

37448

Barry T. Smitherman
Chairman

Donna L. Nelson
Commissioner

Kenneth W. Anderson, Jr.
Commissioner

W. Lane Lanford
Executive Director



Rick Perry
Governor

Public Utility Commission of Texas

March 30, 2010

Mr. Ernie Loeffler, Director
The Fredericksburg Convention & Visitor Bureau
302 E. Austin
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

MAR 30 2010 3:47
FILED
CLERK

Re: Projects # 37049 and # 37448

Dear Mr. Loeffler:

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding LCRA TSC's proposed transmission projects.

Transmission service providers, such as LCRA TSC, are required to obtain a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) prior to construction of a transmission line.

As required by state law, the Commission considers various factors when evaluating the CCN application, such as the community, historical, aesthetic values, and environmental integrity associated with the transmission line. Commission rules also include other factors for consideration, such as whether the proposed routes utilize or parallel existing compatible right-of-ways, property lines or other features, and whether the routes conform to the policy of prudent avoidance. While it is not a requirement that proposed lines follow these factors, they are taken into consideration when deciding on a route.

Currently, the Commission is reviewing the CCN application for the Gillespie to Newton 345-KV transmission line. LCRA TSC has not formally filed a CCN application for the McCamey D to Kendall to Gillespie 345-KV transmission line with the Commission.

Nonetheless, a copy of your correspondence has been filed in Docket Nos. 37049 and 37448, so that all parties are aware of the resolution adopted by the Board of the Fredericksburg Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Barry T. Smitherman.

Barry T. Smitherman
Chairman

Handwritten signature of Donna L. Nelson.

Donna L. Nelson
Commissioner

Handwritten signature of Kenneth W. Anderson, Jr.

Kenneth W. Anderson, Jr.
Commissioner

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**FREDERICKSBURG**
in the Texas Hill Country!

RECEIVED

MAR 08, 2010

Chairman's Office

March 3, 2010

Public Utility Commission of Texas
1701 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78707

Re: Projects # 37049 and # 37448

Mr. Chairman and Commissioners:

The Board of the Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau has been concerned about the transmission lines coming through Gillespie County (*and possible wind farms*) for several years now and have gone on record before expressing this concern.

The Board wants to make sure that that Commission is fully aware that we still support the use of monopolies throughout our county for the LCRA TSC's transmission lines. See enclosed resolution dated February 23, 2010.

Sincerely,



Ernie Loeffler
Director

cc:

Sara Morgenroth
Senior Regulatory Case Manager
Lower Colorado River Authority
P.O. Box 220 – BTC 151
Austin, Texas 78767-0220

Dennis Palafox
Senior Regulatory Case Manager
Lower Colorado River Authority
P.O. Box 220
Austin, Texas 78767-0220

The Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau

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**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE
FREDERICKSBURG CONVENTION AND VISITOR BUREAU**

WHEREAS, tourism to Gillespie County generated an estimated \$79,000,000 in direct spending in 2008; and

WHEREAS, nearly 1,000 jobs in Gillespie County were directly related to the tourism industry in 2008; and

WHEREAS, almost every resident of Gillespie County benefits from the economic impact of the tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, recently completed brand audit research by a national firm indicates that Fredericksburg and Gillespie County are viewed by Texans (*over 1,000 leisure travelers, meeting planners and tourism professionals were surveyed*) as the premier Texas Hill Country experience; and

WHEREAS, that Hill Country experience is defined by wide open skies, scenic vistas, wild rivers, Enchanted Rock, fields of wildflowers and generally the lack of an urban, industrial built environment; and

WHEREAS, the Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau is charged with maintaining the positive image of Fredericksburg and Gillespie County as the premier Texas Hill Country tourism destination;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE FREDERICKSBURG CONVENTION AND VISITOR BUREAU:

The Board of the Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau respectfully requests the use of concrete monopoles throughout Gillespie County for all of LCRA TSC's planned transmission lines to move wind energy from the CREZ areas of West Texas to metropolitan areas of Texas.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 23RD DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2010.


Molly Sagebiel, Secretary

The Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau

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Board members present and voting:

Ross Burtwell, Cabernet Grill, A Texas Wine Country Restaurant

John Dubea, Clear River Pecan Company

Molly Sagebiel, Camp David B&B

Claude Saunders, Magnolia House B&B

Sandy Nigh, Whistle Pik Galleries

Dick Estenson, The Hangar Hotel

Helen McDonald, The Admiral Nimitz Foundation

Mary Easterling, Easterling Custom Boot Company

Ken Maxwell, Torre di Pietra Vineyards

Debbie Farquhar-Garner, Creative Marketing

Donnie Schuch, Gillespie County Commissioner

Kevin MacWithey, Fredericksburg City Council