

Gov't may sue schools over border fence

by UPI

BROWNSVILLE, Texas - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said it may sue two Texas universities for access to their property to survey the area for a border fence. Juliet Garcia, the president of the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, refused to allow the corps access to campus property to conduct surveys and environmental studies in late 2007. Garcia objected saying the proposed fence would endanger public safety, deter access to a golf course, harm the environment and disturb historical sites, the Austin (Texas) American-Statesman said Wednesday. University officials scheduled a closed-door meeting for Wednesday and it's uncertain the Board of Regents will back Garcia's move, saying it's important to cooperate with national security measures. The local community, however, embraced Garcia as a hero as many residents issued similar refusals to the Department of Homeland Security. Federal law allows the government to seize private property for public use in exchange for "just compensation."

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