Subject: High voltage power line
02/19/2013
Dear Judge Albers and Judge Yoder
I have recently been informed by my neighbors who had been informed via a letter from Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois that the Moultrie County Property Owners (MCPO) filed "The Moultrie County Property Owners Potential Alternate Routes" (PAR); one of the MCPO routes would run within less than a quarter mile from my property in Atwood, Illinois.

The MCPO may not have researched and considered the following:
1. The PAR goes over and through an area less than a quarter mile south of my property that is a designated archeological site. In 1986 two archeologists from the University Of Illinois did a site inspection due to the numerous ancient Native American artifacts that had been found there over many years. The archeologists found points and other artifacts and concluded that they ranged in age from as recent as 1,000 years ago to as long ago as 10,000 years ago. They also concluded that the site was used as a stopover village during the Native Americans travels and was a significant site complete with burial mounds and village sites. They informed the owner who to contact to register this site, which he did. After filling out the site form, Charles J. Bareis, from the University of Illinois and the Illinois Archeological survey, sent a letter that designated this site as IL-DO-78: IAS-Sec.5, (overlay in SW corner, aligned with East and South section lines), SW 1/4, NW 1/4, NW 1/4, N 4404150, E 375800.
2. The PAR crosses a major tourism route to Arthur, Illinois, the Arthur road, which runs from route 36 south to Arthur. I think such an eye sore would be unfortunate for the many tourists who make the trip here to experience the simple Amish culture of this area.
3. The PAR easement would destroy a wide swath of timber in the Lake Fork River Bottom, causing problems such as sediment and herbicide runoff, having adverse environmental effects on the ecosystem. We have very little wooded acres in the area as it is, it would be such a shame to destroy what little we have serving a great purpose along our floodplain.
4. The PAR goes very close to several Amish families who hold church services in their homes; I think it would be inappropriate to run high voltage power lines so close to these dwellings.
5. Between Atwood and Tuscola the line appears to run very close to an airport. I don't know what the FAA regulations are on that?
6. I don't know the exact distance, but it looks like the PAR is covering many more miles, thus destroying much more valuable property and costing much more to build then the current ICC-approved primary route and alternative routes.
From what I have seen the MCPO has failed to state any valid reasons for their objection to the ICC proposed or alternative routes.
My proposal is to continue with the ICC-approved primary and alternate routes.

Gary Schlabach
946N CR125E
Atwood, Illinois 61913

Ph. 217-246-3131 email -garyschlabach@yahoo.com