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SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-21-02-47

PUC DOCKET NO. 51023

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
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APPLICATION OF THE
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO TO
AMMEND ITS CERTIFICATE
OF CONVENIENCE AND
NECESSITY FOR THE SCENIC LOOP
138-KV TRANSMISSION
LINE IN BEXAR COUNTY

BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE

OF

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

Direct Testimony
OF
STEVEN GOMEZ HERRERA

FEBRUARY 19, 2021

565

1 DIRECT TESTIMONY OF STEVEN GOMEZ HERRERA

2 Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS

3 A. STEVEN GOMEZ HERRERA 25130 TOUTANT BEAUREGARD BOERNE, TEAXS 78006

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

5 A. ON BEHALF OF MYSELF.

6 Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY FILED TESTIMONY BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY

7 COMMISSION OF TEXAS (COMMISSION)?

8 A. No

9 Q. WHAT IS YOUR OCCUPATION?

10 A. I AM A LICENSED AND CERTIFIED PROSTHETIST AND ORTHOTIST

11 Q. WHAT IS YOUR EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND?

12 A. I EARNED A BS DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS IN SAN ANTONIO. I AM THE OWNER
13 AND CEO OF H5 PROSTHETICS AND ORTHOTICS IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

14 Q. HAVE YOU PREPARED ANY EXHIBITS, SCHEDULES, OR STUDIES IN
15 CONNECTION WITH YOUR TESTIMONY?

16 A. No

17 Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?

18 A. THERE ARE SPECIFIC FACTORS THAT I WOULD LIKE THE COMMISSION TO CONSIDER WHEN
19 SELECTING THE SUBSTATION LOCATION AND ROUTES.

20 Q. WHAT ROUTES ARE YOU MOST CONCERNED WITH?

21 A. MY HOME IS LOCATED BETWEEN SUBSTATION # 7 AND SEGMENT 54
22 SCENIC AND SERENE HILLS, OUR NEIGHBORHOOD HAS BEEN HERE FOR APPROXIMATELY 50
23 YEARS. I HAVE BEEN LIVING WITH MY WIFE AND THREE CHILDREN AT THE
24 ABOVE-MENTIONED RESIDENCE FOR OVER 22 YEARS.

25 SEGMENT 54 IS ASSOCIATED WITH MANY OF THE ROUTES INCLUDING: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J,
26 K, L, M, X, Y, Z, AA, BB, AND CC. THESE ROUTES TRAVERSE OVER 30 HABITABLE STRUCTURES
27 INCLUDING MY HOME AND WE WILL BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED. THE CALIFORNIA
28 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CONCLUDED THAT ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS (EMF) ARE
29 RESPONSIBLE FOR AN INCREASE OF CHILDHOOD LEUKEMIA, LOU GEHRIG'S, AND
30 MISCARRIAGE IN A 2002 REPORT, "AN EVALUATION OF THE POSSIBLE RISKS FROM ELECTRIC
31 AND MAGNETIC FIELDS FROM POWER LINES, INTERNAL WIRING, ELECTRICAL OCCUPATIONS,
32 AND APPLIANCES."

33 Q. ARE THERE ANY HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT PROPERTIES THAT WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE
34 LOCATION OF SUBSTATION # 7 and SEGMENT 54?

35 A. YES, ALL SUBSTATIONS WILL LEAD TO THE DEGRADATION OF THE SCENIC LOOP, BOERNE STAGE
36 HISTORIC CORRIDOR AND THE OLD SPANISH TRAIL WHICH HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY BOTH THE
37 TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION AS A RESOURCE THAT HAS
38 HISTORICAL VALUE. TOUTANT BEAUREGARD IN ITSELF TRAVERSES THE HEIDEMANN
39 CEMETARY AND HEIDEMANN RANCH HISTORIC DISTRICT SHORTLY AFTER PASSING MY HOME
40 AND THE SCENIC AND SERENE HILLS ESTATES.

41 Q. WHAT IS YOUR UNDERSTANDING REGARDING PRUDENT AVOIDANCE WITH REGARDS TO THESE
42 ROUTES?

43 A. COMMISSION SUBSTANTIVE RULE 25.01 DEFINES PRUDENT AVOIDANCE AS "THE LIMITING OF
44 EXPOSURES TO ELECTRIC AND MAGNETIC FIELDS THAT CAN BE AVOIDED WITH REASONABLE
45 INVESTMENTS OF MONEY AND EFFORT." IF THE COMMISSION VALUES THE AVOIDANCE AND
46 HABITABLE STRUCTURES, THE ROUTES LISTED ABOVE SHOULD BE ELIMINATED FROM
47 CONSIDERATION, AND THOSE WITH THE LEAST AMOUNT WITH HABITABLE STRUCTURES
48 SHOULD GET MORE PRIORITY.

49 ARE THERE ROUTE ALTERNATIVES THAT WOULD AVOID IMPACTING
50 HISTORIC RESOURCES AND HISTORICAL VALUES?

51 DUE TO THE NATURE OF THE AREA, THERE DO NOT APPEAR TO BE TO BE ANY ROUTES THAT
52 WOULD COMPLETELY AVOID HISTORICAL RESOURCES AND HISTORICAL VALUES. HOWEVER,
53 THERE ARE SEVERAL ROUTES THAT CAN AVOID CERTAIN IMPACTS AND MINIMIZE OTHERS.

54 Q. WHICH ALTERNATIVES ARE THOSE? ARE THERE OTHER ROUTES THAT YOU WOULD LIKE
55 THE COMMISSION TO CONSIDER?

56 A. THERE ARE SEVERAL ROUTES THAT DO NOT INVOLVE SO MANY HABITABLE STRUCTURES. FOR
57 EXAMPLE:

58 ROUTE N1 HAS 11 HABITABLE STRUCTURES

59 ROUTE P HAS 12 HABITABLE STRUCTURES

60 ROUTE Q1 HAS 6 HABITABLE STRUCTURES

61 ROUTE R1 HAS 7 HABITABLE STRUCTURES

62 ROUTE U1 HAS 6 HABITABLE STRUCTURES

63 ALL OF THESE ROUTES UTILIZE SUBSTATION # 6. I UNDERSTAND THAT BASED ON OTHER
64 RULINGS IN COMMISSION HEARINGS THAT THE LENGTH AND COST ARE TWO OF THE MOST
65 IMPORTANT FACTORS. BASED ON THAT PREMISE ROUTE R1 IS ONE OF THE SHORTEST AT
66 4.76. THERE ARE ONLY 5 SEGMENTS AND 7 HABITABLE STRUCTURES ON THIS ROUTE. THE
67 COST ASSOCIATED WITH THIS ROUTE IS MORE THAN A FEW OF THE OTHER ONES, HOWEVER,

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68 I PRAY THAT THE COMMISSION WILL CONSIDER PRUDENT AVOIDANCE HIGH ON THE LIST OF
69 CONSIDERATIONS, AS NOTED EARLIER IN MY TESTIMONY. SOME OF THE OTHER
70 TRANSMISSION LINES THAT ARE CHEAPER WILL IMPACT MORE PEOPLE AND
71 HABITABLE STRUCTURES.
72 FOR EXAMPLE: ROUTE Z1 WILL IMPACT 30 HABITABLE STRUCTURES AND FAMILIES.

73 WHY DID YOU STATE THAT CONSTRUCTION OF A SUBSTATION 1,2,3,4,5, AND 7 WILL
74 DEGRADE THE HISTORICAL AREA?

75 CPS ENERGY AND POWER ENGINEERS ARE AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL EFFECT A 4 –6
76 ACRE SUBSTATION CAN HAVE ON THE AESTHETICS OF A RURAL AREA LIKE THIS.
77 SUBSTATION # 6 APPEARS TO HAVE THE LEAST AMOUNT OF AN
78 IMPACT ON THE OLD SPANISH TRAIL, THE SCENIC LOOP, AND THE
79 BOERNE STAGE ROAD HISTORIC CORRIDOR. IT ALSO AVOIDS
80 IMPACTING THE HEIDEMANN RANCH HISTORIC DISTRICT
81 AND CEMETARY, AND MAVERICK-ALTGELT RANCH
82 HISTORIC DISTRICT. SUBSTATION # 6 WILL AVOID 30
83 HABITABLE STRUCTURES INCLUDING MY HOME.

84 Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?

85 A. YES.