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SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-21-0247
PUC DOCKET NO. 51023

APPLICATION OF THE CITY OF § BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE
SAN ANTONIO TO AMEND ITS §
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE § OF
AND NECESSITY FOR THE SCENIC §
LOOP 138-KV TRANSMISSION LINE §
IN BEXAR COUNTY § ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF
LAUREN PANKRATZ, M.D.
ON BEHALF OF
ANAQUA SPRINGS HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

February 18, 2021

1 **DIRECT TESTIMONY OF LAUREN PANKRATZ, M.D.**

2 **Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.**

3 A. Lauren Pankratz, 5107 Medical Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78229.

4 **Q. ON WHOSE BEHALF ARE YOU TESTIFYING IN THIS PROCEEDING?**

5 A. On behalf of myself and Anaqua Springs Homeowners' Association. I have lived
6 in Anaqua Springs since 2017.

7 **Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY FILED TESTIMONY BEFORE THE PUBLIC
8 UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS ("COMMISSION")?**

9 A. No, but I filed a statement of position in this case.

10 **Q. BY WHOM ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?**

11 A. Diabetes & Glandular Disease Clinic, 5107 Medical Drive, San Antonio, Texas
12 78229, Pediatric Endocrinologist, Board Certified in General Pediatrics and
13 Pediatric Endocrinology.

14 **Q. PLEASE OUTLINE YOUR EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL
15 QUALIFICATIONS.**

16 A. I completed my BA in Biochemistry after four years of undergraduate training at
17 Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio in 2001. I completed my MD
18 after four years at The Ohio State University School of Medicine in Columbus,
19 Ohio in 2005. I completed my three years of combined general pediatric internship
20 and residency training at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia in
21 2008. I completed my three-year fellowship in pediatric endocrinology at the
22 University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio in 2011. From 2011 to
23 the present, I have practiced pediatric endocrinology full time at Diabetes &

1 Glandular Disease Clinic. As a pediatric endocrinologist I treat infants, children,
2 adolescents, and young adults with a variety of conditions affecting the endocrine,
3 or hormone, system. These conditions include disorders of growth, puberty,
4 thyroid, adrenal, pituitary, sexual development, rickets, hypoglycemia, and
5 diabetes. I am board certified in both general pediatrics and pediatric
6 endocrinology by the American Board of Pediatrics.

7 **Q. HAVE YOU PREPARED ANY EXHIBITS, SCHEDULES, OR STUDIES IN**
8 **CONNECTION WITH YOUR TESTIMONY?**

9 A. No

10 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS**
11 **PROCEEDING?**

12 A. I am testifying regarding the community values in the study area.

13 **Q. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE COMMUNITY VALUES OF WHICH YOU**
14 **ARE AWARE?**

15 A. The community values oppose the transmission line running close to an elementary
16 school. The community values also oppose the lines running in close proximity to
17 existing homes. These are also the community values expressed in the landowner
18 surveys, which are discussed in more detail in Mark Anderson's testimony.
19 However, to summarize, the results of the landowner surveys indicated that the
20 greatest concerns were the impact to residences and the impact to schools, worship
21 facilities, and cemeteries.

1 **Q. CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE CONCERNS YOU HAVE ABOUT A**
2 **TRANSMISSION LINE RUNNING CLOSE TO A SCHOOL?**

3 A. As a practicing pediatric endocrinologist for the past ten years, I understand the
4 influences on a developing child are complex and not completely understood.
5 Studies suggest long term exposure to electromagnetic fields emitted by high
6 voltage transmission (HVT) lines may negatively impact a child's health. Studies
7 suggest HVT lines may negatively impact neurobehavioral function and increase a
8 child's risk of developing leukemia.

9 In 2013, Huang et al performed a cross-sectional study of 437 children ages
10 9-13 years at two primary schools. After controlling for potentially confounding
11 factors, multivariable regression revealed that children attending a school near 500
12 kV HVT lines had poorer performance on neurobehavioral tests compared to
13 children attending a school that was not in close proximity to HVT lines. While
14 this study involved a 500 kV HVT line rather than 138 kV HVT line – the
15 suggestion that any HVT line may affect the development of a child's
16 neurobehavioral function should be strongly considered to avoid placing a HVT
17 line near an elementary school that would place hundreds of school children at
18 potential risk. (Huang, J, et al. Association between Exposure to Electromagnetic
19 Fields from High Voltage Transmission Lines and Neurobehavioral Function in
20 Children. PloS ONE 2013; 8(7): e67284)

21 In 2005, Draper et al found an association between childhood leukemia and
22 proximity of home address at birth to high voltage power lines. Children who lived
23 within 200 meters (about 656 feet) had a relative risk of leukemia of 1.69 (95%

1 confidence interval 1.13-2.52). Those born between 200-600 meters had a relative
2 risk of 1.23 (1.02-1.49). (Draper D, et al. Childhood cancer in relation to distance
3 from high voltage power lines in England and Wales: a case-control study BMJ
4 2005; 330:1290)

5 In 1998 Chung-Yi et al also found that children, particularly ages 5-9 years,
6 living near HVT lines experienced an elevated risk of leukemia. (Chung-Yi et al.
7 Risk of Leukemia in Children Living Near High-Voltage Transmission Lines. J
8 Occup Environ Med 1998; 40:2:144-147)

9 While these studies may have their limitations, there are no studies that
10 prove HVT lines are 100% safe for children. It seems to me to be irresponsible to
11 run a HVT line close to a school when there are alternatives.

12 **Q. ARE THOSE CONCERNS BASED ON YOUR EXPERIENCE AS A**
13 **PEDIATRICIAN?**

14 A. To some extent yes, especially when there are other routes avoiding the school. As
15 a practicing pediatric endocrinologist, I understand the influences on a developing
16 child are complex and not completely understood. Studies suggest long term
17 exposure to electromagnetic fields emitted by HVT lines may negatively impact a
18 child's health. The suggestion that a HVT line may affect the health or development
19 of a child should be strongly considered to avoid placing a HVT line near an
20 elementary school, its playground and community garden, athletic facilities, or land
21 that the school district owns that could be used for a future middle school, that
22 would place hundreds of school children at potential risk.

1 **Q. DO YOU ALSO HAVE PERSONAL CONCERNS ABOUT THE**
2 **TRANSMISSION LINES CLOSE TO THE SCHOOL?**

3 A. Yes, I am a mother of a sweet, energetic seven-year-old boy who attends
4 McAndrew Elementary School, which is located at 26615 Toutant Beauregard Rd,
5 Boerne, Texas 78006. The proposed routes for the HVT line run along the property
6 of his school. Please do not expose my child and the hundreds of other children
7 who attend, and the thousands who will attend McAndrew to a potentially
8 dangerous environment.

9 **Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER CONCERNS ABOUT THE LINE RUNNING**
10 **CLOSE TO THE SCHOOL?**

11 A. Large, imposing HVT lines could negatively affect my son's learning at McAndrew
12 Elementary School. Instead of looking out the window and being inspired and
13 calmed by the beautiful countryside, his gaze would be blocked by enormous dreary
14 constructs of metal and wire. Large outdoor school events like the big kite flight
15 in the Spring, the APEX annual fundraiser with obstacle course, and bike rodeo
16 would be overshadowed by these structures. COVID has brought so many
17 hardships and challenges to our children, please don't subject them to more.

18 **Q. IF NORTHSIDE ISD BUILDS A MIDDLE SCHOOL ADJACENT TO**
19 **MCANDREW ELEMENTARY, WOULD YOU HAVE SIMILAR**
20 **CONCERNS ABOUT THAT AGE STUDENT POPULATION?**

21 A. Yes.

1 **Q. CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE CONCERNS YOU HAVE ABOUT A**
2 **TRANSMISSION LINE RUNNING CLOSE TO EXISTING HABITABLE**
3 **STRUCTURES?**

4 A. My community and the other subdivisions that line Toutant Beauregard have been
5 in existence for several years. As can be seen on the maps showing the houses
6 along Toutant Beauregard, there are dozens of houses. Those houses would have a
7 line placed in front of or behind homes they have been lived in for years. People
8 who bought or built their homes with no transmission lines and with no notice of
9 the possibility of the line are now faced with the possibility of having the line run
10 very close to their homes.

11 **Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT THE LINES RUNNING IN**
12 **FRONT OF THE ANAQUA SPRINGS ENTRANCE?**

13 A. Yes. The line would be very close to the Anaqua Springs guardhouse where people
14 work both day and night shifts. It would uproot many of the existing oak trees and
15 cedar elms that shade and define the entrance in addition to its beautiful
16 landscaping. Furthermore, it would place our guard house (with its electric and
17 water lines) within 300 feet of the HVT line which may require its relocation with
18 substantial associated costs.

19 **Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER CONCERNS?**

20 A. Most parents who have children at McAndrew Elementary School have not been
21 notified about this CPS project. CPS did not contact parents who have children that
22 attend McAndrew Elementary School. It is very disappointing and frustrating
23 because this project could have major personal impacts on not just my child, but

1 hundreds of children's lives. The wellness and development of these children are
2 paramount. It would not have been unreasonable for CPS to send out notices to
3 every parent who has children that attend this school.

4 **Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY CLOSING REMARKS?**

5 A. Please avoid placing a HVT line along Toutant Beauregard by McAndrew
6 Elementary School or along the border of Anaqua Springs Ranch property for the
7 safety and wellbeing of our children, families and community.

8 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

9 A. Yes, it does.