and the human body, leading the International Agency for Research on Cancer to categorize this type of exposure as group 2B or “possibly carcinogenic to humans.” Studies have also concluded a possible link to increased incidences of childhood leukemia and several major fetal defects with maternal exposure. Our family contains members from each of these populations (adults, children, and those of childbearing age) and the potential for severe health problems is a cost too high for our family to allow. While some may argue that the scope of research currently available does not point strongly enough to a connection between Electromagnetic Fields and harmful impacts on humans, it also has not definitively disproven a correlation between high voltage power lines and negative health impacts. This disagreement in the current research is what has led the IARC to its current rating for potential harm. The possibility of harm to our family is something we take lightly, and we feel, as the landowners, that our health should be priority over the placement of the project, as there are many alternative routes.

In addition to the potential health impact on our family, the proposed Segment 46 placement would significantly impact our family financially. A large portion of the value assigned to our property is due to the view of the surrounding landscape, which is visible from every major space in the home. It was why we purchased the property to begin with. Segment 46 of the proposed route would place the lines directly within the view, and significantly decreased the value of our home. Were we to choose to sell our property, Segment 46 will have decreased the potential resale value significantly, taking money out of our family’s pocket. While we understand the value of this power line in providing energy efficiently to the growing community, we feel the financial impact Segment 46 would have on our family is something we cannot abide. We worked extremely hard to afford this property and deserve to retain its value. Joshua fought for this country’s rights as a United States Marine in Operation Iraqi Freedom, sustaining lifelong combat-related disabilities as a result. Part of the rights he fought for and believe strongly in is the right to buy and own property. This land is his dream, as a Texan and as an American, and he feels that impinging on the ability to retain its value encroaches on his rights as an American. We bought this property and deserve to retain every dime its worth.

We own a piece of Texas Hill Country, and cutting a swath directly through it, scarring the land irreparably, is also a disservice to the area. Texans have a special connection to the land, and appreciate it far more than many locations throughout the country. There is something to be said for preserving the natural beauty of the land. There are many alternative routes for this line that would greatly minimize the damage to the pristine land that is enjoyed by Bexar County citizens every day. This is our piece of the American Dream, and we will to protect it. It’s the land we plan to raise our children on, and large power lines cutting through our property isn’t how we imagined the land would look for their future.

Our children playing directly underneath buzzing power lines isn't what we worked this hard for. Don't take away our slice of heaven for convenience or profit, allow our family to live our lives undisturbed on the land we bought. We worked hard to afford to live here, and we deserve to raise our children the way we always intended. Do not select segment 46 as part of the proposed power line route.