

Filing Receipt

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Control Number - 60319

Item Number - 14

Public Utility Commission of Texas

Re: PUCT Docket 60319 - Opposition to El Paso Electric's Proposed Link 1R

To the Commissioners:

I am writing as an intervenor in this proceeding in opposition to El Paso Electric's proposed Link 1R route for the 345 kV transmission line from Pine Substation to McCloud Central. I own approximately 5.5 acres located at [redacted]. My property is approximately 600 feet away from the proposed Link 1R.

My husband and I considered many different properties in the Hueco Mountain Estates and ultimately chose ours for the expansive view of the Hueco Tanks State Park, the peace and quiet, and the sense of community. We have been saving to build a home on our land.

Our Hueco community values recreation and enjoying the scenic aspects of living near the park in a desert environment filled with wildlife and native plants. Clearing corridors and construction will have lasting negative effects on our ecosystem.

Transmission towers 125 feet tall are disruptive, not only impacting our environment but also the character of our community and our local economy. Some residents depend financially on offering Airbnb rentals and camping for park visitors. Loud construction zones and views of the transmission line will deter guests.

The impact extends to every landowner whose view is obstructed, to park visitors, and to native people who actively use the Hueco Tanks area for traditional prayer, ceremonies, and tribal gatherings.

Beyond personal and community impacts, Link 1R measures poorly on both statutory and routing criteria. Placing a 345,000-volt transmission line in close proximity to the Hueco Tanks State Park and Historic Site is inconsistent with multiple Public Utilities Regulatory Act (PURA) Sec. 37.056(c) statutory guideline factors, including: community values, recreational and park areas, historical and aesthetic values, and environmental integrity.

1R follows no existing transmission lines, requiring new right-of-way corridors that would cut through 75 parcels of private property. EPE's own bypass (1N-1T-1V) crosses 36 parcels, less than half the number compared with 1R.

I also have concerns about how public input and outreach were handled regarding 1R. I am aware of livable structures near my property that would qualify as affected that may have gone uncounted. Satellite imagery also confirms more than twice as many structures within 500 feet when compared to EPE's inventory.

Additionally, EPE's public input process may not have given affected residents adequate time or opportunities to respond. The email address EPE provided, connect@pine-mccloud.com, uses a domain that isn't registered, meaning any affected landowner who responded to that address would have their correspondence undelivered.

With these factors in consideration, I respectfully ask El Paso Electric to remove Link 1R from its application before filing. If that does not occur, I request that the Public Utility Commission of Texas deny the proposed Link 1R route and consider alternative routes, including the bypass route proposed by El Paso Electric, which crosses fewer parcels overall and avoids the environmentally, culturally, and economically sensitive area surrounding the Hueco Tanks State Park and Historic Site.

Respectfully,

Robin Evans

[redacted]

[redacted]