

ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 06-0179

SUPPLEMENTAL DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

TRACY J. DENCKER

SUBMITTED ON BEHALF

OF

ILLINOIS POWER COMPANY D/B/A AMERENIP

MAY 2006

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7 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

8 A. My name is Tracy J. Dencker. My business address is 1901 Chouteau Avenue,
9 St. Louis, Missouri.

10 **Q. Are you the same Tracy J. Dencker that prepared direct testimony in this**
11 **proceeding?**

12 A. Yes.

13 **Q. What is the purpose of your supplemental direct testimony?**

14 A. I will explain the modification to the primary route of the line from AmerenIP's
15 Baldwin switchyard, near Baldwin, Illinois, to AmerenUE's Rush Island Power
16 Station (the "Baldwin-Rush Line") being recommended by Petitioners. I will also
17 address any changes or modifications to my direct testimony as a result of the
18 changed primary route.

19 **Q. Before you proceed, can you please explain the circumstances surrounding**
20 **the change in the primary route?**

21 A. Yes. It was brought to AmerenIP's attention on March 2, 2006, that the Illinois
22 Nature Preserves Commission ("INPC"), an entity of the Illinois Department of
23 Natural Resources ("IDNR"), has present and future nature preserve interests in

24 the bluff area near the incorporated community of Fults, Illinois. IDNR had been
25 apprised of Ameren's intentions regarding the Prairie State project, and
26 specifically of the primary route of the Baldwin-Rush Line, prior to the March
27 2006 filing of the Petition. The proposed route avoided the existing Fults Hill
28 Prairie Nature Preserve, but not a buffer area around the preserve. On April 3,
29 2006, Ameren Services Company personnel met with members of both the INPC
30 and IDNR, in order to better understand the nature and the extent of their future
31 interests and concerns about the Fults Hill Prairie Nature Preserve. A number of
32 meetings followed thereafter.

33 **Q. What is a nature preserve?**

34 A. In Illinois, a nature preserve is a tract of land that has been permanently protected
35 by state law due to rare plants, animals, or other features present. Nature
36 preserves are registered and protected the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act,
37 525 ILCS 30/1-26. In an effort to minimize the impact of the Baldwin-Rush Line
38 on IDNR and INPC's future plans to protect these dwindling areas of Illinois
39 beauty, AmerenIP adjusted the primary proposed route of the Baldwin-Rush Line
40 in this location.

41 **Q. Is AmerenIP opposing the designation of any land as a nature preserve?**

42 A. No. AmerenIP is attempting to do its work with the IDNR to accommodate the
43 INPC's plans. In that regard, Ameren has adjusted the primary proposed route in
44 the area of the Fults Hill Prairie Nature Preserve.

45 **Q. Has AmerenIP made any other changes to the primary proposed route?**

46 A. Yes. AmerenIP has also adjusted the far western portion of the primary proposed
47 route in order to parallel additional property lines and adjust the route proximity
48 to two occupied structures.

49 **Q. Will you explain AmerenIP Exhibit 6.1?**

50 A. This is a revised drawing depicting the re-route of the primary route for the the
51 Baldwin-Rush Line and the two alternate routes, which remain unchanged. This
52 exhibit supersedes AmerenIP Exhibit 3.1. Also attached hereto is the revised
53 legal description of the primary route marked AmerenIP Exhibit 6.1A. This will
54 supersede AmerenIP Exhibit 3.1A.

55 **Q. In your direct testimony you identified AmerenIP Exhibit 3.3 as depicting the**
56 **foreign company facilities in close proximity to the primary route. Has this**
57 **now changed?**

58 A. Yes. AmerenIP Exhibit 6.2 supersedes this exhibit showing the revised proposed
59 primary route of the Baldwin-Rush Line, and the affected foreign company
60 facilities.

61 **Q. Are any variations to the transmission facilities to be constructed due to the**
62 **re-route?**

63 A. No. There are no variations to the proposed monopole transmission facilities to be
64 constructed due to the re-route. The Mississippi River crossing structures will be
65 remain lattice towers. The typical tower height will be approximately 300 feet
66 above ground. The maximum span length will be approximately 2,900 feet. All
67 proposed towers will be designed with four concrete foundations projecting out of
68 the ground approximately 20 feet.

69 **Q. Has the length of the reroute now changed?**

70 A. Yes, the new primary proposed route of the Baldwin-Rush Line is now 27.1 miles
71 in length. Previously, the length was 26 miles.

72 **Q. In your direct testimony you state the advantages and disadvantages of the**
73 **proposed and alternate routes for the Baldwin – Rush Line. Are there**
74 **additional advantages or disadvantages of the reroute of the primary**
75 **proposed route?**

76 A. Additional advantages of the proposed primary Baldwin – Rush Line are: it
77 avoids the Fults Hill cemetery, and it provides a more natural buffer to lands
78 controlled by the State of Illinois and designated by the U.S. Department of
79 Interior as a National Natural Landmark.

80 Additional disadvantages of the first alternate route are that it traverses in close
81 proximity to Saltpeter Cave, which could pose potential environmental impacts
82 within the cave, and this route is in close proximity to 7 to 10 recorded mounds.

83 Additional disadvantages of the second alternate route is that it crosses a Late
84 Woodland village and burial site that was evaluated as potentially eligible for the
85 National Register of Historic Places.

86 **Q. In your direct testimony AmerenIP Exhibit 3.5 was prepared to provide**
87 **basic route information for all of the proposed routes, has this changed?**

88 A. Yes, attached hereto as AmerenIP Exhibit 6.3 is a revised set of data sheets for the
89 Baldwin – Rush Line, which provide basic information on the revised primary
90 and alternate routes for the proposed lines. The data sheets were also updated to
91 reflect recent IDNR data and minor mileage adjustments.

92 Q. Does this complete your supplemental direct testimony?

93 A. Yes.