

**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 8-503 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. }

Case No.: 12-0598

**DIRECT TESTIMONY**

**OF**

**STEVE RHEA**

**Intervenor MSSCLPG Exhibit 2.0**

1 **DIRECT TESTIMONY OF STEVE RHEA**

2 **Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND CURRENT RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.**

3 A. Stephen L. Rhea. 2995 Nortonville Blacktop, Waverly, Illinois 62692.

4 **Q. ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE PROCEEDING IN WHICH YOU ARE**  
5 **SUBMITTING THIS TESTIMONY?**

6 A. Yes, I am.

7 **Q. CAN YOU BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR FAMILIARITY WITH THE**  
8 **PROCEEDING IN WHICH YOU ARE SUBMITTING THIS TESTIMONY?**

9 A. Yes, I can. Illinois Commerce Commission Docket No.: 12-0598 is a proceeding initiated  
10 by Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois ("ATXI"), seeking a Certificate of Public  
11 Convenience and Necessity and an Order from the Commission to construct, operate, and  
12 maintain a new high voltage electric service line and related facilities in the Illinois counties  
13 of Adams, Brown, Cass, Champaign, Christian, Clark, Coles, Edgar, Fulton, Macon,  
14 Montgomery, Morgan, Moultrie, Pike, Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott, and Shelby. The original  
15 Petition in this matter was filed on November 7, 2012. Because of some amendments to the  
16 original Petition, the Administrative Law Judges in this matter ruled that the Petition should  
17 be treated as if it were filed in total on January 7, 2013. I am a part of a group of intervenors  
18 to this petition, collectively known as the Morgan, Sangamon, and Scott Counties Land  
19 Preservation Group. Our group filed a Petition to Intervene in this matter which was granted  
20 on December 31, 2012, and an Amended Petition to Intervene which was granted on March  
21 1, 2013 and which reflects the composition of our group as it now exists. Our group is  
22 represented by counsel and we are participating as an active party to this proceeding. I am

23 filing this testimony as a representative of the group and in accordance with the current Case  
24 Management Order.

25 **Q. ARE YOU AUTHORIZED TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF, AND AS A**  
26 **REPRESENTATIVE OF, THE MORGAN, SANGAMON, AND SCOTT COUNTIES**  
27 **LAND PRESERVATION GROUP?**

28 A. Yes, I am.

29 **Q. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE COMPOSITION OF THE MORGAN, SANGAMON,**  
30 **AND SCOTT COUNTIES LAND PRESERVATION GROUP.**

31 A. The Morgan, Sangamon, and Scott Counties Land Preservation Group is a collective of  
32 eighteen (18) intervening interests to this proceeding. Each intervening interest represents  
33 more than simply an individual or single parcel of land. We are a collective of what we  
34 believe would otherwise represent 18 unique Petitions to Intervene in this proceeding. Our  
35 group is made up of individuals, residents, landowners, farmers, and otherwise interested  
36 parties, all with an interest in land along and/or upon the general path of the Project which  
37 is the subject of this proceeding.

38 **Q. CAN YOU STATE AS SUCCINCTLY AS POSSIBLE WHAT OUTCOME THE**  
39 **MORGAN, SANGAMON, AND SCOTT COUNTIES LAND PRESERVATION**  
40 **GROUP ADVOCATES IN THIS PROCEEDING?**

41 A. Yes, I can. Quite simply, the Morgan, Sangamon, and Scott Counties Land Preservation  
42 Group advocates approval of the Petition as filed with approval given to ATXI's proposed  
43 Primary Route. The Morgan, Sangamon, and Scott Counties Land Preservation Group  
44 opposes approval of ATXI's proposed Alternate Route.

45 Q. CAN YOU ELABORATE AS TO THE MORGAN, SANGAMON, AND SCOTT  
46 COUNTIES LAND PRESERVATION GROUP'S OPPOSITION OF THE  
47 PROPOSED ALTERNATE ROUTE?

48 A. Yes, I can. The Morgan, Sangamon, and Scott Counties Land Preservation Group  
49 specifically opposes the proposed Alternate Route segment from Meredosia to Pawnee,  
50 Illinois. The basis for our opposition is a desire to maintain the integrity of the primarily  
51 farmland which comprises the land which is our interest. The proposed Alternate Route  
52 would compromise not only the integrity and viability of the land itself, but also jeopardize  
53 existing and heavily relied upon farming methods, as well as present environmental and  
54 safety concerns to the area. In addition thereto, the land which is the interest of the Morgan,  
55 Sangamon, and Scott Counties Land Preservation Group has been found to be quite  
56 archaeologically significant. Pottery shards and a Hopewell Indian burial mound have, in  
57 fact, been found directly in the path of the proposed Alternate Route. The land itself has  
58 been the focus of documentation by the Illinois State Archaeological Survey (Ken  
59 Farnsworth, Senior Research Editor). The proposed Alternate Route would be a clear  
60 disruption of archaeologically significant land. The land proposed for the Alternate Route  
61 is also affected by easements from the Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Company, LP. The  
62 Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Company, LP has both a natural gas pipeline and a 12,000 acre  
63 natural gas storage area that would be directly affected by the proposed Alternate Route.

64 Q. CAN YOU GIVE A BIT OF YOUR OWN PERSONAL INTEREST AS IT RELATES  
65 TO THE PROCEEDING IN WHICH YOU ARE SUBMITTING THIS TESTIMONY  
66 AND THE LAND WHICH IS THE BASIS FOR THE INTERVENTION OF THE

67           **MORGAN, SANGAMON, AND SCOTT COUNTIES LAND PRESERVATION**  
68           **GROUP?**

69           A.     Yes, I can. I am the farm manager for Rhea Family Farms LP, which controls two parcels  
70           of land which are a part of the land identified as of interest to the Morgan, Sangamon, and  
71           Scott Counties Land Preservation Group. Rhea Family Farms LP was formerly known as  
72           White Oak Farms LP. Rhea Family Farms LP was established in December 2012 as a  
73           Delaware Limited Partnership. Ashley P. Shields serves as president. White Oak Farms  
74           Management Company serves as general partner. My wife Fran and I are limited partners  
75           as joint tenants with right of survivorship. Our four children, Whitney Rhea Sutera,  
76           Stephanie Rhea Soesbe, Ashley Rhea Shields, and Clinton Andrew Rhea, are also limited  
77           partners. The farmland I manage is representative of the land our group seeks to protect,  
78           highly productive prime agricultural land. The viability and productivity of the land has been  
79           maintained while modernization to farming techniques has been integrated as technological  
80           advances have been made. Such modern and advanced farming techniques would be  
81           jeopardized by any installation of a 345 kV line. I oppose the proposed Alternate Route for  
82           the same reasons as listed above. Specific to the property I manage, we have just invested  
83           heavily in overall tiling and land improvements over the past three years. Construction of  
84           a 345 kV line could damage the improvements and diminish the value of these long-term  
85           improvements. Installation of the 345 kV line would also prevent or greatly inhibit our  
86           ability to use aerial application of fungicides and insecticides. One of the parcels of land  
87           which would be affected by the proposed Alternate Route is under lease to the Panhandle  
88           Eastern Pipeline Company. This lease is recorded in Morgan County by Misc. Records HH

89 pp. 225-228. We would be affected by two sets of easements on this land, one above ground  
90 and one below ground. This would greatly restrict the use of the farms and their long term  
91 value. I also have concerns about being required to negotiate two sets of easements as that  
92 might relate to ever seeking approval to make improvements to the farms. I also have a  
93 personal belief that high voltage power lines are generally not environmentally friendly and  
94 may pose yet to be documented long-term health risks.

95 **Q. CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE RELATIONSHIP RHEA FAMILY FARMS LP HAS TO**  
96 **VARIOUS PARCELS OF LAND THAT HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS OF**  
97 **INTEREST TO THE MORGAN, SANGAMON, AND SCOTT COUNTIES LAND**  
98 **PRESERVATION GROUP?**

99 A. Yes, I can. Rhea Family Farms LP has the following interests: Duewer Farm - Parcel Nos.:  
100 15-22-300-002, 15-22-300-002, Burnett Farm - Parcel No.: 19-28-100-007.

101 **Q. CAN YOU IDENTIFY BY NAME(S) AND ASSOCIATED PHYSICAL ADDRESS(ES)**  
102 **AND/OR PARCEL NUMBER(S) THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MORGAN,**  
103 **SANGAMON, AND SCOTT COUNTIES LAND PRESERVATION GROUP?**

104 A. Yes, I can. Paul & Janie Bergschneider: Owners - 846 Franklin-Alexander Road, Franklin,  
105 IL 62638; Managers - Parcel Nos.: 15-19-300-009, 15-19-300-005, 15-19-400-001, 15-20-  
106 300-011, 15-20-200-005, 15-20-200-003, 15-20-100-002, 15-20-200-006; Tenants - Parcel  
107 Nos.: 15-21-100-001, 15-21-300-001, 15-29-200-014, 15-28-300-001, 15-29-400-002, 15-  
108 28-100-008, 15-29-200-015, 15-28-100-009. Joseph & Barbara Bergschneider: Owners - 852  
109 Franklin-Alexander Road, Franklin, IL 62638, Parcel No.: 15-19-300-008, Owners and  
110 Farmers - Parcel Nos.: 15-19-300-009, 15-19-300-005, 15-19-400-001, 15-20-300-011, 15-

111 20-200-005, 15-20-200-003, 15-20-100-002, 15-20-200-006, Tenants - Parcel Nos.: 15-20-  
112 200-008, 15-20-200-009, 15-21-100-001, 15-21-300-001, 15-29-200-014, 15-28-300-001,  
113 15-29-400-002, 15-28-100-008, 15-29-200-015, 15-28-100-009. Jeff & Peggy  
114 Bergschneider: Owners - 831 Dodsworth Rd., Parcel No.: 14-24-300-003, Co-Tenants with  
115 Scot Bergschneider - Parcel Nos.: 15-19-100-003, 15-19-200-007, 15-19-200-004. Scot  
116 Bergschneider: Owner - 795 Contrary Lane, Parcel Nos.: 15-32-200-022, 15-19-400-011.  
117 Curt Willard Dodsworth: Owner - 890 Dodsworth Road, Parcel Nos.: 14-24-300-005, 14-24-  
118 200-004. Jan F. Caruthers - Parcel No.: 26-24-100-002. John D. Bergschneider - Parcel  
119 Nos.: 15-19-100-003, 15-19-200-007, 19-04-100-002, 19-04-300-005. Scott & Lillian  
120 Gordley - Parcel Nos.: 15-30-400-001, 15-30-200-003, 15-30-100-003, 15-30-300-001, 27-  
121 09.0-300-010, 27-09.0-400-017, 27-16.0-100-004, 27-16.0-200-001, 27-16.0-200-005, 27-  
122 16.0-400-002, 27-16.0-400-003, 27-21.0-100-003, 27-21.0-200-001, 27-16.0-300-005.  
123 Robert H. & Marilyn P. Bergschneider - 849 Contrary Lane, Waverly, IL 62692, Owner -  
124 Parcel No.: 15-19-200-004. Paula D. Harms - 3N967 Babson Lane, St. Charles, IL 60175 -  
125 Parcel Nos.: 15-20-200-008, 15-21-300-001, 15-20-400-006. Thomas J. & Helen R.  
126 Bergschneider - Owner - 734 Franklin-Alexander Road, Franklin, IL 62638. Kelly  
127 Dodsworth - #4 Valevue Acres Drive. Robert & Marietta Worrell: Owners, 405 James Creek  
128 Lane, Jacksonville, IL, Parcel Nos.: 06-24-290-002, 07-19-100-004, 07-19-100-005, 07-19-  
129 200-003, 07-19-200-005, 07-18-400-004, 07-18-400-002, 07-18-400-003, 07-18-300-005,  
130 12-21-200-002, 12-21-400-001, 12-21-100-003. Rita Walsh, Linda Cline.

131 **Q. HAVE YOU HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE DIRECT TESTIMONY**  
132 **BEING FILED CONTEMPORANEOUSLY WITH YOUR OWN, ON BEHALF OF**  
133 **PAUL BERGSCHNEIDER AND KELLY DODSWORTH, AND IF SO, DO YOU**

134 **HAVE ANY PARTICULAR OPINION ABOUT THE SAME?**

135 A. Yes, I have and I do. I have reviewed in detail the Direct Testimony of both Paul  
136 Bergschneider and Kelly Dodsworth. In fact, all members of our group have reviewed all  
137 of the Direct Testimony that is being filed on March 29, 2013 on behalf of the Morgan,  
138 Sangamon, and Scott Counties Land Preservation Group. Our group represents a unified  
139 front and we all agree completely with, and support, the Direct Testimony being filed on  
140 behalf of our group. In fact, if called to testify, any member of our group could attest to the  
141 Direct Testimony as filed or, in the alternative, could testify in substantially the same  
142 material fashion.

143 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

144 A. Yes, it does.