Mr. John T. Colgan
Illinois Commerce Commission
527 East Capitol Avenue
Springfield, IL 62701

Dear Commissioner Colgan,

As you evaluate Docket No. 12-0598, the routes for the Illinois Rivers Transmission Project proposed by Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois, I encourage you to be mindful of several elements that will have an impact on Illinois' largest Amish community.

Amish / Tourism

6. The area between Lovington and Humboldt is home to Illinois' largest Amish community with more than 6,000 Amish and Mennonite in 27 separate church districts.
7. Amish do not use electricity and will be negatively impacted by the lines going through their native grounds.
8. This region and the entire state benefit from dollars generated through tourism to this community.
9. The draw to this area is simplicity and the lack of technology. Massive power lines detract from this feature.
10. The potential alternate route through Moultrie and Coles County will most negatively impact the Amish community.

Dairy Production

7. Dairy production is a prominent means of revenue for farmers in the area including the Amish.
8. There have been numerous studies and lawsuits confirming the negative impact on milk production and dairy herds by stray voltage through high voltage lines.
9. There have been numerous settlements regarding the impact of stray voltage on dairy farms and loss of milk production and cattle death.
10. In 2011 the Minnesota Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling to allow local dairy farmers to pursue Northern States Power Company (Xcel Energy) for damages resulting from loss of milk production and herd death.
11. The Wisconsin Supreme Court upheld an award from a lawsuit by dairy farmers who lost revenue from their herds milk production.
12. The Idaho Supreme Court denied the Idaho Power Company to appeal the $17,000,000 award against it in a stray voltage case involving dairy herds.

The above is a condensed list of points to help illustrate the potential impact on an area that relies on tourism and milk production revenue.

My goal is to simply help illustrate the reasons as to why it will be mutually beneficial for the ICC, Ameren, the state of Illinois and the Amish region to refrain from utilizing the alternate (gold) route through Moultrie and Coles County.

Respectfully,

Tim Miller, 405 S Union, Arthur Il. 61911