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**Save Our Scenic Hill Country Environment**

## **Members Updates**

May 5, 2014  
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The public open house for the LCRA TSC and Central Texas Electric Cooperative proposed Blumenthal Substation and 138 kV Transmission Line Project will be held Thursday evening, May 15 in Stonewall.

- Potentially affected landowners are encouraged to attend in order to learn more about the project and to provide input.
- A map of possible substation locations and transmission line routes and other information can be obtained from the following link:
<http://www.lcra.org/energy/electric-transmission/transmission-line-routing/Pages/blumenthal-substation-and-138kv-transmission-line-project.aspx>
- Based on CTEC's determination that the additional capacity is needed to serve local demand growth, SOSHCE is supportive of the project with the condition that aesthetic and environmental impacts be minimized.

SOSHCE continues to monitor Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) transmission planning activities.

- Several of our comments were incorporated in the Long Term Study (2012-2032) report which was released in January.
- We participate in the monthly Regional Planning Group (RPG) meetings where the follow-on Long Term System Assessment is discussed.
- The only new project in the 2013 Regional Transmission Plan (formerly the Five Year Plan) is an update of a 138-kV line from Ferguson (Horseshoe Bay area) to part of the way to the Llano area by 2018.
- The RPG continues to evaluate competing Brady area transmission improvement project proposals some of which could potentially involve Mason County.

The final CREZ transmission line projects have been completed. The substantial amount of new wind generation currently being installed in Texas have caused industry analysts to speculate that the 18,456 MW of CREZ capacity could be exceeded as early as the middle of 2015. Significant wind development in the Panhandle has caused ERCOT to study how to effectively increase transmission capacity beyond that included in CREZ.

The first major wind farm in Central Texas is now online.

- Chicago-based Invenergy has completed construction of its Goldthwaite Wind Energy project just south of Goldthwaite in Mills County. The 148.6 MW wind farm consists of 86 turbines including three GE 2.5 MW turbines that are over 550 feet tall. Wind turbines are becoming more efficient by getting larger and taller.
- The ERCOT interconnection study report indicates that a 200 MW project in Comanche County has a Commercial Operation Date of May 2015 and that a second project in Mills County is a possibility.

The current federal Production Tax Credit (PTC) for industrial wind expired December 31, 2013. Although the Senate Finance Committee has approved a two year extension, no action is expected in the U. S. House until after the November elections. Language written into the 2013 one year extension allowed developers to take advantage of the subsidy if construction was commenced by year end of December and the projects were operational by the end of 2015. According to ERCOT, by 2017 we can expect about 8,600 MW of wind power capacity to be added to the system.

Please let us know if you have any comments or questions by sending an email to timberg@ctesc.net. You can forward this email to others by clicking on the "Forward Email" button below. Your interest and support are essential.

Quick Links...

[Our Website](#)

Please ask others to join SOSHCE. A membership application can be printed from our website via the Quick Link above.