

TOPIC: Environmental impact of planned wind power transmission lines

The January meeting of the Hill Country Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists will be held on January 25th, with a program devoted to the role of two governmental agencies concerned with the environmental impact of planned wind power transmission lines.

The Texas Public Utility Commission has hired several utilities to build a massive network of transmission lines to bring renewable wind energy from West Texas to large metropolitan areas around the state. Several of the proposed routes in the network are being planned for the Texas Hill Country. Our program will focus on the potential environmental impacts of this process.

Our speakers will be Charlotte Kucera of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Austin) and Dr. Karen Clary of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (also in Austin). They will each discuss the role of their agency in the transmission line selection process, including the state and federal environmental laws that apply, and the environmental assessment process.

Ms. Kucera worked for the Environmental Affairs Division of the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) as a statewide Environmental Specialist for a number of years before joining the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2009.

Dr. Clary's areas of expertise include State and Federal Law for Endangered Species and the National Environmental Policy Act. She is the designated lead on TPWD review of transmission line projects in the Texas Hill Country.

This meeting is free and open to the public. Join us at 7:00 pm, Monday, January 25, 2010 for this timely program. Due to the anticipated high interest in this subject matter, the program will be held at the UGRA's lecture hall; the Upper Guadalupe River Authority is located at 125 Lehmann Drive in Kerrville, TX. For more information, please call 830/634-2545.