ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

DOCKET NUMBER 12-0598

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

Intervener, Keith Flesner

Q: Please state your name?

A: **Keith Flesner**

Q: Please state your current residence?

A: **118 High Street, Plainville, IL 62365**

Q: Please identify by street address and parcel number any real property in which you claim an interest that will be affected by the proposed electric transmission line and related facilities that are subject of Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois' ("ATXI) Petition currently before the Illinois Commerce Commission?

A: **118 S. High Street, Plainville, IL 62365. PIN: 18-0-0269-000-00 a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached hereto as <u>Exhibit 1</u> (hereinafter referred to as the "Property").**

Q: Please identify the nature of your interest in the Property?

A: **Owner of the Property.**

Q: How is the Property currently used?

A: **Agricultural farming of corn and soybeans.**

Q: Are there any building(s) and/or structure(s) on the Property?

A: **No.**

Q: Is there any revenue that is earned from the Property, if so what is the revenue?

A: **Yes. A corn crop can generate $75,000.00.**

Q: What is the quality of the soil on the Property?

A: **The soil quality is good with a black dirt/clay mixture.**

Q: Is the property encumbered by any existing utility easement(s)?

A: **No.**

Q: Do you oppose the primary route proposed by ATXI?

A: **Yes.**

ACPO Exhibit
4.0

Q: What is the basis of your opposition to the primary route?

A: **Based on my personal experience, if ATXI uses trucks and machines to drive over the Property it will compact the soil. I am concerned that due to the clay mixture this compaction could affect my yield for 20 years. Additionally, I have drainage tiles and a pond where the proposed route will go directly over.**

I spray fungicides from an airplane. There are trees along the sides of the property which limits my flying space at this time. Transmission lines and towers will further encumber my ability to fly over the property for aerial spraying. Furthermore, I have a concern that the transmission line will impact my GPS. My GPS is based off of satellites, and I believe that the currents from the line would impact the accuracy of the GPS signal. I also believe that my swath control would be impacted, and my planting would then be affected as there would be seed overlap causing loss of revenue for added seed costs.

Additionally, I have concerns about the placement of the towers and/or poles, and weeds being allowed to grow which could infiltrate my crops. I am also concerned about farming under high voltage lines. I have been shocked by lesser voltage lines when working on combines and am extremely concerned about being electrocuted while working underneath these powerful transmission lines. Furthermore, I am concerned about my cattle and their willingness to drink from the water supply if they are being sent electrical shocks through the water.

Finally, I have concerns about the devaluation of my farm. The placement of the transmission lines could affect the value of the farm.

Q: What is the expected financial loss from the use of the Property as a result of the primary route?

A: **It varies. Compaction of the soil left over from the machinery and/or towers could be $5,000 per year from damaged soil for many years.**

Q: What is the proximity of the building(s) and/or structure(s) on the Property to the primary route proposed by ATXI?

A: **None**

Q: Are you in favor of ATXI utilizing existing right of ways for the ATXI transmission line?

A: **Yes.**

Q: Does this conclude your testimony?

62 A: Yes.

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65 KEITH FLESNER

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69 STATE OF ILLINOIS)

70) SS

71 COUNTY OF ADAMS)

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73 Signed and Sworn to before me, a Notary in the County and State aforesaid by

74 Keith Flesner on this 28 day of March, 2013

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78 NOTARY PUBLIC

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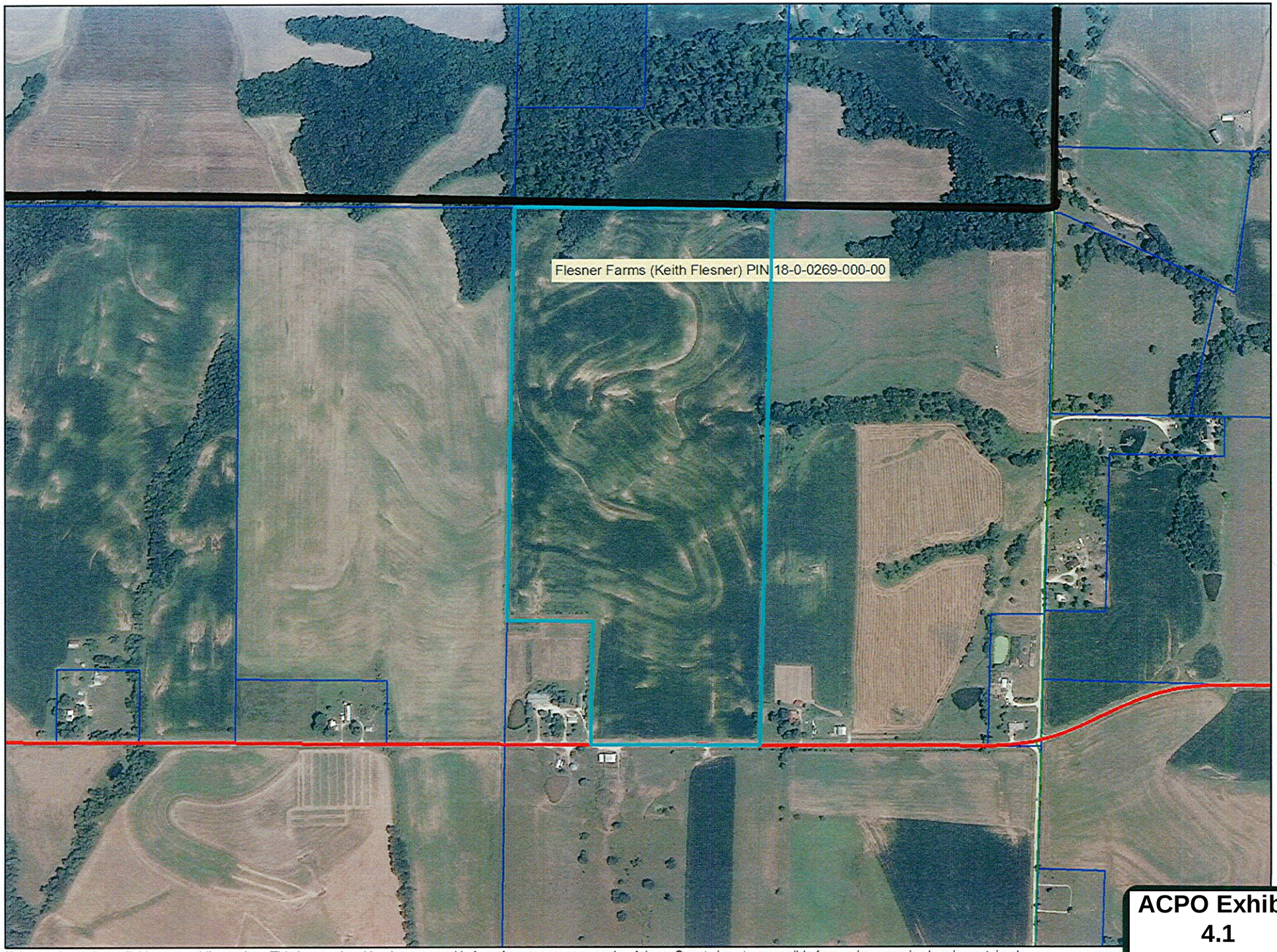

This map is made available as a public service. This is not a legal land survey and is for reference purposes only. Adams County is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained.

ACPO Exhibit 4.1