

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION**

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-) Docket No. 12-0598
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.)

**TESTIMONY OF MARGARET SUE AMACHER SNEDEKER ON BEHALF OF STOP THE
POWER LINES COALITION**

Direct Testimony of Margaret Sue Amacher Snedeker

On Behalf of

Stop the Power Lines Coalition

1

2 **I. INTRODUCTION**

3 **Q. What is your name?**

4 **A.** Margaret Sue Amacher Snedeker.

5 **Q. Where do you live, Ms. Snedeker?**

6 **A.** I live at 14378 North Amacher Street, Marshall, Illinois.

7 **Q. What is your interest in this proceeding?**

8 **A.** I am a member of Stop the Power Lines Coalition (“Coalition”), and have intervened in
9 this proceeding as a Coalition member. I own three parcels of farm ground that are in the path of
10 the Primary Route of ATXI’s Primary Route in Clark County.

11 **II. PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY**

12 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

13 **A.** The purpose of my testimony is to identify some of the unique characteristics of my
14 property. It also is to make ATXI, the Administrative Law Judges and the Illinois Commerce
15 Commission aware of the impact on my neighbors and neighborhood if ATXI is granted
16 authority to construct its proposed 345 kV transmission line on the Primary Route in Clark
17 County.

18 **Q. Where is your property located?**

19 **A.** One piece of property consists of approximately 18.1 acres. It is located in the South
20 Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 34, Township 11 North, Range 11 West in Clark

21 County. Its Tax Parcel Identification Number is 08-08-34-00-200-005. I have attached a map to
22 my testimony as STPL Exhibit 5.1 that I obtained from the Illinois Rivers Transmission website
23 on which I drew the location of this property to show it in relation to the ATXI Primary Route.
24 The second piece of property consists of approximately 37.4 acres. It is located in the Northwest
25 Fractional Quarter of Section 35 in Township 11 North, Range 12 West, in Clark County. Its
26 Tax Parcel Identification Number is 08-08-35-00-100-003. I have attached a map to my
27 testimony as STPL Exhibit 5.2 that I obtained from the Illinois Rivers Transmission website on
28 which I drew the location of this property to show it in relation to the ATXI Primary Route. The
29 third piece of property that I own is a 75 acre parcel. It is located in the South Half of the
30 Northwest Quarter of Section 34, Township 11 North, Range 12 West in Clark County. Its Tax
31 Parcel Identification Number is 08-08-34-00-100-004. I have attached a map to my testimony as
32 STPL Exhibit 5.3 that I obtained from the Illinois Rivers Transmission website on which I drew
33 the location of this property to show it in relation to the ATXI Primary Route.

34 **Q. Can you please describe the special characteristics of the 18.1 acre parcel of ground**
35 **that you own?**

36 **A.** It is farm ground and a Centennial Farm. It is farmed in conjunction with the 37.4 acre
37 parcel as one farm. The Primary Route would go right down the middle of the 37.4 acre
38 Centennial Farm. It was purchased by my great-great grandfather in 1880 and has remained in
39 the family for the last 133 years. Furthermore the Renner Family Cemetary is located in the path
40 of and under the proposed ATXI easement for its Primary Route. If the Commission approved
41 ATXI's Primary Route in Clark County, ATXI would build its transmission on or over the
42 graves of my great-great grandparents, Fred and Marie Renner. I assume that ATXI also would
43 tear down the fence surrounding the cemetary and seek to remove the gravestone marking the

44 burial grounds of my great-great grandparents. Attached as STPL Exhibit 5.4 are photographs of
45 my fence surrounding the Renner Family Cemetary and the gravestone of my great-great
46 grandparents, Fred and Marie Renner.

47 **Q. Can you please describe the special characteristics of the 37.4 acre parcel that you**
48 **own that is in the path of Ameren's Primary Route?**

49 **A.** That also is farm ground and a Centennial Farm. That property was purchased by my
50 great-great grandfather in 1846, and has remained in my family for the last 167 years.

51 **Q. Is this the only ground you own in Clark County?**

52 **A.** No. It is the only property I own that is directly in the path of the proposed 345 kV
53 transmission line on the ATXI Primary Route. I own nearby property, as does my son.

54 **Q. What concerns do you have about the impact on your neighbors and neighborhood**
55 **if the proposed ATXI 345 kV line is constructed on the Primary Route in Clark County?**

56 **A.** As you look at a map of Clark County, moving from west to east, the Primary Route jogs
57 in Marshall Township to the north, makes a right turn and runs due east for a little more than a
58 mile, and then makes a right turn to the south for a short distance, and then turns due east again.
59 I have attached a map to my testimony as STPL Exhibit 5.5 that I obtained from the Illinois
60 Rivers Transmission Line website on which I highlighted the jog in the Primary Route that is the
61 subject of my testimony. Also attached as STPL Exhibit 5.6 is a map I drew of that jog in the
62 Primary Route on which I have identified the homes I believe are impacted by that roughly two
63 mile jog in the Primary Route, and the number of residents in each house. While not all of the
64 homes listed are directly in the path of the Primary Route, I believe they are all near enough to be
65 impacted. There are 99 people living in the area of the two mile jog, of which 65 are adults and
66 34 are children. I was concerned about what appeared to the close proximity of some of the

67 homes to the centerline of the Primary Route, so I measured the distance using a Bushnell
68 Yardage Pro 400 rangefinder that I borrowed from my son, Kevin Snedeker, who uses the
69 rangefinder for hunting. According to the manufacturer's specifications, the Bushnell Yardage
70 Pro 400 is a precision instrument using invisible, infrared energy pulses that bounce to the object
71 and back for distance measurement. It is rated for distances from 16 yards to at least 400 yards,
72 and to a maximum of 999 yards, depending upon the reflectivity of the object being measured,
73 and is subject to error of plus or minus one yard. Moving from the left to the right side of STPL
74 Exhibit 5.6, and moving from south then north, I measured that Chris Dashiell's home is 303 feet
75 from the centerline of the Primary Route. Chris has a barn that is 156 feet from the centerline,
76 and I know Chris spends a substantial amount of time in his barn. With respect to Tom
77 Kuykendall, I measured that it is 348 feet from the centerline of the proposed transmission line to
78 the apartment in Tom's barn where he sleeps from time to time. (Tom also stays with his mother
79 in Marshall the other part of the time.) With respect to Gary Lackey's house, I measured the
80 centerline to be 207 feet from his home. With respect to Ron and Paula Eldridge, I measured
81 330 feet from the centerline to their home. The distance from the Primary Route centerline to an
82 outbuilding used for storage and where their grandchildren play from time to time is 90 feet. I
83 question whether ATXI realizes the real life impact that its jog in the Primary Route will have on
84 this tight knit community.

85 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

86 **A. Yes.**