**ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION**

**DOCKET NUMBER 12-0598**

**DIRECT TESTIMONY**

**OF**

**Intervener, Marvin Miller**

**Q:** Please state your name?

**A:** **Marvin Miller**

**Q:** Please state your current residence?

**A:** **1247 North 250th Ave, Payson, IL 62360**

**Q:** Please identify by street address and parcel number any real property in which you claim an interest that will be affected by the proposed electric transmission line and related facilities that are subject of Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois' ("ATXI) Petition currently before the Illinois Commerce Commission?

**A:** **PIN: 21-0-0162-000-00, a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached hereto as Exhibit 1,**

**PIN: 21-0-0163-000-00, a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached hereto as Exhibit 2,**

**PIN: 21-0-0254-000-00, a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached hereto as Exhibit 3,**

**PIN: 21-0-0255-000-00, a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached hereto as Exhibit 4,**

**PIN: 21-0-0256-000-00, a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached hereto as Exhibit 5,**

**PIN: 21-0-0257-000-00, a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached hereto as Exhibit 6,**

**PIN: 21-0-0258-000-00, 1247 N. 250th Street, Payson, IL 62360, a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached hereto as Exhibit 7,**

**PIN: 21-0-0260-000-00, a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached hereto as Exhibit 8.**

**The above parcels will be collectively referred to as the "Properties".**

**Q:** Please identify the nature of your interest in the property?

**A:** **Owner**

**Q:** How is the property currently used?

**A:** **Agriculture: corn and soybeans, hunting, pasture livestock.**

**Q:** Are there any building(s) and/or structure(s) on the property?

**A:** **There is a home on PIN #21-0-0258-000-0.**

**Q:** Is there any revenue that is earned from the property, if so what is the revenue?

**A:** **Yes. I derive revenue from three primary sources: agriculture, hunting leases and live pasturing. I farm the Property and I lease it to hunting outfitters and livestock owners.**

**Q:** What is the quality of the soil on the property?

**A:** **The soil type for the ground on which the proposed primary route is being constructed is Muscatine and Tama. It is ideal soil and I believe that the transmission lines will take farm ground out of production because of the transmission line towers as well as the easements, which would allow ATXI to maintain and repair the transmission lines.**

**Q:** Is the property encumbered by any existing utility easement(s)?

**A:** **No encumbrances other than ordinary utility easements.**

**Q:** Do you oppose the primary route proposed by ATXI?

**A:** **Yes.**

**Q:** Do you oppose the entire length of the primary route?

**A:** **Yes.**

**Q:** What is the basis of your opposition to the primary route?

1. **Soil Compaction: The transmission line towers will involve disrupting the soil. Based on my personal experience, I know that when you continually run construction equipment over farm ground, there is a loss of yield at the location of the construction. When a person operates heavy equipment over farm ground, it impacts the ability of plant roots to penetrate to the soil to reach water and nutrients (e.g., fertilizer), which results in lesser or no yield. Based on my 47 years of experience as a farmer, it is my opinion that the soil will experience a reduction in yields for up to seven years.**

2. **Drainage: I have drainage tiles in the vicinity of the proposed primary route. The construction of the lines will likely disrupt or destroy the drainage tiles. The location of the drainage tiles is depicted in the map attached hereto as Exhibits 1-8.**
2. **Aerial Spraying: I use aerial spraying in my farming operations. The proposed placement for the primary transmission line route will split the property in half. Both sides of the property are used for agricultural purposes. The transmission line will make it difficult or impossible to conduct effective aerial spray applications.**
3. **GPS Navigation: I object to the proposed transmission line to the extent it will have a negative impact on the GPS navigation systems on the farming equipment, such as auto-steering technology and swath control technology. I recently purchased my GPS technology for my farming operations have invested $32,000.00 for my GPS technology.**
4. **Field Efficiency: The possible placement of transmission line towers on the property will have a negative impact on field efficiency.**
5. **Weed Control: If the towers are placed on the Property, I will have to perform weed control on and around the towers. The presence of weeds reduce yield because the weeds will consume water and nutrients otherwise utilized by the corn or soybeans.**
6. **Hunting Lease: I lease a section of the property to outfitters to hunt deer. The approximate value of annual leases is $8,000.00.**
7. **Irrigation: I intend to utilize center pivot irrigation. A center pivot is a method of irrigation whereby a post in inserted into the ground and a boom is extended with nozzles to water the ground. The presence of the tower will prohibit center pivot irrigation.**
8. **Land Value: The installation of the transmission line will have a permanent, negative impact on value of the Property.**

**Q:** What is the expected financial loss from the use of the property as a result of the primary route?

**A:** **I will incur a financial loss as a result of a loss of yield because of soil compaction and drainage issues. I will also incur a financial loss because of the impact on hunting leases during the time period of construction.**

**Q:** Are you in favor of ATXI utilizing existing right of ways for the ATXI transmission line?

**A:** **Yes.**

**Q:** Does this conclude your testimony?

**A:** **Yes.**

Marvin Miller

**MARVIN MILLER**

**STATE OF ILLINOIS )**

**) SS**

**COUNTY OF ADAMS )**

**Signed and Sworn to before me, a Notary in the County and State aforesaid by Marvin Miller on this** 27 **day of** MARCH **, 2013**

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**NOTARY PUBLIC**