

**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) 12-0598
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.)

AFFIDAVIT

The undersigned, under oath or affirmation, deposes and states that he is competent to testify and that, if called upon to testify in the above captioned proceeding, he would testify as follows:

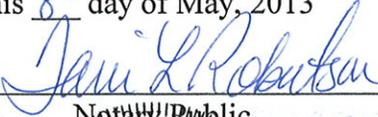
1. My name is Paul Thrift. My business address is 901 Wabash Avenue, Suite 300, Terre Haute, Indiana 47807. I make this affidavit in support of the Intervention of John Thompson and me in the captioned docket.
2. On March 29, 2013, I submitted and caused to be filed on e-docket my direct testimony, which is re-attached here as Thift/Thompson Exhibit 1.0. It consists of 4 pages of questions and answers ending at line 76 and no additional exhibit or attachments.
3. Subject to a Stipulation filed May 1, 2013 by and among Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois, Stop the Power Lines Coalition, JDL Broadcasting, Table Limestone Enterprises, Edgar County Intervenors, Paul Thrift and John Thompson, marked as Stipulation Exhibit 5 (the "Stipulation"), and the positions stated in that Stipulation, my testimony is true and accurate as of the date of this Affidavit. If I were asked the same questions today which are propounded in my testimony, I would respond with the same answers modified only as provided in the Stipulation. I have no other corrections or changes to make to my testimony.

Further affiant sayeth naught.



Paul Thrift

Subscribed and Sworn or Affirmed before me
this 8th day of May, 2013





Jami L. Robertson

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DIRECT TESTIMONY OF PAUL THRIFT

March 29, 2013

1 **Q. What is your name, business title and business address?**

2 A. My name is Paul Thrift. John Thompson and I intervened in this docket because we are
3 both land owners and home owners in Edgar County, Illinois. Mr. Thompson and I are
4 also both principals in Thompson Thrift which has a business address is 901 Wabash
5 Avenue, Suite 300, Terre Haute, Indiana 47807.

6 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

7 A. My testimony focuses on the very eastern segment of Ameren's route between its Kansas,
8 Illinois substation and the Indiana state line. I will explain why Ameren's Primary Route
9 is preferable to Ameren's Alternative Route and to the routes proposed by *Stop the Power*
10 *Lines Coalition* and why taking that segment to the south (as Ameren's Primary Route
11 does) once it leaves from the east of the Kansas substation will result in less negative
12 impact than any more northerly options.

13 **Q. What is your educational and professional background?**

14 A. I am a 1991 graduate of Indiana State University with a degree in Political Science.

15 I am now president of Thompson Thrift Development, where I focus on real estate
16 development, architecture and construction. I have been involved in this area for more
17 than 20 years. I have significant experience in multifamily, institutional, industrial and
18 commercial developments across the Midwest.

19 I am also actively involved in my community serving on the Greater Terre Haute
20 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Terre Haute Area Economic Development

21 Corporation Executive Committee, Indiana Chamber of Commerce State Board of
22 Directors & Terre Haute Tomorrow Board of Directors.

23 **Q. What is your interest in Edgar or Clark Counties?**

24 A. John Thompson (my co-intervenor) and I both live in Edgar County, more specifically in
25 Elbridge Township. Elbridge Township is in the southeast corner of Edgar County,
26 adjoining Clark County to the south and Indiana (Vigo County) to the east. Because of
27 where I live and my professional expertise, I am very familiar with the terrain and land
28 uses, and how they will be impacted by the eastern segments of the proposed Illinois
29 Rivers Transmission Project, which is the subject of this docket.

30 **Q. Have you reviewed Ameren's testimony in this docket?**

31 A. I have not reviewed all of it, but I have reviewed its testimony relating to the most eastern
32 segment of its proposed route in Edgar and Clark counties.

33 **Q. Have you reviewed *Stop The Power Lines Coalition's* Alternate Route Proposals,
34 filed January 17, 2013?**

35 A. Yes.

36 **Q. Do you support Ameren's Primary Route between the Kansas, Illinois substation
37 and the Indiana state line?**

38 A. Yes.

39 **Q. Why?**

40 A. Differing from Ameren's Primary Route, Ameren's Alternative Route and *Stop the*
41 *Power Lines Coalition's* alternatives each maintain a more northerly route east out of the

42 Kansas substation (which is in western Edgar County). Ameren's Alternative Route
43 transited most the southern part of Edgar County and *Stop the Power Lines Coalition's*
44 alternatives transit even farther north in Edgar County before heading south into Clark
45 County before ultimately crossing into Indiana. By comparison, the Primary Route
46 (viewed from west to east) heads south out of the Kansas substation, and subsequently
47 goes east across central Clark County.

48 **Q. Why is it important that the route not run through Edgar County?**

49 A. First, Edgar County and, more particularly, Elbridge Township in Edgar County has
50 habitat that is conducive to housing the Indiana Bat and the Brown Bat. Elbridge
51 Township is also a home to the endangered Jefferson Salamander. Both of these habitats
52 would be negatively impacted by the placement of a transmission line.

53 Also, in the past ten years has seen a relative boom in single family construction in
54 Elbridge township. As a result, the Primary Route's choice of Clark County presents a
55 less populated placement than the Alternative Route running through southern Edgar
56 County or any route farther north than that.

57 The larger population in Elbridge Township in southern Edgar County reflects an
58 increase in residential development, which has far outpaced any other township in Clark
59 or Edgar County. The relative hilly terrain, natural beauty, city water, excellent road
60 system and proximity to Terre Haute have all contributed to this development.

61 Installation of transmission lines across Elbridge township would negatively impact
62 existing development and impede or halt further development, reducing the property tax
63 growth for the county and the school systems. Given the greater property values in

64 Elbridge Township compared to its neighbors, the installation of these lines would
65 disproportionately negatively impact property values greater than if the lines were routed
66 through other townships that have not seen the dramatic increase in assessed values.

67 As I noted just above, Edgar County and Elbridge Township also present more
68 complicated topographical challenges. For example, the Alternative route and route
69 farther north impacting Edgar County include more undulating and wooded acres. Both
70 these features would make construction more expensive and more negatively impactful.

71 For all these reasons, I believe that Ameren's Primary Route between its Kansas
72 substation and the Indiana state line presents the least impactful alternative and, among
73 the routes that have been proposed to the Commission for that segment, I encourage the
74 Commission to adopt this segment of Ameren's Primary Route.

75 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

76 A. Yes.