

1 **ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION**

2 **DOCKET NUMBER 12-0598**

3 **DIRECT TESTIMONY**

4 **OF**

5 **Intervener, Brent Mast**

6 **Q:** Please state your name?

7 **A:** **Brent Mast**

8 **Q:** Please state your current residence?

9 **A:** **310 North Public Street Payson, IL 62360**

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

14 **A:** **PIN: 18-0-0199-000-00 a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached**  
15 **hereto as Exhibit 1.**

16 **PIN: 18-0-0203-000-00 a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached**  
17 **hereto as Exhibit 2.**

18 **PIN: 20-0-1837-000-00 a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached**  
19 **hereto as Exhibit 3.**

20 **PIN: 20-0-1838-000-00 a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached**  
21 **hereto as Exhibit 4.**

22 **PIN: 20-0-1840-000-00 a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached**  
23 **hereto as Exhibit 5.**

24 **PIN: 21-0-0173-000-00 a true, accurate, and correct map of this parcel is attached**  
25 **hereto as Exhibit 6.**

26 **Hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Property."**

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

28 **A:** **The parcels reflected in Exhibits 3 through 5 are owned by my brother, Steve Mast,**  
29 **and I as joint tenants. The parcels reflected in Exhibits 2 is being purchased contract for**

30 deed from Estelle Rici by my brother and me. Exhibit 6 is being purchased equally by my  
31 brother and me.

32 Q: How is the Property currently used?

33 A: The Property is currently used for farming and agriculture to produce corn and  
34 beans.

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

36 A: No

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

38 A: Approximately \$291,316.00

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

40 A: The parcels reflected in Exhibit 2 and Exhibit 1 contains some of the prime soil in  
41 the area. The parcels reflected in Exhibits 3 through 5 contain soil that is above average.  
42 Exhibit 6 contains soil that is above average.

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

44 A: No

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

46 A: Yes

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

48 A: Yes

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

50 A: Based on my personal experience the construction that ATXI is proposing will  
51 compact the soil to a level that will take from six to seven years to relieve. This compaction  
52 will contribute to lower yields.

53 The primary route will also affect the drainage tile. For example, on the parcel  
54 reflected in Exhibit 3 the drainage tile could be severely damaged because it is not very  
55 deep and the primary route will be constructed directly over it. Not only will the drainage  
56 tiles in the easement be damaged from the lines or towers, but the damage will likely occur  
57 with the use of heavy equipment during construction.

58 Additionally, the primary route is directly over a load/unload area for grain on the  
59 parcel reflected in Exhibit 1. This causes both safety concerns with the potential of striking  
60 a line, as well as cost concerns for needing to work around the line.

61           Another primary concern is the effectiveness of the GPS equipment that is used in  
62 working the field. I have a concern that the primary route will likely cause problems in the  
63 effectiveness of the equipment and the ability for the equipment to properly work the entire  
64 field due to the function of the GPS. Basically, the poles will be an obstacle and you will  
65 have to ensure that you don't collide with them, which will likely require deactivating the  
66 GPS. The function of the GPS is to be cost effective, and having to deactivate it will make  
67 the equipment less effective and productive.

68           In addition to these problems, a big concern I have is potential adverse affect the  
69 primary route will have on the ability to lay out aluminum pipe and run water through it  
70 without getting an electrical charge during that process. Aluminum pipe is used in a hard  
71 hose traveler, which is a type of irrigation system. It is a better type of irrigation for use in  
72 irregular shape fields and land that is rented. Additionally, the placement of the poles and  
73 lines will cause problems in the ability to use center pivots.

74           The parcels reflected in Exhibit 3, Exhibit 4, and Exhibit 5 also have potential to  
75 have commercial use due to it being in an enterprise zone and being protected by a 500  
76 year levy. This zone is primarily used for manufacturing. The ability to market the  
77 Property in the future as a manufacturing site may be affected by having power lines  
78 across the Property.

79           Additionally, the 75 foot easement proposed by the primary route across the parcel  
80 reflected in Exhibit 1 will encompass 11% of the useable acreage. This will greatly reduce  
81 the ability to fully use the Property for production of crops. A full 150 foot easement would  
82 encompass 22 percent of those acres.

83           Finally, the farming area in Adams County is generally located on a bluff which  
84 provides for excellent drainage and above-average to high quality soil. This is different  
85 from the surrounding areas which are in lowlands that are not as good for farming,  
86 making these properties prime farmland for this area.

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

89 A:     The Property will have significant loss in value. Additionally, parcels in Exhibits 3,  
90 4, and 5 is land that will, at some point, be commercially developed. Exhibit 1 will have a

91 large amount of acreage, as a percentage of total land, tied up in easement. I figure the  
92 power lines could easily devalue all of my Property by \$400,000.00.

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

94 A: Yes

95 Q: ~~If there is an individual or party who has interest in the Property, does that party or~~  
96 ~~individual oppose the primary route proposed by ATXI?~~

97 A: ~~It is my understanding my brother Steve Mast opposes the primary route.~~

98 Q: ~~Does the individual or party oppose the entire length of the primary route?~~

99 A: ~~Yes that is my understanding.~~

100 Q: ~~What is the basis for the individual's or party's opposition to the primary route?~~

101 A: ~~It is my understanding he opposes the primary route for the same reasons I have~~  
102 ~~stated in this testimony.~~

103 Q: Does this conclude your testimony?

104 A: Yes.

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*Brent C Mast*

BRENT MAST

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112 STATE OF ILLINOIS )

113 ) SS

114 COUNTY OF ADAMS )

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

117 Brent Mast on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2013

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*Judith A. Chapman*

NOTARY PUBLIC

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