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**JOINT 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**

I. INTRODUCTION

Selecting Route N-AB would reflect the collective will of the local community that will be impacted by this transmission line. Additionally, it would avoid the serious and disproportional burdens that would fall on certain landowners, including Southwest Landowners group member Wayne Schuchart, if certain other routes were selected. As a result, Route N-AB is the obvious choice.

A. The Commission should select Route N-AB because it is *unopposed*.

¹ The only party to file testimony or a statement of position opposing any of the links on Route N-AB, the Steinle Group, filed an updated version of their testimony withdrawing their opposition to that route. *See* Steinle Group Exhibit 2, Modified Direct Testimony of James R. Andrus.

seriously when considering where to put transmission lines, and this case should be no exception. In this proceeding, the Commission has been presented with an *unopposed* routing option in Route N-AB. Only one party, the Steinle Group, opposed any of the segments included in Route N-AB in testimony or a statement of position,² and upon further consideration, Steinle Group member James R. Andrus subsequently filed supplemental testimony withdrawing that opposition.³ Given that Route N-AB is unopposed, selecting that route would be in line with the Commission's traditional respect for the local community's values and preferences with respect to transmission line placement.

B. The Commission should select Route N-AB because statistically, it performs well compared to the other proposed routes.

In total, there were 36 proposed routes presented in this proceeding. Among those routes, six were designated as "routes of interest" because they received direct or conditional support from one or more parties in testimony or a statement of position.⁴ As noted above, Route N-AB was the only one of the 36 proposed routes that is not opposed by any party. That unopposed route also performs relatively well compared to the other routes on the factors that the Commission has traditionally considered when evaluating transmission line CCNs. Route N-AB's performance compared to the other routes is laid out in detail below:

- **Length:**⁵
 - Proposed routes ranged from 45.32 miles long (Route R) to 58.92 miles long (Route J).
 - Route N-AB is 50.12 miles long, which is just 4.8 miles longer than the shortest proposed route (Route R) and just 2.65 miles longer than the shortest of the six "routes of interest" (Route N).
- **Cost:**⁶
 - Proposed routes ranged in cost from \$274.601 million (Route N) to \$390.539 million (Route B).
 - Route N-AB is estimated to cost \$280.181 million. Route N-AB is the *fourth*

² Steinle Group Exhibit 1, Direct Testimony of James R. Andrus.

³ Steinle Group Exhibit 2, Modified Direct Testimony of James R. Andrus.

⁴ See CPS Energy-STEC Exhibit 14 (Updated). The "routes of interest" include Routes M, N, U, Y, N-AB, and U-Alt-2. *Id.*

⁵ See CPS Energy-STEC Exhibit 9, Rebuttal Testimony of Denise M. Williams at DMW-1R, Amended Table 4-1.

⁶ See CPS Energy-STEC Exhibit 10, Rebuttal Testimony and Exhibit of Scott D. Lyssy, P.E. at Exhibit SDL-1R at Table 2.

least expensive of the 36 proposed routes.

- Route N-AB is \$5.58 million, or just **2.03%** more expensive than the cheapest proposed route (Route N).
- **Habitable Structures:**⁷
 - Proposed routes passed within 500 feet of between 41 habitable structures (Routes X and Y) and 179 habitable structures (Route AF).
 - Route N-AB passes within 500 feet of 74 habitable structures, and ranks 13th out of the 36 proposed routes with respect to its proximity to habitable structures.
- **Paralleling:**⁸
 - Proposed routes paralleled compatible rights-of-way or property lines for between 58% (Route L) and 37% (Route AD) of their total length.
 - Route N-AB parallels compatible rights-of-way or property lines for 54% of its length. This ranks 9th out of the 36 proposed routes.

As demonstrated above, Route N-AB performs relatively well on the factors that the Commission has traditionally placed the most weight on when selecting transmission line routes. That performance, combined with the fact that Route N-AB is *unopposed*, supports the Commission selecting Route N-AB.

C. The Commission should select Route N-AB because doing so will avoid placing a disproportionate burden on certain landowners who are participating in this proceeding.

1. Any route that includes Segment 74, including Routes M and N from among the “routes of interest,” would disproportionately impact Southwest Landowners group member Wayne Schuchart and should not be selected.

In the event the Commission decides not to adopt Route N-AB, it should avoid selecting any route that includes Segment 74, including Routes M and N from among the six “routes of interest.” This is because Segment 74 would disproportionately burden Southwest Landowners group member Wayne Schuchart. As explained in Mr. Schuchart’s testimony, he owns or controls two *contiguous* tracts of property that make up a total of about 235 acres of ranchland (property IDs circled in yellow on Figure 1 below).⁹ Segment 74 would travel along the property line

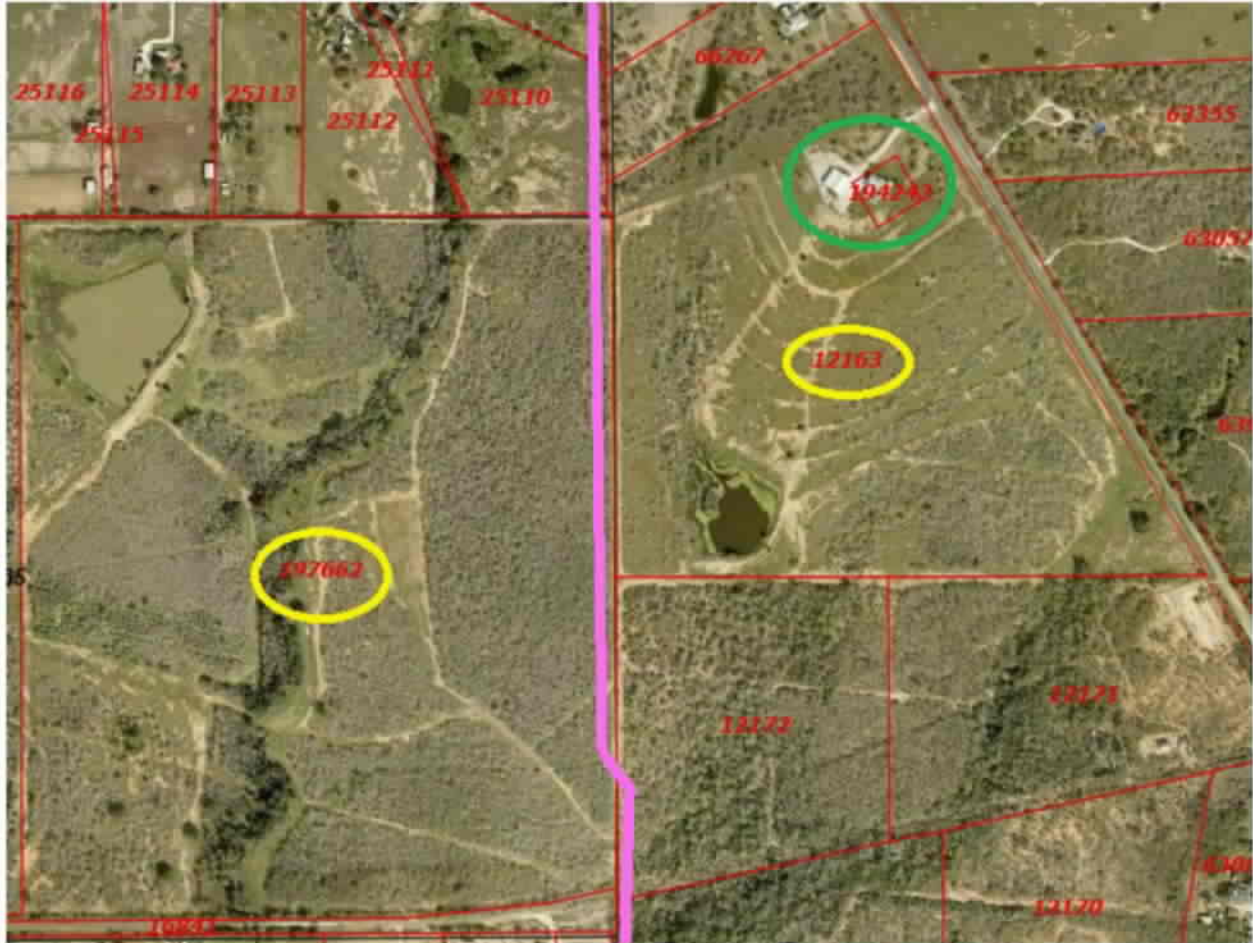
⁷ See CPS Energy-STEC Exhibit 9, Rebuttal Testimony of Denise M. Williams at DMW-1R, Amended Table 4-1.

⁸ See *id.*

⁹ Southwest Landowners’ Exhibit 2 - Direct Testimony of Wayne Schuchart at 1-2.

between those two parcels and *bisect* Mr. Schuchart's properties. The approximate path of Segment 74 is shown by the purple line on Figure 1.

FIGURE 1: Impact of Segment 74 on Mr. Wayne Schuchart's Properties



Making matters worse, one of Mr. Schuchart's tracts contains a smaller parcel that includes a home where Mr. Schuchart's son and his family reside full time (green circle on Figure 1 above).¹⁰ That house currently enjoys a beautiful view to the west, as it is on a hill that slopes down to the creek bed that is visible on Figure 1.¹¹ That view would be dominated and spoiled by gigantic transmission towers if the Commission were to select a route that includes Segment 74.

Given these facts, the Commission should avoid selecting any route that includes Segment 74, including "routes of interest" M or N. That is further reason for the Commission to select *unopposed* Route N-AB, which does not contain Segment 74.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.* at 2-3.

2. Some routes that are not included in the routes of interest would severely impact other members of the Southwest Landowners group and should not be selected.

The Commission should also avoid selecting any route that includes any of Segments 67, 89, 95, 96, 104, 105, or 109. Notably, none of these segments appear on any of the six “routes of interest,” meaning that no party expressed direct or conditional support for a route that includes any of those segments. Given the Commission’s traditional respect for the local community’s stated preferences, that should be enough to remove the unsupported routes (and, by extension, Segments 67, 89, 95, 96, 104, 105, and 109) from serious consideration. Nevertheless, should the Commission decide to consider routes that are not among the “routes of interest,” it should avoid the segments listed above for the reasons expressed in the direct testimony filed by the following Southwest Landowners group witnesses:

- **Pat Schuchart¹²** – Strongly opposes Segments 67, 104, and 105 and discusses the significant impacts that those segments would have on properties he owns/controls.
- **Jeffrey Beyer¹³** – Strongly opposes Segments 89, 95, and 96 and discusses the significant impacts that those segments would have on properties he owns/controls.
- **Bill Kaiser, Jr. and Kari Kaiser Vickers¹⁴** – Strongly oppose Segments 104, 105, and 109 and discusses the significant impacts that those segments would have on their family’s properties.

¹² Southwest Landowners’ Exhibit 1, Direct Testimony of Pat Schuchart.

¹³ Southwest Landowners’ Exhibit 3, Direct Testimony of Jeffrey Beyer.

¹⁴ Southwest Landowners’ Exhibit 4, Direct Testimony of Bill Kaiser, Jr. and Kari Kaiser Vickers.

III. CONCLUSION

For the reasons discussed above, the Commission should select Route N-AB because it is *unopposed* and performs statistically very well compared to the other route options that have been presented in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

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**ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHWEST
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Michael A. McMillin, Attorney for The Southwest Landowner's Group, hereby certify that a copy of this document was served on all parties of record in this proceeding on this 20th day of December, 2024 by electronic mail, facsimile, and/or First Class, U.S. Mail, Postage Prepaid.

/s/ Michael A. McMillin

Michael A. McMillin