

Appendix A
Agency Correspondence



Siting and Land Rights
P. O. Box 1261
Amarillo, TX 79105-1261
Telephone: **806-378-2132**
Facsimile: 806-378-2142

June 9, 2010

Name
Address
City, State, Zip

Name,

Southwestern Public Service Company (a division of Xcel Energy) is proposing to construct a new 230 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line in Hansford and Ochiltree Counties, Texas and Beaver and Texas Counties, Oklahoma. The proposed transmission line will be approximately 55 miles long, depending upon the route approved by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC). The proposed transmission line will connect the existing Ochiltree Substation [located near the City of Perryton, Texas] to the existing Hitchland Substation (located near the City of Hitchland, Texas southeast of the intersection of E0350 Road and D0894 Road). Please see the enclosed map.

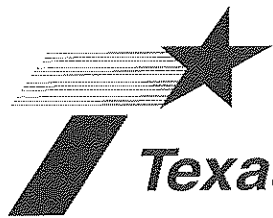
SPS has retained the firm of PBS&J, an environmental planning consultant, to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Alternative Route Analysis to support an application for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) from the Public Utility Commission of Texas. PBS&J is currently in the process of gathering data on the existing environment and identifying environmental and land use constraints within the study area that will be used in the creation of an environmental and land use constraint map for the proposed project. SPS and PBS&J will identify potential alternative routes that consider environmental and land use constraints.

We are requesting that your office provide any information concerning environmental and land use constraints within the project study area. Your comments will be an important consideration in the evaluation of alternative routes and in the assessment of impacts. Upon certification of a final route for each proposed project, SPS will determine the need for other approvals and/or permits. If your jurisdiction has approvals and/or permits that would apply to these projects, please identify them in response to this inquiry. If permits are required from your office, SPS will contact your office following certification of a final route for the proposed project.

Thank you for your assistance with these electric transmission line projects. Please contact Brandy Smart, PBS&J Project Manager, at 817.372.0100, if you have any questions or require additional information. Your earliest reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Brad Sparks
Xcel Energy



Texas Department of Transportation

AVIATION DIVISION

125 E. 11TH STREET • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-2483 • 512/416-4500 • FAX 512/416-4510

Mr. Brad Sparks, Xcel Energy
P.O. Box 1261
Amarillo, Texas 79105-1261

June 22, 2010

Dear Mr. Sparks,

I received your letter dated June 9, 2010 concerning the proposed 230 kV transmission line project in Hansford, Ochiltree, Beaver (OK) and Texas (OK) Counties.

Title 14, US Code, Part 77 of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) requires notice to the FAA if the facility to be constructed fits either of the below listed conditions:

77.13(1) Any construction or alteration of more than 200' above the surface of the ground at its location.

77.13 A 2 (i) Any vertical obstruction, temporary or permanent, that penetrates a 100 to 1 slope for a horizontal distance of 20,000 feet from the nearest point of the nearest runway, starting at the surface at the edge of that runway, for each airport with at least one runway more than 3,200 feet in actual length, excluding heliports. (ii) 50 to 1 for a horizontal distance of 10,000 feet from the nearest point of the nearest runway of each airport specified in paragraph (a)(5) of this section with its longest runway no more than 3,200 feet in actual length, excluding heliports. (iii) 25 to 1 for a horizontal distance of 5,000 feet from the nearest point of the nearest landing and takeoff area of each heliport specified in paragraph (a)(5) of this section.

There are no public use heliports; there are three public use airports in or near the study area:

Perryton Airport (KPYX), with the longest runway 5700 feet, at airport reference point 36-24-46.5030N / 100-45-05.6770W

Spearman Airport (KE42), with the longest runway 5022 feet, at airport reference point 36-13-15.6000N / 101-11-40.2000W.

Gruver Airport (KE19), with the longest runway 4698 feet, at airport reference point 36-14-01.4140N / 101-25-55.8820W.

THE TEXAS PLAN

REDUCE CONGESTION • ENHANCE SAFETY • EXPAND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY • IMPROVE AIR QUALITY
INCREASE THE VALUE OF OUR TRANSPORTATION ASSETS

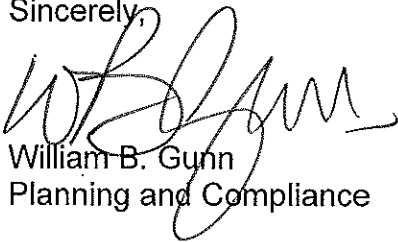
An Equal Opportunity Employer

Mr. Brad Sparks, Excel Energy
June 22, 2010
Page two

If the criteria of FAR 77.13(1) or FAR 77.13 A 2 (i) are met, the FAA must be notified either by e-filing or by mail using FAA Form 7460-1, "Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration". This form and supporting documents are available at www.faa.gov – Airports & Air Traffic – Airport Information – Programs – Obstruction Evaluations (Part 77).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (512) 416-4507 or <wgunn@dot.state.tx.us>

Sincerely,



William B. Gunn
Planning and Compliance

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

July 20, 2010

Brad Sparks
Xcel Energy
P.O. box 1261
Amarillo, Texas 79105-1261

Re: Project review under the Antiquities Code of Texas, Study Area map for new 230-kV transmission line between existing Ochiltree and Hitchland Substations, Hansford and Ochiltree Counties, Texas (PUC)

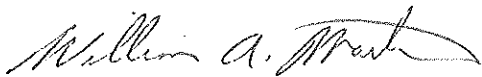
Dear Mr. Sparks:

Thank you for your correspondence describing the above referenced project. This letter presents the comments of the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission, the state agency responsible for administering the Antiquities Code of Texas.

The review staff, led by Debra L. Beene, has completed its review. Much of the study area has a moderate to high probability of containing significant cultural resources and an archeological investigation may be warranted. Some of the area has been completely destroyed by construction of major highways while other areas should be intact. However, without a specific project map, we cannot determine whether the precise project area has been previously surveyed or whether one would have been necessary. Please submit the precise project area plotted on USGS 7.5' topographic maps or have your archeological contractor identify the high probability areas for further investigation.

We look forward to further consultation with your office and hope to maintain a partnership that will foster effective historic preservation. Thank you for your assistance in this state review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. If you have any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Debra L. Beene at 512/463-5865.

Sincerely,



for
Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer

MW/dlb



United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
101 South Main
Temple, TX 76501-7602

June 21, 2010

Mr. Brad Sparks
Xcel Energy
P. O. Box 1261
Amarillo, TX 79105-1261

Dear Mr. Sparks:

We have reviewed the information pertaining to the proposed construction of a new 230 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line in Hansford and Ochiltree Counties, Texas, and Beaver and Texas Counties, Oklahoma.

This project should have no significant adverse impact on the environment or natural resources in the area. We do not require any permits, easements, or approvals for activities such as this.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this proposed project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donald W. Gohmert".

DONALD W. GOHMERT
State Conservationist

Mr. Brad Sparks
Siting and Land Rights
Xcel Energy
Amarillo, TX

Dear Mr. Sparks:

Please reference your initial letter dated June 9, 2010; pertaining to the subject project. The project involves Southwestern Public Service Company's 230-kV electric transmission line in Hansford and Ochiltree Counties, Texas; and Beaver and Texas Counties, Oklahoma.

The information provided is not sufficient for this office to review at this time.

The subject project is being "withdrawn" from our database pending additional information. You are invited to resubmit the application when your proposed route is absolutely firm, with no expected deviations, with all rights of way acquired, and with the route literally staked-on-the-ground. This will expedite your internal process of ground-truthing the finalized route for environmental concerns and in turn provide sufficient documentation for our review.

A validated Regulatory Permit will be required if your method of construction necessitates any discharge into or any impact to any "waters of the United States," as denoted on a USGS quadrangle topographic map as a blue line of any type quality or character or into any wetland area as delineated using the Corps' 1987 Manual and later supplements.

I look forward to working with you in the future as we together move through the Regulatory process. You may contact me at any time via electronic mail or telephone.

/s/ Timothy Hartsfield

Regulatory Office
Tulsa District
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attention: CESWT-OD-R (TH)
1645 South 101st East Avenue
Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74128-4609
Telephone: 918-669-7237 (voicemail)
Telefacsimile: 918-669-4306
Electronic Mail: Timothy.Hartsfield@USACE.Army.MIL

Appendix B
Public Involvement



Siting and Land Rights
P. O. Box 1261
Amarillo, TX 79105-1261
Telephone: **806-378-2132**
Facsimile: 806-378-2142

March 3, 2010

«Name»
«CO»
«Address1»
«City», «State» «Zip»

Re: Proposed Electric Transmission Line
Hitchland Substation to (new) Ochiltree County Substation

Dear Landowner:

Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS), is proposing a new electric transmission line in Hansford and Ochiltree Counties, Texas as well as Texas County, Oklahoma that could cross through or near your property. This letter is to inform you of the proposed project and afford you the opportunity to attend a public meeting to provide input to the individuals involved in the route selection process. Your input is important in determining the best route for the proposed transmission line. **If you have received a similar packet previously and already attended a landowner meeting, be advised this meeting will be identical in format and is being conducted to explain additional routes that have been added since the last landowner meeting.**

The current electric load uses all the existing electrical transmission capacity in Hansford, Ochiltree and Texas Counties. Without additional transmission lines and a new substation, SPS will not be able to serve the increased demand for electricity and pending customer requests for additional service.

SPS has developed a project that will add a new transmission line and a new substation that will increase the capacity of the electrical transmission system in the Hansford, Ochiltree and Texas County areas. This project will improve the reliability of SPS's existing electric transmission system, and allow SPS to grant service to the pending customer requests.

The proposed project scope consists of approximately 35 miles of new 230 kV transmission line beginning at the Hitchland Substation located approximately 16 miles north of Gruver, Texas and will follow a route in an east southeasterly direction to the proposed Ochiltree Substation to be located approximately 1/2 mile north of Perryton, Texas. (Please refer to the enclosed map for details of the proposed location of project and routes.)

For your convenience, we will hold a public meeting. At the meeting you will have an opportunity to review exhibits and talk to SPS representatives and representatives of PBS&J, SPS's routing contractor, regarding the need for the project,

route selection process, typical design features of the facilities, and the right-of-way acquisition process. You will be provided an opportunity to document any concerns and comments you may have regarding various aspects of the project. Your input is important to us.

The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 30, 2010, and will be held at the Museum of the Plains located at 1200 N. Main Street in Perryton, Texas. The meeting will start at 5:00 p.m. and conclude at 7:30 p.m. You are welcome and encouraged to attend the meeting. See enclosed map for meeting location.

In addition to the project map you will find enclosed the following documents:

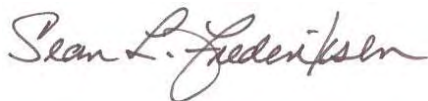
- **Texas Land Owner's Bill Of Rights**, discussing the attempt by government or a private entity to take property for public use.
- **Landowners and Transmission Line Cases at the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC)**, discussing your rights as a landowner and instructions relating to project protests and intervention in PUC proceedings.
- **Project Routing Questionnaire**. Information regarding your input relative to the routes chosen for this project. This information is used to assist in the selection of the preferred and alternate routes.
- **Permission to Survey Form**. This form allows SPS to perform ground surveys to determine property boundaries and verify ownership information.

Please review these documents prior to the meeting and should you have any questions we will be glad to answer those at the meeting.

Any landowner who wants tenants to be present at the meeting should relay our invitation to the meeting and let them know when and where the meeting will be held.

If you have any questions about the project or the meeting process, please feel free to call me at 806-378-2436.

Sincerely,



Sean L. Frederiksen
Sr. Siting and Land Rights Agent
Southwestern Public Service

Enclosures

Project Route Map
Meeting Location Map
Texas Land Owner's Bill of Rights
Landowners and Transmission Line Cases at the PUC
Project Routing Questionnaire
Permission to Survey Form



Siting and Land Rights
P. O. Box 1261
Amarillo, TX 79105-1261
Telephone: **806-378-2132**
Facsimile: 806-378-2142

April 27, 2009

«Name»
«CO»
«Address1»
«City», «State» «Zip»

Re: Proposed Electric Transmission Line
Hitchland Interchange to (new) Ochiltree Interchange

Dear Landowner:

Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS), is proposing a new electric transmission line in Hansford County and Ochiltree County, Texas as well as Texas County, Oklahoma that could cross through or near your property. This letter is to inform you of the proposed project and afford you the opportunity to attend a public meeting to provide input to the individuals involved in the route selection process. Your input is important in determining the best route for the proposed transmission line.

An increase in electric load demand has depleted the capacity of existing electrical transmission capacity in Hansford, Ochiltree and Texas Counties. Without additional transmission lines and a new substation, SPS will not be able to serve pending customer requests.

SPS has developed a project that will add a new transmission line and a new substation that will increase the capacity of the electrical transmission system in the Hansford, Ochiltree and Texas County areas. This project will improve the reliability of existing electric transmission demands, and allow SPS to grant service to the pending customer requests as well as allowing the addition of new load to the electrical transmission system.

The proposed project scope consists of approximately 35 miles of new 230 kV transmission line beginning at the Hitchland Interchange located approximately 16 miles north of Gruver, Texas following a route in an east southeasterly direction to a new substation, Ochiltree Interchange, located approximately 1/2 mile north of Perryton, Texas. (Please refer to the enclosed map for details of the proposed location of project and routes.)

For your convenience, we will hold a public meeting. At the meeting you will have an opportunity to review exhibits and talk to SPS representatives regarding the need for the project, route selection process, typical design features of the facilities, and