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Docket 51023

To the Public Utility Commissioners of Texas: Chairman Peter Lake, Lori Cobos, Will McAdams & Jimmy Glotfelt

I am an intervenor and was an active pro se participant during the Hearing for Merit for docket 51023, (Intervenor filing #308, Direct Testimony filing #558). Unfortunately, neither my husband or I were able to attend the Open Meeting on Oct. 28th in Austin, Texas due to the short notice in the change from participation via telephone to an only "in person" meeting. We could not rearrange our schedule with such short notice. Our absence does not in any way lessen our strong convictions and concern in regard to and against Substation 7 and concur with PUC's staff recommendation for Substation 6, Route P or R.

According to PUC's latest website update, the next open meeting is scheduled for Nov. 18th, however the 11-1-21 Update does not state that oral arguments will be accepted as in the Oct. 26th meeting update. I do not want to miss the opportunity to have one last chance to voice our concerns as each of you make such a monumental and impactful decision in regard to the location of the Scenic Loop Substation and Transmission Line Project. The buck stops with you!

We, too, are longtime homeowners and residents in the Serene and Scenic Hills Subdivision. Our home and water well are within 300 feet of Segment 17. Your decision directly impacts my family and those of my neighbors. One of the most important reasons we bought our 1.3 acre lot over 25 years ago was because it and the surrounding area were free of high powered electrical lines where we could raise our young children. Although all grown, our grandchildren visit often and my conviction for keeping children safe has not waned.

I know the PUC staff has read, reviewed, questioned, studied maps/exhibits, crunched numbers/costs and have thoroughly examined the multitude of information including the 48 item Environmental Analysis Evaluation Criteria table for each substation location and segment line. I also know that you are very much aware of the number of homeowners that highly value the safety of their children. I will not belabor all the evidence that shows that Substation 7 is a bad choice along with Substations 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

I have read just about every filing on this docket and what stands out is that families are concerned about the welfare of their children. Although some folks seem to believe the mighty dollar is the end all be all, and yes many have commented on their distant view being tainted by unsightly transmission poles and lines, or ranch land being disturbed, I am here to state that those are not reasons to justify any other route than P or R. I understand cost is certainly a factor and Route P or R are within budget constraints. The closer in proximity transmission towers and lines are to homes, schools and roads the more chance for things to go wrong. It does not seem prudent to put so much at stake with choosing any other Substation, besides Substation 6.

Granted, your decision task is not an easy one! When considering the extent of the increased number of homes, families and children that will be directly impacted and the relative cost, it would be irresponsible to place a substation and transmission poles and lines in such very close proximity to so many established homes, neighborhoods and next to an existing elementary school and the known site for a middle school, especially when there are **several very viable options** such as Route P and R.

Our children already face enough detrimental environmental and other health hazards and they are constantly bombarded with and face an ever increasing list of things that could place them in harms way and/or are bad for them. Adding super tall transmission poles and high powdered electrical lines next to their school should not be another medical and/or health hazard, whether perceived or real. Parents and children should not have to worry about what they might be exposed to on a daily basis and for those who live by a transmission line, it would be just about 24/7.

I spent over 30 years in the field of special education with SAISD and have watched over and over again as parents agonized over their child's health condition and wonder what if anything they did wrong that could have contributed to their child's disability or illness. It's heartbreaking! I have heard CPS testimony in regard to other schools that have transmission lines placed next to them in the city limits of San Antonio. What I did not hear was if there were other viable options, perhaps not. Just because it's been done before isn't a good reason to continue with that rationale. With this docket, **there are other viable options!**

I definitely understand the need for this Project to accommodate the ever increasing growth in our area. New homeowners have a choice when it comes to purchasing a home/land or not. Please do not take our choice away from us. It is my prayer that you heavily consider and not place the burden of a substation and transmission poles and lines on the vast number of us who have lived in our homes for many, many years. Route P or Route R are the most logical choice.

Thank you again for your time, consideration and the opportunity to be an active participant.

Respectfully,

Leslie Bernsen

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