

*The Lesser Prairie-Chicken
Advisory Committee
Natural Resource Policy Advisor-Cary Dupuy
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
111 E. 17th Street, Suite 1105
Austin, TX 78711*

April 12, 2010

Task Force on Economic Growth and Endangered Species

RE: Information on Lesser Prairie-Chicken Habitat - CREZ Transmission Routing

Dear Task Force:

This letter, and the information provided with it, has been adopted by the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Advisory Committee. This Committee was created by the State of Texas pursuant to Senate Bill 2534. The general goal of this Committee is to provide information to the Task Force on programs and options available for balancing the needs of the lesser prairie-chicken with economic development in the Texas Panhandle. The lesser prairie-chicken is currently a candidate for listing under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, due in part to the loss and fragmentation of suitable habitat across its range. The Committee's interest lies in promoting protection and conservation of the lesser prairie-chicken and its habitat in an attempt to preclude the species from federal listing and avoid the economic repercussions that may develop if the species were to be listed as threatened or endangered.

In furtherance of the stated obligations and goals, this Committee believes that it is important for the Task Force to provide the Public Utility Commission in Texas with information that can be used to make determinations regarding routing of the CREZ transmission system in and around areas which constitute the lesser prairie-chicken habitat. While the information provided within this letter and the attachments focus upon the conflict between lesser-prairie-chicken habitat and proposed transmission corridors, this Committee recognizes the importance of renewable energy resources within the State of Texas, and the economic value to the regions where the lesser prairie-chicken habitat is present.

This Committee recognizes that the effect on lesser prairie-chicken habitat will be one of many factors that will be considered by the Public Utility Commission of Texas and the various persons and entities constructing transmission lines. The attached information has been compiled in an effort to provide the Public Utility Commission of Texas, via the Task Force,

with an efficient and effective means of determining the location of the lesser prairie-chicken habitat, and the degree of affect transmission lines would have on the habitat and viability of the lesser prairie-chicken.

This Committee appreciates the opportunity to provide this information to you and would respectfully request that you give this matter due consideration in your deliberations.

Finally, the Committee recognizes that its further involvement may be necessary as the CREZ process moves forward. Therefore, please accept this Committee's invitation for the Public Utility Commission of Texas to ask questions or seek additional information surrounding this important issue.

Sincerely,

Lesser Prairie-Chicken Advisory Committee