



Control Number: 51023



Item Number: 560

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

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
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APPLICATION OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
ACTING BY AND THROUGH THE CITY PUBLIC
SERVICE BOARD (CPS ENERGY) TO AMEND ITS
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY
FOR THE PROPOSED SCENIC LOOP 138-KV
TRANSMISSION
LINE IN BEXAR COUNTY

BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE

OF

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF ROBERT C FREEMAN AND RACHEL M FREEMAN

Intervenors, Robert C Freeman and Rachel M Freeman file this Direct Testimony, which is attached.

Respectfully,

Robert & Rachel Freeman

8027 Cibolo View

Fair Oaks Ranch, TX 78015

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210-376-1033

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INTRODUCTION

QUESTION: PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND CURRENT ADDRESS FOR THE RECORD.

ANSWER: Robert & Rachel Freeman, 8027 Cibolo View, Fair Oaks Ranch, TX 78015.

QUESTION: ARE YOU AN INTERVENOR IN SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-21-0247 AND PUC DOCKET NO. 51023 AND ON WHOSE BEHALF ARE YOU TESTIFYING?

ANSWER: Yes. We are testifying on behalf of ourselves, Robert Freeman and Rachel Freeman.

QUESTION: HAVE YOU EVER TESTIFIED IN A PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS ("PUC" OR "COMMISSION") PROCEEDING?

ANSWER: No.

QUESTION: BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR OCCUPATION, EDUCATIONAL AND WORK HISTORIES.

ANSWER: Robert is a graduate of St Mary's University with a Bachelor Degree in General Business and an MBA in General Management. He is currently an Area Sales Manager for Martin Marietta Materials. Rachel is a graduate of St Mary's University with a Bachelor of Science, North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth with a Master of Science, and the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio with a Doctor of Medicine. She completed her Anesthesiology Residency program from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, followed by a Critical Care Medicine Fellowship. She is currently an Assistant Professor and Director of VA SICU at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

QUESTION: WHERE IS YOUR PROPERTY LOCATED?

ANSWER: Our property is located at 26960 Pecan Bluff, Boerne, TX 78006. See Exhibit A.

QUESTION: HOW LONG HAVE YOU OWNED THE PROPERTY?

ANSWER: We have owned the property since June of 2019.

QUESTION: ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THIS AREA OF BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS?

ANSWER: Yes, we are San Antonio natives.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF TESTIMONY

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?

ANSWER: The purpose of our testimony is to (a) describe our property; (b) describe the expected impact of the proposed transmission line on our property; (c) voice our opposition against The City of San Antonio, acting by and through the City Public Service Board ("CPS Energy"), using Segments 29, 33, and 40 and Routes A, E, H, and Y which utilize these Segments; and (d) voice our support for Routes Z1 and AA1.

QUESTION: WHAT IS ROBERT & RACHEL FREEMAN'S CONCERNS ABOUT THE PROPOSED TRANSMISSION LINE USING CPS ENERGY'S SEGMENTS 29, 33, AND 40 AND ROUTES A, E, H, AND Y?

ANSWER: In general, Robert & Rachel Freeman are opposed to the construction of CPS Energy's transmission line through their property because of the following: (1) a 138-kV transmission line will severely depreciate the value of the property; (2) a 138-Kv transmission line will severely detract from the scenic beauty and aesthetic values of the property and area; (3) a 138-kV transmission line would negatively impact community, economic, and historical values and the character, ecology, and biology of the property and area; (4) for transmission lines crossing property, they would be required to give third parties access to their properties, which limits the privacy and control over our properties; (5) they have general concerns about any buzzing of the 138 kV transmission line and general health and safety concerns and concerns about living and being close to a 138 kV transmission line; and, (6) we have gone to great lengths to preserve native Texas Hill Country and have established guarantees to preserve the natural native flora and fauna of the Texas Hill Country. A 138 kV transmission line would destroy the protections that we have established and destroy this portion of undeveloped Hill Country.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY AND THE LINE'S IMPACT

QUESTION: ARE THERE ANY HABITABLE STRUCTURES ON THE PROPERTY?

ANSWER: Not currently, but we will be constructing our home on our property and it will be within 150 feet of CPS's proposed Segment 40 route.

QUESTION: PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR PROPERTY'S TERRAIN AND ITS ECOLOGICAL OR BIOLOGICAL FEATURES.

ANSWER: Our property contains canyons and ravines of older growth Oak, Ashe Juniper, Cedar Elm, various native shrubby trees, Persimmon, Mountain Laurel, etc.

QUESTION: PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR PROPERTY'S CURRENT USES.

ANSWER: We have currently started our plans to build our forever home on the property and plan to retire here. We enjoy family time, gardening, and enjoying the outdoors. We chose this amount of land to be able to play outdoors, enjoy nature, garden, feed wildlife and birds, and allow our pets to have space to run, and maintain small livestock.

QUESTION: HAVE YOU OR YOUR FAMILY UNDERTAKEN ANY EFFORTS TO RESTORE THE LAND OR THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OF THE PROPERTY?

ANSWER: Yes, we continually watch for signs of oak wilt, remove invasive species from the property that choke out native species, and make efforts to maintain a natural property. If the line were to be constructed through our property, many trees including old growth oaks and cedar would be destroyed.

QUESTION: ARE THERE ANY WATER WELL SITES ON THE PROPERTY? IF SO, DESCRIBE THE GENERAL LOCATION.

ANSWER: A water well on the property will be required for the plans currently underway on the property.

QUESTION: ARE THERE ANY GAS WELLS ON THE PROPERTY? IF SO, DESCRIBE THE GENERAL LOCATION.

ANSWER: No.

QUESTION: ARE THERE ANY PIPELINE EASEMENTS ON THE PROPERTY? IF SO, DESCRIBE THE GENERAL LOCATION.

ANSWER: No.

QUESTION: PLEASE DESCRIBE ANY PLANNED FUTURE USES OF YOUR PROPERTY IF THOSE USES ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE CURRENT USES PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED.

ANSWER: This will be our permanent home.

QUESTION: DO ANY EXISTING TRANSMISSION OR DISTRIBUTION LINES CROSS YOUR PROPERTY? IF SO, PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW AND WHERE THEY CROSS THE PROPERTY.

ANSWER: No.

QUESTION: ARE THERE CURRENT PLANS FOR OTHER UTILITY FEATURES ON YOUR PROPERTY? IF SO, PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW AND WHERE THEY CROSS THE PROPERTY.

ANSWER: No.

QUESTION: WOULD THE LINKS THAT MIGHT IMPACT YOUR PROPERTY RUN ALONG ANY BOUNDARY LINES OF YOUR PROPERTY?

ANSWER: Yes, proposed Segment 40 runs along both the eastern and just off the northern edge of our property. This line would destroy many trees and wildlife living in the 100-foot swath on each side of the line. Furthermore, current plans for our permanent home would put it within 150 feet of the proposed segment 40.

QUESTION: HOW WOULD A 138-KV ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE IMPACT YOUR PROPERTY AND ITS OPERATIONS?

ANSWER: Segment 40 would require removal of all the trees along our eastern and northern edges, destroying the natural beauty that is so integral to the value and benefit of the property, and causing

environmental harm by destroying the habitat of the endangered birds and wildlife that reside on the property. The value of the property will also be negatively impacted, since some studies state that there are potential health risks associated with living in close proximity to high power lines. If we were to sell in the future, potential buyers would be hesitant due to the appearance and possible health impact.

QUESTION: WOULD YOU HAVE TO REGULARLY DRIVE UNDER THE TRANSMISSION LINE IF INSTALLED ON YOUR PROPERTY.

ANSWER: Not the lines on our property, but we would have to drive directly underneath Segment 40 every day on the way to and from work or any other activity. In addition, the proposed line would be less than 150 feet from our permanent residence, and our children would have to stand next to and ride along the lines to get picked up and dropped off by the school bus.

QUESTION: DESCRIBE THE AESTHETIC IMPACT TO YOUR PROPERTY IF CPS ENERGY BUILDS A 138-KV TRANSMISSION LINE ON YOUR PROPERTY.

ANSWER: Our property is heavily treed and would be significantly impacted by a 138-KV transmission line. As mentioned, Segment 40 would be directly on our property. See Exhibit A.

QUESTION: IF THE TRANSMISSION LINE IS BUILT ON YOUR PROPERTY, DO YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT CPS ENERGY HAVING ACCESS TO YOUR PROPERTY?

ANSWER: Yes, we have the general concerns of landowners who are required to give third parties access to their property. Also, this would materially affect the use of our property. We hope that CPS will respect my property.

QUESTION: IF THE TRANSMISSION LINE IS BUILT ON YOUR PROPERTY, DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER CONCERNS?

ANSWER: We have general safety and health concerns for living around transmission lines and EMF issues. Because potential buyers may be aware of medical studies available on the Internet arguing, correctly or not, a connection between high-powered transmission lines causing health problems and possible cancer, we are concerned about a negative stigma being attached to our property and the possible devaluation of our property value. In addition, the buzzing sounds emanating from high-voltage transmission lines would be bothersome for people living near them.

QUESTION: IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE AND THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION TO CONSIDER IN THIS PROCEEDING?

ANSWER: Yes, we bought this property for the natural beauty and wildlife that reside here, which would be destroyed by installation of the lines.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

QUESTION: HOW WOULD YOU SUMMARIZE YOUR POSITION IN THIS PROCEEDING REGARDING CPS ENERGY'S PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE ROUTES A, E, H, AND Y AND CPS ENERGY'S PREFERRED ROUTES Z1 AND AA1?

ANSWER: We oppose CPS Energy's Alternative Routes A, E, H, and Y and any Route using Segments 29, 33, and 40. We support CPS Energy's Routes Z1 and AA1 as the route(s) that best meet(s) the overall community values and PURA § 37.056(c)(4) and P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.101(b)(3)(B).

QUESTION: DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?

ANSWER: Yes.

EXHIBIT A MAP OF PROPERTY



Subject Property: 26960 Pecan Bluff(shown as A-154) intersected by Segment 40.

+/- 5.309 acres