

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS
2 ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION
3

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

4
5 ***REVISED* DIRECT TESTIMONY**

6 Of

7 Donna Allen

CHIEF CLERK'S OFFICE

2013 MAY -9 P 1:25

ILLINOIS COMMERCE
COMMISSION

8 Q1. Please state your name, home address and occupation for the record.

9 **Donna Mae Allen**
10 **221 Bay Colony Dr**
11 **Naperville IL 60565**

12
13 **Property Manager / Homemaker**

14
15 Q2. Do you have land that is located on a primary or alternate route?

16 **Yes, we have land that is located on the alternate route south of Kansas**
17 **IL.**

18
19 Q3. Please provide the location of the affected property.

20 **22864 N Cleone Road, Kansas IL 61933**

21
22 **Property ID#**

23 **14-01-24-00-200-002 (S24, T12, R14 – PT SW NE & PT E ½ W ½ NE)**

24 **14-01-24-00-200-003 (S24, T12, R14 – E ½ NE; SW COR NW NE & PT E ½ W ½ NE)**

25 **05-02-19-00-100-002 (S19, T12, R13)**

26
27 **Also refer to Donna Allen Testimony Exhibits 1 and 2 for detailed maps.**
28 **Our property is outlined in purple and labeled “A” on exhibit 2.**

29
30 Q4. Are you representing anyone else in your petition to intervene?

31 **I am petitioning on behalf of myself, my husband, our two boys**
32 **. This land has been in the family for at**
33 **least four generations. It has been cared for and preserved for future**
34 **generations to come. One day my oldest son would like to live on and**
35 **farm the tillable acres on the property and continue our conservation**
36 **efforts in the timber.**

37
38 Q5. What interest do you have in the pending litigation, I.C.C. docket number
39 12-0598?

40 **The proposed alternate route is planned along the county line of Clark**
41 **and Edgar Counties, which borders the north edge of our property. In**
42 **recent years we have developed the woodlands into our own private**

43 nature preserve. In 2003 we had the local Illinois State Forester (Robert
44 Wagoner) out to the property to develop a forestry plan, he mentioned



45 that there were a few trees on our land that might qualify as State Record
46 size trees. At that time we received and implemented a forestry
47 management plan. He talked about coming back out to measure them in
48 a few years. Unfortunately, he has retired from his position. There are
49 extensive trails throughout the area, and it is used for several recreational
50 activities.

51
52 Q6. Can you please describe the terrain and or topographic conditions of your
53 lands?

54 Along the North end of our property, where the Alternate route is
55 proposed, it is heavily wooded old growth timber. This area is highly
56 erodible with deep creeks and valleys zigzagging throughout. For as long
57 as the family can recall, it has been in timber.

58 Q7. What potential impacts to you and your property do you foresee the
59 transmission line to have if it is installed according to the alternate route?

60 **1) Removal of Critical Wildlife Habitat:**

61 **Indiana Brown Bats:** Every evening at dusk during the warmer months
62 the bats come out to eat. They soar and swoop around catching
63 mosquitoes and other bugs for a meal. They are very hard to track, but
64 we have seen them resting and hanging in trees on our property. One
65 enterprising bat even found his way into the house.

66
67 *“The Indiana bat, an endangered species, was listed in 1967 due to*
68 *episodes of people disturbing hibernating bats in caves during winter and*
69 *killing large numbers of bats. Indiana bats are vulnerable to disturbance*
70 *because they hibernate in large numbers in only a few caves... Other*
71 *threats that have contributed to the Indiana bat's decline include... loss of*
72 *summer habitat...”*

73 <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/inba/index.html>

74
75 **Alligator Snapping Turtles:** We have come across baby turtles in and
76 around the creeks and ponds on our land that we attempted to identify
77 with field guidebooks and use of the Internet. One that we found this
78 past year was different and had features that are associated with the
79 Alligator Snapping Turtle. Being stewards of the land and wildlife, we
80 returned the turtle to where we found it. Although I believe we took
81 some pictures, I am unable to find them before your deadline.

82
83 Please refer to the *“Checklist of Endangered and Threatened Animals and*
84 *Plants of Illinois”* at:

85 <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/ESPB/Documents/ETChecklist2011.pdf>

86
87 **Pileated Woodpeckers:** The “drumming” of a Pileated Woodpecker is
88 very distinctive and very loud. We often hear them throughout our
89 woods, and have even seen them in the canopy above us. The evidence
90 of their existence is shown on many of the old growth trees in our woods
91 where you can see the huge excavations that are characteristic of that
92 species of woodpecker.

93

94 Pileated woodpeckers have a large range and large population size, so
95 they are not considered threatened or endangered. However, they are
96 protected by the U.S. Migratory Bird Act.

97 http://eol.org/data_objects/18645588

98

99 ***"Forests commonly referred to as "old growth" are in very short supply in
100 Illinois. This type of forest is characterized by a diversity of age classes,
101 including a canopy of very old trees, 125 to 300 years old. To be
102 considered old growth, a forest would have been relatively undisturbed by
103 logging or grazing for one hundred years or longer, with the exception of
104 an occasional tree cut for firewood or perhaps lumber. Large-diameter
105 trees are important to the survival of some wildlife species, such as the
106 pileated woodpecker. The Illinois Natural Areas Inventory found only
107 11,600 of the state's existing 4.3 million forested acres to be older,
108 relatively undisturbed forest... It can take centuries to develop a truly
109 mature, full functioning forest ecosystem. The multiple layers that
110 develop support a diversity of wildlife. Yet a sizeable forest ecosystem can
111 be eliminated in a matter of days! Because it is the slowest of all habitat
112 types to recreate, think carefully before converting forest to another
113 habitat type. Remind yourself how long it takes a tree to grow when
114 you're cutting one down."***

115 <http://dnr.state.il.us/orep/pfc/guide/habitats/woodlands/issues.htm>

Although old growth areas have particular characteristics, there may still be debates as to when an area can actually be classified as old growth. Using 'indicator' species such as the Pileated Woodpecker is a good way of solving such problems, seeing as how it requires such habitats to thrive; in other words, if the birds are there, then it is likely to be an old growth forest. This means that there are probably many (other) reasons to consider conserving the area at risk. Specific things that should be preserved (in large, continuous portions) include snags (standing dead trees) and those large enough to be used as nesting trees. Since they often go to riparian areas to forage, and since some waterways may also be used as migration corridors between fragments of habitat, there should be an emphasis on conserving riparian landscapes as well.

116

117 http://www.northwestwildlife.com/downloads/Pileated_Woodpecker.pdf

118

119 **Wild Turkey:** After years of Illinois Conservation efforts, the Wild Turkeys
120 have begun to reappear in our area. Just within the past 3 years we have
121 found them roosting in our woodlands. It is a site to see when you look
122 up to find a dozen large turkeys in the branches above.

123
124 **Deer:** White Tailed Deer are prevalent in our woods and farmland. So
125 much so that usually at least two deer have been harvested each year
126 during Deer Season for the past 15 years.

127
128 **Quail:** The Bob-White Quail has a unique call that sounds very much like
129 the words "bob white". We frequently hear their calls throughout our
130 property.

131
132 **2) Destruction of Rare Woodland Vegetation:**

133
134 **Most residents in the area are farmers and their primary concern is for**
135 **the agricultural land. In contrast, we are conservationists. We have a**
136 **forestry plan in place for the woodlands on our property. There are**
137 **several types of rare woodland vegetation: Ginseng, Trillium, mushrooms**
138 **to name a few. Fortunately, our neighbors to the North (Kent and Janet**
139 **Stark) share our concern to maintain as much woodland habitat as**
140 **possible.**

141
142 **If it were the right season I would take pictures to support my position. I**
143 **am afraid that you will have to take my word that these plants exist. I**
144 **also welcome you to make an appointment to visit the property in April to**
145 **see the spring woodlands.**

146
147 **The Illinois Ginseng Conservation Act (Public Act 83-680) became law**
148 **September 23, 1983, for the purpose of conserving wild American ginseng**
149 **in Illinois. To read more go to:**

150 <http://dnr.state.il.us/Law3/ginseng%20regulations.htm>

151
152 ***"The native Red Trillium is a rare wildflower in Illinois, where it is state-***
153 ***listed as 'endangered.' It is restricted to a few counties in the northern***
154 ***section of the state (see Distribution Map). Habitats consist of rich***
155 ***deciduous woodlands that are more or less mesic and wooded slopes. In***
156 ***such woodlands, Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum), American Basswood***

157 ***(Tilia americana), or oaks (Quercus spp.) are often dominant canopy trees.***
158 ***Further to the east, where it is more common, Red Trillium is associated***
159 ***with woodlands that are dominated by Sugar Maple and American Beech***
160 ***(Fagus grandifolia)."***

161 http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/woodland/plants/red_trillium.html

162
163 **Checklist of Endangered and Threatened Animals and Plants of Illinois:**

164 <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/ESPB/Documents/ETChecklist2011.pdf>

165
166 **In regard to the mushrooms, an Illinois mushroom hunter never gives up**
167 **their secrets...**

168
169 **I would encourage any who would vote in favor of running the power**
170 **lines through our lands to come and see the habitat and wildlife in**
171 **person.**

172
173 Q8.

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180 Q9.

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186 Q10. Do you have any other concerns about the Illinois Rivers Project?

187 **1) I am concerned that Illinois is allowing private companies, whose**
188 **primary concern is profit, to plan the electrical grid in our state. To me**
189 **that is an infrastructure issue that would be best planned as a whole**
190 **project rather than piecemeal when an application is presented. Maybe**
191 **the state could institute an incentive program for the individual**
192 **companies to work together for the betterment of Illinois.**

193

194 2) I am troubled that a private company can apply for approval on a
195 project of this magnitude through an expedited procedure. This impacts
196 thousands of lives. ATXI had years to prepare their proposal, but we the
197 people only have a few months to defend ourselves.

198
199 3) According to the Environmental Citing Criteria
200 (<http://www.ilriverstransmission.com/process/siting-criteria>) that ATXI
201 used to help determine the Primary and Alternate routes. It clearly states
202 that existing Electrical or Utility Corridors and Roadways are
203 “Opportunities”. It also clearly states “Sensitivities”. Areas of Known
204 Protected Species, Existing Residential Use, Trees and Woodlots are just a
205 few of the items mentioned.

206
207 Yet, as shown in the map below, they are proposing several different
208 routes that pass through areas of “Sensitivities” rather than following the
209 thin neon green lines that indicate existing transmission lines
210 “Opportunities”.

211
212
213 This area left blank intentionally. Testimony stricken by ALJ's on 4/24/13.
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222 Q11. Is there anything else you would like to add?

223 **In a community where fencerows are being removed each year to make**
224 **room for more crops, we are the minority. The proposed alternate route**
225 **would cut a swath directly through the approximately 200-year-old**
226 **woods that the Starks and we have tried to preserve. Please help us to**
227 **continue our conservation efforts by voting against the alternate route in**
228 **this area.**

229 Q11. Does this conclude your direct testimony?

230 **Yes it does. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.**

231

232 Dated May 8 2013

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234
235
236
237
238
239
240

Respectfully submitted,



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Donna Allen Testimony EXHIBIT 1



