



Inspiration Point Rural Fire Protection District

31 Ozark Automotive Road, Eureka Springs, Arkansas 72632

www.ip-fire.org

FAX: 479-253-7881

In case of EMERGENCY dial 911

Arkansas Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 400
Little Rock, AR 72203-0400

RE: APSC Docket # 13-041-U
SWEPCO Proposed Shipe Road-Kings River 345-kV Project

Honorable Members of the Arkansas Public Service Commission

The Board of Commissioners of the Inspiration Point Rural Fire Protection District, Western Carroll County Arkansas, would like to unanimously express our strong opposition to the proposed Shipe Road-Kings River 345 k-V electrical transmission line project.

It is our belief and concern that the proposed electrical transmission line project would significantly increase the risk of wild land fires in our district, and in adjacent fire districts, both during the construction and operational phases of the project. This increased risk would tax and deplete the limited resources of our departments and the forestry service, and greatly add to operational and equipment costs. Most of the fire departments in the area have limited resources for fighting wild land fires. The proposed routes for the project come very near populated areas, which would have numerous structures that need protecting. The routes also cross remote areas that would be difficult and costly to access.

In addition to increasing costs and wear and tear on our equipment, it is also our concern that the proposed lines will seriously diminish the property values in our fire protection district. Our district is composed largely of private homes and lodging for tourists that come to the area for its recreational opportunities and scenic beauty. We believe the proposed project will negatively affect the property values of the members of our district and seriously affect the income of our businesses. We are very concerned that the project will also lead to residents leaving the area. All of these potential impacts could drastically reduce the fire districts ability to collect dues and raise the funds we need to provide fire protection and medical service to our residents.

The Board of Commissioners of the Inspiration Point Rural Fire Protection District strongly urges the Commissioners of the Arkansas Public Service Commission to deny SWEPCO's application.

Respectfully,

Jim Mautte, President

Patricia Helwig, Secretary Treasurer

Bob Howie, Commissioner

Jim Simmons, Commissioner

Ed Thompson, Commissioner and Fire Chief

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ARKANSAS PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION