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**SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-23-21216
PUC DOCKET NO. 55067**

APPLICATION OF ONCOR ELECTRIC	§	BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE
DELIVERY LLC TO AMEND ITS	§	
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE	§	
AND NECESSITY FOR THE RAMHORN	§	OF
HILL – DUNAHM 345-KV	§	
TRANSMISSION LINE IN DENTON	§	
AND WISE COUNTIES	§	ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF INTERVENOR MATTHEW SPAETHE

Intervenor Matthew Spaethe files this Direct Testimony, which is attached. Matthew Spaethe stipulates that this Direct Testimony can be treated by all parties as if the answers were filed under oath.

Respectfully submitted,

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/s/Patrick L. Reznik
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ATTORNEYS FOR MATTHEW SPAETHE

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served on all parties and counsel of record on July 31, 2023, in accordance with PUC Procedural Rule 22.74 and Orders issued in Docket No. 50067 to date.

/s/Patrick L. Reznik _____
Patrick L. Reznik

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1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2
3 QUESTION: PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND CURRENT ADDRESS FOR THE
4 RECORD.

5
6 ANSWER: My name is Matthew Spaethe, and my current address is 613 Blue Mound
7 Rd E, Haslet TX 76052.

8
9
10 QUESTION: ARE YOU AN INTERVENOR IN SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-23-21216
11 AND PUC DOCKET NO. 55067 AND ON WHOSE BEHALF ARE YOU TESTIFYING?

12
13 ANSWER: Yes, and I'm testifying on behalf of myself.

14
15 QUESTION: HAVE YOU EVER TESTIFIED IN A PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
16 OF TEXAS ("PUC" OR "COMMISSION") PROCEEDING?

17
18 ANSWER: Yes. In SOAH Docket No. 473-14-2252/PUC Docket No. 42087.

19
20 QUESTION: BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR OCCUPATION, EDUCATIONAL AND
21 WORK HISTORYS.

22
23 ANSWER: I am an Engineer with Bachelor's and Master of Science in Electrical
24 Engineering. I have been a design engineer at Motorola, Nokia, GE Transportation, and
25 now Wabtec.

26
27 QUESTION: WHERE IS YOUR PROPERTY LOCATED?

28
29 ANSWER: My property is located at 15167 S County Line Rd, Justin TX 76247.

30
31 QUESTION: HOW LONG HAVE YOU OWNED THE PROPERTY?

32
33 ANSWER: I have owned the property for seven years this August.

34
35 QUESTION: ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THIS AREA OF TEXAS?

36
37 ANSWER: I am familiar mainly with my property and the area south and east from it.

1 (c) **Opposition:** I hereby voice my opposition to any route that uses Segments Q1, Q2, Q5,
2 and O8 for reasons stated in (a) and (b) above.

3
4
5 **III. DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY AND THE LINE'S IMPACT**
6

7
8 QUESTION: ARE THERE ANY HABITABLE STRUCTURES ON THE PROPERTY?
9

10 ANSWER: Not currently. I expect construction to commence this fall on my
11 barndominium. The site and land preparation has been ongoing since purchase of the
12 property.

13
14
15 QUESTION: PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR PROPERTY'S TERRAIN AND ITS
16 ECOLOGICAL OR BIOLOGICAL FEATURES.

17
18 ANSWER: The property is actually very diverse for this area of Texas. It was one of
19 the items that drew me to the property. It is crossed by Harriet Creek, wooded area,
20 planted crop, Bermuda coastal, and 1+ acre pond. I also have access to W County Line
21 Rd and S County Line Rd. **See Exhibit A.**

22
23
24 QUESTION: PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR PROPERTY'S CURRENT USES,
25 INCLUDING BRIEFLY DESCRIBING ANY RANCH OR SPECIALIZED
26 OPERATIONS.

27
28 ANSWER: The property is currently agriculture with a FAA registered airstrip. **See**
29 **Exhibit B.**

30
31
32 QUESTION: HAVE YOU OR YOUR FAMILY UNDERTAKEN ANY EFFORTS TO
33 RESTOR THE LAND OR THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OF THE PROPERTY?

34
35 ANSWER: No.
36

37
38 QUESTION: ARE THERE ANY WATER WELL SITES ON THE PROPERTY? IF SO,
39 DESCRIBE THE GENERAL LOCATION.

1
2 ANSWER: Not currently. I do plan a water well to support homesite.

3
4 QUESTION: ARE THERE ANY GAS WELLS ON THE PROPERTY? IF SO,
5 DESCRIBE THE GENERAL LOCATION.

6
7 ANSWER: No. Not directly on my property. There are some located on neighboring
8 properties adjacent to my property lines.

9
10
11 QUESTION: ARE THERE ANY PIPELINE EASEMENTS ON THE PROPERTY? IF
12 SO, DESCRIBE THE GENERAL LOCATION.

13
14 ANSWER: Yes. They follow the north, south, east, and west property lines. There is also
15 a petroleum pipeline easement that runs in a general southeast / northwest direction located
16 toward the western side of the property.

17
18
19 QUESTION: PLEASE DESCRIBE ANY PLANNED FUTURE USES OF YOUR
20 PROPERTY IF THOSE USES ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE CURRENT USES
21 PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED.

22
23 ANSWER: I plan for this property to be my homestead along with supporting private
24 general aviation.

25
26
27 QUESTION: DO ANY EXISTING TRANSMISSION OR DISTRIBUTION LINES
28 CROSS YOUR PROPERTY? IF SO, PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW AND WHERE THEY
29 CROSS THE PROPERTY.

30
31 ANSWER: There are no existing transmission lines. There is one distribution line along
32 S County Line Rd right-of-way. I have worked with CoServ and converted this into a
33 defined easement. *See* Denton County Records, 2021-48968 and 2023-28463.

34
35
36 QUESTION: ARE THERE CURRENT PLANS FOR OTHER UTILITY FEATURES ON
37 YOUR PROPERTY? IF SO, PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW AND WHERE THEY CROSS
38 THE PROPERTY.

1 ANSWER: I have discussed with my neighbor, Margaret Chavez's parents, access to
2 the existing CoServ distribution line along the north side of their property. My plan is to
3 go underground approximately 800' to my prepared pads.

4
5 QUESTION: WOULD THE SEGMENTS THAT MIGHT IMPACT YOUR PROPERTY
6 RUN ALONG ANY BOUNDARY LINES OF YOUR PROPERTY?

7
8 ANSWER: No.
9

10
11 QUESTION: HOW WOULD A 345-KV ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE IMPACT
12 YOUR PROPERTY AND ITS OPERATIONS?

13
14 ANSWER: It would force me to abandon FAA registered airstrip XS05. It would also
15 divide the property into "regions" that are not coincident with geography or property
16 boundaries.
17

18
19 QUESTION: WOULD YOU HAVE TO REGULARLY DRIVE UNDER THE
20 TRANSMISSION LINE IF INSTALLED ON YOUR PROPERTY.

21
22 ANSWER: Yes, with each entry and exit. As link Q2 crosses my driveway,
23 approximately 800' from S County Line Rd.
24

25
26 QUESTION: DESCRIBE THE AESTHETIC IMPACT TO YOUR PROPERTY IF
27 STEC INSTALLS A 345-KV TRANSMISSION LINE ON YOUR PROPERTY.

28
29 ANSWER: Link Q5 will be approximately 150' from my pond, and located between
30 my homesite and the pond. Link Q2 will be fully visible from front of a structure located
31 on the second pad, as it runs parallel to the front of this pad.
32

33
34 QUESTION: IS THIS YOUR FIRST EFFORT TO COMMUNICATE YOUR
35 CONCERNS WITH ONCOR?

36
37 ANSWER: No, I participated in the public meeting held on both December 7th and 8th,
38 2022. I attended both evenings. On the second evening, I shared with the head planner of
39 Halff consulting firm airstrip details that had been submitted to the FAA. The location of

1 this airstrip was also entered into Halff engineering's "geo" database by one of their
2 associates.

3
4
5 QUESTION: IF THE TRANSMISSION LINE IS BUILT ON YOUR PROPERTY, DO
6 YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT ONCOR HAVING ACCESS TO YOUR
7 PROPERTY?

8
9 ANSWER: Yes, I have the general concerns of landowners who are required to give
10 any third-party access to their property.

11
12
13 QUESTION: IF THE TRANSMISSION LINE IS BUILT ON YOUR PROPERTY, DO
14 YOU HAVE ANY OTHER CONCERNS?

15
16 ANSWER: Yes. The link locations bisect my property and essentially carves it into
17 parcels that are not generally supported by access to S County Line Rd and W County Line
18 Rd due to Harriet Creek. It will also force me to abandon FAA registered airstrip XS05.

19
20
21 **IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**
22

23 QUESTION: HOW WOULD YOU SUMMARIZE YOUR POSITION IN THIS
24 PROCEEDING REGARDING ONCOR'S RECOMMENDED ROUTE 179 AND THE
25 PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE ROUTES?

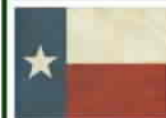
26
27 ANSWER: I specifically oppose any route using Segments Q1, Q2, Q5, and O8 and Routes
28 67, 68, and 69. I fully support Oncor's Recommended Route 179.

29
30
31 QUESTION: DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?

32
33 ANSWER: Yes.
34



Matthew W. Spaethe
+/- 151.300 Acres - Denton and Wise Counties



Direct Testimony of Matthew Spaethe
SOAH Docket No. 473-23-21216
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