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www.aopa.org

May 31, 2011

Mr. Bill Nieman
President
Clear View Alliance, Inc.
PO Box 906
Junction, TX 76849

Dear Mr. Nieman:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) represents the general aviation interests of over 400,000 members, more than two-thirds of the nation's pilots, including nearly 26,000 in the State of Texas. AOPA is committed to ensuring the future viability, safety and economic development of general aviation airports and their facilities as a vital part of a state and national transportation system.

We have been made aware by local members of AOPA that the cities of Junction and Kerrville have filed a legal challenge in the Travis County 98th District Court to the January 2011 decision of the Texas Public Utilities Commission (TxPUC) regarding the location of a 345 kv power transmission line. The lawsuit seeks to overturn the vote of the TxPUC which approved a location for the transmission towers to the south (or Interstate 10) routing. This routing was approved by a 3-0 vote of the TxPUC in January 2011 and came after extensive negotiations and engineering by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA).

Based on information we have received from local pilots and aircraft owners, AOPA is strongly opposed to changing the location of the proposed power transmission lines to a routing that will pass to the north of the Kimble County Airport (JCT). This routing would most likely have a negative impact on aviation operations at the airport since it would be in the same physical location that sits under established FAA instrument approach procedures including the VOR-A and RNAV 17 approaches to the airport. Additionally, with rising terrain to the north of the airport, placing potential obstructions in the path of departing aircraft would most likely create safety of flight issues for aircraft operating from JCT. This would be further especially true on hot summer days when aircraft performance is reduced. In 2005, an aircraft accident occurred in the same general area as the northerly routing. The overall impact is difficult to assess since LCRA has yet to submit a request for an airspace study to the Federal Aviation Administration to determine if the proposed location would create a hazard to air navigation. Such a study is required by federal law prior to commencing construction.


Local members of AOPA have advised us that the existing approved southerly routing of this power transmission line will not have a negative impact on Kimble County Airport. For this reason, AOPA strongly opposes efforts by the cities of Junction and Kerrville to overturn the TxPUC preferred routing. Any proposed changes to routing of this transmission line must be

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analyzed for any detrimental impact on safety of aviation operations and the public at Kimble County Airport as well as any impact that would diminish the utility of the airport.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please feel free to contact my office at 301-695-2205.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bill Dunn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bill Dunn
Vice President
Airport Advocacy