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.	)	

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF GEORGE ORIN ON BEHALF OF RURAL CLARK AND EDGAR COUNTY CONCERNED CITIZENS

Interveners, RURAL CLARK AND EDGAR COUNTY CONCERNED CITIZENS ("RCECCC"), by their attorney, William F. Moran, III, present the direct testimony of George Orin for consideration in this cause in the form of the attached affidavit.

Respectfully submitted,

RCECCC, Interveners

By:____/s/ William F. Moran, III_____
Their attorney

COUNSEL FOR INTEREVERS:

William F. Moran III (#06191183)
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, William F. Moran, III, Counsel for Interveners, hereby certify that on March 27, 2013, I caused a copy of the foregoing **DIRECT TESTIMONY OF GEORGE ORIN ON BEHALF OF RURAL CLARK AND EDGAR COUNTY CONCERNED CITIZENS** to be served by electronic mail to the individuals on the Commission's Service List for Docket No. 12-0598.

_____/s/ William F. Moran, III_____
Counsel for Interveners

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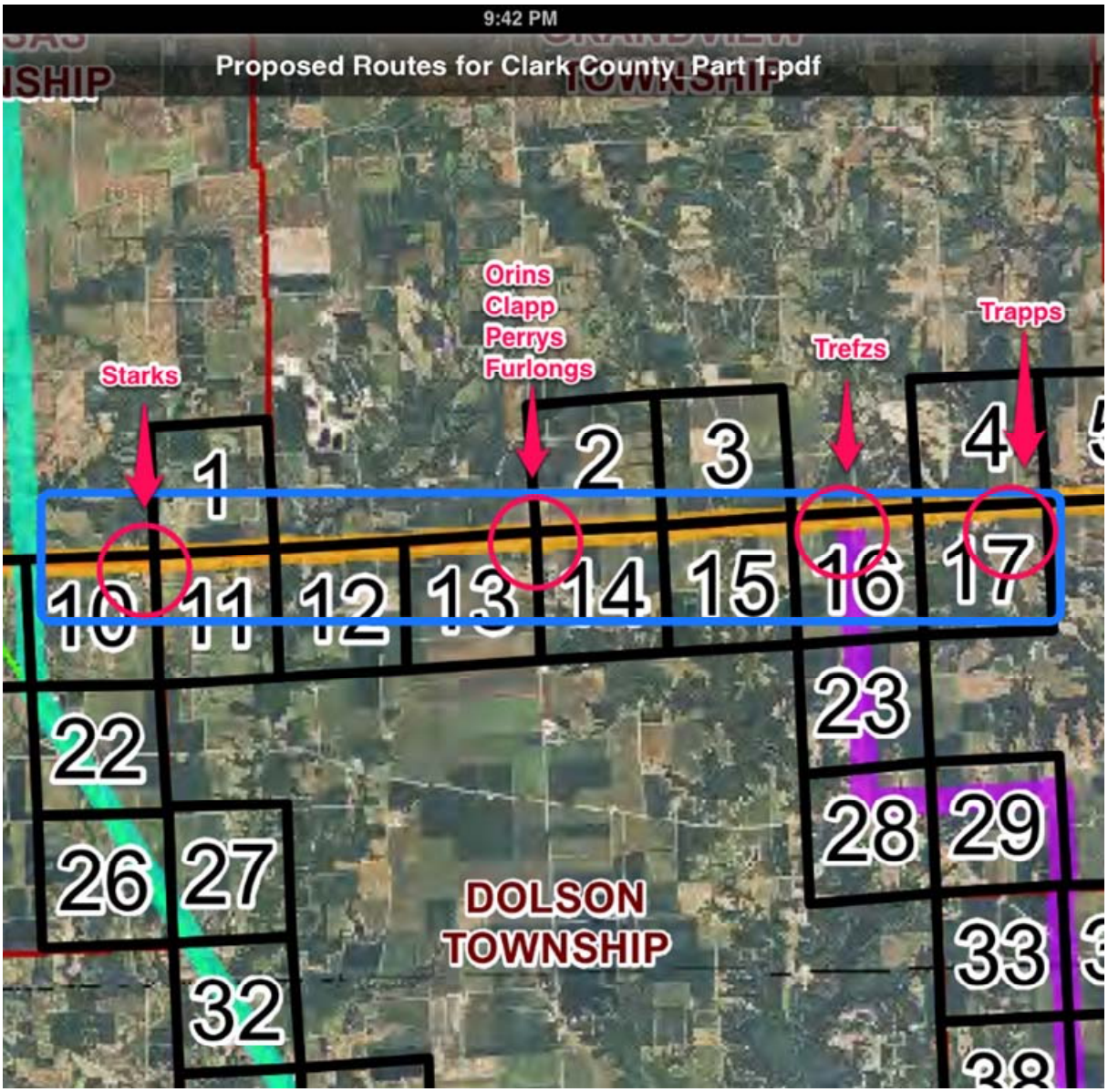
AFFIDAVIT OF GEORGE ORIN

GEORGE ORIN, on oath, states as follows:

1. I am an adult resident of Dolson Township, Clark County, Illinois, competent to make this affidavit on the basis of personal knowledge.

2. I am a member of Rural Clark and Edgar County Concerned Citizens ("RCECCC"), which is an Intervener in the above-referenced cause pending before the Illinois Commerce Commission. I am the *de facto* spokesperson for the group, and authorized to testify on its behalf.

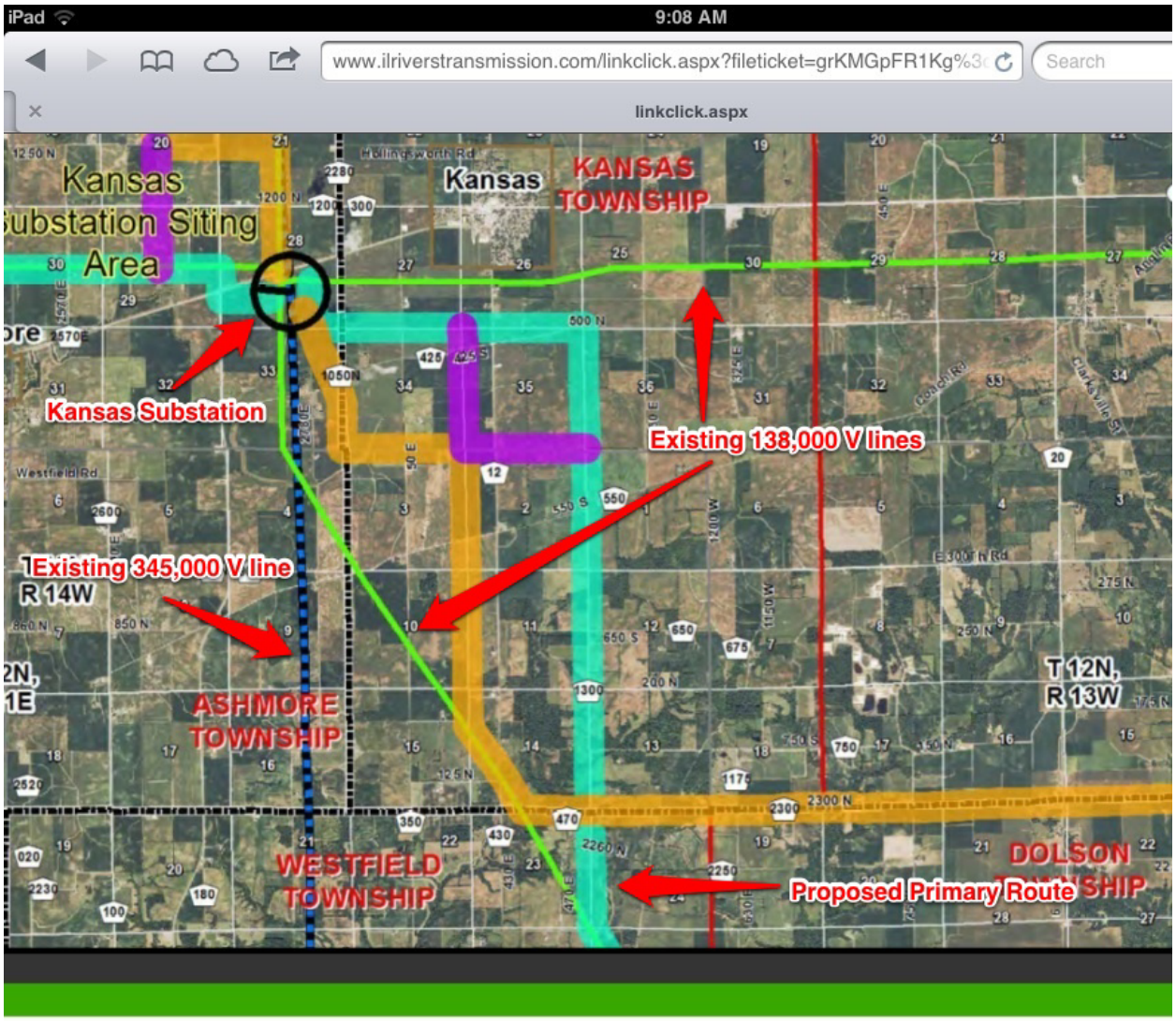
3. All of the members of RCECCC live or own property on or immediately adjacent to the Alternate Route for the proposed power transmission line through Clark and Edgar Counties which is the subject of the proceeding brought by Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois ("ATXI"). All of us, with the exception of Ben and Abbie Furlong, own the land and improvements thereon. The Furlongs are lessees of the premises where they reside, and are planning to purchase the property. The following is a color-coded map which identifies the location of our properties on the Alternate Route:



4. The members of RCECCC oppose the Alternate Route, as the same has been identified through Clark and Edgar Counties, for the following reasons:

A. There are already three high-voltage power lines coming into and out of the Kansas Substation. Surely these power lines were developed with the foresight to meet the needs of current and future generations. Ameren already has all the engineering knowledge of these lines, experience working the lines, and the right of ways on which they are located. We believe the path of one of these existing lines would be more economical and therefore should be used to build any new power lines without having the negative effects on the economic development,

environment, and farming production in our area that a totally new line of construction would create. There is already an existing high-voltage line north of the Clark-Edgar County line and two existing lines going south of the Clark-Edgar County line. Why drive another completely new line through the center, disrupting the lives and future plans of even more citizens? In support of this contention, the following is a color-coded map which identifies the juxtaposition of the existing power lines through our area and the Primary and Alternate Routes proposed by AXTI:



Use of the existing right-of-ways, where the underlying and adjacent properties have already been devalued because of their proximity to the transmission lines, would make better sense for all practical purposes, especially from an economic perspective. This is opposed to the Alternate Route, which is depicted by the Orange Line running through the lower center to right of the map, where the members of RCECCC reside. This Alternate Route essentially transverses "virgin" territory which has not yet seen the detrimental effects of being home to a high-voltage power transmission line. Adopting the Alternate Route through this area would result in higher

land acquisition costs for AXTI, and no doubt a higher cost of construction, as opposed to using the existing right-of-ways.

B. As argued above, the proposed Alternative Route along the Clark-Edgar County line would be constructed in an area where there is no existing major power transmission line, which will also cause damage to current and future farming operations and quash plans for future developments in this area. The damage to existing farming operations and difficulty of farming around power lines is already well-documented. The farms on the Clark-Edgar County line would certainly be negatively affected. Besides farming, other economic interests of families in our group will also be adversely impacted. Interveners, Steve and Robin Trapp, will close the public business which they run out of their home, as they plan to move if the power line runs through their front yard. Interveners, Ben and Abbie Furlong, have plans to soon purchase the property they currently rent on the proposed Alternate Route in order to build an equestrian center for children, including those with disabilities. If the power line is constructed, the area would not be considered safe for children, bringing an end to the plans. Interveners, Justin and Angie Perry, have plans underway for a grass airstrip which is currently being reviewed by the Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Aeronautics and the FAA. This airstrip will not be completed if the power line is constructed across the flight path. These are just three of many examples of how the new proposed power line would negatively affect economic development on this route.

C. The proposed Alternative Route along the Clark-Edgar County line would also cause serious environmental destruction to native hardwood forests that have been protected by individual families because of their love of the land and their concern for the environment. Interveners, Kent and Janet Stark, and their family own woods close to and identical to Baber Woods, which is protected by the Nature Conservancy as a Nature Preserve. Since 1833 and for seven generations, the Stark family has been steadfast in protecting these woods, and has resisted numerous offers over the years to harvest the forest. The 150 foot wide clear cut path to accommodate the transmission line would destroy nearly 12 acres of native woodland. Likewise, the property of Interveners, Bruce and Tammy Trefz, is close to Rocky Branch Nature Preserve, and the Trefz family has also been protective of their native hardwood forests, including many trees that have been identified as over 125 years old. Serious consideration should be given to the fact that the existing power line routes have already had right-of-ways cleared and ready for use. It does not make sense to damage more woodland when a path already exists.

D. The five landowners in our group have been entrusted by their ancestors for a combined 500 or more years to take care of the property that has been passed down from generation to generation. Our heritage means a lot to us, as does our future. Each family hopes to keep their home and property for generations to come. We and our children live, breathe, and make memories under where the Alternate Route would be constructed, as did our ancestors for decades before us. This proposed route goes over our children’s play areas, across our fishing ponds, above our horse riding trails, along our driveways, and through our farm fields and woods. There are obvious safety hazards that come along with these power lines that will bring a halt to our daily activities near them.

5. For all of these reasons, the members of RCECCC would oppose any plan which would use the Alternate Route proposed by AXTI the area where they reside in Clark and Edgar Counties, Illinois.

Dated: March 27, 2013

George Oria, Intervenor

Sworn and Subscribed to before me this 27th day of March 2013.

NOTARY PUBLIC

OFFICIAL SEAL
RONALD J. STONE
NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF ILLINOIS
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES