

May 22, 2013

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

2013 MAY 24 A 8:55

RECEIVED

Reference: Docket #13-041-U

Dear Honorable Members of the Arkansas Public Service Commission:

The Board of the Eureka Springs School of the Arts, located on Highway 62 just west of Eureka Springs, would like to respectfully express its opposition to the proposed application by SWEPCO for a high voltage power line that would traverse major access routes to our School as well as Eureka Springs.

The mission statement of the Eureka Springs School of the Arts is: *"committed to cultivating, promoting, and encouraging artistic expression by providing art education opportunities in a unique environment of beauty and creativity."*

The reference in the statement to a 'unique environment of beauty' applies directly and intentionally to the mountains and hillsides that surround our campus, offering stunning and gorgeous views. Scenic beauty is not extraneous at our School, as myriad elements including trees, wildlife and plants inspire. To preserve such a magnificent environment is forcibly compelling--and well beyond our institution.

For, Arkansas is the "Natural State," and this proposal seeks to harm visibly one of our most valued and pristine areas. The detrimental impact of such a massive power line would mar the natural beauty in a dramatic, unconscionable fashion.

The proposed routes by SWEPCO would also adversely affect part of a beautiful horizon that draws millions of tourists to Eureka Springs and the surrounding area. Such a landscape-altering project would have a distressing effect on the regional economy and our School's viability. Tourists, some of whom are our students, generate vital revenue that allows the School to be able to serve the public. Extending much farther, tourists impact every echelon of the area's financial base. But, of even greater importance, the proposed project would callously hurt a graceful, significant mountainous terrain,

As members of the Commission, seeking to resolve both the needs of utility companies as well as protecting the beauty of our state may not be easy. In this case, the aesthetic considerations should prevail.

We implore you, as members of the Commission, to deny this application.

Sincerely,



Lucilla Garrett, Board President