



**GRASSY KNOB VOLUNTEER
FIRE ASSOCIATION**

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Eureka Springs, AR 72631

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SECRETARY OF COMMISSION

ARKANSAS PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**To: Arkansas Public Service Commission
PO Box 400
Little Rock AR 72203-0400**

From: Robert McVey, Fire Chief

Date: May 22, 2012

**Subject: APSC Docket # 13-041-U, SWEPCO Proposed Shippe
Road - Kings River 345 kV Project**

The Grassy Knob Vol. Fire Assoc. Board of Commissioners expresses their strong opposition to the proposed Shippe Road - Kings River 345 kV transmission line project.

In our area transmission lines can be hit by tornados and most certainly, ice storms. Downed lines cause a fire hazard that we as a small volunteer fire dept. are ill-equipped to handle. It also creates a great risk for forest fires that can lead to structures being lost in addition to possible injuries to the firefighters. As a retirement community, most of my firefighters are quite elderly and not in the greatest of health. This gives me cause for great concern.

Folks that retired here for the beauty of the forest would suffer severe property devaluation should they be within sight of such transmission lines.


Our Vol. Fire Assoc. survives on a voluntary submission of dues. This offers very limited funds to provide for equipment. Presently, our fire engines and water tankers are NOT 4 wheel drive capable. When a fire erupts along the line, we will not be able to access the fire.

Finally, our area attracts quite a bit of tourism trade for the beauty. Many cabins, motels and bed & breakfast units depend

on the income from this trade. A transmission line cut would be disastrous to this trade, as well as a decrease in the property values.

The Grassy Knob Vol. Fire. Assoc. board urges the Arkansas Public Services Commission to deny SWQEPCO's application.

Respectfully submitted,



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert E. McVey", is written over a solid horizontal line.

Robert E. McVey, Fire Chief