



"Shadowlawn"

Phillip & Deirdre Price

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February 4, 2007

Beth O'Donnell
Executive Director
Kentucky Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 615 - 211 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort, KY 40602-0615

RECEIVED

FEB 08 2007

PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

Re: Case #200600463

Dear Ms. O'Donnell:

We wrote you a letter in August 2006 to express our family's opposition to the planned transmission line that will originate in Clark County, Kentucky, cross Madison County, and terminate at a planned substation near KY-52 and Boone's Creek Road, just outside of Lancaster, Garrard County, Kentucky. It is our understanding that lines will be strung from towers over 100 feet in height that will stretch from the substation near Lancaster to the Buckeye area of Garrard County, crossing US-27 near Sugar Creek Road.

We own 8 acres that back up to Boone's Creek in Garrard County. Our property lies within the planned corridor for EKP's planned 245 volt power lines. While the company assures us that the lines will not cross our property, we have other objections to the manner in which the lines will be carried. Even if the lines do not cross our property, they may very well be directly behind our property on adjoining land. Not only would this destroy the beautiful views from every window in our home, but it would present serious health concerns.

Please consider this official notice that we wish to file as interveners in this matter. We understand that intervener status permits us to attend meetings and obtain copies of printed materials. Please let us know if there is anything else we need to do to become official interveners.

Neither of us are attorneys at law, but expect a local attorney who shares our views to be present at meetings initiated by your department.


We have a question with regard to procedures, and hope that you will educate us. We are not, by any means, gifted public speakers, but would like to know if we can, as interveners, be permitted to read from a self-prepared statement. Our statement would not be lengthy, and we would provide copies to EKP and your offices for future reference. If permitted, one of us would read the text through and then give EKP an opportunity respond during the meeting. If they decline to respond in public, perhaps your office might persuade them to respond in writing.

We are attaching a copy of our earlier letter to you dated August 15, 2006. It was sent so long before EKP filed application for the project, that it may have become misplaced in the interim. This letter fully details our objections to the power line project. We want to ensure that it too becomes a part of the file.

We appreciate being given the opportunity to voice our opposition and file as interveners in this matter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


Phillip R. Price


Deirdre L. Price



“Shadowlawn”

Phillip & Deirdre Price

233 Royalty Drive ❖ Lancaster, KY 40444

Phone: (859) 339-1454 ❖ Fax: (859) 792-6057

E-mail: sherlock221@alltel.net

August 15, 2006

Kentucky Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 615
211 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort, KY 40602-0615

COPY

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written to express our family's opposition to the planned transmission line that will originate in Clark County, Kentucky, cross Madison County, and terminate at a planned substation near KY-52 and Boone's Creek Road, just outside of Lancaster, Garrard County, Kentucky. It is our understanding that lines will be strung from towers over 100 feet in height that will stretch from the substation near Lancaster to the Buckeye area of Garrard County, crossing US-27 near Sugar Creek Road.

The locations at KY-52/Boone's Creek Road and US-27/Sugar Creek Road lead us to believe that those monstrous towers will pass very near our property.

My wife and I moved to Kentucky from the Washington, DC, area following retirement after 25 years of federal service. We purchased secluded, wooded acreage, where we built our dream retirement home. We fled city living for this rural, pastoral environment to escape from the "concrete jungle" with its traffic congestion, pollution, and many miles of the same type of ugly high voltage towers that might now possibly end up in our backyard or very near it. Since East Kentucky Power Co-op (EKPC) seems reluctant to divulge the exact route of this line, we can't be entirely sure of the extent of impact to our property. We do know that there is a very good possibility that this terrible eyesore (and health hazard) may be visible from our home, as well as those of many other Garrard County residents.

We believe that EKPC and the USDA have handled this initiative poorly, and it gave the appearance of subterfuge. Until last week, the only scheduled meeting, to our knowledge, was held at Richmond in Madison County, KY, with minimal press coverage. Only after the meeting had already occurred were we made aware of a small article in the Lexington Herald-Leader. There was no announcement to Garrard County residents in the local newspaper prior to the meeting in Madison County, and no one of our personal acquaintance in this county had any prior knowledge of this meeting.

Subsequently, a meeting was held in Lancaster at the First Southern Bank. However, the Lancaster meeting was arranged by concerned citizens and not EKPC, although they were invited to attend and they did. During that meeting local residents asked many good questions, but gained very little information from EKPC representatives. It appears that the die is cast without consideration of the concerns of those citizens most impacted by the proposed initiative, the people of Garrard County. *Eminent Domain rules without heart, and without due consideration of the concerns of those most affected.* I saw so much of this in my federal career and throughout my life – big government, big business and/or big utilities running roughshod over the poor, the middle class, the weak and/or under-represented “little guy.” It certainly does seem that less affluent, rural, agricultural, low density areas are often taken advantage of.

It appears this power line will be forced upon us, irregardless of our objections. In fact, at the Lancaster meeting, an EDPC representative hinted at this by basically stating that it was going to happen one way or another. The proposed power lines and substation will spoil our rural scenic beauty and destroy what my wife and I have worked a lifetime to achieve and own. We know there are others in this same position within the county, who came here planning to spend the rest of their lives in their dream home. Garrard County will not benefit one kilowatt from this project, but yet will be forced to bear the burden of its unsightliness, the diminished property values, not to mention the effect on the health of residents.

If EKPC insists on proceeding with this project to serve their customers in other counties, we hope there will at least be consideration given to buried lines. We know this can be done and, as I'm sure you're aware, there are studies to support our position.

It would seem to us that it makes more sense to bury the lines, rather than expose them to the harsh elements, accidents involving airplanes or vehicles, or even vandalism. In 2004, there was an independent review in Connecticut of a proposed 345 KV power line upgrade that showed it was technically feasible to bury 10 to 20 miles of lines underground. Nick Comer, spokesman for EKPC, stated in the Lexington Herald-Leader article that burying the lines isn't feasible because it costs more than traditional overhead lines. We note that the planned line would stretch 35-37 miles. Based on the amount of monthly electric bills, we suspect that EKPC is in no financial distress. Additionally, adding new customers as a result of the planned line will generate even more revenue. EKPC fills the needs of energy users; however, it is not in the business out of any civic duty or responsibility, but rather to increase the stock value of the company and its investors. Money is always the bottom line. We would hope that the USDA and The Kentucky Public Service Commission would not let this project go forth based upon EKPC's monetary considerations alone.

This is a beautiful, scenic county, rich with abundant and varied wildlife species. It would be hard to gauge the impact of these high-voltage lines on the wildlife in this area. We are enclosing a photograph taken very near the proposed high-voltage towers and substation, so that you can see for yourself the scenic richness of the area. Can you imagine this scene being despoiled for untold miles by a wide path of mowed-down trees, monstrous 100-foot high-voltage towers and a huge, ugly substation? We're sure you can see our point.

The Kentucky Advocate newspaper, Danville, Kentucky, ran an article on Sunday, August 13, 2006, entitled: "In Danger: Area Has More Than 35 Rare Animals." The article discusses these species found in Garrard, Mercer, Boyle, Lincoln and Casey Counties, from the County Report of Species issued by the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission. It states, "Many of these animals are in trouble because of human activity. Development of houses, businesses, lakes and reservoirs has robbed them of their habitat." Human activity and development would, of course, also include the installation of high-voltage transmission lines and substations. Installation of such lines involves the loss of large forested areas, as well as food sources for nearby animals. A copy of the article is attached.

It was revealed during the Lancaster meeting that EKPC needed a 6 to 7 acre site on which to build a substation. However, they are in fact bidding to acquire a 75-acre tract of prime rural farmland. If they plan to deforest such a large area, it could have an enormous impact. Additionally, once purchased, they are privileged to build or do anything on that property that they choose to.

We also object to the towers, not only for aesthetic reasons, but for possible devaluation of property values. There are studies whose findings reveal that when property/homes are located adjacent to or very near the towers, the value of that property can deteriorate by as much as 21%. While we have no plans to ever sell our home, perhaps some of our neighbors might need to do so in the future. My wife, who is younger than me, may find herself in that position someday also. The financial impact could be devastating.

We have also read studies dealing with the negative health effects on people living at or near high-voltage towers. Studies from across the U.S. and Europe, including a recent Oxford University study, show the link between magnetic fields greater than 2-4 MG and cancer. Children whose birth address was within 200 meters of an overhead power line had a 70% increased risk of leukemia. Children living 200 to 600 meters away still have a 20% increased risk of developing cancer.

Also, based on a Pacific Northwest Natural Laboratory study involving rats and ozone, scientists identified a chemical reaction that might explain higher rates of illness observed among people exposed to strong electromagnetic fields, such as those produced by high-voltage power lines. Garrard County already has the dubious distinction of being among the top counties in Kentucky with regard to cancer victims. This county is overrun with power lines and gas lines.

A California Department of Health Sciences Evaluation study concluded EMFs can cause some degree of increased risk of childhood leukemia, adult brain cancer, Lou Gehrig's Disease, miscarriages, and perhaps even suicide. This particular 2002 study was the culmination of a 9-year, \$7 million research effort. According to the study, "The evaluation used was a standard causation, which is a more rigorous test than the more common standard that seeks to demonstrate an association between EMFs and many of these diseases."

There are also studies showing disruption to cardiac pacemakers, and I happen to have an implanted pacemaker myself.

We can understand and appreciate the need to serve the nation's energy requirements; however, we believe it is possible to do so and still reduce the impact on the environment and those living in it, both humans and animals. "Invisible" underground power lines are a feasible and revolutionary approach to power transmission. In fact, a company called ABB USA promotes their "no EMF

technology, delivering reliable, 'invisible' energy without any electromagnetic fields" through the use of underground power lines.

Other states have successfully fought the above ground transmission lines. Connecticut Governor John G. Rowland signed legislation in 2004 that requires new high-voltage lines to be buried, including a controversial project proposed by two major utilities. Both the state House and Senate overwhelmingly approved the restrictive measure that was hailed as the toughest in the country when it comes to regulating transmission lines. State Senator Winthrop Smith (R-Milford) said, "It's outstanding. The power companies kept saying, 'We can't do this. No one else has done this.' and we said, 'Oh, yes we can' – and we did." This information came from an article in the *Journal Register News Service*, 05/07/2004.

The article went on to say, "The bill was proposed by a dozen New Haven County lawmakers in response to plans by Connecticut Light & Power and United Illuminating to upgrade a 69-mile transmission line from Middletown to Norwalk. The utilities said the upgrade, from 115 kilovolts to 345 kilovolts, was needed to improve energy reliability in Fairfield County, which was consuming increasing amounts of electric power."

State Senator Len Fasano (R-North Haven) stated: "This is a victory for the people in all the impacted towns. Nearly everyone who spoke to me about this legislation expressed concern over the health consequences of the electromagnetic fields. That's why we included language requiring lines be placed underground unless NU and IU can prove it's safe not to. The onus is now on them, which is how it should be."

In our opinion, there should be a federal law like the state law in Connecticut requiring big utility companies to prove, through independent studies, the safety of overhead power lines to people and the environment – and requiring that power lines be buried underground.

As part of its charter to protect public health, The World Health Organization (WHO) established The International EMF Project in 1996 to investigate the health effects of electromagnetic fields. They work to provide unbiased information on the current scientific knowledge of this subject. It would be prudent for any state, including Kentucky, to obtain information on safety measures from this organization before beginning such projects. All too often, the only authorities cited are those paid for by the very power companies who are installing the high-voltage transmission lines.

It appears that the reason there is still a perception that power lines are not dangerous, despite all the evidence otherwise, is because rich corporations reward lobbyists and scientists handsomely for distorting scientific evidence in order to advance the corporations' economic interests. This is all too common a practice in our country today, as discussed in a June 2005 article in the *Scientific American*.

We're sure that we speak for many other Garrard County residents, some of whom may feel that they don't have the power to "fight City Hall." Our cause is pure and intended to make suggestions to arrive at the best possible answer to a bad situation.

We don't want to see unchecked development, including power lines, continue to spoil Kentucky's natural beauty or threaten the health of the people and animals living here – and we feel sure you don't want that either. High-voltage transmission lines have been buried in many locations throughout the world, and the same can be done here.

We appreciate your consideration of our letter and welcome your comments.

Sincerely,


Phillip R. Price


Deirdre L. Price

cc: Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher
Senator Mitch McConnell
State Rep. Lonnie Napier
USDA Rural Development, Utilities Program
East Kentucky Power Cooperative

**Garrard County, KY
View from KY-52**



Photo by Deirdre Price

**Garrard County, KY
View from KY-52**



Photo by Deirdre Price

***Garrard County, KY
View from KY-52***



Photo by Deborah