

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
OF SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC POWER
COMPANY FOR A CERTIFICATE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND
PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION
OWNERSHIP, OPERATION AND
MAINTENANCE OF THE PROPOSED 345
KV TRANSMISSION LINE BETWEEN THE
SHIPE ROAD STATION AND THE
PROPOSED KINGS RIVER STATION AND
ASSOCIATED FACILITIES TO BE
LOCATED IN BENTON, CARROLL
AND/OR MADISON AND WASHINGTON
COUNTIES, ARKANSAS**

DOCKET NO: 13-041-U

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Surrebuttal Testimony of

Doug Stowe

For

Save the Ozarks

August 7, 2013

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Introduction

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Q. STATE YOUR NAME AND PLACE OF RESIDENCE

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A. My name is Doug Stowe and I live at 412 Sandrock Rd. Eureka Springs,

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72632.

10

Q. ARE YOU THE SAME DOUG STOWE THAT FILED DIRECT

11

TESTIMONY IN THIS CASE?

12

A. Yes I am.

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Q. WHAT IS YOUR PRESENT TESTIMONY RELATED TO?

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A. I am testifying as an artist in an affected community concerning the prior filed

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testimony of SWPECO and APSC staff witnesses and the extent to which these

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witnesses' testimony addressed or did not address the economic impacts of the

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proposed powerline on the arts and tourism and the extent to which such

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testimony addressed gaps in the EIS and Application on this topic.

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WHAT ISSUES WILL YOU BE ADDRESSING?

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A. I will address the continuing failure (after the initial failure in the

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Environmental Impact Statement and in the SWPECO Application) in subsequent

1 testimony by AEP-SWEPCO and APSC witnesses to address the economic
2 impacts of the Shipes Road to Kings River 345 kV powerline project.

3 **Q. WHAT ARE YOUR EXACT CONCERNS REGARDING SWEPCO'S**
4 **AND APSC STAFF'S TESTIMONY REGARDING THE EXTENT TO**
5 **WHICH ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT HAVE BEEN**
6 **ADDRESSED IN THE EIS, THE APPLICATION, OR OTHERWISE?**

7 **A.** I've reviewed the EIS and subsequent testimonies from a variety of witnesses
8 including Stephen Thornhill testifying for SWEPCO and Clark Cotten testifying
9 for the APSC Staff. I've found that there is nothing in any of these documents and
10 testimonies that addresses the economic impact of the powerline proposal on any
11 of the specific local communities that will be affected by it. I have not found
12 anything in the testimony of the SWEPCO or APSC Staff witnesses that
13 resembles the information described in Arkansas Code § 23-18-511 as "... (6) An
14 analysis of the projected economic or financial impact on the applicant and the
15 local community where the facility is to be located as a result of the construction
16 and the operation of the proposed facility; ..."

17 If you do your own simple review of the entire EIS, you will find that
18 economic impact is not specifically mentioned at all, and it is most particularly
19 not considered in relation to possible adverse economic impacts on any of the

1 particular local communities involved, whether we're talking about Springdale,
2 Cave Springs, Bentonville, Garfield, Gateway, Eureka Springs, or any other
3 small local communities in the path of AEP-SWEPCO's proposed routes. Each
4 and every local community within the path of any of the proposed routes has
5 uniquely important cultural, environmental, and economic circumstances
6 including tourism and the adverse impacts of the project on these communities
7 should have been addressed in the EIS and Application. However, the
8 information on economic impacts of the project on affected communities
9 described in Arkansas Code § 23-18-511 has not only been omitted in the EIS and
10 Application, it still has not been provided in the subsequent testimony of
11 SWEPCO witnesses. The APSC Staff testimony also has not provided this
12 information.

13 **Q. DO ANY OF THE TESTIMONIES FROM AEP-SWEPCO EXPERTS IN**
14 **SUPPORT OF THE APPLICATION, INCLUDING REBUTTAL**
15 **TESTIMONIES DELIVERED ON JULY 28 SPEAK TO THIS CONCERN?**

16 **A.** No they do not. In fact, anyone can do a simple word search on each part of the
17 entire body of testimony and application from AEP-SWEPCO and still find that
18 economic impact is not mentioned at all, even with regards to Steven Thornhill's

1 rebuttal testimony on tourism. There is nothing in SWEPCO or APSC
2 testimonies that provides any information on possible economic impacts of the
3 project on the specific local communities involved.

4 **Q. DO ANY OF THE TESTIMONIES OR APPLICATION MATERIALS**
5 **SUBMITTED BY AEP-SWEPCO IN THIS CASE ADDRESS THE**
6 **ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PROJECT ON THE LOCAL**
7 **COMMUNITY OF EUREKA SPRINGS?**

8 **A.** No they do not. The only actual mention of “Economic Impact” to be found in
9 any available documents in the 13-041-U docket is Clarke Cotten’s brief general
10 statement that the economic impact of the powerline project will be “minimal.”

11 **Q. DO YOU AGREE WITH APSC SENIOR ELECTRICAL ENGINEER**
12 **CLARKE COTTEN’S TESTIMONY THAT THE ECONOMIC IMPACT**
13 **OF THE PROJECT WILL BE “MINIMAL”.**

14 **A.** No, I do not.

15 **Q. CAN YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC AS TO WHY YOU DISAGREE?**

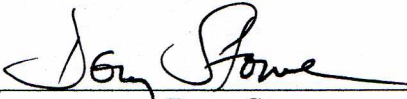
16 **A.** Yes. Clarke Cotten in his review of the EIS and application submitted by AEP-
17 SWEPCO noted that Economic impact of the proposed project would be
18 “minimal.” But this was without study, and without evidence or consideration of
19 the proposed powerline on the scenic values of this local community, or our

1 dependence on that scenic beauty for the livelihoods of artists and all those
2 involved in and dependent upon the attraction of tourists to our local community.
3 We have an economy that is utterly dependent on pristine local environment, the
4 beauty of which is currently unmarred by the kind and scale of development that
5 AEP-SWEPCO's project would impose upon us.

6 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR PRESENT TESTIMONY?**

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Respectfully submitted by:

9 
10 _____
Doug Stowe

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Mick G. Harrison, Esq., Attorney for Intervenor STO, hereby certify that on August 7, 2013, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing Surrebuttal Testimony was served on all parties of record via their counsel by electronic mail.

/s/ Mick G. Harrison
Mick G. Harrison, Esq.