AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	**Item ID**	31294	**Agenda Number**	55.
Meeting Date:	3/27/2014	**Department:**	Office of Real Estate Services	

Subject

Conduct a public hearing and consider a resolution regarding approval of the 138 kV (kilovolt) Gilleland to Techridge Transmission Line Project through dedicated parkland known as the Northeast Metropolitan Park, a Travis County Park, located in Pflugerville, Travis County, Texas, for a permanent use of approximately 325,173 square feet of land, equivalent to approximately 7.46-acre, 100 foot wide strip of land for electric use, for the construction, use, maintenance, repair, and replacement of electric transmission facilities, in accordance with Chapter 26 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code.

Amount and Source of Funding

All costs associated with construction, as well as any parkland restoration, will be paid by requestor.

Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	September 27, 2012 – Council approved Resolution No. 20120927-096 authorizing eminent domain proceedings for the construction of the 138kV Gilleland to Techridge Transmission Line Project.
For More Information:	Sonny Poole, Austin Energy, (512) 322-6442; David Wood, Austin Energy, (512) 322-6940; Junie Plummer, Office of Real Estate Services, (512) 974-7085; Lauraine Rizer, Office of Real Estate Services, (512) 974-7078; Amanda Glasscock, Office of Real Estate Services, (512) 974-7173.
Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

On January 29, 2013 the City was awarded the transmission line easement described below by the Special Commissioners via an eminent domain proceeding. On February 14, 2013, Travis County appealed the award of the Special Commissioners. The City and Travis County have now agreed to the terms of the acquisition of a transmission line easement and the Travis County Parks Director agrees that there is no feasible and prudent alternative to this use of the dedicated parkland, and that the Project includes all reasonable planning to minimize harm to the land.

Chapter 26 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code provides that the use of the parkland for non-park purposes may be

approved upon a finding that there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of this land for the Project.

Austin Energy plans to construct a new 8 mile 138kV bundled 795 ACSS (Aluminum Conductor Steel Supported) Drake transmission line from the Gilleland Substation to the Techridge Substation. The Project is scheduled for 2016. A review of possible routes was conducted in 2008 and it was determined that the acquisition of a transmission line easement in a route that crosses the Northeast Metropolitan Park is the most prudent alternative. The route parallels an existing LCRA (Lower Colorado River Authority) line that also crosses the park. The new transmission line will relieve the overburden on the Austrop substation by sharing the load with the Gilleland and Techridge Substations.

Approval of the use of parkland is made on the condition that all restoration is completed in accordance with the Standard Specifications and Construction Standards of the City of Austin and the Parks and Recreation Department's "Construction in Parks Specifications". Austin Energy is required to pay all costs associated with the restoration and tree mitigation as part of the site restoration process.

There is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of the dedicated parkland, and all reasonable planning to minimize harm to such lands has occurred. The dates of public notification in the Austin American-Statesman are March 2, 9, and 16, 2014.