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0005-0089
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July 9, 2005

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Public Service Commission

ATTN: Powan-Cranston Transmission Line Permit

P.O. Box 615
Frankfort KY 40601

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept the following comments on Eastern Kentucky Power Cooperative's proposal to clear 4.8 miles of national forestland for the Powan-Cranston Transmission Line. The project clearly does not represent the public interest for a number of reasons.

1) The Daniel Boone National Forest is treasured by the public. The Daniel Boone, Kentucky's only national forest, hosts the largest concentration of threatened and endangered species in the state, over 3,000 miles of clifflines, and the cleanest streams in the state. The Forest represents Kentucky's best opportunity to restore large tracts of functioning forest ecosystems.

Big Perry, the tract that will be bisected by the proposed transmission line, is the second largest block of contiguous forestland in the ^{Morehead} ranger district and is cherished by the local community for its hiking, biking, bird watching, hunting, and nature enjoyment opportunities. A 138kV powerline

(2)

maintained by herbicides is not in the interest of the public nor is it a wise location considering the ecological potential of the forest.

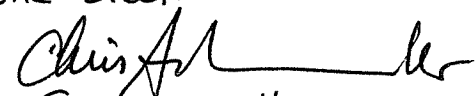
2) Opportunity exists for EKPC to locate the powerline largely off of national forestland. ~~It~~ Failing to explore this alternative has been a disservice to the public, which clearly opposes further fragmentation of the forest.

The April 23, 2002 "Final Report" by Stanley Consultants, Inc., and EKPC identified a route, "Alternate 2," that avoided DBNF land while still providing adequate power according to EKPC calculations. Apparently, the route shares a Kentucky Utilities line for part of the way (see Report at 4:1-2). The Report, however, does not recommend Alternate 2 because it is more expensive than Alternate 1. (Report at 6:1-2)

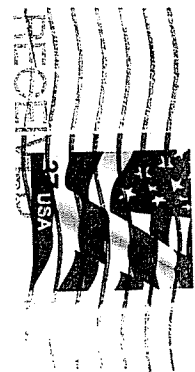
The Forest Service's Land and Resource Management Plan expressly prohibits cost from being a factor in granting special use permits: DB-LAND-2(c) stipulates that special uses "not be permitted on DBNF land if they can be reasonably accommodated on private land, even if these locations are more expensive for the applicant."

Failing to follow the Forest Plan, which was developed from input of thousands of citizens, is not in the public interest.

3) EKPC's "need" for more power/another transmission line has to do with making a profit in the free market of deregulated utilities, not with providing the public electric service!

Thank You, 
Chris Schimmöeller

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