ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

DOCKET NUMBER 12-0598

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

Intervener, Larry Groce

Q: Please state your name?

A: **Larry Groce**

Q: Please state your current residence?

A: **1304 East Main 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: **1304 E. Main Street, P.O. Box 98, Plainville, IL 62365.**
PIN: 18-0-0255-000-00 a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached hereto as Exhibit 1 (hereinafter referred to as the "Property").

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

A: **I am the owner of the Property as tenants in common with my wife Terri Groce.**

Q: How is the Property currently used?

A: **It is used as our primary residence, as well as for crop production primarily for corn and soy beans.**

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

A: **Yes. There is a residence, shop building, an apartment north of the house, grain bin, and a front machine shed.**

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

A: **The Property has had revenue of approximately $56,000.00 a year for the last two years.**

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

A: **Excellent to good quality of soil. The portion of the Property on the northern boundary is flat and contains Tama-Muscatine soil which is one of the highest producing soils. There is also Bethalto soil type which is a good quality soil. There is a 0-2% grade which is excellent for farming. The northern portion of the property has some of the highest quality soil in the area and yields are about one and a half times greater than on the remaining parts of the Property.**

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

A: **There are power and telephone lines along the county road on the south side of the property.**

ACPO Exhibit
5.0

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

A: **Yes.**

Q: Do you oppose the entire length of the primary route?

A: **Yes.**

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

A: **The primary route runs directly through the north portion of our property, which as I have stated in this testimony is the highest soil quality on our property. Because it is the highest soil quality it also provides the greatest yield being one and half times greater than on the remaining parts of your property. As such, to have the primary route be located on this part of our land will cause us to lose the most productive portion of our property.**

Additionally, our property maintains certain drainage and drainage tiles that are located on the area that ATXI has proposed to run their primary route. I have concerns that during construction and after construction those drainage tiles will be destroyed or disturbed causing flooding problems on our property.

I also have concerns about the ability to fertilize the property through spraying or other means due to the location of the primary route and poles that will need to be erected.

Finally, I have great concern that if the primary route is used there will not be access to the transmission lines should repair be necessary. The location from our property does not easily lend itself to getting to the lines once they are erected. Should a repair be necessary I am concerned that ATXI will want to travel over my land to get the lines for repair causing more damage to my property.

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

A: **Building, house, and other structures described in my previous testimony are approximately two thousand (2,000) feet south of the primary route that crosses West to East on the north border of our farm.**

Q: Are you aware of the number of property owners that will be affected the proposed primary route, and if so what is the affect?

A: **I am aware that other property owners will be affected by the proposed primary route, but am not aware of how many.**

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

A: **Yes.**

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

A: **Yes.**

Q: Do you oppose the entire length of the alternative route?

A: **Yes.**

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

A: **I believe that if ATXI has the ability to use existing right of ways that will not affect new property owners those routes should be used.**

Q: Does this conclude your testimony?

A: Yes

LARRY GROCE

STATE OF ILLINOIS)

) SS

COUNTY OF ADAMS)

Signed and Sworn to before me, a Notary in the County and State aforesaid by Larry Groce on this 27TH day of MARCH, 2013

NOTARY PUBLIC

"OFFICIAL SEAL"
DONNA M. FRESE
Notary Public, State of Illinois
My Commission Expires 03/26/17