



Public Utility Commission of Texas

May 3, 2010

Mr. Robert Weatherford
President, Save Our Scenic Hill Country Environment, Inc.
10212 Ranch Road 965
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

Dear Mr. Weatherford:

Thank you for your letter raising additional issues involved with LCRA's Gillespie to Newton transmission line. While the Commission has issued a final order in the proceeding, parties may still request rehearing on the Commission's decision, and because this is still a live proceeding, I am unable to discuss any substantive issues relating to the case.

I have filed your letter in Docket No. 37448, along with this response, so that the other parties in this case are aware of your additional issues relating to the line.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry T. Smitherman".

Barry T. Smitherman

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION



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FAX

To:	Chairman Smitherman	From:	Robert Weatherford Save Our Scenic Hill Country Environment
Fax:	512-936-7028	Pages:	3 including cover
Phone:		Date:	4.28.2010
Re:	LCRA TSC Gillespie to Newton Project	CC:	

☐ Urgent ☐ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply ☐ Please Recycle

Comments:

Chairman Smitherman- your consideration of the attached letter regarding the LCRA TSC Gillespie to Newton project would be appreciated.

Robert Weatherford
President
Save Our Scenic Hill Country Environment

4.28.2010

Save Our Scenic Hill Country Environment, Inc.

10212 Ranch Road 965, Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

April 28, 2010

**Chairman Smitherman
Commissioner Anderson
Commissioner Nelson
Public Utility Commission of Texas
PO Box 13326
Austin, Texas 78711**

(via facsimile)

Re: LCRA TSC Gillespie to Newton Project

Mr. Chairman and Commissioners:

Save Our Scenic Hill Country Environment is an organization of more than 500 members. Many of our members are landowners in Gillespie and Llano counties. We are highly concerned about the impacts that the LCRA TSC Gillespie to Newton CREZ transmission project will have on this area which is known for its unique scenic beauty.

The recent developments in the Gillespie to Newton case have shown that finding suitable transmission line routes through the Hill Country is extremely difficult. We question the need for this line based on these developments and other considerations.

Your request to ERCOT that they review the interconnection into the Gillespie substation is very important. There are several developments that have occurred since the CTO Study was completed that we believe should be considered in this review.

One development is the announcement that LCRA made on April 26, 2010 that indicated they are studying the replacement of the Ferguson Power Plant near Marble Falls. They indicate the replacement would be a modern power plant that would be more efficient, more reliable and have improved environmental controls. The possibility that the new plant will provide the ability to meet area demand growth and voltage stability improvements that are attributed to the CREZ lines, and potentially other benefits, is an important consideration.

Another major post CTO Study development is the installation of the NextERA Energy Resources private transmission line from the Abilene area into the Kendall substation. Determining its impact on the need for the Gillespie to Newton line should be taken into account.

In addition, the need for the Gillespie to Newton line should be reexamined in light of the impacts of low natural gas prices and the economy on the level of industrial wind production that is available. Demand patterns in this area should be reviewed as well in light of recent impacts such as the economy.

In conclusion, we question the need for the Gillespie to Newton line and ask that you carefully consider the alternatives. This consideration is essential in light of the permanent negative effects the line would have on this scenic area and its residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Weatherford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "W".

Robert Weatherford- President

cc: Senator Troy Fraser

Representative Harvey Hilderbran

Representative Doug Miller

Fernando Rodriquez- LCRA

Dan Woodfin- ERCOT

Brian Almond- PUC

David Featherston- PUC