

MEMORIALIZATION OF EX PARTE
COMMUNICATION NOT FROM INTERESTED PARTY

ICC Docket Number, or Docket Number or Case Number from Other Jurisdiction

(Please be specific): 06-0706

Subject of the Communication (Note - This field is limited to 8 lines of text):

Ottawa Wedron power line routing through the Fox River Valley

Name of the Commission Officer or Employee Making Report (first, then last name):

Tiffany

Ingram

Job Title:

Legal Advisor for Chairman Charles Box

Names and Job Titles of Other Commission Employees Present:

Commissioner Sherman Elliott, Commissioner of the Illinois Commerce Commission

Date of Communication: 08-28-09

Location of Parties to Communication:

O'Fallon, IL

Mode of Communication (Please Check All That Apply):

e-Mail

FAX

In Person

Mail

Telephone

Nature and Substance of All Oral Communications (Note - This field is limited to 15 lines of text):

Robert Lawton request that the Commission reopen docket 06-0706 to reassess the route of the transmission line. He is a skydiver with Skydive Chicago and he states that these lines will make it less safe to jump.

2009 SEP -2 A 9:28

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
SHERMAN ELLIOTT


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Responses Made to Written or Oral Communications (Note - This field is limited to 8 lines of text):

No responses have been written or orally communicated.

Please Check One:

- Submitted are copies of all written items received.
 No written items were received.

Please Check One:

- Submitted are copies of written responses.
 No written responses were made.

Name of, Title of, and Entity Represented by Person Communicating to You:

Robert Lawton is representing himself.

State What Action, If Any, the Person Requested or Recommended (Note - 11 lines of text):

Robert Lawton recommends the Commission reopen docket 06-0706 because he is concerned that the lines will be fatal for skydivers who jump in the area.

Include Any Other Information You Deem Pertinent:

This may include any additional names of persons, or references to the file names of any PDF attachments.

N/A

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Instructions for Locking the Form and Submitting It to the ICC Ethics Officer:

Once you've completed this form and any other necessary documentation, please lock the form and submit it, together with any accompanying documents, as an e-mail to the ICC Ethics Officer. If you are submitting additional documents with the form, please convert those documents first to PDF files by following the instructions below. Using this method will ensure that the contents of the accompanying documents cannot later be changed.

Converting other documents to PDF files:

To save a Word or Excel document as a PDF, click on the Office button in the upper left-hand corner of the screen, move the cursor to "Save As," and select the "PDF or XPS" option. "Pdf" will appear as the default choice in the "save as type" pull down menu. Once you've converted the necessary documents and named them, please identify those additional documents in the "Other Pertinent Information" field above.

Locking the form:

Select this button to change all fields, including the docket number or case number field, to "read only." Once locked, no field in the document can be changed.

 Lock Fields

After you've completed and locked this form and converted any accompanying documents to PDF files, please submit the form and other documentation by e-Mail to the ICC Ethics Officer.

Under Section 5-50(c) of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, the information required by this form shall be reported immediately to the agency's ethics officer, who shall require that the ex parte communication be promptly made a part of the record, and who shall promptly file the ex parte communication with the Executive Ethics Commission.

 Print Form

Aug 28, 2009

Robert Lawton
939 Jordan Drive
O'Fallon, IL 62269

Sherman E. Elliott
Illinois Commerce Commission
527 East Capitol Ave
Springfield, IL. 62701

2009 AUG 29 A 10:44
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Dear ICC Commissioner

I am asking the Illinois Commerce Commission to re-open docket 06-0706, with regard to the Ottawa Wedron power line routing through the Fox River Valley.

It has come to my attention that Ameren intends to build high voltage transmission lines along the Fox River. This is a terrible idea for several reasons. My main concern, however, is for the safety of the skydivers at Skydive Chicago.

I have made over 800 skydives at Skydive Chicago, though I live hours away. One of the big reasons I choose to jump at Skydive Chicago is their ability to organize and attract large numbers of skydivers to their many world-class events.

The skydives I make range from solo jumps to large formation jumps with hundreds of jumpers. During this time, I have learned that anything can happen - from high winds, to bad "spots" (exits), to parachute malfunctions - and yes, even poor judgement.

In spite of what most people believe about skydiving, these problems rarely result in serious injury or death. (Yes, is mean 'rarely'). However, the construction of high voltage lines in the vicinity of a the mid-west's largest skydiving facility will certainly increase the risks and will certainly (and yes, I mean CERTAINLY) result in skydiver deaths. It's just a matter of time before a skydiver, for whatever reason, makes a mistake and lands in these transmission lines.

If Ameren builds its new lines along the Fox River, people will die, it's a statistical fact. If you have the power to prevent this, then these deaths will be ON YOU. So please reconsider.

If human lives don't motivate you, then consider that if enough skydivers feel less safe jumping at Skydive Chicago, they will simply choose a different venue for their skydiving vacation, and the region will suffer economically, too. So please reconsider for that reason, too.

The purpose of the ICC is to promote the public interest in these matters. The ICC judge allowed this routing to be determined by a stipulation agreement, to the sole benefit of a small group of land developers, while ignoring clear evidence supporting the other routes. Recently, the City of Ottawa backed out of the stipulation agreement by unanimous resolution when they realized the disastrous consequences to the entire community.

This project is a clear environmental catastrophe in the making. The ICC can avert this by reopening docket 06-0706, and deciding the route based on common sense evaluation of the evidence. Mistakes were made based on false pretenses, but now, you have the power to help resolve this impending environmental disaster to the benefit of our local citizens and our precious natural resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Lawton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert Lawton