

**For Immediate Release**

# **CLEAR VIEW ALLIANCE**

CONTACT: Bill Neiman, President, Clear View Alliance

## **PUC Moves to Protect Texas Hill Country Region**

### *Commission Extends LCRA Deadline for Filing Transmission Line Routes*

JUNCTION, TEXAS (September 24, 2009) – Today, the Public Utility Commission (PUC) took a monumental step to protect the Texas Hill Country region from the effects of ill-planned energy sprawl. With the support of the Clear View Alliance (CVA) and its network of like-minded organizations and individuals, the PUC granted the LCRA’s motion to extend the deadline for filing the proposed routes for the high-voltage transmission lines slated to be built in the region. The delay will give the LCRA time to study a broader area that includes an existing 138 kV transmission line right-of-way and the I-10 corridor.

“The people have spoken and the government is listening – this is democracy working at its highest and best level,” CVA President Bill Neiman said. “We are grateful that both the LCRA and the PUC put the best interests of the Texas Hill Country ahead of arbitrary government timelines. By any measure, today’s ruling by the PUC is a victory for the future of this fragile, beautiful region.” From the beginning, CVA has maintained that existing rights-of-way should be part of any plan to build transmission lines through the region. Using existing rights-of-way could help prevent unnecessary development, reduce damages to the region’s natural resources, and save money.

By accepting the LCRA’s motion, the PUC has enacted the following schedule: the proposed Twin Buttes-McCamey D route will be due on January 15, 2010 and the proposed McCamey D-Kendall route will be due July 6, 2010. The initial deadline was October 28. The Kendall-Gillespie-Newton route is now moved to October 28 from the initial October 7 deadline.

“The LCRA’s motion is an encouraging sign, but Hill Country area residents and Texans at-large cannot abandon the process,” Neiman said. “We still have a long way to go. These high-voltage transmission lines will change the face of the Hill Country forever; we must ensure the scars are minimized.” The CVA is also working to encourage the use of monopoles throughout the construction and to ensure fair compensation for landowners whose property is taken for the transmission line easement.

“It’s important that private landowners be fairly compensated for the land that is taken through eminent domain to build these immense lines,” Neiman said. “Next Era Energy, a subsidiary of Florida Power & Light that recently built a privately funded transmission line through the region, established a new precedent for fair and reasonable compensation. Given the market value of Hill Country land, the suggested alternatives could reduce easement costs. Fewer landowners would be affected, which could reduce the costs associated with related legal actions.”

The Clear View Alliance, Inc. is a non-profit formed to raise awareness and work to minimize unintended impacts from the construction of wind transmission lines. For more information on the Clear View Alliance, visit its website at: [www.clearviewalliance.org](http://www.clearviewalliance.org) .