



Let's Work Together to Save the Ozarks!



WHAT IS SWEPKO'S PLAN FOR THE OZARK HIGHLANDS?

SWEPKO plans to ...

- Clear-cut and bulldoze a strip that is ~ 50 miles long and as wide as a football field through the heart of the Ozark Highlands of Northwest Arkansas and Southwest Missouri;
- Drill, pound or blast a series of ~ 300 boreholes, 30-40 feet deep and 7-10 feet wide, along that strip;
- Fill each borehole with a concrete foundation;
- Bolt a 150-foot tall monopole to each foundation; and
- Run a 345 kV electrical transmission line from monopole to monopole.

The Ozark Highlands are one of the world's oldest mountain ranges and one of the most beautiful, forested regions in the U.S. SWEPKO plans to create permanent scar across the heart of the Ozark Highlands -- a massive, perpetual eyesore that will be visible from space, the air, every major entryway to the Ozark Highlands region, many of the region's prominent tourist attractions and destinations, and hundreds of homes and businesses.

To construct their power line, SWEPKO plans to cut down and/or bulldoze every tree from the line right-of-way -- a total area of some 900 acres. Additional acreage will be cleared of trees and bulldozed to provide access roads to the line.

For each monopole, SWEPKO plans to bulldoze and level an area of about 12,500 square feet and then bring in truck-mounted augurs or tracked vehicles equipped with power augurs to drill boreholes 7-10 feet in diameter and 30-40 feet deep. (Some cases may require blasting or other rock-shattering methods.) They will build reinforced concrete foundations in the boreholes and bring a monopole to each borehole using helicopters or heavy ground equipment. The monopoles will be assembled and bolted to the concrete foundations. On-going maintenance of the power line, monopoles and right-of-way will require the use of trucks and other heavy equipment so that access roads will also have to be perpetually cleared and maintained.

DOES NORTHWEST ARKANSAS NEED MORE SWEPKO POWER?

SWEPKO claims their plan meets a public need -- the need for more electricity. Is SWEPKO's claim true? No.

Dr. Merrill, a well-known and highly-respected expert in transmission line planning, has advised the Arkansas Public Service Commission to "deny approval and certification of the proposed project" because the applicant, SWEPKO, and the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), a Regional Transmission Organization, "have not demonstrated the need for this project. It is quite clear that the Applicant and SPP have not introduced adequate evidence that the project is needed. I have seen no evidence that the necessary studies have been performed. In fact, studies I have performed indicate that the overloads identified in the 2006-2007 Ozark Transmission Study will no longer occur. In addition, the claimed needs, if they are real, have alternative solutions that apparently were not considered that:

- Are much less expensive, and
- Much less environmentally intrusive."

Dr. Merrill proposes six alternatives that will meet the claimed need. None of the alternatives requires SWEPKO to construct a 345 kV transmission line across the Ozark Highlands or to build a new Kings River substation.

SaveTheOzarks

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