



Keeping the Natural State natural.

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

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ARK. PUBLIC SERV. COMM
UTILITY DIVISION

Re: APSC Docket No. 13-041-U; proposed Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) 345 kV transmission line from Shipe Road Station terminating at a new Kings River Station.

Commission Staff,

Biologist with the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission (AGFC) have reviewed the Application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Application) for the above referenced project. The Application states the following:

SWEPCO proposes to construct a new 345 kV transmission line originating at SWEPCO's Shipe Road Station that is currently under construction west of Centerton, Benton County, Arkansas and terminating at a new Kings River Station to be located northwest of Berryville, Carroll County, Arkansas. Alternate proposed routes also transverse one of more of the following: Madison and Washington Counties, Arkansas and McDonald and Barry Counties, Missouri.

Proposed alternative Route 33 passes just to the north of Devil's Eyebrow Natural Area. Devil's Eyebrow is co-owned and managed by the AGFC and the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. The Natural Area supports both state and globally rare plant species, contains the headwaters of Indian Creek and is situated amongst habitats unique to the Dissected Springfield Plateau ecoregion. AGFC would not support alternative Route 33 if it were to cross Devil's Eyebrow Natural Area.

Proposed alternative Route 108 passes over two designated areas of numerous springs and spring-fed tributaries which support southern cavefish, Ozark cavefish, Arkansas darter, least darter, Oklahoma salamander, cave snails, cave crawfish and unique invertebrates. AGFC does not support proposed alternative Route 108 due to potential impacts to these sensitive species.

Invasive plant species are an increasing problem in northwest Arkansas and their spread is facilitated by clearing areas and maintaining rights-of-ways (ROWs). AGFC recommends that any areas cleared and maintained for the purpose of transmission line ROWs manage for the removal of invasive plant species and replant with native warm season grasses.

The opportunity to comment is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mike Knoedl
Director

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The mission of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission is to wisely manage all the fish and wildlife resources of Arkansas while providing maximum enjoyment for the people.