

345 kV Transmission Line Project
Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) Docket No. 38597
September 28, 2010

SUMMARY:

- This item requests the Board of Trustees retain its rights to intervene in PUC Docket No. 38597 – The construction of a new 345 kV transmission line to be located in Collin, Cooke, Denton and Grayson Counties. The Board of Trustees may also wish to pass a resolution in opposition to ONCOR’s proposed electric transmission line near Denton ISD properties and the Denton Greenbelt.

BOARD GOAL:

IV. Parent & Community Involvement... In the pursuit of excellence, the district will:

- Work continuously with the community in planning and facility development

VI. Growth & Change ... In pursuit of excellence, the district will:

- Review and adjust policies and procedures effectively to address the challenges of rapid growth and changing demographic characteristics while maintaining and enhancing our strong sense of community

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

- N/A

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Oncor Electric Delivery Company intends to construct a new 345 kV transmission line located in Collin, Cooke, Denton and Grayson Counties. These lines will deliver power produced from wind generators located in West Texas and the Panhandle called Competitive Renewable Energy Zones (“CREZ”) to load centers throughout the state. There are currently several pathways that Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC can take but one proposed pathway will fall directly between our properties off of Long Road (Water Park, C.H. Collins, Advanced Technology Complex and the Gonzalez Center) and the recent acquisition of the 100 Acres off of FM 428. These lines will also move south, close to Hodge Elementary School. The current utility lines are approximately 75 kV and 60’ in height. The new utility towers will be (in some areas) in excess of 155’ and over 100’ in width. The City of Denton recently passed a resolution in opposition to ONCOR’s proposed electric transmission line through the Denton Greenbelt and has encouraged alternative routes.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

- A “Request to Intervene” (10 copies) must be submitted to the Public Utility Commission of Texas no later than October 8, 2010. This allows Denton ISD to retain its right to protest any proposed utility routes near its property.
- The proposed electric transmission lines near Denton ISD properties may negatively impact land values.
- The proposed electric transmission line path would negatively impact the Denton Greenbelt. The Denton Greenbelt was created with grants from the City of Denton, Dallas and the Federal Government to protect natural assets and maintain a pristine scenic state. Thousands of Denton ISD students and staff visit the Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center each year.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

- Negatively Impacts Land Values along proposed path.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

- Provides Denton ISD the option to participate as an intervener for the 345 kV transmission line project.
- Maintains a pristine environment at the Denton Greenbelt for future Denton ISD students and staff.

PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:

- Must submit a “Request to Intervene” prior to October 8, 2010.
- The Board may wish to submit a Resolution to oppose ONCOR’s electric transmission line through the Denton Greenbelt and encourage alternative routes.

PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

- N/A

ALTERNATIVES:

- A proposed route away from Denton ISD properties and the Greenbelt. The Greenbelt Alliance prefers a route north of Lake Ray Roberts.

-

OTHER COMMENTS:

- N/A

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

- Rod Reeves, Coordinator of Facilities

ATTACHMENT:

- Request to Intervene Form
- Map of Preferred Route and District Facilities impacted
- Drawings of proposed power lines in relation to existing towers.

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: _____

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____