ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

DOCKET NUMBER 12-0598

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

Intervener, Alex House

Q: Please state your name?

A: **Alex House**

Q: Please state your current residence?

A: **204 South Public, 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?

PIN: 15-0-0171-000-00 a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

PIN: 15-0-0180-000-00 a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached hereto as Exhibit 2.

PIN: 15-0-0182-000-00 a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached hereto as Exhibit 3.

PIN: 15-0-0199-000-00 a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached hereto as Exhibit 4.

PIN: 15-0-0203-000-00 a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached hereto as Exhibit 5.

PIN: 15-0-0221-000-00 a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached hereto as Exhibit 6.

PIN: 15-0-0233-000-00 a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached hereto as Exhibit 7.

PIN: 15-0-0235-000-00 a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached hereto as Exhibit 8.

30 **PIN: 15-0-0236-000-00 a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached**
31 **hereto as Exhibit 9.**
32 **PIN: 15-0-0237-000-00 a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached**
33 **hereto as Exhibit 10.**
34 **PIN: 15-0-0238-000-00 a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached**
35 **hereto as Exhibit 11.**
36 **PIN: 15-0-0239-000-00 a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached**
37 **hereto as Exhibit 12.**
38 **PIN: 15-0-0240-000-00 a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached**
39 **hereto as Exhibit 13.**
40 **PIN: 15-0-0244-000-00 a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached**
41 **hereto as Exhibit 14.**
42 **PIN: 15-0-0245-000-00 a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached**
43 **hereto as Exhibit 15.**
44 **PIN: 15-0-0327-000-00 a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached**
45 **hereto as Exhibit 16.**
46 **I commonly refer to the property identified in Exhibits 1, 3, 13, 15 as the "Center**
47 **School" property and the property identified in Exhibits 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16**
48 **as the "Richfield Farm."**
49 **Q:** Please identify the nature of your interest in the property?
50 **A: Both the Center School property and Richfield Farm property has been in the**
51 **family for 160 years.**
52 **Q:** How is the property currently used?
53 **A: Center School is used for farming, raising cattle, and hunting (deer and turkey) and**
54 **recreation. I share crop with Kent Hildebrand in an agreement for a 50/50 split.**
55 **Richfield Farm is used for farming, raising cattle, and hunting (deer and turkey)**
56 **and recreational use. I share crop with Paul Hildebrand in an agreement for a 50/50 split.**
57 **Q:** Are there any building(s) and/or structure(s) on the property?
58 **A: Center School: Yes. Residential (tenant occupied), numerous barns and grain bins.**
59 **Richfield Farm: Two residences and numerous barns, livestock buildings, grain bins and**
60 **equipment sheds.**

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

A: Center School: Yes. There is a power line running East-West along the extreme Northern end of the farm and a Rural water line goes along the southern line.

Richfield Farm: There are water easement and residential electric easement.

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

A: Yes, for both properties.

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

A: Yes, for both properties.

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

A: My opposition for the primary route is the same for the Center School and Richfield Farm. There will be a substantial disruption to the farming during construction, maintaining and repair of the transmission lines. I have safety concerns for our cow and calf herd on the Richfield Farms as well as for the cow and calf herd on Center School Farms. I have concerns with decline in recreational activities, degradation of recreational hunting, and reduction of property value. I also have concerns for the safety of the farmers because they will be working in very close proximity to the power lines on a daily basis.

Q: What is the proximity of the building(s) and/or structure(s) on the property to the primary route proposed by ATXI?

A: Center School: North west of the farmers house, which is the main farm house. I estimate the distance to be 1/3 mile +/-.

Richfield Farm: I estimate this distance to be 1/3 mile +/-.

Q: What interference will the primary route have with the current use of the property?

A: The current use for both the Center School and Richfield Farm are grain operation, cash crop planting and harvesting. There will be substantial <u>interference of the cow-calf herd and the radiation it may cause</u> for the herds on both farms. I will have a decline in hunting and recreational use.

Drain tile: 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 (see the dotted lines on the aerial exhibits).

90 **Aerial spraying: I use aerial spraying in my farming operations when needed, we last used**
91 **aerial spraying about four years ago. You use this application method as a last resort**
92 **because of the expense, but when you need it there are no other alternatives. The**
93 **transmission line will make it difficult or impossible to conduct effective aerial spray**
94 **applications.**

95 **Ground spraying: The proposed primary route will affect the ground spraying aspect of**
96 **my farming, we currently use custom application services utilizing large commercial high-**
97 **boy applicators.**

98 **Q:** Are you in favor of ATXI utilizing existing right of ways for the ATXI transmission line?
99 **A: Center School: Yes I would be in favor of using the existing line.**
100 **Richfield Farm: Yes I would be in favor of using the existing line.**
101 **Q:** Do you oppose the alternative route proposed by ATXI?
102 **A: Center School: Yes. For all the same reasons stated above.**
103 **Richfield Farm: Yes. For all the same reasons stated above.**
104 **Q:** Do you oppose the entire length of the alternative route?
105 **A: Center School: Yes.**
106 **Richfield Farm: Yes.**
107 **Q:** Please identify any other party or individual who may have an interest in the property,
108 and explain the nature of such interest?
109 **A: Other owners are my brother, Seymour House and my sister Sarah House Denby.**
110 Q: Does this conclude your testimony?
111 **A: Yes.**
112
113
114
115 **ALEX HOUSE**
116
117

STATE OF ILLINOIS)

) SS

COUNTY OF ADAMS)

Signed and Sworn to before me, a Notary in the County and State aforesaid by Alex House on this _____day of_____, 2013

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NOTARY PUBLIC