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Dear Mayor Leffingwell, City Manager Ott, and Council Members,

Regarding Council Agenda Item 23 posted for action on 29 July 2010, I am not opposed to WTP4 and related professional services but I have serious reservations regarding the Jollyville Transmission Mains. Here are three areas of concern:

1. Lack of Master Plan for Transmission Mains including comparative analyses of all route considerations. Where is the spreadsheet with each route considered and analyses of each based on same criteria? What evidence is available that the route across Balcones Canyonlands Preserve and up Spicewood Springs Road is the most economical, environmentally sound, safe and effective for transmission in 2014 and beyond?

2. Threats to Bull Creek Watershed and Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. Even though the City intends to use a dedicated corridor for under-ground tunneling across BCP, where are the contingency plans in case of an accident? What are the set-asides for mitigation? Can there be complete mitigation? Certainly BP did not expect to have a Gulf oil spill but it happened and subsequently we learned that the mitigation plan was minimal at best; that damage can never be corrected. Can Austin afford such an accident in BCP or Bull Creek Watershed?

3. Lack of Transparency for a commercial-grade mining operation in a neighborhood. Through oversight, which I hope was inadvertent rather than deliberate, citizens directly impacted by the Jollyville Transmission Mains have not been meaningfully engaged. It was only through the outreach of a few concerned neighbors that the magnitude of the JTM became apparent: some three-years of drilling; more than 120,000 cubic yards of muck; 38,000 truck runs involving entry via a two-lane road and passage by a school, nursing home, and public library; operations on less than one acre of dedicated park land adjacent to Bull Creek.

There are numerous unanswered questions regarding WTP4 transmission mains. I urge the Council to table a vote on Item 23 until plans for transmission mains can be thoroughly developed, citizens are actively engaged, and elected leaders have sufficient facts to make an informed vote.

Citizens, staff, and elected leaders must work collaboratively to determine best solutions for the greater good.

Sincerely,

Amanda D. Batson, Ph.D.

Residence: 9803 Ravenwood Cove, Austin, 78750

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Hi Rudy and Marc,

I'm not sure what the legal definition or requirements are for being properly notified, but if it weren't for the anti-shaft groups signs and web site listing, I would have had NO idea about the magnitude of the shaft and tunnel project coming through my neighborhood.

Pat Bosch
Austin, TX

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Rodger Dalston to Rudy.Garza, Marc.Ott, lee.jeffingwell, randi.shade, mike.mart [show details](#) 11:31 PM (6 hours ago) [Reply](#)

It has come to my attention that statements were made at a meeting within the last 24 hours that owners of property in the Old Lampasas Trail area were "properly notified" about the magnitude of the shaft and tunnel project coming through our neighborhoods. At the most recent Environmental Board meeting, one presenter projected a slide indicating that there had been 6 public meetings to date. Three of those meetings pre-dated the first meeting of which I was made aware (April 20, 2010). The nature of public input given at that meeting led me to conclude that virtually none of my neighbors were aware of this project before that date. I would not consider that an example of "proper notification."

Had we been involved at an earlier date, we would not find ourselves in this adversarial position. We could have been partners.

As a parenthetic note, I would like to state that it is easy to dismiss citizens like me as being NIMBYs. Given the viability of the 620 alternative, I consider myself an INBY - In Nobody's Back Yard. Individual commercial establishments may endure a brief period of inconvenience. Our neighborhoods and the children of Canyon Vista Middle School will endure 3 years of noise, pollution, dump truck induced traffic congestion and safety concerns.

Rodger Dalston

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Dear Mr. Ott and Mr. Garza,

I am the president of the Mountain Neighborhood Association (MNA), which is directly across from the primary shaft site at the Upper Bull Creek Park. I felt it is important to let you know that the residents in northwest Austin near the proposed Jollyville transmission main route and shafts were not notified of the transmission routes by AWU before May of this year. We have largely learned about the project through the efforts of residents who had to find the information on their own.

To my knowledge, the only meeting held by AWU near our neighborhood occurred on March 30th at Hallmark Baptist Church. I remember this date because it coincided with our MNA board meeting, where arguably the most involved residents of our neighborhood were in attendance. None of us were aware of the WTP4 meeting until April 1st, and even then we learned about it from a neighbor, not AWU.

Given the impact to our neighborhoods, I would have expected AWU to install the "proposed site of..." sign in the Upper Bull Creek Park location if they really wanted to communicate with us. This did not occur until Monday, July 26th - the day before the most recent WTP4 meeting. Furthermore, communications prior to summer 2010 consisted primarily of newsletters about the progress of the WTP4 plant itself, which made no mention of the transmission mains. AWU's efforts to engage with the community appeared to be primarily aimed at the residents near the plant site and not those along the transmission main routes.

In my mind, AWU has intentionally put off design and discussion of the water mains until after construction has begun on the WTP4 plant infrastructure in order to ensure that the outcry over the transmission mains didn't stall the plant construction or put the entire project at risk.

AWU has only been forthcoming with the aspects of WTP4 that can be spun into a positive message: energy savings, environmentally friendly buildings, etc., while ignoring the negative aspects of the project such as the environmental and residential impact of transmission lines, overall project cost, effect on water rates, and the fact that conservation efforts have largely made the rush to complete the WTP4 plant unnecessary.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you further. I can be reached at 512-600-2147 or by email at ericdeal@dealfamily.net.

Eric Deal
MNA President

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