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Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust

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Monday, April 08, 2013

Sherina E. May
Acting Commissioner
Illinois Commerce Commission
527 E. Capitol Avenue
Springfield IL 62701

Re: Illinois Rivers Transmission Project: Docket 12-0598

Dear Ms. May,

On behalf of the Laborers and their membership, I am expressing our support for the Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois (ATXI) proposal to build, operate and maintain the 345-kV Illinois Rivers Transmission Line. This line will stretch about 375 miles from near Quincy to just across the border with Indiana to the west of Terre Haute.

The Illinois Rivers Transmission Line is essential to our state's future for several key reasons:

- Illinois Rivers is part of a portfolio of Multi-Value Projects (MVPs) that has been approved by the MISO (Midwest Independent System Operator), a regional transmission organization.
- The Illinois Rivers project will provide additional transmission capacity, help eliminate transmission congestion and will help lower cost energy reach consumers.
- Illinois Rivers will provide local reliability benefits and local area voltage support.
- The MVPs will facilitate the delivery of renewable energy, improve reliability and provide economic and efficiency benefits.
- Illinois and other states within the MISO region have enacted renewable portfolio standards. By the next decade, 41 million megawatt-hours of renewable energy will be needed. This is the equivalent to the power produced by 10 large baseload coal-fired power plants.
- As a regional project, cost to Illinois customers for the Illinois Rivers Project is only 9 percent of total project cost.
- It has been estimated that Illinois customers will see economic benefits ranging from 1.8 to 2.8 times the cost.

Of course, there is another extremely important benefit. I am referring to the good paying union jobs that will come at a time when Illinois is still struggling to recover from the recession. We anticipate this job creation will begin in 2014 with work on the project continuing throughout 2019.

Not only will the Illinois rivers construction project put our members to work, but it will benefit communities and workers throughout the project corridor. In addition, it will benefit the men and women who work for the companies who will supply the materials and equipment this project will need.

Looking beyond the construction period, we believe the Illinois Rivers Transmission Line is key for economic growth. By increasing capacity, improving reliability and efficiency and promoting the development of an effectively competitive electricity market, the ATXI Illinois Rivers Transmission Line will be help drive economic development in downstate Illinois for decades to come.

The ATXI Illinois Rivers Transmission Line will be good for Illinois.

Sincerely,

Tim Ryan

Tim Ryan
Marketing Representaive