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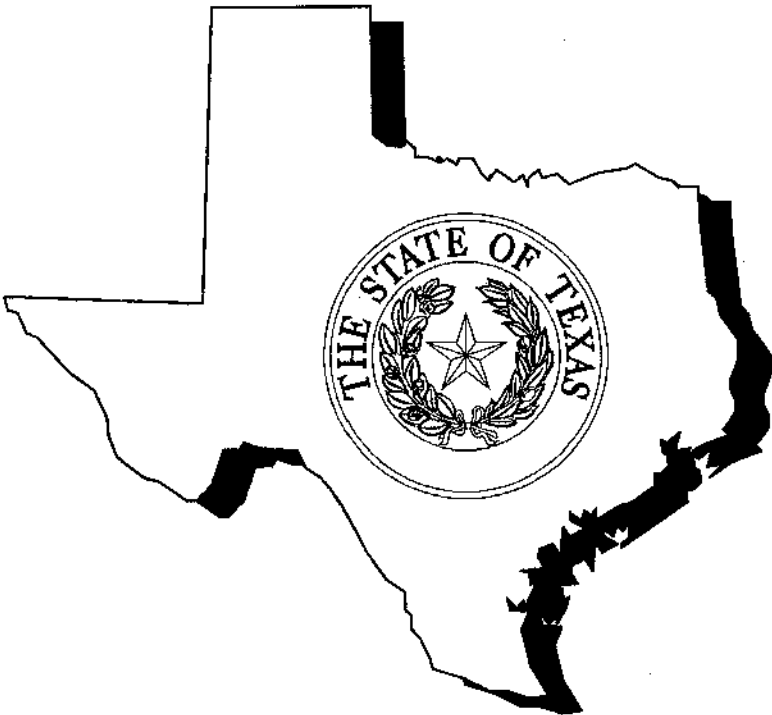
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**Item Number - 193**

**SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-25-02531  
PUC DOCKET NO. 57115**

<b>APPLICATION OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO, ACTING BY AND THROUGH THE CITY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD (CPS ENERGY), AND SOUTH TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (STEC) TO AMEND THEIR CERTIFICATES OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR THE PROPOSED HOWARD ROAD-TO-SAN MIGUEL 345-KV TRANSMISSION LINE IN BEXAR AND ATASCOSA COUNTIES</b>	<b>§ § § § § § § § § § §</b>	<b>BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE       OF       ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS</b>
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**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF**  
**JOHN POOLE, P.E.**  
**INFRASTRUCTURE DIVISION**  
**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS**  
**NOVEMBER 21, 2024**

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#### ATTACHMENTS

JP-1	Qualifications of John Poole
JP-2	List of Previous Testimony

**I. STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS**

**Q. Please state your name, occupation and business address.**

A. My name is John Poole. I am employed by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) as an Engineer within the Infrastructure Division. My business address is 1701 North Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701.

**Q. Please briefly outline your educational and professional background.**

A. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. I completed my degree in December of 2014 and have been employed at the Commission since February of 2015. A more detailed resume is provided in Attachment JP-1.

**Q. Are you a registered professional engineer?**

A. Yes, I am a registered Professional Engineer in Texas. My member number is 133982.

**Q. Have you previously testified as an expert before the Commission?**

A. Yes. A list of previous testimony is provided in Attachment JP-2.

**II. SCOPE OF TESTIMONY**

**Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?**

A. The purpose of my testimony is to present Commission Staff's recommendations

1 concerning the application of the City of San Antonio, acting by and through the  
2 City Public Service Board (CPS Energy) and the South Texas Electric Cooperative,  
3 Inc. (STEC) to amend their Certificates of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) to  
4 allow them to build a new double-circuit 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line to be  
5 built on double-circuit steel monopole structures. The structures will support two  
6 345-kV circuits, with two conductors per phase. The new transmission line will  
7 begin at the under-construction CPS Energy Howard Road Station, located  
8 approximately three miles northeast of the intersection of State Highway (SH) 16  
9 and SH 1604 in Bexar County, Texas.<sup>1</sup> The new transmission line will then extend  
10 between 45 to 59 miles, depending on the route selected, in a generally southerly  
11 direction to the existing STEC San Miguel Station which is located approximately  
12 four miles east of SH 16 and Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 3387 in Atascosa County,  
13 Texas.<sup>2</sup>

14  
15 **Q. What is the scope of your testimony?**

16 A. The scope of my testimony is to provide Commission Staff's recommendation  
17 regarding the need for the project and regarding selection of routes from among the  
18 proposed alternative routes presented by CPS Energy and STEC.

19  
20 **Q. What are the statutory requirements that a utility must meet to amend its CCN**

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<sup>1</sup> Joint Application of the City of San Antonio, Acting by and Through the City Public Service Board, and South Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc. to Amend their Certificates of Convenience and Necessity for the Proposed Howard Road-to-San Miguel 345-kV Transmission Line in Bexar and Atascosa Counties at 6 (Oct. 4, 2024). (Application).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

**to construct a new transmission line?**

A. Section 37.056(a) of the Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA)<sup>3</sup> states that the Commission may approve an application for a CCN only if the Commission finds that the CCN is necessary for the service, accommodation, convenience, or safety of the public. Further, PURA provides that the Commission shall approve, deny, or modify a request for a CCN after considering the factors specified in PURA § 37.056(c), which are as follows:

- (1) The adequacy of existing service;
- (2) The need for additional service;
- (3) The effect of granting the certificate on the recipient of the certificate and any electric utility serving the proximate area; and
- (4) Other factors, such as:
  - (A) Community values;
  - (B) Recreational and park areas;
  - (C) Historical and aesthetic values;
  - (D) Environmental integrity;
  - (E) the probable improvement of service or lowering of cost to consumers in the area if the certificate is granted, including any potential economic or reliability benefits associated with dual fuel and fuel storage capabilities in areas outside the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) power region; and

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<sup>3</sup> Public Utility Regulatory Act, Tex. Util. Code Ann. §§ 11.001-66.016 (PURA).

(F) the need for extending transmission service where existing or projected electrical loads will be underserved, including where:

(i) the existing transmission service is unreasonably remote;

(ii) the available capacity is unreasonably limited at transmission or distribution voltage level; or

(iii) the electrical load cannot be interconnected in a timely manner.

**Q. Do the Commission's rules provide any instruction regarding routing criteria?**

A. Yes. 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 25.101(b)(3)(B) requires that an application for a new transmission line address the criteria in PURA § 37.056(c), and that upon considering those criteria, engineering constraints and costs, the line shall be routed to the extent reasonable to moderate the impact on the affected community and landowners unless grid reliability and security dictate otherwise. The following factors shall be considered in the selection of CPS Energy's and STEC's proposed alternative routes:

(i) Whether the routes parallel or utilize existing compatible rights-of-way for electric facilities, including the use of vacant positions on existing multiple-circuit transmission lines;

(ii) Whether the routes parallel or utilize other existing compatible



rights-of-way, including roads, highways, railroads, or telephone utility rights-of-way;

(iii) Whether the routes parallel property lines or other natural or cultural features; and

(iv) Whether the routes conform with the policy of prudent avoidance.<sup>4</sup>

**Q. What issues identified by the Commission must be addressed in this docket?**

A. In the Order of Referral and Preliminary Order filed on October 7, 2024, the Commission identified the following issues that must be addressed:

1. Is the applicants' joint application to amend their CCNs adequate? Does the joint application contain an adequate number of reasonably differentiated alternative routes to conduct a proper evaluation? In answering this question, consideration must be given to the number of proposed alternatives, the locations of the proposed transmission line, and any associated proposed transmission facilities that influence the location of the line. Consideration may also be given to the facts and circumstances specific to the geographic area under consideration and to any analysis and reasoned justification presented for a limited number of alternative routes. A limited number of alternative routes is not in itself a sufficient basis for finding an application inadequate when the facts and circumstances or a reasoned justification demonstrates a reasonable basis for presenting a limited number of alternatives. If an adequate number of routes is not presented in the

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<sup>4</sup> 16 Tex. Admin. Code (TAC) § 25.101(b)(3)(B).

1 application, the ALJ must allow the applicant to amend the application and  
2 to provide proper notice to affected landowners; however, if the applicant  
3 chooses not to amend the application, then the ALJ may dismiss the case  
4 without prejudice.

5 2. Did the applicants provide notice of the application in accordance with 16  
6 TAC § 22.52(a)(1), (2), and (3) and PURA § 37.054(a)(1) and (c)?

7 3. Did the applicants provide notice of the public meeting in accordance with  
8 16 TAC § 22.52(a)(4)?

9 4. What were the principal concerns expressed in the questionnaire responses  
10 received at or after any public meetings held by the applicants regarding the  
11 proposed transmission facilities?

12 5. Taking into account the factors set out in the PURA § 37.056(c), are the  
13 proposed transmission facilities necessary for the service, accommodation,  
14 convenience, or safety of the public within the meaning of PURA §  
15 37.056(a)? In addition, please address the following issues:

16 a. How do the proposed transmission facilities support the reliability  
17 and adequacy of the interconnected transmission system?

18 b. Do the proposed transmission facilities facilitate robust wholesale  
19 competition?

20 c. What recommendation, if any, has an independent organization, as  
21 defined in PURA § 39.151, made regarding the proposed  
22 transmission facilities?

1           d.     Are the proposed transmission facilities needed to interconnect a new  
2               transmission service customer?

3           6.     In considering the need for additional service under PURA § 37.056(c)(2)  
4               for a reliability transmission project, please address the historical load,  
5               forecasted load growth, and additional load currently seeking  
6               interconnection.

7           7.     Are the proposed transmission facilities the better option to meet this need  
8               when compared to using distribution facilities? If the applicants are not  
9               subject to the unbundling requirements of PURA § 39.051, are the proposed  
10              transmission facilities the better option to meet the need when compared to  
11              a combination of distribution facilities, distributed generation, and energy  
12              efficiency? In answering this issue, if the proposed transmission facilities  
13              include a transmission line to address distribution load growth, please  
14              address the following:

15               a. The data used to calculate the applicants' load-growth projections  
16               that support the need for a transmission-line solution;

17               b. The date, origin, and relevance of the data used to calculate the  
18               applicants' load-growth projections;

19               c. The assumptions made and relied on to generate the load-growth  
20               projections, including but not limited to the assumed rates of load  
21               growth, the factors (if any) applied to calculate forecasted loads for  
22               new developments in the need study area, and adjustments (if any)  
23               made to forecasted loads to account for customer load served by any

1 other electric utilities also providing electric service within the  
2 applicants' need study area;

3 d. The location, described in writing and depicted on a map, of the  
4 boundaries of the need study area and all existing transmission  
5 facilities (including proposed substations or switching stations)  
6 within the need study area used for the load-growth projections;

7 e. If included in the applicants' load-growth projections, the nature,  
8 scope, and location depicted on a map of the following loads:

9 i. the applicants' current consumers,

10 ii. the applicants' pending load request, and

11 iii. future development projects included in the applicants'  
12 load-growth projections;

13 f. The location depicted on a map of the existing load center, the load  
14 center including existing load and currently requested loads, and the  
15 load center including existing load, currently requested loads, and the  
16 applicants' projected load growth;

17 g. The location and identity of any existing transmission lines,  
18 whether inside or outside the need study area, that are as close as, or  
19 closer to, any load-serving substation proposed in this application  
20 compared to the existing transmission line or substation used for the  
21 proposed interconnection or tap;

22 h. The location and identity of any existing substations with  
23 remaining transformer capacity, whether inside or outside the need

1 study area, that are as close as, or closer to, any load-serving  
2 substation proposed in this application compared to the existing  
3 transmission line or substation used for the proposed interconnection  
4 or tap;

5 i. If other utilities are providing distribution service within the  
6 applicants' need study area, the location and nature of the other  
7 utilities' distribution facilities described in writing and depicted on a  
8 map;

9 j. An analysis of the feasibility, design, and cost effectiveness of a  
10 distribution-voltage level alternative that uses the same point(s) of  
11 interconnection or tap and endpoint(s) and that is routed along the  
12 same alternative routes as the transmission-level radial line that is  
13 requested to be approved;

14 k. The applicants' planning study or other reports reflecting the  
15 nature and scope of new-build distribution facilities or existing  
16 distribution-facility upgrades necessary for projected load growth  
17 anticipated before the projected load growth that is the basis for this  
18 joint application; and

19 l. A comparative cost analysis between all new-build distribution  
20 facilities or existing distribution-facility upgrades and the proposed  
21 radial transmission facilities that segregates the distribution-  
22 alternative costs to support the pending load requests and specific

1 future development loads from general load growth in the need study  
2 area.

3 8. Weighing the factors set forth in PURA § 37.056(c) and 16 TAC §  
4 25.101(b)(3)(B), which proposed transmission-line route is the best  
5 alternative?

6 9. Are there alternative routes or configurations of facilities that would have a  
7 less negative effect on landowners? What would be the incremental cost of  
8 those routes or configurations of facilities?

9 10. If alternative routes or configurations of facilities are considered because of  
10 individual landowners' preferences, please address the following issues:

11 a. Have the affected landowners made adequate contributions to offset any  
12 additional costs associated with the accommodations?

13 b. Have the accommodations to landowners diminished the electric  
14 efficiency of the line or reliability?

15 11. Are the proposed transmission facilities necessary to meet state or federal  
16 reliability standards?

17 12. What is the estimated cost of the proposed transmission facilities to  
18 consumers?

19 13. What is the estimated congestion cost savings for consumers that may result  
20 from the proposed transmission facilities considering both current and future  
21 expected congestion levels and the ability of the proposed transmission  
22 facilities to reduce those congestion levels?

- 1           14.    Are the best management practices for construction and operating  
2                   transmission facilities that are standard in the Commission's electric CCN  
3                   orders adequate? If not, what additional practices should be required for the  
4                   proposed transmission facilities?
- 5           15.    For each additional practice proposed, please address the following:
- 6                   a. What is the additional cost to design, construct and operate the proposed  
7                   transmission facilities, including the cost to consumers?
- 8                   b. What benefit, if any, will the proposed practice provide?
- 9                   c. What effect, if any, will the proposed practice have on the reliability of  
10                  the transmission system?
- 11                  d. What effect, if any, will the proposed practice have on the design,  
12                  construction, or operation of the proposed transmission facilities?
- 13                  e. What effect, if any, will the proposed practice have on the expected date  
14                  to energize the proposed transmission facilities?
- 15           16.    Did the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department provide any recommendations  
16                   or informational comments regarding this joint application in accordance  
17                   with section 12.0011(b) of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code? If so, how  
18                   should the Commission respond through its order?
- 19           17.    What permits, licenses, plans, or permission will be required for construction  
20                   and operation of the proposed transmission facilities? If any alternative route  
21                   requires permission or an easement from a state or federal agency, please  
22                   address in detail the following:

1 a. What agency is involved, and what prior communication has the applicant  
2 had with the agency regarding the proposed transmission facilities?

3 b. Has the agency granted the required permission or easement? If not, when  
4 is a decision by the agency expected?

5 c. What contingencies are in place if the agency does not grant the required  
6 permission or easement or if the process to obtain the required permission or  
7 easement would materially affect the estimated cost, proposed design plans,  
8 or anticipated timeline to construct the proposed transmission facilities?

9 18. Is any part of the proposed transmission facilities located within the coastal  
10 management program boundary as defined in 31 TAC § 27.1(a)? If so, please  
11 address the following issues:

12 a. Do the facilities comply with the goals and applicable policies of the  
13 Coastal Management Program in accordance with 16 TAC § 25.102(a)?

14 b. Will the facilities have any direct and significant effects on any of the  
15 applicable coastal natural resource areas specified in 31 TAC § 26.3(b)?

16 c. Do the facilities cross coastal barrier resource system units or other  
17 protected areas designated on maps dated October 24, 1990, as those maps  
18 may be modified, revised, or corrected, under the Coastal Barrier Resources  
19 Act, 16 United States Code Annotated, § 3503, on coastal barriers? If so, do  
20 the facilities comply with the applicable policies under 31 TAC §  
21 26.16(a)(4)?

22 19. Are the circumstances for this line such that the seven-year limit discussed  
23 in section VI of this Order should be changed?



20. Will anything occur during construction that will preclude or limit a generator from generating or delivering power or that will adversely affect the reliability of the ERCOT system?

21. If complete or partial agreement of the parties is reached on a route that relies on modifications to the route segments as noticed in the joint application, please address the following issues:

a. Did the applicants comply with the additional notice requirements of 16 TAC § 22.52(a)(3)(D), including providing notice under 16 TAC § 22.52(a)(3)(A) through (C) to all landowners directly affected by the modification regardless of whether the landowner affected by the modification received notice of the original application under 16 TAC § 22.52(a)(1) through (3)?

b. Was written consent obtained from landowners directly affected by the proposed modifications to the route segments?<sup>5</sup>

**Q. Which issues in this proceeding have you addressed in your testimony?**

A. I have addressed the issues from the Order of Referral and Preliminary Order and the requirements of PURA § 37.056 and 16 TAC § 25.101.

**Q. If you do not address an issue or position in your testimony, should that be interpreted as Staff supporting any other party's position on that issue?**

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<sup>5</sup> Order of Referral and Preliminary Order at 5-11 (Oct. 7, 2024).

1 A. No. The fact that I do not address an issue in my testimony should not be considered  
2 as agreeing, endorsing, or consenting to any position taken by any other party in this  
3 proceeding.

4  
5 **Q. What have you relied upon or considered to reach your conclusions and make**  
6 **your recommendation?**

7 A. I have relied upon my review and analysis of the data contained in CPS Energy's  
8 and STEC's application and the application's accompanying attachments, including  
9 the *Environmental Assessment and Alternative Route Analysis* (EA) prepared by  
10 POWER Engineers, Inc. (Power).<sup>6</sup> I have also relied upon my review of the direct  
11 testimonies and statements of position filed in this proceeding by or on behalf of  
12 CPS Energy and STEC and the intervenors. I have also relied upon my review of  
13 the responses to requests for information.

14  
15 **III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

16  
17 **Q. Based on your evaluation of CPS Energy's and STEC's application and other**  
18 **relevant material, what conclusions have you reached regarding the**  
19 **application and the Proposed Project?**

20 1. I conclude that the application is adequate and that CPS Energy's and  
21 STEC's proposed alternative routes are adequate in number and geographic  
22 diversity.

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<sup>6</sup> Application, Attachment 1.

2. I conclude that the application complies with the notice requirements in 16 TAC § 22.52(a).

3. I conclude that, taking into account the factors set out in PURA § 37.056(c), the Proposed Project is necessary for the service, accommodation, convenience and safety of the public.

4. I conclude that the Proposed Project is the best option to meet the need when compared with other alternatives.

5. I conclude that Route M is the best route when weighing, as a whole, the factors set forth in PURA § 37.056(c)(4) and in 16 TAC § 25.101(b)(3)(B).

**Q. What recommendation do you have regarding CPS Energy's and STEC's application?**

A. I recommend that the Commission approve CPS Energy's and STEC's application to amend their CCN in order to construct a new double-circuit 345-kV transmission line to be built on double-circuit steel monopole structures along with modifications to the under-construction CPS Energy Howard Road Station and the existing STEC San Miguel Station. I also recommend that the Commission order CPS Energy and STEC to construct the Proposed Project on Route M (Segments 3, 6, 15, 21, 30, 31, 35, 41, 45A, 45B, 52, 54, 55, 58, 59, 65, 68B, 74, 82, 86, 98, 106, 108, and 110). I further recommend that the Commission include in its order approving CPS Energy's and STEC's application the following paragraphs in order to mitigate the impact of the Proposed Project:

- 1           1.       CPS Energy and STEC shall conduct surveys, if not already completed, to  
2                   identify pipelines that could be affected by the transmission lines and  
3                   coordinate with pipeline owners in modeling and analyzing potential hazards  
4                   because of alternating-current interference affecting pipelines being  
5                   paralleled.
- 6           2.       If CPS Energy and STEC encounter any archeological artifacts or other  
7                   cultural resources during project construction, work must cease immediately  
8                   in the vicinity of the artifact or resource, and the discovery must be reported  
9                   to the Texas Historical Commission. In that situation, CPS Energy and STEC  
10                  must take action as directed by the Texas Historical Commission.
- 11          3.       CPS Energy and STEC must follow the procedures to protect raptors and  
12                   migratory birds as outlined in the following publications: *Reducing Avian*  
13                   *Collisions with Power Lines: The State of the Art in 2012*, Edison Electric  
14                   Institute and Avian Power Line Interaction Committee, Washington, D.C.  
15                   2012; *Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines: The State*  
16                   *of the Art in 2006*, Edison Electric Institute, Avian Power Line Interaction  
17                   Committee, and the California Energy Commission, Washington, D.C. and  
18                   Sacramento, CA 2006; and *Avian Protection Plan Guidelines*, Avian Power  
19                   Line Interaction Committee and United States Fish and Wildlife Service,  
20                   April 2005. CPS Energy and STEC must take precautions to avoid disturbing  
21                   occupied nests and take steps to minimize the burden of construction on  
22                   migratory birds during the nesting season of the migratory bird species  
23                   identified in the area of construction.

- 1           4.       CPS Energy and STEC must exercise extreme care to avoid affecting non-  
2                   targeted vegetation or animal life when using chemical herbicides to control  
3                   vegetation within rights-of-way. CPS Energy and STEC must ensure that the  
4                   use of chemical herbicides to control vegetation within the rights-of-way  
5                   complies with rules and guidelines established in the Federal Insecticide  
6                   Fungicide and Rodenticide Act and with Texas Department of Agriculture  
7                   regulations.
- 8           5.       CPS Energy and STEC must minimize the amount of flora and fauna  
9                   disturbed during construction of the transmission line, except to the extent  
10                  necessary to establish appropriate right-of-way clearance for the  
11                  transmission line. In addition, CPS Energy and STEC must revegetate, using  
12                  native species and must consider landowner preferences and wildlife needs  
13                  in doing so. Furthermore, to the maximum extent practical, CPS Energy and  
14                  STEC must avoid adverse environmental influence on sensitive plant and  
15                  animal species and their habitats, as identified by the Texas Parks and  
16                  Wildlife Department and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.
- 17          6.       CPS Energy and STEC must implement erosion control measures as  
18                   appropriate. Erosion control measures may include inspection of the right-  
19                   of-way before and during construction to identify erosion areas and  
20                   implement special precautions as determined necessary. CPS Energy and  
21                   STEC must return each affected landowner's property to its original  
22                   contours and grades unless otherwise agreed to by the landowner or the  
23                   landowner's representative. CPS Energy and STEC are not required to

1 restore the original contours and grades where a different contour or grade  
2 is necessary to ensure the safety or stability of the project's structures or the  
3 safe operation and maintenance of the lines.

4 7. CPS Energy and STEC must use best management practices to minimize the  
5 potential impacts to migratory birds and threatened or endangered species.

6 8. CPS Energy and STEC must cooperate with directly affected landowners to  
7 implement minor deviations from the approved route to minimize the burden  
8 of the transmission line. Any minor deviations from the approved route must  
9 only directly affect landowners who were sent notice of the transmission line  
10 in accordance with 16 TAC § 22.52(a)(3) and landowners that have agreed  
11 to the minor deviation.

12 9. CPS Energy and STEC must report the transmission line approved by the  
13 Commission on its monthly construction progress reports before the start of  
14 construction to reflect the final estimated cost and schedule in accordance  
15 with 16 TAC § 25.83(b). In addition, CPS Energy and STEC must provide  
16 final construction costs, with any necessary explanation for cost variance,  
17 after completion of construction when all costs have been identified.

18  
19 **Q. Does your recommended route differ from the route that CPS Energy and**  
20 **STEC believes best addresses the requirements of PURA and the Commission's**  
21 **rules?**

22 A. Yes. CPS Energy and STEC identified Route U as the route that best addresses the

requirements of PURA and the Commission's rules.<sup>7</sup>

**IV. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

**A. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT**

**Q. Please describe the Proposed Project.**

A. The Proposed Project will consist of constructing a new double-circuit 345-kV transmission line to be built on double-circuit steel monopole structures.<sup>8</sup> The structures will support two 345-kV circuits, with two conductors per phase.<sup>9</sup> The new transmission line will begin at the under-construction CPS Energy Howard Road Station, located approximately three miles northeast of the intersection of SH 16 and SH 1604 in Bexar County, Texas.<sup>10</sup> The new transmission line will then extend between 45 to 59 miles, depending on the route selected, in a generally southerly direction to the existing STEC San Miguel Station which is located approximately four miles east of SH 16 and FM 3387 in Atascosa County, Texas.<sup>11</sup>

**Q. Does CPS Energy's and STEC's application contain a number of proposed alternative routes sufficient to conduct a proper evaluation?**

A. Yes.

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<sup>7</sup> Application at 20.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.* at 6.

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* at 6-7.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.* at 9.

<sup>11</sup> *Id.* at 6-8.

1  
2 **Q. Is the Proposed Project located within the incorporated boundaries of any**  
3 **municipality?**

4 A. Yes. Portions of all of the proposed alternative routes would be constructed within  
5 the incorporated boundaries of the City of San Antonio, Texas.<sup>12</sup> Additionally,  
6 portions of some routes will be constructed within the incorporated boundaries of  
7 the City of Jourdanton, Texas and the City of Pleasanton, Texas.<sup>13</sup>

8  
9 **B. TEXAS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

10 **Q. Does any part of this project lie within the Texas Coastal Management**  
11 **Program (TCMP) boundary?**

12 A. No. The study area is not located within the TCMP boundary.<sup>14</sup>

13  
14 **C. NEED FOR THE PROJECT**

15 **Q. Could you briefly summarize the need for the project?**

16 A. Yes. As stated in the application, the Proposed Project is needed to address thermal  
17 overloads in the south San Antonio area due to new generation south and east of the  
18 city, new 345-kV transmission lines going to the Rio Grande Valley, and generation  
19 retirements in the area. CPS Energy expects these thermal violations to take place  
20 under certain contingencies by summer 2027.<sup>15</sup> To address these issues, CPS Energy

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<sup>12</sup> *Id.* at 6.

<sup>13</sup> *Id.* at 11.

<sup>14</sup> *Id.* at 31.

<sup>15</sup> Application, Attachment 3 at 3-4.



submitted the San Antonio South Reliability Project to the ERCOT Regional Planning Group (RPG) and ERCOT conducted its own independent review and confirmed the reliability issues CPS Energy identified.<sup>16</sup>

**Q. Has an independent organization, as defined in PURA § 39.151, determined that there is a need for the Proposed Project?**

A. Yes. ERCOT recommended the Proposed Project, as part of the CPS San Antonio South Reliability Project.<sup>17</sup> The project was recommended as a Tier 1 transmission project that is critical to the reliability of the ERCOT system pursuant to 16 TAC § 25.101(b)(3)(D) by the ERCOT Regional Planning Group. A copy of ERCOT's independent review, dated June 23, 2023, is included with the application.<sup>18</sup>

**Q. Are the proposed facilities necessary for the service, accommodation, convenience, or safety of the public within the meaning of PURA § 37.056(a)?**

A. Yes. In the ERCOT Independent Review of CPS San Antonio South Reliability Project, ERCOT determined that thermal overloads were present under some contingencies.<sup>19</sup> They evaluated five different options to address those issues.<sup>20</sup> Three of those options were found to satisfy the reliability issues ERCOT

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<sup>16</sup> Application at 14.

<sup>17</sup> Application, Attachment 3 at 16-17.

<sup>18</sup> Application, Attachment 3A.

<sup>19</sup> *Id.* at 6.

<sup>20</sup> *Id.* at 7-9.

identified.<sup>21</sup> The fifth option, which included the Proposed Project, was found to best address those reliability issues.<sup>22</sup>

**D. PROJECT ALTERNATIVES**

**Q. Did CPS Energy and STEC consider distribution and transmission alternatives to the Proposed Project?**

A. ERCOT considered five different system improvement options to address the reliability issues in south San Antonio.<sup>23</sup> ERCOT eventually selected the fifth option, which included the Proposed Project.<sup>24</sup>

**Q. Do you agree that the Proposed Project is the best option when compared to other alternatives?**

A. Yes. ERCOT carefully considered five different options but determined that the three options that resolved the reliability issues included the Proposed Project.<sup>25</sup>

**V. ROUTING**

**A. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Q. What routes do you recommend upon considering all factors, including the factors in PURA § 37.056(c) and 16 TAC § 25.101(b)(3)(B)?**

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<sup>21</sup> *Id.* at 9.

<sup>22</sup> *Id.* at 16-17.

<sup>23</sup> *Id.* at 7-9.

<sup>24</sup> *Id.* at 16-17.

<sup>25</sup> *Id.* at 9.

1 A. Based on my analysis of all the factors that the Commission must consider under  
2 PURA § 37.056 and 16 TAC § 25.101, I recommend that Route M be approved for  
3 the Proposed Project. The basis for my recommendation is discussed in more detail  
4 in the remainder of my testimony.

5  
6 **Q. Which route did CPS Energy and STEC select as the route that best addresses**  
7 **the requirements of PURA and the Commission's rules?**

8 A. CPS Energy and STEC identified Route U as the route that they believe best address  
9 the requirements of PURA and the Commission's rules.<sup>26</sup>

10  
11 **B. COMMUNITY VALUES**

12 **Q. Has CPS Energy and STEC sought input from the local community regarding**  
13 **community values?**

14 A. Yes. CPS Energy and STEC held public meetings as required by 16 TAC  
15 § 22.52(a)(4). There were two public meetings, the first was held on April 2, 2024  
16 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Southside High School in San Antonio, Texas and the  
17 second was held on April 4, 2024 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Pleasanton High School  
18 in Pleasanton, Texas.<sup>27</sup> CPS Energy and STEC sent 2,700 notices of the meeting to  
19 landowners owning property within 500 feet of each of the preliminary alternative  
20 route segment centerlines.<sup>28</sup> CPS Energy and STEC also posted notices of the

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<sup>26</sup> Application at 20.

<sup>27</sup> *Id.* at 21.

<sup>28</sup> Application, Attachment 1 at 6-1.

meeting in the Pleasanton Express on March 27, 2024 and April 3, 2024.<sup>29</sup> Notices of the meeting were also posted in the San Antonio Express News on March 24 and 31, 2024.<sup>30</sup> A total of 192 individuals attended the meetings and CPS Energy and STEC received 99 questionnaire responses during or after the meetings.<sup>31</sup>

**Q. Did members of the community who attended the public meeting express concerns about the Proposed Project?**

A. Overall, the respondents indicated a preference for limiting the impact to residences with that listed as the most important consideration in routing in 43% of questionnaires received by CPS Energy and STEC. Other leading considerations expressed by respondents were impact to trees and other vegetation (7%), visibility of structures (6%), and parallel to existing roadways/highways (6%).<sup>32</sup> Respondents were asked to identify preliminary alternative route segments that they most preferred or least preferred. The segments that received the most positive preference were Segments 107, 62, and 78 and the segments that received the least preference were Segments 46, 64, 12 and 20.<sup>33</sup>

Other general comments were made by respondents stating their concerns about historical sites, health concerns, flooding, property values, future development, and

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<sup>29</sup> *Id.*

<sup>30</sup> *Id.* at 6-1.

<sup>31</sup> *Id.* at 6-2.

<sup>32</sup> *Id.* at 6-2.

<sup>33</sup> *Id.* at 6-3.

1 trees and wildlife.<sup>34</sup>

2  
3 **Q. In your opinion, would construction of the Proposed Project on Route M**  
4 **mitigate the concerns expressed by members of the community at the open**  
5 **houses and in comments by intervenors?**

6 A. To some extent Route M can mitigate these concerns. Route M is the 2<sup>nd</sup> shortest  
7 route and utilizes the second largest amount of parallel and compatible rights-of-  
8 way by percentage of its length, which will hopefully reduce the impact on  
9 residences and limit its visibility.<sup>35</sup> Route M also has the 3<sup>rd</sup> shortest length across  
10 upland woodlands/brushlands and the 7<sup>th</sup> shortest length across bottomland/riparian  
11 woodlands which will hopefully reduce the impact on trees and other vegetation.<sup>36</sup>  
12 Route M does not utilize Segments 46, 64, 12, or 20 which were the segments that  
13 were identified as being least preferred by respondents. However, preliminary  
14 Segment 64 was removed, and preliminary Segment 12 was modified after the open  
15 houses so are currently not utilized by any proposed alternative routes.<sup>37</sup>  
16 I will specifically address additional issues regarding recreational and park areas,  
17 historical values, aesthetic values, environmental integrity, engineering constraints,  
18 costs, moderation of impact on the affected community and landowners, and right-  
19 of-way later in my testimony.

20  

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<sup>34</sup> *Id.* at 6-3, 6-4.

<sup>35</sup> *Id.* at 4-3 to 4-5.

<sup>36</sup> *Id.*

<sup>37</sup> *Id.* at 6-4, 6-5.

1 **Q. Are property values and the impact on future or potential development factors**  
2 **that are considered by the Commission in a CCN proceeding under PURA**  
3 **§ 37.056(c)(4) or in 16 TAC § 25.101(b)(3)(B)?**

4 A. No. PURA and the Commission's rules do not list these two issues as factors that  
5 are to be considered by the Commission in a CCN proceeding. However, these rules  
6 do require consideration of using or paralleling existing right-of-way, which may  
7 minimize concerns about the impact on property values or planned development.

8  
9 **Q. Are there any routes that did not receive specific opposition from intervenors?**

10 A. No.  
11

12 **C. RECREATIONAL AND PARK AREAS**

13 **Q. Are any parks or recreational areas located within 1,000 feet of the centerline**  
14 **of any of the proposed alternative routes or a substation site?**

15 A. Six parks and recreational areas are either crossed or within 1,000 feet of the  
16 centerline of the proposed alternative routes.<sup>38</sup> The number of parks or recreational  
17 areas either crossed or within 1,000 feet of the centerline of the proposed alternative  
18 routes ranges from 0 (Routes B and AH) to 3 (Routes C, H, I, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R,  
19 U, V, W, AB, and AF).<sup>39</sup> Routes range from crossing no parks or recreational areas  
20 (Routes A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, and AH) to crossing 4.54 miles of parks and

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<sup>38</sup> Application at 30.

<sup>39</sup> Application, Attachment 1 at 4-3 to 4-5, 4-33.

recreational areas (Routes AE, AF, AG).<sup>40</sup> Route M crosses two parks or recreational areas, for a total of 2.64 miles, and has one additional park and recreational area within 1,000 feet of its centerline.<sup>41</sup>

**D. HISTORICAL VALUES**

**Q. Are there possible impacts from the Proposed Project on archeological and historical values, including known cultural resources crossed by any of the proposed alternative routes or that are located within 1,000 feet of the centerline of any of the proposed alternative routes?**

A. There are 12 cemeteries located within 1,000 feet of the proposed alternative routes, though none are crossed by any proposed alternative routes.<sup>42</sup> Two of the proposed alternative routes, Routes J and AH, have zero cemeteries within 1,000 feet of their centerlines and two of the proposed alternative routes, Routes P and Q have seven cemeteries within 1,000 feet of their centerlines.<sup>43</sup> The closest any proposed alternative route gets to any cemetery is 154 feet on Routes AE, AF, and AG. Route M has four cemeteries within 1,000 feet of its centerline, with the closest cemetery being the Oak Island Cemetery 214 feet away.<sup>44</sup>

A total of 77 archeological sites and two determined-eligible National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) properties are within 1,000 feet of the proposed alternative

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<sup>40</sup> *Id.* at 4-3 to 4-5.

<sup>41</sup> *Id.*

<sup>42</sup> *Id.* at 4-41 to 4-43.

<sup>43</sup> *Id.* at 4-3 to 4-5.

<sup>44</sup> *Id.* at 4-42, 4-43.

1 routes.<sup>45</sup> Additionally, a total of 26 archeological sites are crossed by proposed  
2 alternative routes rights-of-way.<sup>46</sup> The proposed alternative routes have from seven  
3 historic or archeological site within 1,000 feet of its centerline (for Routes M, N,  
4 and R) to 16 (for Routes B, J, AE, and AG).<sup>47</sup> The proposed alternative routes have  
5 right-of-way that crosses from zero archeological sites (for Routes M, O, and R) to  
6 five archeological sites (for Routes B and J).<sup>48</sup>

7 One of the determined-eligible NRHP properties, the Theodore Herrmann Barn and  
8 Ruins, is approximately 481 feet from Routes A and B and 894 feet from Routes C,  
9 D, E, F, G, H, I, and J.<sup>49</sup> The other determined-eligible NRHP property, the Ruiz-  
10 Herrera House Farm and Ranch, is approximately 755 feet from Route AH.<sup>50</sup>

11 The length of the routes across areas of high archeological/historical site potential  
12 ranges from 29.42 miles for Route W to 40.58 miles for Route J.<sup>51</sup> Route M crosses  
13 31.37 miles of areas of high archeological/historical site potential.<sup>52</sup>

14 If any further archeological or cultural resources are found during construction of  
15 the proposed transmission line, CPS Energy and STEC should immediately cease  
16 work in the vicinity of the archeological or cultural resources and should  
17 immediately notify the Texas Historical Commission.

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<sup>45</sup> *Id.* at 4-35 to 4-36.

<sup>46</sup> *Id.* at 4-42, 4-43.

<sup>47</sup> *Id.* at 4-3 to 4-5.

<sup>48</sup> *Id.*

<sup>49</sup> *Id.* at 4-41.

<sup>50</sup> *Id.*

<sup>51</sup> *Id.* at 4-43.

<sup>52</sup> *Id.* at 4-3 to 4-5.



**E. AESTHETIC VALUES**

**Q. In your opinion, which of the proposed alternative routes would result in a negative impact on aesthetic values, and which portions of the study area will be affected?**

A. In my opinion, all of the proposed alternative routes would result in a negative impact on aesthetic values, some routes more than others, depending on the visibility from homes and public roadways. Temporary effects would include views of the actual transmission line construction (e.g. assembly and erection of the structures) and of any clearing of right-of-way. Permanent effects would involve the visibility of the structures and the lines. I therefore conclude that aesthetic values would be impacted throughout the study area, and that these temporary and permanent negative aesthetic effects will occur on any proposed alternative routes approved by the Commission. Route M is the second shortest route, at 46.99 miles, which will hopefully mitigate its impact to some degree.<sup>53</sup>

**F. ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY**

**Q. Please provide a general description of the area traversed by the proposed alternative routes.**

A. The area traversed by the project is within the Blackland Prairies and Interior Coastal Plains physiographic regions.<sup>54</sup> The Blackland Prairies generally consists of

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<sup>53</sup> *Id.*

<sup>54</sup> *Id.* at 3-1.

1 gently rolling terrain over chalk and marl bedrock.<sup>55</sup> The Interior Coastal Plains  
2 generally consists of alternating belts of resistant uncemented sands among weaker  
3 shale. The study area elevation generally decreases from northwest to southeast  
4 ranging from roughly 800 to 400 feet above mean sea level.<sup>56</sup>

5  
6 **Q. What was involved in your analysis of the environmental impact of the**  
7 **Proposed Project?**

8 A. I reviewed the information provided in the application and the EA, the direct  
9 testimonies and statements of position of the intervenors, and responses to requests  
10 for information.

11  
12 **Q. Based on your review of the information identified above, in your opinion, will**  
13 **the Proposed Project present a significant negative impact to environmental**  
14 **integrity?**

15 A. No. Transmission lines do not often create many long-term impacts on soils. Most  
16 of those impacts will be during initial construction and would be erosion and soil  
17 compaction; however, CPS Energy and STEC will employ erosion control during  
18 initial construction including development of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention  
19 Plan to minimize impacts.<sup>57</sup>

20 Primary impacts on vegetation would be the result of site preparation and clearing

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<sup>55</sup> *Id.*

<sup>56</sup> *Id.*

<sup>57</sup> *Id.* at 4-19.

1 of existing woody vegetation in the right-of-way,<sup>58</sup> further disturbances would then  
2 occur during maintenance activities.<sup>59</sup> CPS Energy and STEC will attempt to  
3 minimize adverse impacts to vegetation and retain existing ground cover where  
4 possible, and routed the project with consideration to avoid wooded areas.<sup>60</sup> The  
5 length of upland woodlands/brushlands along the right-of-way of the proposed  
6 routes ranges from 17.23 miles for Route T to 22.84 miles for Route E.<sup>61</sup> The length  
7 of bottomland/riparian woodlands along the right-of-way of the proposed routes  
8 ranges from 2.90 miles for Route AA to 6.45 miles for Route C.<sup>62</sup> The length of  
9 upland woodlands/brushlands along the right-of-way of Route M is 18.10 miles, the  
10 3<sup>rd</sup> least amount, and the length of bottomland/riparian woodlands along the right-  
11 of-way of Route M is 3.64 miles, the 7<sup>th</sup> least amount.<sup>63</sup>

12 The length across National Wetland Inventory (NWI) mapped wetlands ranges from  
13 Routes A, C, H, I, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z, AA, AB, AC,  
14 AD, AE, AF, and AG which do not cross any wetlands at all, to Routes B, D, E, F,  
15 G, J and AH which cross 0.02 miles of NWI mapped wetlands.<sup>64</sup> CPS Energy and  
16 STEC will attempt to use erosion controls, avoidance, and mitigation measures to  
17 minimize impacts to aquatic systems should a route be selected which crosses

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<sup>58</sup> *Id.* at 4-21.

<sup>59</sup> *Id.*

<sup>60</sup> *Id.*

<sup>61</sup> *Id.* at 4-3 to 4-5.

<sup>62</sup> *Id.*

<sup>63</sup> *Id.*

<sup>64</sup> *Id.*

1 wetland areas.<sup>65</sup>

2 CPS Energy and STEC identified three plant and 34 animal species that are federal  
3 or state listed threatened or endangered species that may occur within Bexar and  
4 Atascosa Counties.<sup>66</sup> However, CPS Energy and STEC do not anticipate the  
5 proposed project to have adverse effects on federally listed threatened or endangered  
6 plant species and none of the proposed alternative routes cross known critical habitat  
7 of federally listed or endangered species.<sup>67</sup> Field surveys for potential habitat for  
8 federally protected species will be conducted by CPS Energy and STEC once a  
9 proposed alternative route is selected.<sup>68</sup>

10 However, construction of some of the proposed alternative routes could, at some  
11 locations, present a negative impact on the environment, particularly in sensitive  
12 areas such as wetlands, riparian areas, and woodlands.

13  
14 **Q. In your opinion, how would construction of the Proposed Project on Route M**  
15 **compare from an environmental perspective to construction on the other**  
16 **routes?**

17 A. Route M has a length of upland woodlands/brushlands along the right-of-way of  
18 18.10 miles, the 3<sup>rd</sup> least amount, which is 0.87 miles longer than the least amount  
19 Route T.<sup>69</sup> Route M has a length of bottomland/riparian woodlands along the right-

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<sup>65</sup> *Id.* at 4-20.

<sup>66</sup> *Id.* at 4-23 to 4-25.

<sup>67</sup> *Id.*

<sup>68</sup> *Id.*

<sup>69</sup> *Id.* at 4-3 to 4-5.

of-way of 3.64 miles, the 7<sup>th</sup> least amount, which is 0.74 longer than the least amount  
Route AA.<sup>70</sup> Route M crosses no potential wetlands.<sup>71</sup>

**Q. Do you conclude that Route M is acceptable from an environmental and land use perspective?**

A. Yes, however I do not think any of the routes in this project are unacceptable from an environmental and land use perspective. I conclude that Route M is acceptable from this perspective.

**G. ENGINEERING CONSTRAINTS**

**Q. Are there any possible engineering constraints associated with this project?**

A. There are no specific engineering constraints that are not present in a usual transmission line project. In my opinion, all of the possible constraints can be adequately addressed by using design and construction practices and techniques that are usual and customary in the electric utility industry.

**Q. Are there any special circumstances in this project that would warrant an extension beyond the seven-year limit for the energization of the lines?**

A. No, CPS Energy and STEC have not described any special circumstances that would merit an extension of this limit for this project.

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<sup>70</sup> *Id.*

<sup>71</sup> *Id.*

**H. COSTS**

**Q. What are CPS Energy's and STEC's estimated costs of constructing the Proposed Project on each of the proposed alternative routes?**

A. CPS Energy's and STEC's Attachment 2 of the Application lists estimated costs of constructing each proposed alternative route. The table below shows the total estimated cost for each of the routes from least expensive to the most expensive. Each listed cost includes \$3,480,000 for modifications to the under-construction CPS Howard Road Station and \$5,000,000 for modifications to the existing STEC San Miguel Station.<sup>72</sup>

<u>Route</u>	<u>Estimated Cost of the Route and Substation Upgrades</u>
N	\$274,601,000.00
R	\$275,390,000.00
<b>M</b>	<b>\$276,258,000.00</b>
T	\$284,492,000.00
AB	\$285,232,000.00
Q	\$286,928,000.00
Z	\$287,300,000.00
L	\$289,764,000.00
AC	\$289,787,000.00
Y	\$289,833,000.00
O	\$290,180,000.00
U	\$293,356,000.00
AD	\$293,554,000.00
AA	\$294,443,000.00
I	\$295,705,000.00
W	\$295,819,000.00
S	\$297,629,000.00
K	\$302,761,000.00
P	\$303,129,000.00
V	\$304,289,000.00
X	\$308,218,000.00
AF	\$310,425,000.00
C	\$312,318,000.00

<sup>72</sup> Application, Attachment 2.

H	\$316,234,000.00
AG	\$316,754,000.00
F	\$317,709,000.00
G	\$320,916,000.00
A	\$329,450,000.00
AH	\$333,226,000.00
AE	\$333,447,000.00
D	\$337,726,000.00
E	\$338,936,000.00
J	\$355,662,000.00
B	\$390,539,000.00

As the table illustrates, Route M is the 3<sup>rd</sup> least expensive proposed alternative route.

**Q. Could you briefly discuss the routes that are less expensive and why Route M is still preferred?**

A. Yes. The two less expensive routes have more habitable structures within 500 feet of their centerlines than Route M.<sup>73</sup> Route M makes better use of compatible right-of-way as a percentage of its total length than Routes N and R.<sup>74</sup> Route M is shorter than Route N.<sup>75</sup> Route M has less of its length across upland woodlands/brushlands than Routes N and R.<sup>76</sup>

**Q. Do CPS Energy's and STEC's estimated costs of constructing the Proposed Project appear to be reasonable?**

A. After reviewing CPS Energy's and STEC's estimates, the estimated costs for the

<sup>73</sup> Application, Attachment 1 at 4-3 to 4-5.

<sup>74</sup> *Id.*

<sup>75</sup> *Id.*

<sup>76</sup> *Id.*

1 proposed alternative routes are about what I would expect for a double-circuit 345-  
2 kV monopole project in this terrain. However, the reasonableness of the final  
3 installed cost of the completed project will be determined at a future date in the  
4 course of a transmission cost-of-service proceeding.

5  
6 **I. MODERATION OF IMPACT ON THE AFFECTED COMMUNITY AND**  
7 **LANDOWNERS**

8 **Q. Do the Commission's rules address routing alternatives intended to moderate**  
9 **the impact on landowners?**

10 A. Yes. Under 16 TAC § 25.101(b)(3)(B), "the line shall be routed to the extent  
11 reasonable to moderate the impact on the affected community and landowners  
12 unless grid reliability and security dictate otherwise."

13  
14 **Q. Subsequent to filing their application, have CPS Energy and STEC made or**  
15 **proposed any routing adjustments to accommodate landowners?**

16 A. No, not to my knowledge.

17  
18 **Q. Have CPS Energy and STEC proposed any specific means by which it will**  
19 **moderate the impact of the Proposed Project on landowners or the affected**  
20 **community other than adherence to the Commission's orders, the use of good**  
21 **utility practices, acquisition of and adherence to the terms of all required**  
22 **permits, and what you have discussed above?**

23 A. No, not to my knowledge.



**J. RIGHT-OF-WAY**

**Q. Do the Commission's rules address routing along existing corridors?**

A. Yes. The following factors are to be considered under 16 TAC § 25.101(b)(3)(B):

- (i) whether the routes utilize existing compatible rights-of-way, including the use of vacant positions on existing multiple-circuit transmission lines;
- (ii) whether the routes parallel existing compatible rights-of-way;
- (iii) whether the routes parallel property lines or other natural or cultural features;
- and
- (iv) whether the routes conform with the policy of prudent avoidance.

**1. USE AND PARALLELING OF EXISTING, COMPATIBLE RIGHT-OF-WAY (INCLUDING APPARENT PROPERTY BOUNDARIES)**

**Q. Describe how CPS Energy and STEC propose to parallel or utilize compatible rights-of-way for the Proposed Project.**

A. Each proposed alternative route parallels apparent property boundaries and parallels or utilizes existing compatible rights-of-way. The percentage of Route M's length that parallels or utilizes existing compatible right-of-way and apparent property boundaries is approximately 56.59% of its length. The table below summarizes the overall length, the length parallel to compatible rights-of-way or to property boundaries, and the total percentage of parallel rights-of-way used by the proposed alternative routes. Existing pipeline rights-of-way are not listed as compatible rights-of-way under 16 TAC § 25.101(b)(3)(B).

<u>Route</u>	<u>Length (Miles)</u>	<u>Length Parallel to Right-of-Way (Miles)</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
L	49.02	28.20	57.53%
M	<b>46.99</b>	<b>26.59</b>	<b>56.59%</b>
U	49.15	27.74	56.44%
AF	50.66	28.19	55.65%
W	49.44	26.66	53.92%
AH	56.19	30.16	53.68%
N	47.47	25.41	53.53%
J	58.92	31.39	53.28%
V	50.47	26.14	51.79%
E	55.81	28.83	51.66%
G	52.23	26.74	51.20%
X	50.85	25.49	50.13%
K	49.78	24.13	48.47%
AB	49.88	23.80	47.71%
D	55.95	26.38	47.15%
R	45.32	21.33	47.07%
AG	50.64	23.71	46.82%
H	50.05	22.90	45.75%
P	50.48	22.82	45.21%
O	47.60	21.49	45.15%
A	47.77	21.48	44.97%
B	56.67	25.48	44.96%
Y	48.87	21.96	44.94%
Q	48.23	21.66	44.91%
Z	49.05	21.86	44.57%
I	50.81	22.60	44.48%
F	53.42	22.99	43.04%
AA	49.34	20.79	42.14%
AE	51.03	20.93	41.02%
T	47.90	18.97	39.60%
C	50.71	19.89	39.22%
S	49.05	19.23	39.20%
AC	48.35	18.88	39.05%
AD	48.64	17.80	36.60%

As the chart shows, Route M is the 2nd shortest route and has the 2nd highest percentage of compatible right-of-way compared to the other proposed alternative routes.

**Q. Could you briefly discuss the routes that are shorter and utilize a higher percentage of compatible right-of-way and why Route M is still preferred?**

A. Yes. Route M is less expensive than Route L.<sup>77</sup> Route M is shorter than Route L.<sup>78</sup> Route M has fewer habitable structures within 500 feet of its centerline than Route L.<sup>79</sup> Route M has less of its length across upland woodlands/brushlands and bottomland/riparian woodlands than Route L.<sup>80</sup> Route M crosses no recorded cultural resource sites while Route L crosses 3.<sup>81</sup>

**2. PARALLELING OF NATURAL OR CULTURAL FEATURES**

**Q. Describe how CPS Energy and STEC propose to parallel natural or cultural features for the Proposed Project.**

A. None of the proposed alternative routes parallel natural or cultural features. This is favorable because paralleling such features could negatively impact them.

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<sup>77</sup> Application, Attachment 2.

<sup>78</sup> Application, Attachment 1 at 4-3 to 4-5.

<sup>79</sup> *Id.*

<sup>80</sup> *Id.*

<sup>81</sup> *Id.*

**K. PRUDENT AVOIDANCE**

**Q. Define prudent avoidance.**

A. Prudent avoidance is defined by 16 TAC § 25.101(a)(6) as follows: “The limiting of exposures to electric and magnetic fields that can be avoided with reasonable investments of money and effort.”

**Q. How can exposure to electric and magnetic fields be limited when routing transmission lines?**

A. Primarily by proposing alternative routes that would minimize, to the extent reasonable, the number of habitable structures located in close proximity to the routes.

**Q. How many habitable structures are located in close proximity to each of the proposed alternative routes?**

A. The table below ranks the number of habitable structures that are within 500 feet of the centerline of the proposed alternative routes in this project.<sup>82</sup>

<u>Route</u>	<u>Number of habitable structures</u>
X	40
Y	40
V	41
W	41
AA	41
AD	44
U	50
Z	50
AC	53

<sup>82</sup> *See id.*

AB	62
T	68
Q	73
S	75
O	76
<b>M</b>	<b>77</b>
P	77
N	78
R	81
K	84
L	88
I	102
C	122
A	130
J	133
AH	137
D	144
E	144
B	150
F	153
AE	158
G	161
H	170
AG	176
AF	179

1        There are 77 habitable structures that are within 500 feet of the centerline of Route  
2        M which is tied for the 15<sup>th</sup> least of any route.

3  
4        **Q.        Could you briefly discuss the routes with an equal or fewer number of impacted**  
5        **habitable structures and why Route M is still preferred?**

6        A.        Yes. Routes M is shorter, less expensive, and makes better use of compatible right-  
7        of-way as a percentage of its length than Routes X, Y, V, W, AA, AD, U, Z, AC,  
8        AB, T, Q, S, and O.<sup>83</sup> Route M has less of its length across upland

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<sup>83</sup> Application, Attachment 2; Application, Attachment 1 at 4-3 to 4-5.

woodlands/brushlands than Routes X, Y, V, W, AA, D, U, Z, AC, AB, Q, S, and O.<sup>84</sup> Route M has less of its length across bottomland/riparian woodlands than Route W, D, U, Z, AC, AB, T, Q, S, and O.<sup>85</sup> Route M crosses no recorded cultural resource sites while Routes X, Y, V, W, AA, AD, U, Z, AC, AB, T, Q, and O all cross at least 1.<sup>86</sup>

**Q. Do you conclude that CPS Energy's and STEC's proposed alternative routes have minimized, to the extent reasonable, the number of habitable structures located in close proximity to the routes?**

A. CPS Energy and STEC have designed its proposed segments in such a way as to minimize, to the extent reasonable, the number of habitable structures located in close proximity to the routes. However, some routes perform better in this area than others.

## **VI. CONCLUSION**

**Q. In your opinion, is any one of the proposed alternative routes better than all of the other routes in all respects?**

A. No.

**Q. If no proposed alternative route is better than all of the others in all respects,**

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<sup>84</sup> Application, Attachment 1 at 4-3 to 4-5.

<sup>85</sup> *Id.*

<sup>86</sup> *Id.*

1       **why have you recommended Route M instead of the other proposed alternative**  
2       **routes?**

3       A.     In summary, after analyzing all the factors that the Commission must consider under  
4       PURA § 37.056 and 16 TAC § 25.101, I conclude that Route M best meets the  
5       criteria of PURA and the Commission's rules because:

6               (1) Route M is the 3<sup>rd</sup> least expensive proposed route at \$276,258,000.00, a  
7               \$1,657,000.00 or 0.60% difference from the least expensive route;

8               (2) Route M is the 2<sup>nd</sup> shortest route at 46.99 miles, a 1.67 mile or 3.68%  
9               difference from the shortest route;

10              (3) Route M utilizes or is parallel to compatible rights-of-way or to property  
11              boundaries for the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest percentage of its total length at 57.53%, a  
12              0.94% difference from the shortest route;

13              (4) Route M has a length of 18.10 miles across upland  
14              woodlands/brushlands, a 0.87 mile or 5.05% difference from the shortest  
15              route;

16              (5) Route M has a length of 3.64 miles across bottomland/riparian  
17              woodlands, a 0.74 mile or 25.52% difference from the shortest route;

18              (6) Route M does not cross any recorded cultural resource sites.

19       Route M, like all of the proposed alternative routes, has some advantages and some  
20       disadvantages as I have discussed in my testimony. However, I consider Route M  
21       overall to have the most advantages and to be superior to the other proposed  
22       alternative routes.

1    **Q.     Does this conclude your testimony?**

2    A.     Yes



Attachment JP-1

Qualifications of John Poole

**JOHN R. POOLE, P.E.**

Texas Board of Professional Engineers, Texas P. E. License #133982

**EDUCATION**

**B.A.,** History/Mathematics, Southwestern University, 2000

**BSEE,** The University of Texas Cockrell School of Engineering, 2014  
Grade Point Average 3.32

Technical Cores: Energy Systems and Renewable Energy, Electronics and Integrated Circuits

Related Courses: Circuit Theory, Linear Systems & Signals, Embedded Systems, Software Design, Vector Calculus, Electronic Circuits, Power Systems, Discrete Mathematics, Solid-state Electronic Devices, Electromagnetic Engineering, Power Electronics Laboratory, Automatic Control, Fundamentals of Electronic Circuits, Engineering Design, Power Systems, Power Quality & Harmonics, Digital Logic Design, Analog Integrated Circuit Design

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS**

**Engineer**

**2/15-Present**

Responsible for analyzing and providing recommendations regarding issues related to electric facility planning, construction, operations, and maintenance.

**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**

**Solar powered three-phase motor drive/Dr. Ross Baldick**

**2/14-12/14**

Worked in a five-person team to design and implement a solar-powered motor system with a Maximum PowerPoint Tracker and a three-phase H-Bridge. Personal responsibility included project National Electrical Code (NEC) compliance.

**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**

**Solar Vehicle Team (UTSVT)/Dr. Gary Hallock**

**9/14-12/14**

Coordinated team of 5 for the design, lay-out, and wiring of solar array for the new UTSVT vehicle. Research and execution of solar cell lamination techniques.

**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**

**12/04-9/14**

**Administrative Associate**

Managed billing and collections for two departments independently.  
Provided timely and efficient customer service to University cell phone users.  
Worked as part of Returned Checks team in Student Accounts Receivable, managing high call volumes and communicating effectively with team.

Attachment JP-2

List of Previous Testimony

*Application of LCRA Transmission Services Corporation to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the Proposed Blumenthal Substation and 138-kV Transmission Line in Blanco, Gillespie, and Kendall Counties, SOAH Docket No. 473-15-1589, PUC Docket No. 43599*

*Application of Brazos Electric Power Cooperative Inc. to Amend a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for a 138-kV Transmission Line in Denton County, SOAH Docket No. 473-15-2855, PUC Docket No. 44060*

*Application of Entergy Texas, Inc. for Approval to Amend its Distribution Cost Recovery Factor, SOAH Docket No. 473-16-0076, PUC Docket No. 45083*

*Application of Southwestern Public Service Company for Authority to Change Rates, SOAH Docket No. 473-16-2520, PUC Docket No. 45524*

*Application of Southwestern Electric Power Company for Approval of a Distribution Cost Recovery Factor, SOAH Docket No. 473-16-3306, PUC Docket No. 45712*

*Application of LCRA Transmission Services Corporation to Amend a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the Round Rock-Leander 138-kV Transmission Line in Williamson County, SOAH Docket No. 473-16-4342, PUC Docket No. 45866*

*Joint Application of AEP Texas North Company and Electric Transmission Texas, LLC to Amend their Certificates of Convenience and Necessity for the AEP TNC Heartland to ETT Yellowjacket 138-kV Transmission Line in McCulloch and Menard Counties, SOAH Docket No. 473-17-0907, PUC Docket No. 46234*

*Application of Oncor Electric Delivery Company, LLC to Amend a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for a 345/138-kV Transmission Line in Loving, Reeves, and Ward Counties, SOAH Docket No. 473-18-0373, PUC Docket No. 47368*

*Application of Rayburn Country Electric Cooperative, Inc. to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for a 138-kV Transmission Line in Fannin County, Texas, SOAH Docket No. 473-18-0582, PUC Docket No. 47448*

*Application for the City of Lubbock Through Lubbock Power and Light for Authority to Connect a Portion of its System with The Electric Reliability Council of Texas, PUC Docket No. 47576*

*Application of Rayburn Country Electric Cooperative, Inc. to Amend a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the Lower Bois d'Arc Water Treatment Line Project in Fannin and Hunt Counties, Texas, SOAH Docket No. 473-18-2500, PUC Docket No. 47884*

*Application of Electric Transmission Texas, LLC to Amend Certificates of Convenience and Necessity for the Stewart Road 345-kV Transmission Line in Hidalgo County, SOAH Docket No. 473-18-3045, PUC Docket No. 47973*

*Application of Oncor Electric Delivery Company, LLC to Amend a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for a 345-kV Transmission Line in Crane, Ector, Loving, Reeves, Ward, and Winkler Counties, Texas, SOAH Docket No. 473-18-2800, PUC Docket No. 48095*

*Joint Application of Rayburn Country Electric Cooperative and Lone Star Transmission LLC to Transfer Load to ERCOT, and For Sale of Transmission Facilities and Transfer of Certification Rights in Henderson and Van Zandt Counties, Texas, PUC Docket No. 48400*

*Application of South Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc. to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the Proposed Palmas to East Rio Hondo 138-kV Transmission Line in Cameron County, Texas, PUC Docket No. 48490*

*Application of CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC to Amend a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for a 345-kV Transmission Line in Brazoria, Matagorda, and Wharton Counties, SOAH Docket No. 473-19-1857, PUC Docket No. 48629*

*Joint Application of Sharyland Utilities, LP and City of Lubbock, Acting by and Through Lubbock Power & Light, for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the Proposed Wadsworth to New Oliver to Farmland 345-kV Transmission Line in Lubbock and Lynn Counties and the Proposed Southeast to New Oliver to Oliver 115-kV Transmission Line in Lubbock County, SOAH Docket No. 473-19-2405, PUC Docket No. 48909*

*Application of AEP Texas Inc. to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the Three Rivers to Borghum to Tuleta 138-kV Transmission Line in Live Oak and Bee Counties, SOAH Docket No. 473-19-5729, PUC Docket No. 49347*

*Application of AEP Texas Inc. for Authority to Change Rates, SOAH Docket No. 473-19-4421, PUC Docket No. 49494*

*Application of LCRA Transmission Services Corporation to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the Proposed Mountain Home 138-kV Transmission Line Projects in Gillespie, Kerr, and Kimble Counties, Texas, SOAH Docket No. 473-19-6766, PUC Docket No. 49523*

*Application of Southwestern Public Service Company for Authority to Change Rates, SOAH Docket No. 473-19-6677, PUC Docket No. 49831*

*Complaint of Terry and Sara Faubion against Texas-New Mexico Power Company, SOAH Docket No. 473-20-1773, PUC Docket No. 50095*

*Complaint of Jaime Leonardo Sloss against AEP Texas Inc., SOAH Docket No. 473-20-3116, PUC Docket No. 50284*

*Application of Rayburn Country Electric, Inc. to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the New Hope 138-kV Transmission Line in Collin County, SOAH Docket No. 473-20-4592, PUC Docket No. 50812*

*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, SOAH Docket No. 473-21-0247, PUC Docket 51023*

*Application of the City of Lubbock, Acting By and Through Lubbock Power & Light, to Establish Initial Wholesale Transmission Rates and Tariffs, SOAH Docket No. 473-21-0043, PUC Docket No. 51100*

*Application of Southwestern Electric Power Company for Authority to Change Rates, SOAH Docket No. 473-21-0538, PUC Docket 51415*

*Application of El Paso Electric Company to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the Pine-to-Seabeck 115-kV Transmission Line in El Paso County, SOAH Docket No. 473-21-1200, PUC Docket 51476*

*Application of El Paso Electric Company to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the Seabeck-to-San Felipe 115-kV Transmission Line in El Paso County, SOAH Docket No. 473-21-1201, PUC Docket 51480*

*Application of Sharyland Utilities, L.L.C. for Authority to Change Rates, SOAH Docket No. 473-21-1535, PUC Docket No. 51611*

*Application of AEP Texas Inc. to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the Angstrom-to-Grissom Double-Circuit 345-kV Transmission Line in Bee, Refugio, and San Patricio Counties, SOAH Docket No. 473-21-2084, PUC Docket 51912*

*Application of El Paso Electric Company for Advanced Metering System (AMS) Deployment Plan, AMS Surcharge, and Non-Standard Metering Service Fees, SOAH Docket No. 473-21-2607, PUC Docket 52040*

*Application of Entergy Texas, Inc. to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the Millbend 138-kV Transmission Line Project in Montgomery County, SOAH Docket No. 473-22-0126, PUC Docket 52241*

*Application of Entergy Texas, Inc. to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the Castle 230-kV Transmission Line Project in Montgomery and Grimes Counties, SOAH Docket No. 473-22-0127, PUC Docket 52304*

*Application of Oncor Electric Delivery LLC to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the Old Country Switch 345-kV Tap Transmission Line in Ellis County, SOAH Docket No. 473-22-0768, PUC Docket 52455*

*Application of Southwestern Public Service Company to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to Convert Harrington Generating Station from Coal to Natural Gas, SOAH Docket No. 473-22-1073, PUC Docket 52485*

*Application of AEP Texas, Inc. to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the Angstrom to Naismith Double-Circuit 345-kV Transmission Line in San Patricio County, SOAH Docket No. 473-22-0493, PUC Docket 52656*

*Application of Oncor Electric Delivery Company, LLC to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the Proposed Ivy League 138-Kilovolt Transmission Line Project in Collin County, SOAH Docket No. 473-22-2156, PUC Docket 53053*

*Application of Oncor Electric Delivery Company, LLC to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the Old Country Switch 345-kV Tap Transmission Line in Ellis County, SOAH Docket No. 473-22-0768, PUC Docket 52455*

*Application of AEP Texas, Inc. to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the Goodlett-to-Quanah 138-kV Transmission Line in Hardeman County, SOAH Docket No. 473-22-2155, PUC Docket 52921*

*Application of Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC for Authority to Change Rates, SOAH Docket No. 473-22-2695, PUC Docket 53601*

*Application of Southwestern Electric Power Company for Approval to Amend its Transmission Cost Recovery Factor, SOAH Docket No. 473-23-04811, PUC Docket 54040*

*Joint Application of AEP Texas Inc. and Electric Transmission Texas, LLC to Amend their Certificates of Convenience and Necessity for the Del Sol-To-Frontera 345-kV Transmission Line Project in Starr and Hidalgo Counties, SOAH Docket No. 473-23-20831, PUC Docket 55001*

*Application of Oncor Electric Delivery LLC to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the Ramhorn Hill-Dunham 345-kV Transmission Line in Denton and Wise Counties, SOAH Docket No. 473-23-21216, PUC Docket 55067*

*Joint Application of LCRA Transmission Services Corporation and Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC to Amend their Certificates of Convenience and Necessity for the North McCamey to Sand Lake 345-kV Transmission Line in Crane, Crockett, Pecos, Reeves, Upton, and Ward Counties, SOAH Docket No. 473-23-22133, PUC Docket 55121*

*Application of Centerpoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for a 138-kV Transmission Line in Chambers County, SOAH Docket 473-23-26934, PUC Docket 55365*

*Application of Oncor Electric Delivery LLC to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the Exchange Switch-Keller Magnolia Substation 138-kV Transmission Line in Tarrant County, SOAH Docket 473-24-02657, PUC Docket 55574*

*Application of AEP Texas Inc. to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the Las Milpas-to-Stewart Road 138-kV Cut-In to Lion Substation Double-Circuit Transmission Line in Hidalgo County, SOAH Docket 473-24-06566, PUC Docket 54955*

*Application of LCRA Transmission Services Corporation for Authority to Change Rates, SOAH Docket 473-24-09296, PUC Docket 55867*

*Application of Centerpoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC for Authority to Change Rates, SOAH Docket 473-24-13232, PUC Docket 56211*

*Application of Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC for Approval of a System Resiliency Plan, SOAH Docket 473-24-18029, PUC Docket 56545*

*Application of Entergy Texas, Inc. for Approval of a System Resiliency Plan, SOAH 473-24-20657, PUC Docket 56735*

*Complaint of Doug and Linda Crosson, Bo and Trish Lebo, and Bruce and Ann Ahlhorn against Pedernales Electric Cooperative, Inc., SOAH 473-24-17515, PUC Docket 50065*