

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION**

Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois :
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 :
Petition for a Certificate of Public Convenience and : Docket No. 12-0598
Necessity, pursuant to Section 8-406.1 of the Illinois :
Public Utilities Act, and an Order pursuant to Section :
8-503 of the Public Utilities Act, to Construct, Operate :
and Maintain a New High Voltage Electric Service :
Line and Related Facilities in the Counties of Adams, :
Brown, Cass, Champaign, Christian, Clark, Coles, :
Edgar, Fulton, Macon, Montgomery, Morgan, Moultrie, :
Pike, Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott and Shelby, Illinois. :

STAFF’S MOTION TO EXTEND THE 150-DAY DEADLINE

NOW COME the Staff witnesses of the Illinois Commerce Commission (“Staff”), through its undersigned counsel, and pursuant to 83 Ill. Adm. Code 200.190, files this Motion to Extend the 150-day Deadline pursuant to Section 8-406.1(g) of the Public Utilities Act.

I. INTRODUCTION

On November 7, 2012, Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois (“ATXI” or the “Company”) filed a petition (“Petition”) for issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and an order to construct, operate and maintain a new 345 kV electric transmission line and related facilities, including certain new or expanded substations, within portions of the State of Illinois, pursuant to Section 8-406.1 and 8-

503 of the Illinois Public Utilities Act (“Act”). On that same date, ATXI also filed its direct testimony.

II. ARGUMENT

Section 8-406.1 of the Act details a utility’s ability to seek a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the construction of any new high voltage electric service line and related facilities through an expedited procedure. 220 ILCS 5/8-406.1. Section 8-406.1(g) of the Act requires the Commission to “issue its decision with findings of fact and conclusions of law granting or denying the application no later than 150 days after the application is filed.” 220 ILCS 5/8-406.1(g). As Ameren’s Petition was filed on November 7, 2012, the 150-day deadline would occur on April 6, 2013.

However, Section 8-406.1(g) permits the Commission to:

[E]xtend the 150-day deadline upon notice by an additional 75 days if, on or before the 30th day after the filing of the application, the Commission finds that good cause exists to extend the 150 day period. *Id.*

Staff requests the Commission grant the additional 75 days to permit the parties to develop a full and accurate record upon which to make its decision. The details regarding the stated need and routing for this project are complex and ATXI’s filing is voluminous. The proposed project consists of approximately 375 miles of new 345 kV electric transmission line, together with certain new or expanded substations. According to ATXI Petition Exhibit C, there are over 118 pages of Potentially Affected Landowners, which appears to be approximately 5,000 landowners in total, some of whom likely will participate in the proceeding and could raise new issues. Additionally, scheduling conflicts will make it difficult for Staff to provide the Commission a thorough

review and recommendation without the requested extension. Finally, Staff understands that ATXI does not object to this proposed extension. Because the statute requires the Commission to make a determination regarding the requested extension within 30 days of ATXI's Petition (on or before December 7, 2012), Staff wants to ensure that the ALJ's have sufficient time to put this motion in front of the Commission. The Commission's two scheduled bench sessions prior to the December 7, 2012, deadline for granting the requested 75-day extension are November 28, 2012 and December 5, 2012. The 75-day extension, if granted, would move the deadline for the Commission's order from April 6 to June 20, 2013.

III. CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, for all the noted above reasons, Staff respectfully requests that the Commission grant an additional 75 days, pursuant to Section 8-406.1(g) of the Public Utilities Act.

Respectfully submitted,

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Illinois Commerce Commission

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