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Bryson Offsite Project Cultural Resource Survey Report

Casey Hanson

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Bryson Offsite Project Cultural Resource Survey Report

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Bryson Offsite Project Cultural Resource Survey Report



**Atmos Energy Corporation
Dallas, Texas**

**Bryson Offsite Project Cultural Resource Survey Report
Project No. 60593, Task 7.15**

July 2015

Bryson Offsite Project Cultural Resource Survey Report

prepared for

**Atmos Energy Corporation
Dallas, Texas**

**Project No. 60593, Task 7.15
ACT # 7283**

July 2015

Principal Investigator: John Fulmer

Report Author: Casey Hanson

prepared by

**Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc.
Austin, Texas**

ABSTRACT

Atmos Energy Corporation (Atmos) contracted Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc. (Burns & McDonnell) to perform a records review and archaeological pedestrian survey for the Bryson Offsite Project (Project), a natural gas pipeline installation in the city of Leander, Williamson County, Texas (Appendix A: Figure A1). The following report provides information regarding the proposed Project and includes the results of the cultural resources background review and the methods and results of the archaeological survey. The report is presented in the short report format developed by the Council of Texas Archaeologists (CTA) for small projects with no findings (CTA 2015).

Atmos Energy Corporation (Atmos) is proposing to install approximately 4 miles (6.4 kilometers [km]) of 8-inch poly main line for carrying natural gas to a new subdivision in northern Leander, Texas (Project; Appendix A: Figures A2 and A3). The right-of-way (ROW) for the Project ranges from 20 - 50 feet wide (6 - 15 m), and construction activities will include both open-cut and boring methods with anticipated impacts reaching a maximum depth of 5 - 8 feet (1.5 – 2.5 m) below surface.

No Federal funding, licensing, or permitting is required for the Project, and as a result, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) does not apply. However, portions of the Project are located within publicly owned ROW paralleling paved County Road 269 (Hero Way), County Road 270, and San Gabriel Parkway. Additionally, a portion of the Project extends north of San Gabriel Parkway and will follow a previously cleared, publicly owned, transmission line ROW. Due to ownership of portions of the ROW by political subdivisions of the State (the city of Leander and Williamson County), the Antiquities Code of Texas applies within these sections of the Project. The publicly owned sections total approximately 3 miles (5 km) (Appendix A: Figures A2 and A3).

Burns & McDonnell submitted a SHPO Consultation Form on March 3, 2015 requesting guidance from the THC on which portions of the Project require a cultural resources survey. The THC issued comments on March 20, 2015 and recommended that the 0.75-mile (1.20 km) section of the Project currently owned by the city of Leander and the 1.09-miles (1.75 km) of proposed ROW located on private lands north of San Gabriel Parkway should be surveyed (Project Area; Appendix A: Figures A4 and A5; Appendix C: THC Coordination).

Burns & McDonnell archaeologists performed a background review for the entire Project Area prior to initiating fieldwork. Burns & McDonnell archaeologists conducted the pedestrian survey of the 0.75-mile section of the Project located along the transmission line ROW, north of San Gabriel Parkway and currently owned by the city of Leander, on May 19, 2015 under TAC Permit 7283 (Appendix B). The

following report provides the results of the background review and cultural resources survey for this section of the Project. Because private lands are not subject to the Antiquities Code of Texas, this report does not include the results of the 1.09-miles (1.75 km) of proposed ROW located on private lands north of San Gabriel Parkway, and this area is not discussed further in this report.

No previously recorded archaeological sites or designated historic resources were identified within the Project Area during the background review, and no new archaeological sites were recorded during the archaeological survey. Burns & McDonnell recommends no further evaluation of the Project Area.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Term/Phrase/Name</u>
ACT	Antiquities Code of Texas
Atmos	Atmos Energy Corporation
Burns & McDonnell	Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc.
cm	Centimeter(s)
cmbs	Centimeters below surface
CTA	Council of Texas Archaeologists
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
in	Inch(es)
I-35 E	Interstate 35 East
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
ft	Feet
m	Meter(s)
NETR	Nationwide Environmental Title Research
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OTHM	Official State of Texas Historical Marker
ROW	Right-of-way
RTHL	Recorded Texas Historic Landmark
SAL	State Antiquities Landmark
TARL	Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory
TASA	Texas Archaeological Sites Atlas
THC	Texas Historical Commission
TPWD	Texas Parks and Wildlife Division
TxDOT	Texas Department of Transportation
U.S.	United States
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Atmos Energy Corporation (Atmos) contracted Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc. (Burns & McDonnell) to perform a records review and archaeological pedestrian survey for the Bryson Offsite Project (Project), a natural gas pipeline installation in the city of Leander, Williamson County, Texas (Appendix A; Figures A1 and A2). The following report provides information regarding the proposed Project and includes the results of the cultural resources background review and the methods and results of the archaeological survey. The report is presented in the short report format developed by the Council of Texas Archaeologists (CTA) for small projects with no findings (CTA, 2015).

1.1 Project Description

Atmos Energy Corporation (Atmos) is proposing to install approximately 4 miles (6.4 kilometers [km]) of 8-inch poly main line for carrying natural gas to a new subdivision in northern Leander, Texas (Project; Appendix A: Figure A1). The right-of-way (ROW) for the Project ranges from 20 - 50 feet wide (6 - 15 m), and construction activities will include both open-cut and boring methods with anticipated impacts reaching a maximum depth of 5 - 8 feet (1.5 – 2.5 m) below surface.

No Federal funding, licensing, or permitting is required for the Project, and as a result, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) does not apply. However, portions of the Project are located within publicly owned ROW paralleling paved County Road 269 (Hero Way), County Road 270, and San Gabriel Parkway. Additionally, a portion of the Project extends north of San Gabriel Parkway and will follow a previously cleared, publicly owned, transmission line ROW. Due to ownership of portions of the ROW by political subdivisions of the State (the city of Leander and Williamson County), the Antiquities Code of Texas applies within these sections of the Project. The publicly owned sections total approximately 3 miles (5 km) (Appendix A: Figures A2 and A3).

Burns & McDonnell submitted a SHPO Consultation Form on March 3, 2015 requesting guidance from the THC on which portions of the Project require a cultural resources survey. The THC issued comments on March 20, 2015 and recommended that the 0.75-mile (1.20 km) section of the Project currently owned by the city of Leander and the 1.09-miles (1.75 km) of proposed ROW located on private lands north of San Gabriel Parkway should be surveyed (Project Area; Appendix A: Figures A4 and A5; Appendix C: THC Coordination). The following report provides the results of the background review and cultural resources survey for the 0.75-mile (1.20 km) section of the Project currently owned by the city of Leander. Because private lands are not subject to the Antiquities Code of Texas, Burns & McDonnell

archaeologists did not survey the 1.09 miles (1.75 km) of proposed ROW located on private lands north of San Gabriel Parkway, and a summary of results from this area is not included in this report.

1.2 Project History and Personnel

Burns & McDonnell archaeologists performed a background review for the entire Project Area prior to initiating fieldwork, and conducted the pedestrian survey for the 0.75-mile section of the Project located along the transmission line ROW, north of San Gabriel Parkway and currently owned by the city of Leander, on May 19, 2015 under TAC Permit 7283 (Appendix B). John Fulmer served as the Principal Investigator and Casey Hanson and Stephanie Martin performed the fieldwork.

2.0 RESEARCH DESIGN

The overall objectives of the background review and the archaeological pedestrian survey were to locate and assess any historic-age (50 years of age or older) properties and/or archaeological sites listed or eligible for listing as State Antiquities Landmarks (SALs) within or in close proximity to the Project Area that could potentially be affected by Project construction. The following chapter provides information regarding the sources consulted during the initial background review, which took place before the start of fieldwork, as well as the methods used during the archaeological survey of the city of Leander ROW located along the transmission line ROW, north of San Gabriel Parkway.

2.1 Background Review Methods

The records review included an examination of the Texas Archaeological Sites Atlas (TASA) to identify previously recorded archaeological sites and other previously designated historic-age resources. This includes Official State of Texas Historical Markers (OTHMs), such as Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks (RTHLs), NRHP-listed sites and districts, SALs, and historic-age cemeteries within a Study Area extending 1 mile from the Project Area. The TASA was also used to identify previous cultural resources surveys performed within or near the Project.

Additionally, the Soil Web Survey supplied by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and historic maps and aerial photographs provided by Nationwide Environmental Title Research (NETR) were consulted. These resources were accessed in order to review available soils data and historic-age maps covering the Project Area.

2.2 Archaeological Pedestrian Survey Methods

Following a review of geology, soils, topographic maps, and previous investigations, it was determined that the Project was located in a setting with very little soil deposition and very good ground visibility where previously recorded archaeological sites were primarily surficial. Burns & McDonnell performed a pedestrian survey of the ROW with subsurface testing in areas where ground visibility was lower than 30 percent or where soil deposition was present.

Field notes were recorded and the Project Area was photo documented. Shovel test logs were recorded on standardized forms and on GPS equipment. A full list of subsurface tests is included as Appendix D.

3.0 RESULTS OF RECORDS REVIEW

Based on a review of TASA, no cultural resource surveys have been performed within the immediate Project ROW. However, 14 cultural resource surveys have been completed within 1 mile of the Project (Appendix A: Figure A6; Table 1).

There are 24 previously recorded archaeological sites within 1 mile of the Project, none of the sites are located within the immediate Project ROW (Appendix A: Figure A6). The sites are primarily surficial lithic scatters associated with procurement areas and workshops, and include assorted debitage and occasional stone tools. Several burned rock middens were also recorded in the 1960s along the San Gabriel River. In addition to prehistoric sites, four historic-age farmsteads dating to the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century are also recorded within 1 mile of the Project. Table 2 lists the previously recorded sites within 1 mile of the Project.

There is one OTHM in the Project ROW, a subject marker commemorating the Victims of the Webster Massacre. The Massacre occurred in 1839 when white settlers in route to Burnet County were attacked by a group of Comanche Indians. Many of the victims are buried in the adjacent Davis Cemetery (THC 2015). One other cemetery, the Fisk-Cashion Cemetery, is located north of the Project Area (Appendix A: Figure A6; Table 3). The OTHM and two cemeteries are located outside the Project ROW and will not be impacted by construction.

Table 3-1: Previous Cultural Resources Surveys within 1 mile of the Project

Date	Consultant	Project Planner	Agency	Intersects Project ROW
1965	unknown	unknown	USACE	No
1982	unknown	unknown	EPA	No
1985	Coastal Environments, Inc. Baton Rouge, LA	Lichliter-Jameson and Associates, Inc.	EPA	No
2002	Archaeological and Cultural Sciences Group	Williamson County	THC	No
2002	Archaeological and Cultural Sciences Group	Williamson County	THC	No
2005	HDR and PAI	HDR	TxDOT	No
2005	Lopez Garcia Group	Capital Metro Transportation Authority	FTA	No
2006	Hicks	TxDOT	TxDOT	No
2007	Horizon Environmental Services, Inc.	Stanley Consultants, Inc Austin Tx	USACE	No
2007	Horizon Environmental Services, Inc.	Stanley Consultants, Inc Austin Tx	USACE	No
2009	Cox McClain	Klotz Associates, Inc.	TxDOT	No
2009	HRA Gray and Pape	Berg-Oliver Associates, Inc.	City of Leander	No
2011	SWCA	Williamson County	THC	No
2014	HRA Gray and Pape	Brown & Gay Engineers, Inc	THC	No

Table 3-2: Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites within 1 mile of the Project

Trinomial	Site Type	NRHP eligibility	Intersects Project ROW
41WM28	Burned Rock Midden	Undetermined	No
41WM92	Burned Rock Midden	Undetermined	No
41WM105	Burned Rock Midden	Undetermined	No
41WM107	Burned Rock Midden	Undetermined	No
41WM108	Burned Rock Midden	Undetermined	No
41WM111	Burned Rock Midden	Undetermined	No
41WM473	Burned Rock Midden	Undetermined	No
41WM691	Lithic Quarry	Undetermined	No
41WM693	Lithic Quarry	Undetermined	No
41WM696	Twentieth Century Farmstead	Undetermined	No
41WM697	Lithic Quarry	Undetermined	No
41WM698	Lithic Quarry	Ineligible	No
41WM1005	Historic Midden	Ineligible	No
41WM1006	Davis Cemetery	Eligible	No
41WM1040	Rock Midden and Lithic Scatter	Ineligible	No
41WM1041	Burned Rock Midden	Ineligible	No
41WM1106	Rock Midden and Lithic Scatter	Ineligible	No
41WM1107	Rock Midden and Lithic Scatter	Undetermined	No
41WM1108	Historic/Prehistoric	Undetermined	No
41WM1113	Lithic Quarry	Ineligible	No
41WM1114	Historic Farmstead	Undetermined	No
41WM1115	Historic Farmstead	Ineligible	No
41WM1116	Historic Farmstead	Undetermined	No
41WM1246	Lithic Scatter	Ineligible	No

Table 3-3: Non-Archaeological Historic-Age Resources within 1 mile of the Project

Resource name	Quadrangle	Designation	Marker Type	Intersects Project ROW
Victims of the Webster Massacre	Leander	OTHM	Subject	no
Davis Cemetery	Leander	Cemetery	none	no
Fisk-Cashion Cemetery	Leander	Cemetery	none	no

4.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PEDESTRIAN SURVEY

The following chapter presents the results of the archaeological survey of the 0.75-mile (1.20 km) portion of the Project owned by the city of Leander ROW located along the transmission line ROW, north of San Gabriel Parkway. Burns & McDonnell archaeologists identified no historic-age cultural materials, features, or artifacts indicative of an archaeological site within the Project ROW.

In general, the Project ROW was composed of sloping uplands with good to excellent ground visibility (50 to 100 percent) that displayed little to no soil deposition. This was especially true for the southern 0.42 mile (0.68 km) of the Project ROW, which displayed excellent ground visibility and limestone gravels at surface (Photograph 4-1). Archaeologists placed one shovel test (ST-1, Appendix A: Figure A7; Appendix D) on the nearly level landform in the southern portion of the Project ROW that revealed no soil deposition. Therefore, no additional shovel tests were excavated in the southern portion of the Project Row.

Photograph 4-1: Typical view of the southern portion of the Project ROW, facing south



The northern 0.33 mile (0.52 km) of the Project ROW also displayed good ground visibility, but unlike the southern portion, this segment did exhibit some soil deposition. Although ground visibility was most often greater than 50 percent, Burns and McDonnell excavated three shovel tests in the northern portion of the Project ROW and revealed clay loam deposits ranging from 20 to 50 cm thick over limestone bedrock (ST-2 – ST-4, Appendix A: Figure A7; Appendix D).

Photograph 4-2: Typical view of the northern portion of the Project ROW, facing south



5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The THC requested a cultural resources survey of a 0.75-mile (1.20 km) section of Atmos's Bryson Offsite Project located on public lands. The survey was completed on May 19th, 2015. Due to good to excellent ground visibility and limited soil deposition, the Project ROW was subjected to a pedestrian survey with limited shovel testing. No previously recorded archaeological sites or previously designated historic structures listed or eligible for listing as State Antiquities Landmarks (SALs) were identified within the Project ROW during the background review, and no new archaeological sites or historically significant resources were recorded during the survey. Burns & McDonnell has determined that no historic properties will be affected by the installation of the natural gas pipeline and recommends no further evaluation of the current Project ROW.

6.0 REFERENCES

Council of Texas Archaeologists (CTA)

- 2015 Council of Texas Archeologists Guidelines for Cultural Resource Management Reports, <http://counciloftexasarcheologists.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/Guidelines-for-CRM-Reports.pdf>. Accessed February 11, 2015.

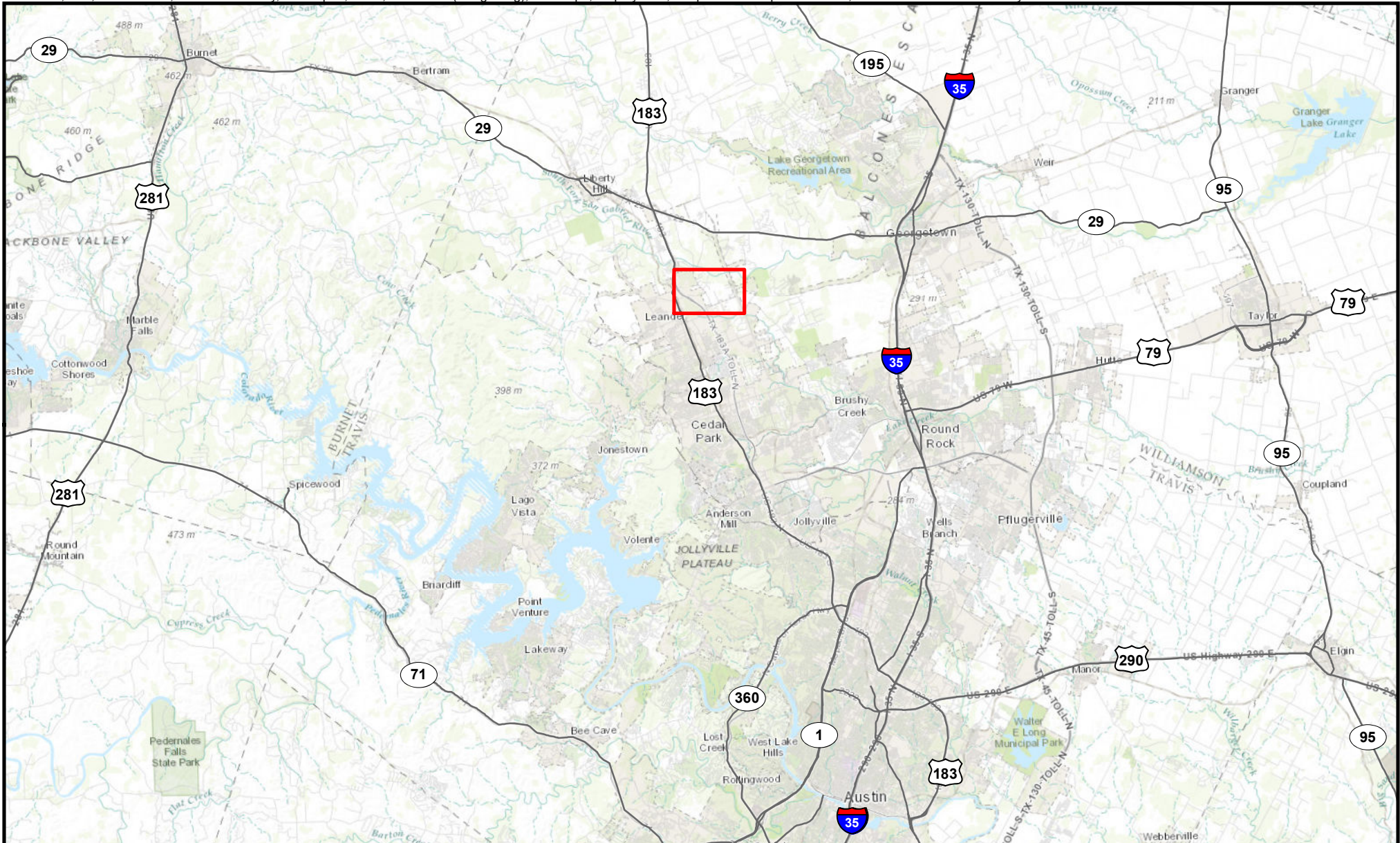
Nationwide Environmental Title Research (NETR) Online

- Var. Historic Maps and Aerial Photographs of Dallas County, Texas. <http://www.historicaerials.com>. Accessed January 2015.

Texas Historical Commission (THC)

- 2015 *Texas Historical Sites Atlas*. <http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us>. Accessed January 2015.

APPENDIX A - FIGURES

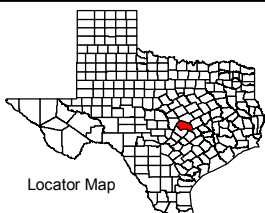
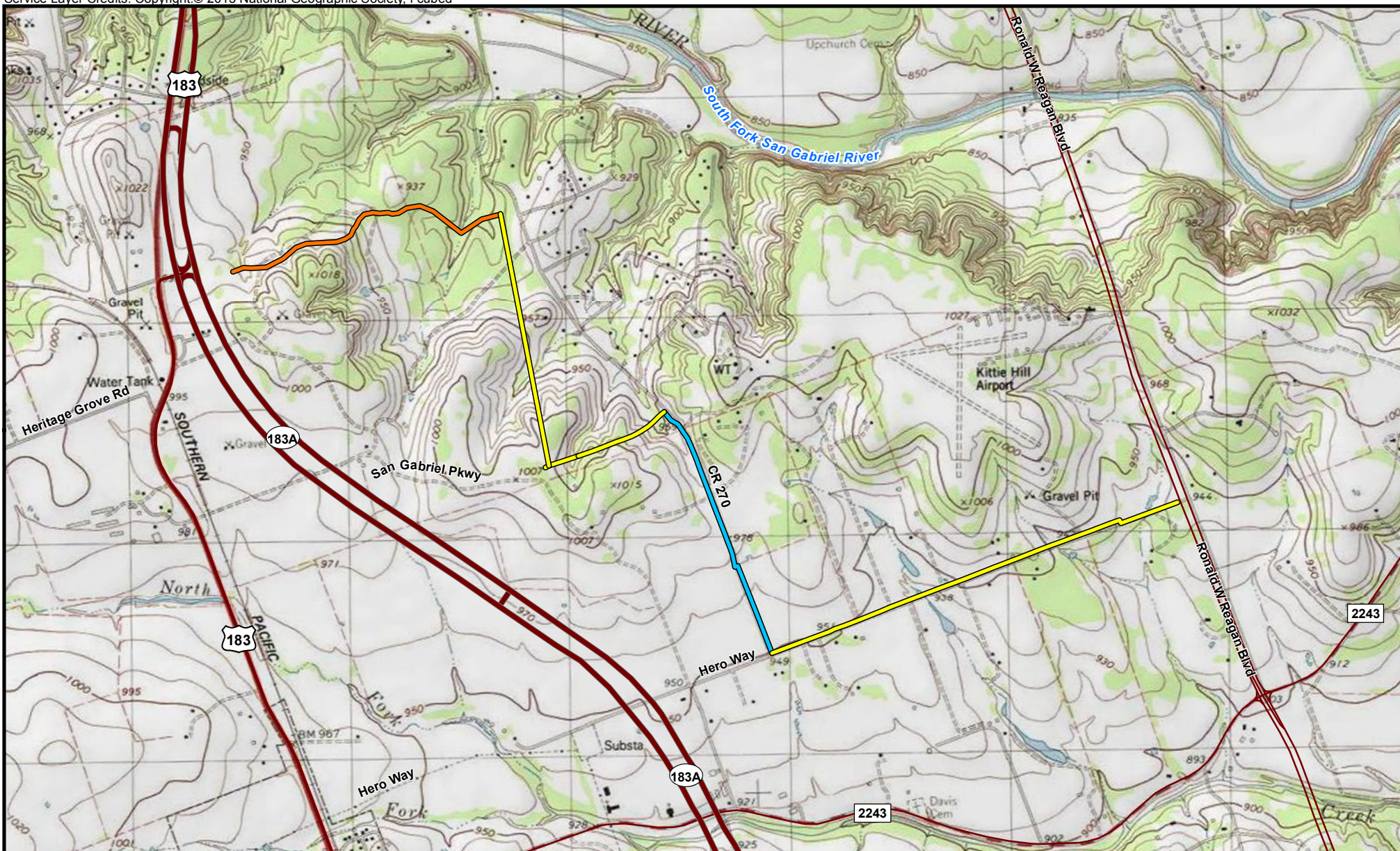


Locator Map

 Project Location



Figure A1
 Project Overview Map
 Bryson Offsite
 183A Toll to Ronald Reagan Blvd
 Atmos Energy
 Williamson County, Texas



- Private Lands
- City of Leander Right-of-Way
- Williamson County Right-of-Way

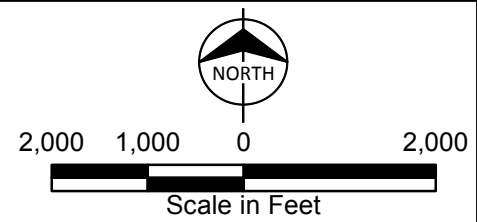
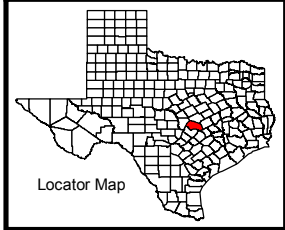
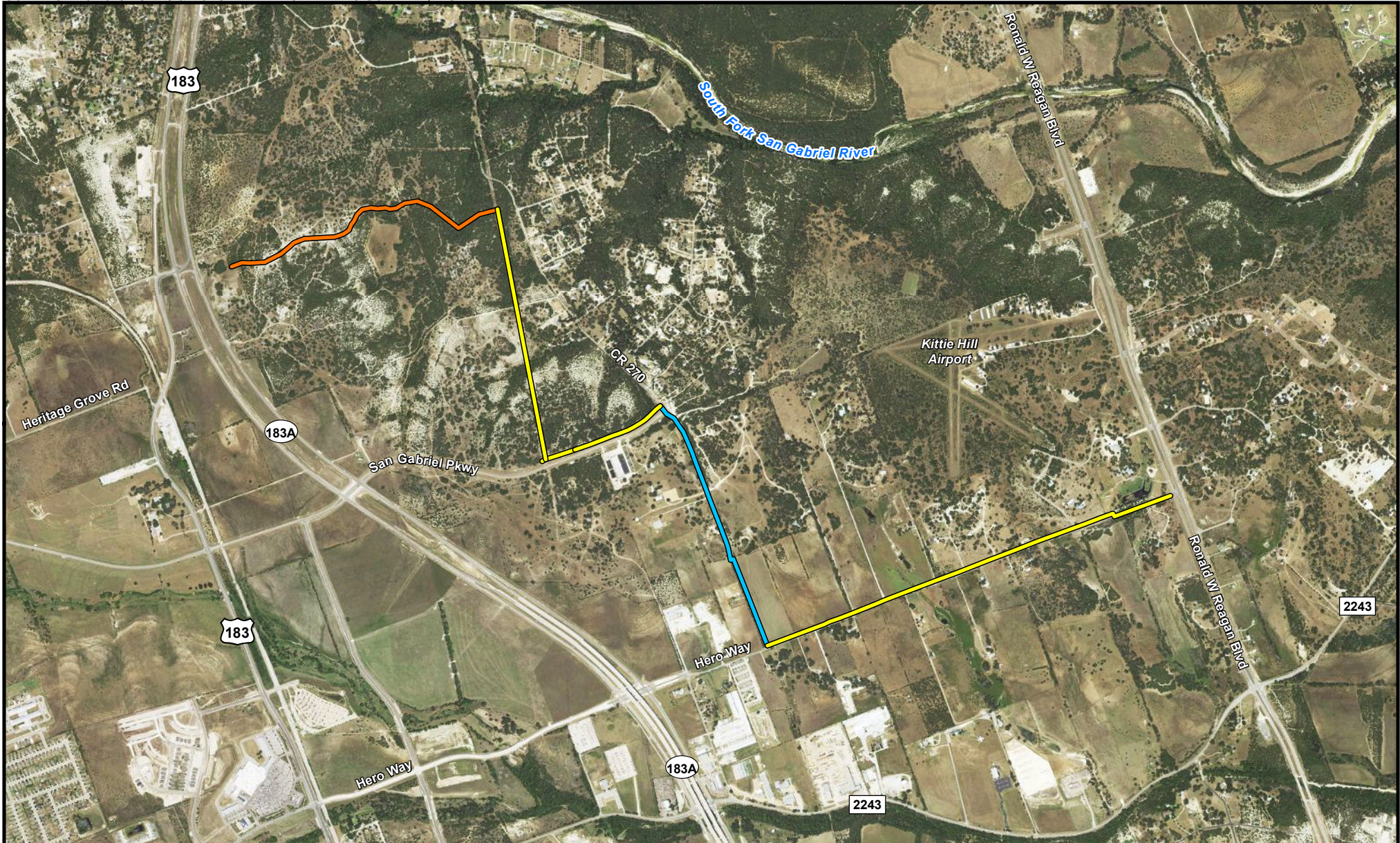


Figure A2
 Project Location Map
 Bryson Offsite
 183A Toll to Ronald Reagan Blvd
 Atmos Energy
 Williamson County, Texas



- Private Lands
- City of Leander Right-of-Way
- Williamson County Right-of-Way

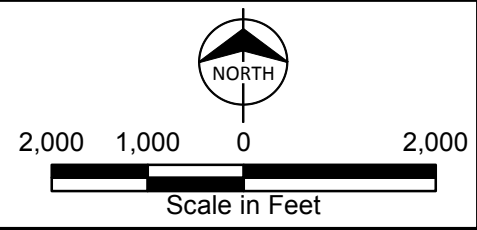
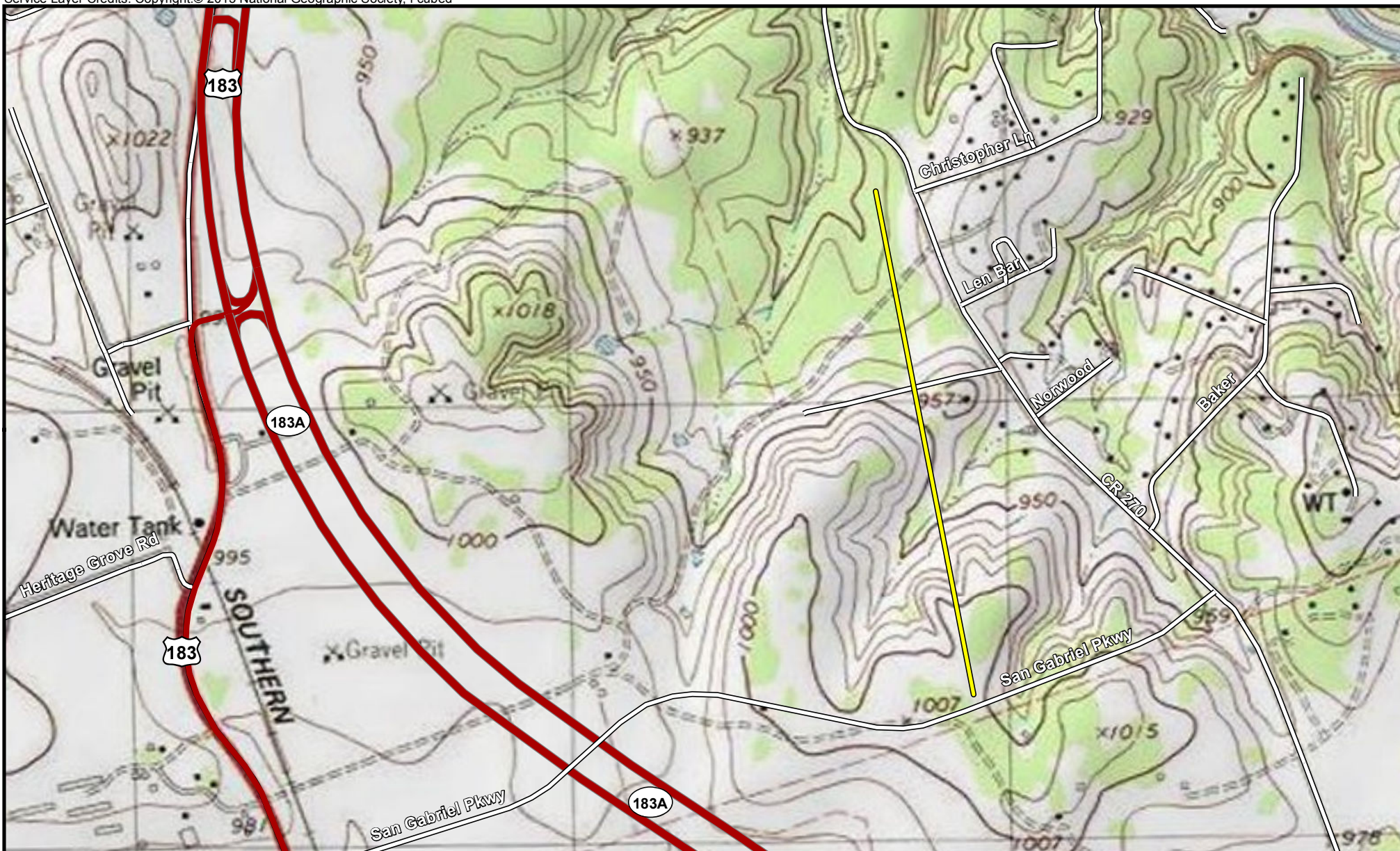


Figure A3
Project Location Map
Bryson Offsite
183A Toll to Ronald Reagan Blvd
Atmos Energy
Williamson County, Texas



— City of Leander Right-of-Way

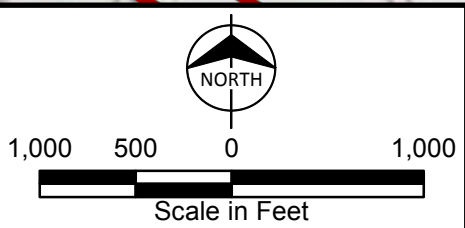



Figure A4
Public Lands Survey Location
Bryson Offsite
183A Toll to San Gabriel Pkwy
Atmos Energy
Williamson County, Texas



Locator Map

 City of Leander Right-of-Way



1,000 500 0 1,000



Scale in Feet

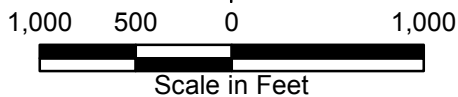


Figure A5
Public Lands Survey Location
Bryson Offsite
183A Toll to San Gabriel Pkwy
Atmos Energy
Williamson County, Texas



Locator Map

- Shovel Test
- City of Leander Right-of-Way



Scale in Feet



Figure A7
Shovel Tests
Bryson Offsite
183A Toll to San Gabriel Pkwy
Atmos Energy
Williamson County, Texas

APPENDIX B - ANTIQUITIES PERMIT

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

real places telling real stories

May 14, 2015

John Fulmer
Burns and McDonnell
9400 Ward Parkway
Kansas City, MO 64114

Re: Project review under the Antiquities Code of Texas
Bryson Offsite Project, Williamson County, Texas
Texas Antiquities Permit Application #7283

Dear Colleague:

Thank you for your Antiquities Permit Application for the above referenced project. This letter presents the final copy of the permit from the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission (THC), the state agency responsible for administering the Antiquities Code of Texas.

Please keep this copy for your records. The Antiquities Permit investigations requires the production and submittal of one printed copy of the final report, a completed abstract form submitted via our online system, two copies of the final report on a tagged PDF CD (one with site location information & one without), and verification that any artifacts recovered and records produced during the investigations are curated at the repository listed in the permit. The abstract form may be submitted via the THC website (www.thc.state.tx.us) or use url: <http://xapps.thc.state.tx.us/Abstract/login.aspx> Additionally, you must send the THC shapefiles showing the boundaries of the project area *and* the areas actually surveyed via email to archeological_projects@thc.state.tx.us.

If you have any questions concerning this permit or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Lillie Thompson at 512/463-1858. The reviewer for this project is Rebecca Shelton, 512/463-6096.

Sincerely,



for
Mark Wolfe
Executive Director

MW/lft

Enclosures

Cc: Wayne Watts, City of Leander
Robert Bennett, Atmos Energy



State of Texas
TEXAS ANTIQUITIES COMMITTEE

ARCHEOLOGY PERMIT # 7283

This permit is issued by the Texas Historical Commission, hereafter referred to as the Commission, represented herein by and through its duly authorized and empowered representatives. The Commission, under authority of the Texas Natural Resources Code, Title 9, Chapter 191, and subject to the conditions hereinafter set forth, grants this permit for:

Intensive Survey

To be performed on a potential or designated landmark or other public land known as:

Title: Bryson Offsite Project

County: Williamson

Location: Leander, Texas

Owned or Controlled by: (hereafter known as the Permittee):

City of Leander

P.O. Box 319

Leander, TX 78746

Sponsored by (hereafter known as the Sponsor)

Atmos Energy

5420 LBJ Freeway, Suite 1752

Dallas, TX 75420

The Principal Investigator/Investigation Firm representing the Owner or Sponsor is:

John Fulmer

Burns & McDonnell, Inc.

9400 Ward Parkway

Kansas City, MO 64114

This permit is to be in effect for a period of:

2 Years and 0 Months

and Will Expire on:

05/13/2017

During the preservation, analysis, and preparation of a final report or until further notice by the Commission, artifacts, field notes, and other data gathered during the investigation will be kept temporarily at:

Burns & McDonnell, Austin Office Lab

Upon completion of the final permit report, the same artifacts, field notes, and other data will be placed in a permanent curatorial repository at:

Texas Archeological Research Lab.

Scope of Work under this permit shall consist of:

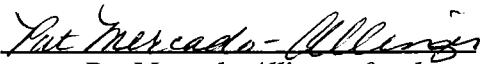
An intensive pedestrian archaeological survey with shovel testing of high probability areas that meets or exceeds the State Archeological Survey Standards for Texas. This includes, subsurface shovel testing of pedestrian survey transects and mechanical testing in appropriate alluvial areas. For details, see scope of work submitted with permit application.

ARCHEOLOGY PERMIT # 7283

This permit is granted on the following terms and conditions:

- 1) This project must be carried out in such a manner that the maximum amount of historic, scientific, archeological, and educational information will be recovered and preserved and must include the scientific, techniques for recovery, recording, preservation and analysis commonly used in archeological investigations. All survey level investigations must follow the state survey standards and the THC survey requirements established with the projects sponsor(s).
- 2) The Principal Investigator/Investigation Firm, serving for the Owner/Permittee and/or the Project Sponsor, is responsible for insuring that specimens, samples, artifacts, materials and records that are collected as a result of this permit are appropriately cleaned, and cataloged for curation. These tasks will be accomplished at no charge to the Commission, and all specimens, artifacts, materials, samples, and original field notes, maps, drawings, and photographs resulting from the investigations remain the property of the State of Texas, or its political subdivision, and must be curated at a certified repository. Verification of curation by the repository is also required, and duplicate copies of any requested records shall be furnished to the Commission before any permit will be considered complete.
- 3) The Principal Investigator/Investigation Firm serving for the Owner/Permittee, and/or the Project Sponsor is responsible for the publication of results of the investigations in a thorough technical report containing relevant descriptions, maps, documents, drawings, and photographs. A draft copy of the report must be submitted to the Commission for review and approval. Any changes to the draft report requested by the Commission must be made or addressed in the report, or under separate written response to the Commission. Once a draft has been approved by the Commission, one (1) printed, unbound copy of the final report containing at least one map with the plotted location of any and all sites recorded and two copies of the report in tagged PDF format on an archival quality CD or DVD shall be furnished to the commission. One copy must include the plotted location of any and all sites recorded and the other should not include the site location data. A paper copy and an electronic copy of the completed Abstracts in Texas Contract Archeology Summary Form must also be submitted with the final report to the Commission. (Printed copies of forms are available from the Commission or also online at www.thc.state.tx.us.)
- 4) If the Owner/Permittee, Project Sponsor or Principal Investigator/Investigation Firm fails to comply with any of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure or with any of the specific terms of this permit, or fails to properly conduct or complete this project within the allotted time, the permit will fall into default status. A notification of Default status shall be sent to the Principal Investigator/Investigation Firm, and the Principal Investigator will not be eligible to be issued any new permits until such time that the conditions of this permit are complete or, if applicable, extended.
- 5) The Owner/Permittee, Project Sponsor, and Principal Investigator/Investigation Firm, in the conduct of the activities hereby authorizes, must comply with all laws, ordinances and regulations of the State of Texas and of its political subdivisions including, but not limited to, the Antiquities Code of Texas; they must conduct the investigation in such a manner as to afford protection to the rights of any and all lessees or easement holders or other persons having an interest in the property and they must return the property to its original condition insofar as possible, to leave it in a state which will not create hazard to life nor contribute to the deterioration of the site or adjacent lands by natural forces.
- 6) Any duly authorized and empowered representative of the Commission may, at any time, visit the site to inspect the fieldwork as well as the field records, materials, and specimens being recovered.
- 7) For reasons of site security associated with historical resources, the Project Sponsor (if not the Owner/Permittee), Principal Investigator, Owner, and Investigation Firm shall not issue any press releases, or divulge to the news media, either directly or indirectly, information regarding the specific location of, or other information that might endanger those resources, or their associated artifacts without first consulting with the Commission, and the State agency or political subdivision of the State that owns or controls the land where the resource has been discovered.
- 8) This permit may not be assigned by the Principal Investigator/Investigation Firm, Owner/Permittee, or Project Sponsor in whole, or in part to any other individual, organization, or corporation not specifically mentioned in this permit without the written consent of the Commission.
- 9) Hold Harmless: The Owner/Permittee hereby expressly releases the State and agrees that Owner/Permittee will hold harmless, indemnify, and defend (including reasonable attorney's fees and cost of litigation) the State, its officers, agents, and employees in their official and/or individual capacities from every liability, loss, or claim for damages to persons or property, direct or indirect of whatsoever nature arising out of, or in any way connected with, any of the activities covered under this permit. The provisions of this paragraph are solely for the benefit of the State and the Texas Historical Commission and are not intended to create or grant any rights, contractual or otherwise, to any other person or entity.
- 10) Addendum: The Owner/Permittee, Project Sponsor and Principal Investigator/Investigation Firm must abide by any addenda hereto attached.

Upon a finding that it is in the best interest of the State, this permit is issued on 05/13/2015.


Pat Mercado-Allinger, for the
Texas Historical Commission

APPENDIX C - THC COORDINATION



March 3, 2015

Becky Shelton
Regional Archaeologist/ Project Reviewer
Texas Historical Commission
108 W. 16th Street
Austin, TX 78701

Re: Request for SHPO Consultation
Bryson Offsite Project
Atmos Energy Corporation

Dear Ms. Shelton:

Enclosed is a Request for SHPO Consultation Form for the Bryson Offsite Project in Williamson County, Texas proposed by Atmos Energy Corporation (Atmos) (Appendix A: Figures 1 and 2). Burns & McDonnell Engineering Inc. (Burns & McDonnell) was contracted by Atmos to perform a Cultural Resources Review for the proposed Project and to assist them with fulfilling their obligations to consider potential impacts to Cultural Resources under state and Federal laws.

The Project is under an accelerated schedule, and if possible, Atmos would greatly appreciate it if the Project Review period could be reduced to 15 days, as stipulated in the Antiquities Code of Texas for pipeline projects.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project includes the installation of approximately 4 miles (6.4 kilometers [km]) of 8-inch poly main line for carrying natural gas to a new subdivision in northern Leander, Texas. The ROW for the Project ranges from 20 - 50 feet wide (6 - 15 m). Construction activities will include both open-cut and boring methods and disturbance is expected to reach a maximum depth of 5 - 8 feet (1.5 – 2.5 m) below surface.

No Federal funding, licensing, or permitting is required for the Project; therefore Section 106 does not currently apply. However, portions of the Project are located within publicly owned ROW paralleling paved County Roads 269 (Hero Way), 270, and San Gabriel Parkway. Additionally, a portion of the Project extends north of San Gabriel Parkway and will follow a previously cleared publicly owned transmission line ROW. Due to ownership of portions of the ROW by political subdivisions of the State (the city of Leander and Williamson County), the Antiquities Code of Texas applies within these sections of the Project. The publicly owned sections total approximately 3 miles (5 km) (Appendix A: Figures 1 and 2).

Bryson Offsite Project

March 3, 2015

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BACKGROUND REVIEW

An initial desktop review was performed by Burns & McDonnell archaeologists and included an examination of the Texas Archaeological Sites Atlas (TASA) to identify previously recorded archaeological sites and other previously designated historic-age resources. This includes Official State of Texas Historical Markers (OTHM), such as Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks (RTHLs), NRHP-listed sites and districts, SALs, and historic-age cemeteries within a Study Area extending 1 mile from the Project Area. The TASA was also used to identify previous cultural resources surveys performed within or near the Project.

Additionally, the Soil Web Survey supplied by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and historic maps and aerial photographs provided by Nationwide Environmental Title Research (NETR) were consulted. These resources were accessed in order to review available soils data and historic-age maps covering the Project Area.

Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites and Surveys

Based on a review of TASA, no cultural resource surveys have been performed with the immediate Project ROW; however, 14 surveys have been completed within 1 mile of the Project, including 3 surveys located immediately adjacent to the Project ROW (Appendix A: Figure 3; Table 1).

There are 24 previously recorded archaeological sites within 1 mile of the Project, none of the sites are located within the immediate Project ROW (Appendix A: Figure 3). The sites are primarily surficial lithic scatters associated with procurement areas and workshops, and include assorted debitage and occasional stone tools. Several burned rock middens were also recorded in the 1960s along the San Gabriel River. In addition to prehistoric sites, four historic-age farmsteads dating to the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century are also recorded within 1 mile of the Project. A table of the previously recorded sites within 1 mile of the Project is presented in Table 2.

There is one OTHM in the Project ROW, a subject marker commemorating the Victims of the Webster Massacre. The Massacre occurred in 1839 when white settlers in route to Burnet County were attacked by a group of Comanche Indians. Many of the victims are buried in the adjacent Davis Cemetery (THC 2015). One other cemetery, the Fisk-Cashion Cemetery, is located north of the Project Area (Appendix A: Figure 3; Table 3). The OTHM and two cemeteries are located well outside the Project ROW and will not be impacted by construction.

Table 1: Previous Cultural Resources Surveys within 1 mile of the Project

Date	Consultant	Project Planner	Agency	Intersects Project ROW
1965	unknown	unknown	USACE	No
1982	unknown	unknown	EPA	No
1985	Coastal Environments, Inc. Baton Rouge, LA	Lichliter-Jameson and Associates, Inc.	EPA	No
2002	Archaeological and Cultural Sciences Group	Williamson County	THC	No
2002	Archaeological and Cultural Sciences Group	Williamson County	THC	No
2005	HDR and PAI	HDR	TxDOT	No
2005	Lopez Garcia Group	Capital Metro Transpo Authority	FTA	No
2006	Hicks	TxDOT	TxDOT	No
2007	Horizon Environmental Services, Inc.	Stanley Consultants, Inc Austin Tx	USACE	No
2007	Horizon Environmental Services, Inc.	Stanley Consultants, Inc Austin Tx	USACE	No
2009	Cox McClain	Klotz Associates, Inc.	TxDOT	No
2009	HRA Gray and Pape	Berg-Oliver Associates, Inc.	city of Leander	No
2011	SWCA	Williamson County	THC	No
2014	HRA Gray and Pape	Brown & Gay Engineers, Inc	THC	No

Table 2: Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites within 1 mile of the Project

Trinomial	Site type	NRHP eligibility	Intersects Project ROW
41WM28	Burned Rock Midden	Undetermined	No
41WM92	Burned Rock Midden	Undetermined	No
41WM105	Burned Rock Midden	Undetermined	No
41WM107	Burned Rock Midden	Undetermined	No
41WM108	Burned Rock Midden	Undetermined	No
41WM111	Burned Rock Midden	Undetermined	No
41WM473	Burned Rock Midden	Undetermined	No
41WM691	Lithic Quarry	Undetermined	No
41WM693	Lithic Quarry	Undetermined	No
41WM696	Twentieth Century Farmstead	Undetermined	No
41WM697	Lithic Quarry	Undetermined	No
41WM698	Lithic Quarry	Ineligible	No
41WM1005	Historic Midden	Ineligible	No
41WM1006	Davis Cemetery	Eligible	No
41WM1040	Rock Midden and Lithic Scatter	Ineligible	No
41WM1041	Burned Rock Midden	Ineligible	No
41WM1106	Rock Midden and Lithic Scatter	Ineligible	No
41WM1107	Rock Midden and Lithic Scatter	Undetermined	No
41WM1108	Historic/Prehistoric	Undetermined	No
41WM1113	Lithic Quarry	Ineligible	No
41WM1114	Historic Farmstead	Undetermined	No
41WM1115	Historic Farmstead	Ineligible	No
41WM1116	Historic Farmstead	Undetermined	No
41WM1246	Lithic Scatter	Ineligible	No

Table 3: Non-Archaeological Historic-Age Resources within 1 mile of the Project

Resource name	Quadrangle	Designation	Marker type	Intersects Project ROW
Victims of the Webster Massacre	Leander	OTHM	Subject	no
Davis Cemetery	Leander	Cemetery	none	no
Fisk-Cashion Cemetery	Leander	Cemetery	none	no

CONCLUSIONS

The proposed Bryson Offsite Project will be constructed using no Federal lands, permitting, funding or assistance. Additionally, no waterways or wetlands under Federal jurisdiction will be affected; therefore Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) does not currently apply. However, portions of the Project cross through publicly owned ROW (City of Leander and Williamson County) and these sections of the Project are subject to the Texas Antiquities Code (Appendix A: Figures 1 and 2).

No previously recorded archaeological sites, historic structures, OTHMs, NRHP properties, or cemeteries are located within the immediate ROW that would be affected by Project Construction. Additionally, archaeological sites that have been previously recorded in this area of Williamson County appear to be primarily surficial or shallowly buried due to a lack of soil deposition and erosional processes, with the exception of sites to the north along the San Gabriel River (THC and NRCS). Based on current aerial photographs and topographic maps, the portion of the Project located within publicly owned ROW appears to have been subject to disturbance through previous clearing and road and utility construction activities; therefore if archaeological sites had been present in these areas, they most likely were disturbed through previous construction activities.

Given the previous disturbance and lack of previously recorded archaeological resources within the public ROW, Burns & McDonnell recommends no archaeological survey be required in these areas. Atmos has agreed to perform a due-diligence survey, in accordance with the Council of Texas Archaeologists survey standards of Texas, of the private lands in the northern section of the Project where new ROW clearing will be performed, and therefore has the potential for disturbing archaeological sites.



Bryson Offsite Project
March 3, 2015
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We appreciate your guidance concerning the best way to proceed with moving this Project forward. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. Thank you for your time and assistance with this matter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Sarah Loftus
Archaeologist, Cultural Resources Specialist

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

March 20, 2015

Sarah Loftus
Burns & McDonnell
8911 Capital of Texas Highway
Bldg. 4, Suite 4260
Austin, Texas 78759

Re: Project review under the Antiquities Code of Texas, *Proposed Atmos – Bryson Offsite Project, Williamson County* (City of Leander)

Dear Ms. Loftus:

Thank you for your correspondence concerning the above referenced project. This letter presents the comments of the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission, the state agency responsible for administering the Antiquities Code of Texas.

The review staff, led by Rebecca Shelton, has examined our records. According to our maps the proposed pipeline route has never been surveyed for cultural resources. We concur that the portion of the proposed route from Ronald Reagan Blvd. to San Gabriel Way, which parallels existing roadways, does not require survey. However, despite the known disturbances, we believe that there is potential for cultural resources in the City of Leander right-of-way north of San Gabriel Road, as well as in the proposed ROW that transects private lands. These settings could contain prehistoric or historic sites. The existing City of Leander ROW north of San Gabriel Road and the proposed ROW that transects private lands should be surveyed by a professional archeologist.

The work should meet the minimum archeological survey standards posted on-line at www.thc.state.tx.us. A report of investigations should be produced in conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and submitted to this office for review. In addition, any buildings 45 years old or older that are located on or adjacent to the tract should be documented with photographs and a map with a key to the photographs included in the report. You may obtain lists of most professional archeologists in Texas on-line at: www.c-tx-arch.org or www.rpanet.org. Please note that other potentially qualified archeologists not included on these lists may be used.

Since this work will occur on land owned or controlled by an entity of the state, an Antiquities Permit must be secured from our office before fieldwork may begin. Please ask prospective contractors if they are qualified to receive an Antiquities Permit.

Thank you for your cooperation in this state review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. **If you have any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Rebecca Shelton at Rebecca.Shelton@thc.state.tx.us or 512.463.6043.**

Sincerely,



for
Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer

MW/rls



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

June 24, 2015

Casey Hanson, Archeologist
Burns McDonnell
15950 N. Dallas Parkway
Tower II, Suite 700
Dallas, Texas 75248

Re: Project Review under the Antiquities Code of Texas, Draft Report *Bryson Offsite Project Cultural Resources Survey Report, Williamson County* (City of Leander/Permit 7283)

Dear Mr. Hanson:

Thank you for submitting to us the draft report referenced above. This letter serves as comment on the report from the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission (THC), which is the state agency responsible for administering the Antiquities Code of Texas.

The review staff, led by Rebecca Shelton, has completed our review. After examining the documentation, we believe that the report requires some additional information and clarification. On March 20, 2015, the THC recommended that "The existing City of Leander ROW north of San Gabriel Road and the proposed ROW that transects private lands should be surveyed by a professional archeologist."

In the Scope of Work submitted with the permit application April 22, 2015, Burns & McDonnell stated that "the section of the project north of San Gabriel Parkway currently owned by the city of Leander should be surveyed, as well as the privately owned lands to the north". Based on the results presented in the draft report, the privately owned lands were not surveyed. Please include the survey results of the segment of the route that transect private land in the report.

We look forward to reviewing the revised report. Thank you for your cooperation in this state review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. **If you have any questions please contact Rebecca Shelton of our staff, at (512) 463-6043 or Rebecca.Shelton@thc.state.tx.us.**

Sincerely,



for
Mark Wolfe
State Historic Preservation Officer
MW/rls



APPENDIX D - SHOVELTEST DATA

**Appendix D – Subsurface Tests
Bryson Offsite Project**

Site	Shovel Test Number	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Profile
n/a	1	No Recovery (NR)	NR	NR	0-5 cm – 10YR 3/3 dark brown silty clay with limestone cobbles over bedrock
n/a	2	NR	NR	NR	0-48 cm – 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish brown clay loam with limestone gravels over bedrock
n/a	3	NR	NR	NR	0-20 - 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish brown clay loam with limestone gravels 20-30 - 10YR 3/4 dark yellowish brown clay loam over bedrock
n/a	4	NR	NR	NR	0-20 - 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish brown clay loam with limestone gravels over bedrock



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