



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII
901 NORTH 5TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

SEP 18 2012

OFFICE OF
THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Anthony Bassak
Burns and McDonnell
15950 North Dallas Parkway, Suite 700
Dallas, TX 75248

Dear Mr. Bassak:

Thank you for your letter of August 31, 2012, regarding the construction of a 345 kilovolt transmission line by American Electric Power between two substations located in northwest Arkansas. The study area for the routing study and planned Environmental Impact Statement includes McDonald, Barry and Stone counties in Missouri. Burns and McDonnell has been retained by AEP to conduct the routing study and prepare the EIS for this project. In your letter you requested any information which this office might possess regarding human, cultural and natural resources in these Missouri counties which might constitute "routing constraints or opportunities" affecting the construction of the planned transmission line.

After evaluating that portion of the study area extending north into Missouri using our NEPAassist GIS-based mapping program, we found no specific features or patterns which might constitute a constraint or opportunity for siting the planned transmission line. As the study area includes portions of these Missouri counties with low income populations, we encourage you to identify and minimize any potential impacts of this project disproportionately placed on this population. In addition, at this time, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources has proposed listing two streams in McDonald County under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. We suggest that you coordinate with the MDNR for further information as they finalize their 2012 listings. The three counties within the study area include some sensitive and unique aquatic resources which could be negatively affected by activities associated with the construction of this transmission line. The Missouri state water quality standards at 10 CSR 20.7.031 identify streams designated as Cold Water Fishery or Outstanding State Resource waters. These waters constitute high quality waters sometimes possessing sensitive aquatic life which should be assessed as part of the routing study and EIS, including any projected impacts from transmission line construction and which could be avoided in selecting a final route. Multiple crossings of these special or unique waters should be avoided and minimized. Again, the MDNR is your best contact for further information regarding these waters and applicable State regulation and guidance. I have enclosed a copy of a 2010 report to the governors of Missouri and Arkansas capturing efforts by three state agencies to implement a 2008 Memorandum of Agreement between these states regarding water quality and



quantity in shared watersheds. This document provides some basic understanding of shared watershed issues in Missouri and Arkansas (<http://www.dnr.mo.gov/pubs/final-report-to-governor.pdf>).

I appreciate the early notification regarding this project and look forward to working with you regarding the drafting of an EIS. Your contact regarding compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act is Larry Shepard, Environmental Services Division, NEPA Team, at (913) 551-7441 or shepard.larry@epa.gov. I assume you have transmitted this same request to our NEPA counterparts with USEPA in Region 6, Dallas, regarding project impacts in Arkansas and I have copied that office in this response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "For Karl Brooks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "K" and "B".

Karl Brooks

Enclosure

cc: Rhonda Smith, US EPA Region 6, Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division