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November 3, 2021

To: Public Utility Commission of Texas
Austin, Texas

From: Margaret Couch, Intervenor

Re: Docket #51023, Objections to CPS Route selection process and recommendation

- Unfortunately due to being in a high risk category for Covid 19 I was unable to attend the open meeting in Austin on October 28, 2021. I was under the impression that the meeting would be held virtually and I would have an opportunity to speak. That not being the case, I am grateful for this opportunity to present my concerns to the PUC in writing.
- My first concern is that CPS did not present Route Z2 as an option at the Town Hall open meeting. Residents in the area were not informed of this Route until CPS made its final recommendation to the PUC. This did not allow us to be a part of the process until it was too late. We felt misled and blindsided by CPS.
- My understanding is that the customary process is for the Utility Company to propose several viable utility line routes to the PUC for consideration. At that point the Utility Company is to step back and let the public response and the PUC make a decision on the most viable Route. CPS clearly had a preferred Route which they pursued vigorously and entered into an agreement with a developer to swap right of way grants to re-route the lines away from his property. The aggressive actions by CPS during this entire process resulted in costly and unnecessary legal fees to residents and HOA's in the area.
- The PUC staff recommended Route P as the most desirable Route. Unfortunately the Administrative Law Judge did not agree with this recommendation and sided with the CPS chosen Route Z2. The PUC staff felt so strongly about the desirability of Route P over Route Z2 that they filed an exception to the ALJ decision. I encourage the members of the PUC to take seriously this exception. Why does CPS have tunnel vision for only one Route among several that they claimed were all viable routes?
- CPS claims that the transmission line does not encroach on public recreational areas. However, according to the CPS map, Route Z2 comes within 200 feet of the playground (clearly a recreational area) of McAndrew Elementary School on Toutant Beauregard Road. While the scientific evidence is inclusive regarding the impact of high voltage transmission lines on the health of children, why would we take this risk when there are other viable options which would not put our children in potential jeopardy on a daily basis?
- In its closing remarks at the PUC hearing on October 28, 2021, CPS presented misinformation to counter the objections to Route Z2 made by the residents speaking at

the hearing. Unfortunately there was no forum for the residents and their attorneys to respond to this misinformation.

- I strongly encourage the PUC to choose the recommendation of the staff for Route P for the transmission line.

Thank you for this opportunity to present my concerns on behalf of all the residents along Toutant Beauregard Road who would be negatively impacted by Route Z2.

Sincerely,

Margaret Couch