

No transmission line

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The Arkansans that I have spoken to do not want Plains and Eastern Overhead High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Transmission Towers running across their property nor on their neighbors. Bob Allen stated the 200-foot-wide right-of-way easements have a relatively small footprint because they are direct current.

It's only 8,000 acres of actual land taken out of service across Arkansas, and much of that is grazing and hay fields, which are essentially undisturbed even with the right of way. He called it clean renewable electrical energy, but when they clear cut down our trees, which will never be returned, they will have destroyed innumerable trees which take carbon dioxide and convert it into oxygen.

Water quality will decrease and erosion will increase due to shallow top soil in most of the route, especially in the western part of Arkansas. In Eastern Arkansas, the 200-foot-wide right-of-way easements will affect the Mississippi Flyway through which migratory birds in North America pass.

Since Bob Allen failed to offer any options for Arkansans, I will propose one solution to this dilemma, which is to bury these HVDC lines in existing corridors: railroad/highway, Entergy Overhead High Voltage Transmission Line.

Significant Environmental Benefits with Underground HVDC Lines

Installing the transmission lines in public corridors has many environmental advantages:

- Reduced tree clearing and reduced visual impacts.
- Safer because buried lines don't fall over in hurricanes, tornadoes, high wind or ice storms.
- Do not kill millions of birds annually through collision.
- Buried cable right-of-ways can be used for hiking trails and bike pathways.
- Do not lower adjacent property values.
- Do not negatively affect tourism.

We bury sewer lines, water lines, telephone lines, electricity distribution lines, TV cable, natural gas lines, oil pipelines, gas pipelines and other petroleum product pipelines. It's time we started burying more HVDC because overhead lines and towers are unsightly and have so many other negative impacts.

Plains and Eastern Overhead Transmission Towers running across Arkansans property, down the bluffs with the natural beautiful scenic overlook of the Illinois Bayou, West Fork Point Remove Creek, Cherokee Wildlife Management Area and the Rainey Wildlife Management Area will be spoiled or ruined.

The family farms many of us have worked so hard for that will be negatively impacted. The significance of the view of the bald eagles nesting and feeding their young around the Illinois Bayou on our properties will not be seen by our future generations. The Indian artifacts, the Trail of Tears and endangered plants such as the ginseng species that grow wild on the slopes of the bluffs along the Illinois Bayou will be lost forever.

The very short-term gain to other states and not Arkansas, if any, does not mitigate the permanent devastation left in the wake of an overhead transmission line of this magnitude. Drilling/blasting 50 feet to anchor the piers for the overhead transmission towers will contaminate the drinking water of rural Arkansas and devalue property.

So, if Bob Allen is a true environmentalist, and not just for big business, he should have researched this project before he wrote something that he knows nothing about. There are no coal fired power plants that will be closed in the State of Arkansas from HVDC that would run across Arkansas.

It is bad for the landowner, sportsman, hiker, environmentalist, the habitat and anyone who enjoys the outdoors. It spoils the beauty and serenity of our Natural State.

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