

Docket No: 12-0598
Bench Date: 11-28-12
Deadline: 12-07-12

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission

FROM: John D. Albers, Administrative Law Judge
J. Stephen Yoder, Administrative Law Judge

DATE: November 15, 2012

SUBJECT: Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois

Petition for a Certificate of Public Convenience and 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.

RECOMMENDATION: Grant Staff's November 14, 2012 motion to extend the 150-day deadline.

On November 7, 2012, Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois ("ATXI") filed a petition under Section 8-406.1 of the Public Utilities Act ("Act") seeking authorization to construct, operate, and maintain a new 375-mile long 345-kilovolt electric transmission line running generally from the Mississippi River near Quincy, Illinois to the Indiana border, just south of Terre Haute, Indiana. Pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 8-406.1, the Commission must enter an order granting or denying the application within 150 days of the filing of the petition. In this docket, the 150th day is April 6, 2013.

Subsection (g), however, allows the Commission to extend the deadline for an additional 75 days if within 30 days of the application filing date the Commission finds that good cause exists to extend the 150-day deadline. On November 14, 2012, Commission Staff ("Staff") filed a motion seeking an extension of the deadline by 75 days, until June 20, 2013. Staff's motion states that the extension is necessary to permit the parties to develop a full and accurate record. Staff also indicates that it has numerous scheduling conflicts which would make it difficult for Staff to provide the Commission with a thorough review and recommendation absent the deadline extension. Perhaps most importantly, Staff points out that the list of landowners potentially affected by the proposed transmission project exceeds 5,000 entries. Staff states that some of the landowners will likely participate in the proceeding and could raise new issues. Staff's motion indicates that ATXI does not object to an extension.

The Commission should grant the proposed extension for the reasons identified by Staff. Also worth noting is that the lists of potentially affected landowners, municipalities, and nearby utilities contain numerous errors and redundancies which have required the Chief Clerk's Office to spend considerable time reviewing the lists to ensure that they are accurate and usable. At least 14 days will have passed before notice of the prehearing conference can be sent. The Commission deadline for action on Staff's motion is December 7, 2012.

JDA/JSY