



Control Number: 37049



Item Number: 102

Addendum StartPage: 0



Public Utility Commission of Texas

September 25, 2009

Maria and Alan Palmer
423 Meusebach Creek Road
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

RECEIVED
SEP 25 PM 4:34
FILED CLERK

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Palmer,

Thank you for your letter raising additional concerns about the proposed LCRA line. As with your earlier letter, I will file it with this response in Project No. 37049.

The issue of the health effects of magnetic fields from power lines has been studied extensively by many different groups. These studies have failed to show evidence of a conclusive link between power lines and adverse health effects. However, as I stated in my earlier, the Commission does follow the policy of prudent avoidance, which is, as defined in Commission rules, "the limiting of exposures to electric and magnetic fields that can be avoided with reasonable investments of money and effort." I cannot speak about LCRA's proposal because the application has not been filed, but the Commission generally seeks to limit the number of habitable structures that exist along a proposed route when granting a transmission line permit. The policy of prudent avoidance is in Commission rules, and will be one of the factors used to consider any future application. Additionally, LCRA filed a request to delay the filing date of its application to "expand the study area to adequately study additional routes and routing concepts." At the Commission's open meeting yesterday, the Commission granted this request. During the discussion, LCRA indicated that the scope of the new review would include a study area approximately double the size of the previous study area. With the additional time and scope, I am hopeful that LCRA will develop new routes that will help address citizens' concerns.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

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

Barry T. Smitherman



423 Meusebach Creek Road
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624
830-990-1632

Control #37049

September 10, 2009

RECEIVED
SEP 15 2009
Chairman's Office

Barry T. Smitherman
PUC
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, Texas 78711-3326

Dear Sir:

Thank you for responding to our letter on August 17 that outlined our opposition to the upgrading of the existing 138kV transmission line into a 345kV line (A3 option) that parallels our property.

You stated that the Commission has "concluded that there is no conclusive link between potential health issues and exposures to electric and magnetic fields. This position is shared by such groups as the National Cancer Institute and the World Health Organization." After reading numerous materials posted on-line by these and many other organizations, it seems that the jury is still out on this matter. What they are saying is that even though there is no conclusive evidence of a link, there is also no conclusive evidence denying a link and that more research needs to be done. WHO suggests **precautionary** measures such as increasing the distance between high-voltage lines and habitable structures. Please strongly consider the suggested 1400' distance from 345kV transmission line easements and habitable structures: our house is 250' away from the proposed line.

Furthermore, Amos Lane parallels the existing line. This road is a right-of-way for us and several other families. Certainly the placement of the 345kV line cannot be safe for those of us who travel on this road on a daily basis.

In addition, if the upgrade were made, our eastern boundary of wildlife-friendly habitat full of huge live oak trees would more than likely be cut down to increase the easement. We have been operating our property under a wildlife and habitat management plan approved and monitored by the Gillespie County Appraisal District for years. Please take note of the attached photos to envision what damage would occur.

The A3 route would also bisect the northern part of our property, a 6-acre tract, reducing its value considerably.

Enclosed is an aerial map of some of the homes that would be impacted by the A3 option. Some historical properties are directly beneath the line and all are within 500' of it.

We respectfully request that you listen to our concerns and act accordingly.

Sincerely,


Maria and Alan Palmer



Cc: Doug Miller, Texas House of Representatives
Jim Shotwell, LCRA

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WHO'S RESPONSE

While the classification of ELF magnetic fields as **possibly** carcinogenic to humans has been made, it remains possible that there are other explanations for the observed association between exposure to ELF magnetic fields and childhood leukaemia. In particular, issues of selection bias in the epidemiological studies and exposure to other field types deserve to be rigorously examined and will likely require new studies. WHO therefore recommends a follow-up, focused research programme to provide more definitive information. Some of these studies are currently being undertaken and results are expected over the next 2-3 years.

WHO's EMF Project aims to help national authorities balance the benefits of electrical technology against possible health risks, and to help them decide what protective measures may be needed. It is especially difficult to suggest protective measures for ELF fields because we do not know what field characteristic might be involved in the development of childhood leukaemia and therefore need to be reduced, or even if it is the ELF magnetic fields that are responsible for this effect. **One approach is to have voluntary policies that aim to cost-effectively reduce exposure to ELF fields.** This has been discussed in the WHO **Backgrounder** issued March 2000.

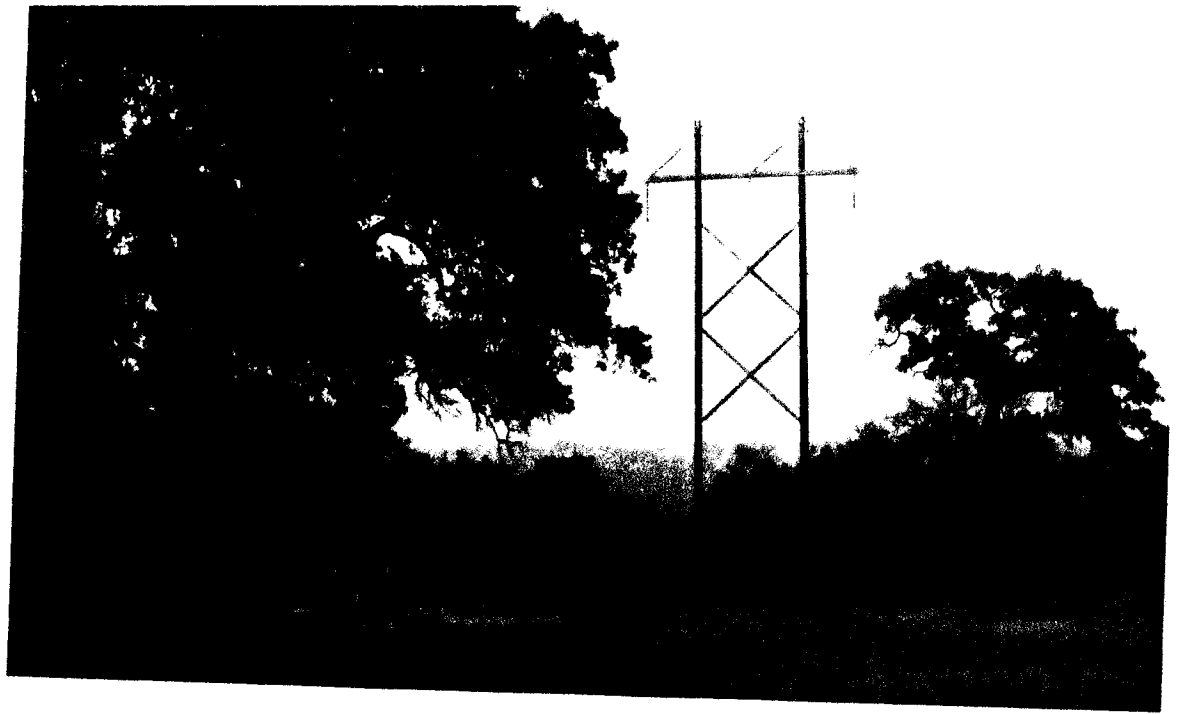
Some precautionary measures are outlined below:

- **Government and industry:** These entities should be cognisant of the latest scientific developments and should provide the public with balanced, clear and comprehensive information on potential EMF risks, as well as suggestions for safe and low cost ways to reduce exposures. They should also promote research that will lead to better information from which assessments of health risk can be made.
- **Individuals:** Members of the general public might choose to reduce their EMF exposure by minimizing the use of certain electrical appliances or by increasing distance to the sources that can produce relatively high fields.
- **Consultation with local authorities, industry and the public when siting new power lines:** Obviously power lines must be sited to provide power to consumers. Siting decisions are often required to take into account aesthetics and public sensibilities. However, siting decisions should also consider ways to reduce peoples' exposure.
- **An effective system of health information and communication** among scientists, governments, industry and the public is needed to help raise general awareness of programmes to deal with exposure to ELF fields and reduce any

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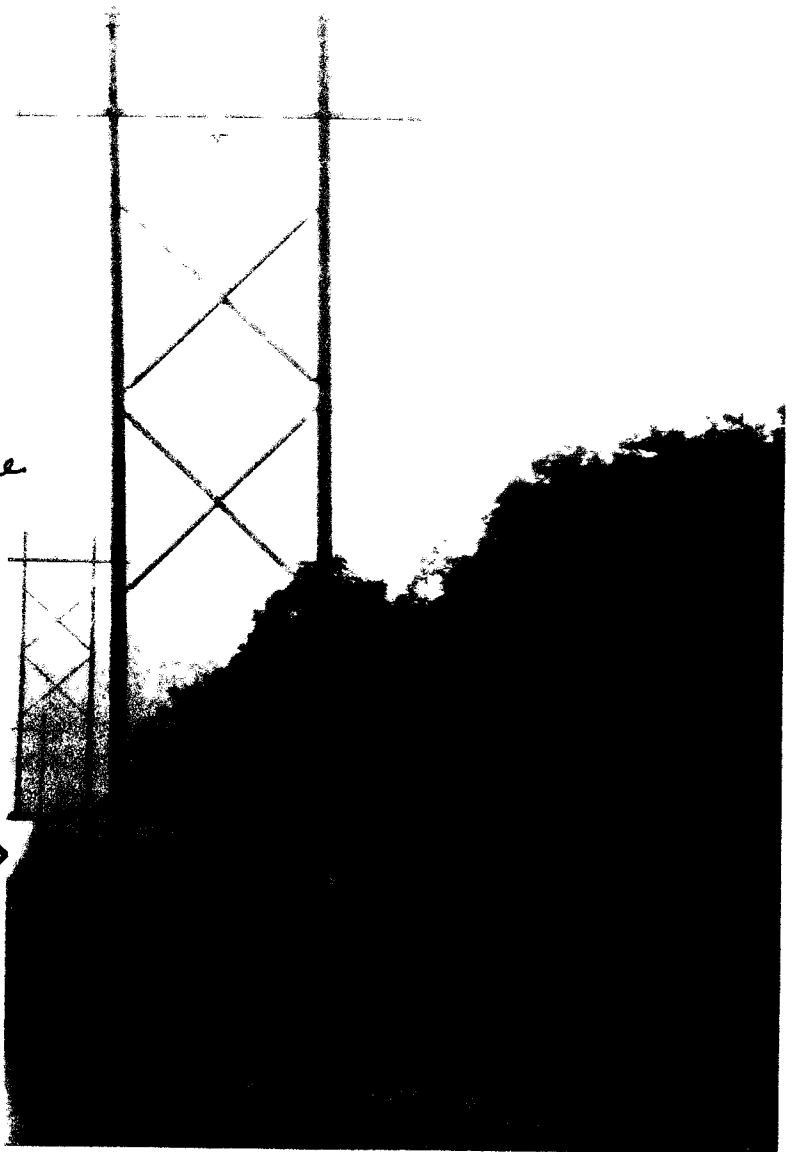
existing 138 KV
power
line



Eastern boundary
of our property
under wildlife
management

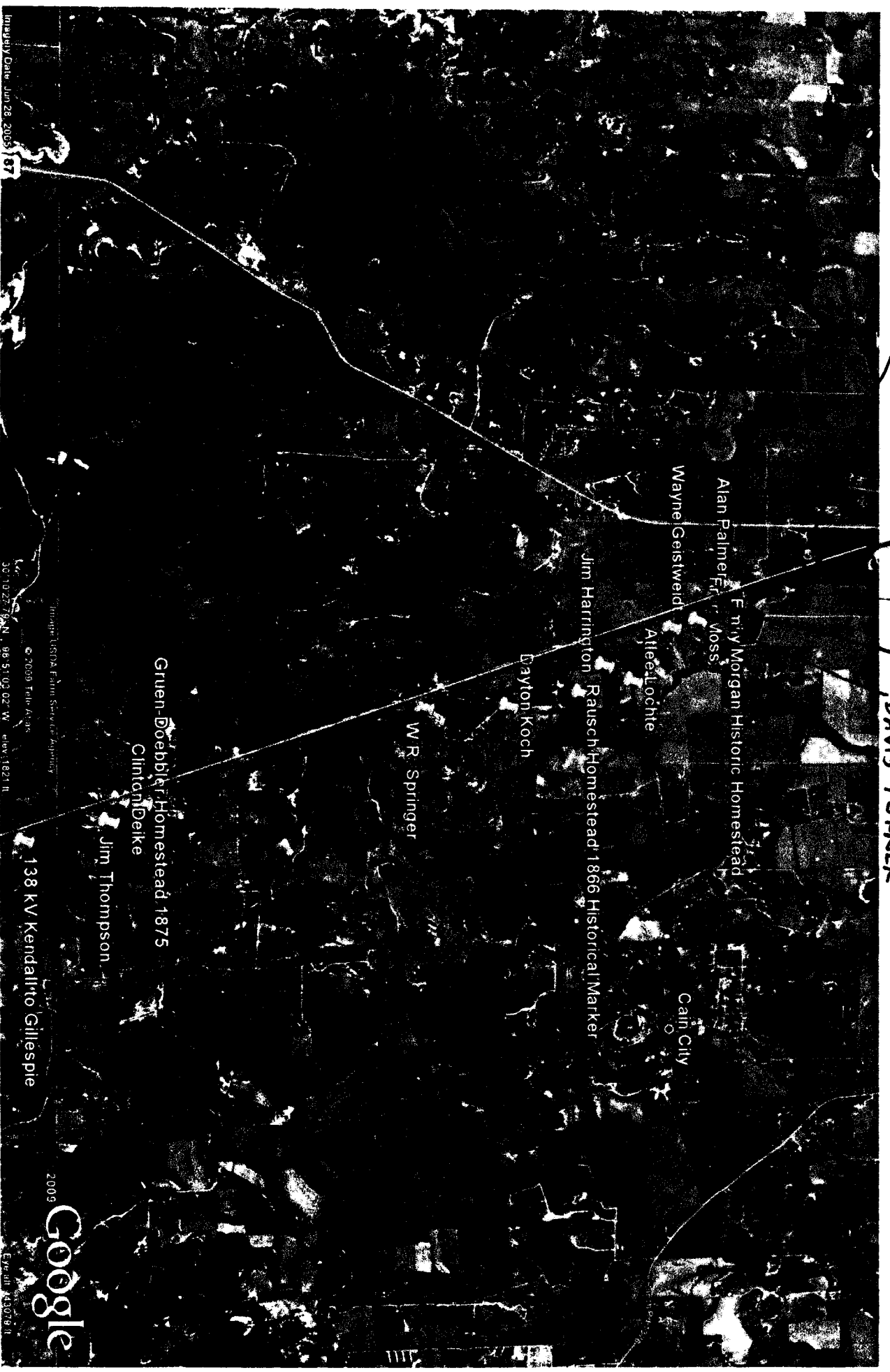
Existing 138 KV line

Amos Lane →



SHAWMANKOUER

DAVIS TURNER



Alan Palmer, Fr. Moss, Morgan Historic Homestead

Wayne Geistweid

Alteelochte

Jim Harrington Rausch Homestead, 1866 Historical Marker

Dayton Koch

W.R. Springer

Gruen-Doebler Homestead, 1875

Clinton Deike

Jim Thompson

138 KV Kendall to Gillespie

Cain City

Imagery Date: Jun 28, 2005, 107

36° 02' 27.75" N, 98° 5' 02.02" W, elev: 1821 ft

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2005 Google

KENDALL TO GILLESPIE
MEUSERBACH CREEK AREA
GRAPPETOWN