



Arkansas

THE NATURAL STATE

ARK. PUBLIC SERV. COMM

SECRETARY OF COM

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May 29, 2013

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**DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS & TOURISM**

1 Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201
501-682-7777

Great River Road Division
501-682-1120
Arkansas.com

History Commission
501-682-6900 (TDD)
Ark-ives.com

Human Resources Section
501-682-7742 (TDD)

Keep Arkansas
Beautiful Division
501-682-3507 (TDD)
KeepArkansasBeautiful.com

State Parks Division
501-682-1191 (TDD)
ArkansasStateParks.com

Tourism Division
501-682-7777 (TDD)
Arkansas.com

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Robert Phelps
KEEP ARKANSAS
BEAUTIFUL

Ms. Kristi Rhude, Secretary
Arkansas Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 400
1000 Center Street
Little Rock, AR 72203

Dear Ms. Rhude:

At the May 15, 2013 meeting of the State Parks, Recreation and Travel Commission (SPRTC), the Commission directed me to write to the Public Service Commission about their concern with the proposed 345 kV line by SWEPCO running from Centerton to the Kings River Station.

Although the SPRTC is not in the position to establish the need for this project, they are chagrined by the impact it would have on one of the most scenic and historic areas in Arkansas. A 160 ft. tall power line stretching over 48 miles of the Ozarks will leave a lasting footprint no matter where it goes.

Previously, our Department has submitted comments to SWEPCO pointing out various publicly funded parks, scenic and historic areas that could be impacted by the route, which would be our routine function for projects such as this, if we had been notified, which we weren't. We found out about the project from citizens of Eureka Springs, and subsequently contacted SWEPCO. We also notified Pea Ridge National Military Park who have since expressed concerns dealing with not only the park, but the Trail of Tears.

**AN EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY/
AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/
AMERICANS WITH
DISABILITIES ACT
EMPLOYER**

Ms. Kristi Rhude

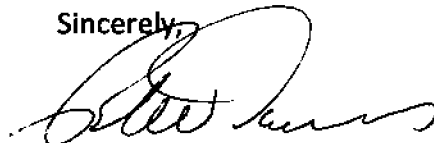
5/28/2013

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The various options presented by SWEPCO could have extremely adverse effects on Pea Ridge National Military Park, the historic and scenic town of Eureka Springs, Thorncrown Chapel, arguably one of the great architectural masterpieces in America, and scenic overlooks throughout the various routes. I think it was the SPRTC's desire that the Public Service Commission rigorously examine the need for this project at all, and if it is necessary, then to insist on a route that would have the least impact on scenic, natural and historic resources in the area. The route going through the middle of Eureka Springs presented as an option is almost beyond comprehension.

The scenic quality of Arkansas, and especially the area this line would cross, is the number one reason people visit our state, spending \$5.7 billion last year. Many of our citizens have moved to these scenic areas to avoid just this sort of intrusion. The State Parks, Recreation and Travel Commission would appreciate the Public Service Commission's consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,



Richard W. Davies

Executive Director

RWD:sm

cc: Arkansas State Parks, Recreation and Travel Commission
Mike Bishop, Director, Eureka Springs Chamber of Commerce