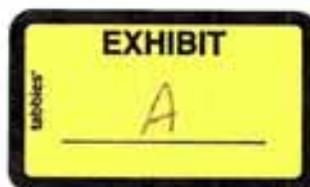


**STATE OF ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION**

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.)

Docket No. 12-0598

**TESTIMONY OF BRUCE DAILY ON BEHALF OF COLES AND MOULTRIE
COUNTY LAND INTERESTS**



Direct Testimony Of Bruce Daily

On Behalf Of

Coles and Moultrie County Land Interests

1

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3 **I. INTROCUCTION**

4 **Q. Please state your name and address.**

5 **A. Bruce Daily. My address is 1430 East County Road, 750 North, Mattoon, Illinois, 61938.**

6 **II. PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY**

7 **Q. On whose behalf are you testifying in this proceeding?**

8 **A. I am testifying on behalf of the Coles and Moultrie County Land Interests which includes**
9 **myself, Rita Getz, Grace Mae Daily, Rebecca Barrow, Alice Deininger, Stephen Daily,**
10 **Daily Grain Farms, Ltd., and the Elgin and Genevieve Daily Scholarship Farm.**

11 **III. THE EFFECT OF THE PRIMARY ROUTE ON FARMING OPERATIONS**

12 **Q. Can you explain what the Coles and Moultrie County Land Interests consist of?**

13 **A. It is a farming operation that encompasses not only land that I own, but also land from**
14 **other landladies who rent their tracts of land to me for farming.**

15 **Q. Please identify each parcel of land by parcel number that you claim will be affected**
16 **by the proposed electrical transmission line and related facilities that are subject**
17 **ATXI's petition currently before the Illinois Commerce Commission.**

18 **A. For Rita Getz: PIN: 09-0-01048-000, 09-0-01134-000, 09-0-01156-001; Grace Mae**
19 **Daily: PIN: 09-0-01135-000,09-0-01133-000; Rebecca Barrow: PIN: 09-0-01015-000,**
20 **09-0-0108-000, 09-0-01094-001; Stephen B. Daily: PIN: 09-09-36-000-201; Daily Grain**

21 Farms, Ltd.: PIN: 09-09-25-000-404, 09-09-25-000-403; Daily Elgin & Genevieve

22 Scholarship Trust: PIN: 09-0—1132-000, 09-0-01128-000, and 09-0-01131-000.

23 **Q. How is the property currently used?**

24 **A.** Agriculture: corn and soybeans.

25 **Q. What is the classification of the property you farm?**

26 **A.** It is known as prime farmland. Prime farmland is a designation assigned by U.S.
27 Department of Agriculture defining land that has the best combination of physical and
28 chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops. Prime
29 farm land has the best capability and productivity.

30 **Q. Is there any revenue from that is earned from the property?**

31 **A.** Yes. Revenue is earned from the farming operations.

32 **Q. What is the name of your farming operations?**

33 **A.** Daily Grain Farms, Ltd. The corporation is the operating entity and owns land on ATXI's
34 Primary Route.

35 **Q. How long have you been a farmer?**

36 **A.** I have been farming all my life. The parcels of land that I own myself, I've owned for
37 approximately 20 to 25 years.

38 **Q. Do you oppose the Primary Route?**

39 **A.** Yes.

40 **Q. How much of your land is affected by the Primary Route?**

41 **A.** 140 acres is affected by the primary line. I own land on both sides of the Primary Route.

42 **Q. How else does the Primary Route affect your farming operations?**

43 A. The tracts of land that I rent and farm from the other property owners has land on both
44 sides of the Primary Route. This land has been in their families for approximately 80 to
45 100 years.

46 Q. **Can you tell us how ATXI's power lines will affect your farming operations?**

47 A. It is my understanding that ATXI is going to place poles the length of the Primary Route
48 that are approximately 808 to 1,000 feet apart. If the Primary Route proceeds through my
49 land, the poles will have to be placed in the middle of the fields. This makes it more
50 inconvenient to farm around the poles. The construction and installation of the poles
51 would damage the farmland and soil from the compaction, especially if they are installed
52 at a time when the soil was wet. Based on my experience, when heavy equipment is
53 driven over the soil, there is a loss of yield in the area where the construction occurred.
54 The heavy equipment affects the ability of plant roots to penetrate the soil to reach water
55 and nutrients which in turn results in a lesser yield. It will take many years to recover
56 from this damage. In addition, there are field tiles/drainage tiles in the vicinity of the
57 proposed Primary Route. The construction might damage or destroy the drainage tiles
58 which, in turn, would cause ponding or standing water.

59 Q. **How else will the poles affect your farming?**

60 A. Because the poles are set in the field, they don't match up with the width of the
61 equipment, which would necessitate the need to farm around the poles. In addition, weed
62 control needs to be performed around the poles. Each pole will have to be attended to
63 nine months out of the year in order to keep the weeds under control and prevent
64 spreading into the surrounding crops. The presence of weeds reduces yield because the
65 weeds will consumer water and nutrients which otherwise would be consumed by the

66 crops. There is also possible damage to farm equipment. We want to farm as close to the
67 poles as possible, but it is inevitable that ultimately someone is going to hit a pole and
68 damage the equipment. This, in turn, would cause monetary damage in having to repair
69 the equipment, as well as suffering down time from not being in the field and operating.
70 In addition, the power lines would restrict my ability to use aerial applications of
71 pesticides on my crops. This is an integral part of my farming operations and would
72 force me to use other methods of applying pesticides.

73 **Q. Do you use GPS Navigation in your farming equipment?**

74 **A.** Yes.

75 **Q. Will the power lines affect the GPS equipment in your farming equipment?**

76 **A.** I do not know for certain. I would hope that the filters would be adequate. However, in
77 my opinion, because of the amount of voltage emanating from the power lines, you
78 would think some interference would result. I've invested a lot of money in this GPS
79 navigation equipment and any negative impact from the powers lines will damage my
80 farming operations and my investment in the GPS equipment.

81 **Q. What, if any, will the power lines do to the value of your property?**

82 **A.** In my opinion, the value of the property will be diminished in the long run due to the
83 factors that I previously testified about. The poles will make the property less
84 marketable, less valuable and have a permanent negative impact on the value of the
85 property.

86 **VI. CONCLUSION**

87 **Q. What are your conclusions regarding the location of the Primary Route?**

88 A. The location of the Primary Route would have a direct, negative effect on my farming
89 operations which is my livelihood.

90 **Q. Does this complete your testimony?**

91 **A. Yes.**