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To: Beth O'Donnell, Executive Director
Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 615
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PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

From: Carroll and Doris A. Tichenor
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Carroll Tichenor
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Re: Proposed East Kentucky Power Cooperative Wilson-Aberdeen-
Morgantown Junction Transmission Project

We have been advised that a Certificate Application for the above project will be filed with the Public Service Commission in June 2005. Because our farm is among the properties that will be significantly impacted by this project, we wish to place before the Commission certain pertinent facts concerning the property.

This property, known as Annis Ferry Farm, is located in the Big Bend/Logansport community in Butler county.

This farm is the location of a number of thoroughly documented historical and archaeological sites. The corridor which has been selected for the transmission project encompasses most if not all of the documented archaeological sites and touches the most thoroughly documented historic site on the farm. We cannot be sure of the exact corridor location in relation to these sites because EKPC has refused to give us an accurate map showing the corridor.

For your information, we will attempt to provide a concise listing of the documented historical and archaeological sites **located on Annis Ferry Farm** and their significance.

(1) Annis Mound and Village Archaeological Sites: The first recorded excavation at Annis Mound was undertaken by Clarence B. Moore in 1915. Major excavations were conducted in 1939-40 under the Kentucky New Deal archaeology program (WPA) headed by Professor William S. Webb of the University of Kentucky. The WPA excavations produced a site map, photographs, detailed notes and over 8,000 artifacts which are curated at the University of Kentucky. Annis mound and village are discussed in *Kentucky Archaeology* (Lewis, pp. 134-137, 149) as examples of early Mississippian culture spanning AD 1000-1300.

In 1985, the Annis Mound and Village sites (9 acres) were nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination stated "The significance of the Annis site is derived from its historical involvement in the development of archaeology in Kentucky...the scientific data which it contains and the relevance of this information to Mississippian period research."

The sites (15 BT-2, 15 BT-20 and 15 BT-21) were entered in the National Register on December 21, 1985.

Renewed interest in the Annis archaeological sites began in 2002 when scientists George Milner and Scott Hammerstedt of Pennsylvania State University undertook excavations to build on the WPA archaeologists' work of sixty years earlier. "Annis Village is an unusual site because it is a mound center which is, as far as we know, very distant from any other mound centers", said Milner. After locating in 2002 a site line where the WPA excavations ended, the Penn State archaeologists returned with two field schools, bringing 10-12 students for a five week school in 2003 and again in 2004. These investigations are described in an article in *American Archaeology* (Vol. 7, No. 3, Fall 2003) and in scientific papers which are still in progress. During the second field school in 2004, the students examined additional areas near the mound and village and at another site on the farm. In addition to Mississippian materials they found Archaic (mostly ca. 6500-3000 years old) sites and artifacts. A cluster of late prehistoric Mississippian sherds and stone debris was found in the field adjacent to the mound and village, suggesting a small farmstead. This would be one of very few to be excavated in the coal fields and has considerable scholarly value. Site forms for three new sites on the farm have been filed and recorded.

The archaeological site is on such significance as to be marked on a display map in the Kentucky History Museum in Frankfort.

(2) Carson's Landing: At this site on Green River a ferry was established in 1810 and a public road was established in 1853/54. The ferry remained in operation for 114 years until 1924, when a different route was chosen for the Owensboro and Bowling Green State Highway. However, the Annis Ferry Road leading to the ferry site remains a public road to this day. During the nineteenth century a small settlement grew around the ferry, including a steamboat landing, large barn, livestock scale and holding pens, and a store and warehouse. Two post offices have existed at Carson's Landing at different times, Logansport from 1854 to 1858 and Noka from 1903 to 1906. The house at the Landing was built by Judge Thomas Clarke Carson in 1853-54. Judge Carson (1823-1897) was a prominent member of the Butler County community. He served as County Judge (1870-74), assisted in the organization of the Butler County Bank (later known as the Morgantown Deposit Bank and now Morgantown Bank and Trust Co.) in 1881 and served as the Bank's first president.

The house at Carson's Landing was listed on the Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory in 1979 and was designated a "Historic Site in Kentucky."

In 1988 the Carson's Landing site encompassing 2.2 acres was nominated for the National Register of Historic Places, within the context of evaluation, "Commerce and Transportation along the Green River in Butler County, 1853-1924." The nomination described Carson's Landing as "one of the few sites in Butler County that represents the commerce and transportation along the Green River and is a material reminder of the importance of the Green River as an artery for transportation, commerce and communication for Logansport, Butler county and Kentucky." The nomination further stated "**Because the location, setting, materials and workmanship have been maintained**, Carson's Landing still evokes a sense of past time and place.... The nominated property has contributed to the development of a larger rural historic landscape and reflects the tradition of the river and culture."

The National Register nomination was approved on July 31, 1998 and the property was entered in the National Register.

(3) A Kentucky Historic Farm: Annis Ferry Farm was designated a "Heritage Farm" by the Kentucky Heritage Council during the celebration of Kentucky's Bicentennial in 1992 and is included in *Kentucky's Historic Farms: 200 Years of Kentucky Agriculture* (pp. 144-146). Criteria for the Heritage Farm designation were a farm with non-continuous family ownership and with 100 year old farmhouse and/or outbuildings. Annis Ferry Farm has been owned by the same family since 1904.

Our first notification of the proposed project was around May 12, 2005 when we received in the mail a packet from EKPC containing general information about the company and the project, including a vague, inaccurate sketch map of the proposed corridor and a form letter advising us of an "open house" to be held in Morgantown, Kentucky on May 17. When we arrived at the "open house" we were shown an aerial map with the marked corridor crossing the middle of our farm, from one side to the other, effectively cutting the farm in half. We were assured by EKPC representatives that the corridor was final and not subject to change. When we attempted to point out the historic and archaeological areas that would be impacted by the corridor, the representatives were totally dismissive, responding that such resources were to be found "all over the place" and were of no consequence. We requested a map but they flatly refused to give us one.

At the "open house" we were given a "Questionnaire for Public Participation in Wilson-Aberdeen-Morgantown Transmission Line Siting." We completed the questionnaire promptly and returned it to EKPC by express mail in time to meet their May 25 deadline. Except for the "open house", this is the only contact we have had with EKPC.

We find it very disturbing that a corridor for a project of this size and impact was selected and finalized totally without regard for historic and archaeological resources. When we contacted the Kentucky Heritage Commission about this project on May 18, they indicated that it had not been brought to their attention and they had no record of it.

In this letter we have attempted to provide a concise summary of what is at stake here. Abundant evidence in the form of books, scientific papers, photographs and illustrations is available to support the claims we have made, and a bibliography can be produced upon request.

We ask the Commission to give serious consideration to the information we have provided in this letter and further request that the corridor be relocated to protect these historically and archaeologically significant sites.

Thank you.