

Negotiating Transmission-line Easements in Lieu of Condemnation

Public Invited to May 11 Presentation with CREZ Transmission Updates

The public is invited to attend a presentation to be made by Mr. Judon Fambrough entitled "Negotiating Transmission-line Easements in Lieu of Condemnation". Mr. Fambrough is a senior lecturer and attorney at law with the Texas Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University. The meeting will be at 6:30pm on Tuesday, May 11, 2010 at the Gillespie County Farm Bureau building at 237 Equestrian Drive in Fredericksburg. Soft drinks will be served.

Save Our Scenic Hill Country Environment (SOSHCE), an organization that supports sensible development in the Hill Country, has scheduled the meeting to provide information related to area transmission line developments. The presentation will be particularly timely following the April 26, 2010 Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) deadline for decisions on the Gillespie (Fredericksburg area) to Newton (Lampasas County) Competitive Renewable Transmission Zone (CREZ) transmission line project. The project will likely impact Llano, Gillespie, Burnet, Lampasas, and possibly San Saba, counties

The project is one of two priority projects in the Hill Country that were assigned by the PUCT to LCRA Transmission Services Corporation (LCTA TSC). The other LCRA TSC project will connect the proposed McCamey D substation (Eldorado/San Angelo area) to the Kendall substation (near Comfort) to the Gillespie substation. This project will likely impact Schleicher, Kendall, Gillespie, and possibly Kimble, Sutton, Menard, Mason and Kerr, counties. LCRA TSC is to present its Preferred and Alternative Routes for this project to the PUCT by July 6, 2010. The PUCT will then have 181 days to finalize its decisions.

The featured presentation will be preceded by brief updates on area CREZ transmission line and industrial wind developments.

Mr. Fambrough has held a joint appointment with the Texas A&M Agricultural Economics Department where he has taught a course in Agricultural Law and also in one in Oil and Gas Law. He received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Arkansas and his Master's and Law Degrees from the University of Missouri. Mr. Fambrough has been the attorney for the Texas Real Estate Center for the past 32 years. He has authored over 300 articles regarding Texas real estate law. One of his prime objectives is to inform landowners about their property rights and tell them how to protect and utilize those rights.

In supporting sensible development, SOSHCE believes that installation of the CREZ transmission line projects should be done with minimal impacts. Proposed mitigation steps include utilization of existing electric right-of-ways and/or the I-10 corridor, use of monopoles rather than lattice structures throughout, and working with and fully compensating affected landowners.

The organization also believes that there are much better places than the Hill Country to develop industrial wind farms. This belief is based on a number of factors including there being areas in West Texas and the Panhandle with much better wind resource potential, fewer conflicts between landowners and less effect on best land use and values.

More Information on SOSHCE and on transmission lines and industrial wind development is available on the group's website, soshillcountry.org.

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