

ILLINOIS COMMERCE
COMMISSION

2013 AUG 15 P 4: 05

August 13, 2013

Executive Director
Illinois Commerce Commission
527 East Capitol Avenue
Springfield, IL 62701

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTORS OFFICE

RE: ICC Case 12-0598/Opposition to proposed reroute through Douglas and Piatt Counties

Dear Executive Director,

I hope you find this message in time to consider it before the vote for the ATXI route. There are 3 points that I'm asking you to consider prior to your vote.

1. **Ameren spent years studying/reviewing potential routes for the Illinois Rivers Project while the proposed MCPO route that goes through Douglas County was identified within 3 weeks.**
 - Is 3 weeks really enough time to educated decision? Ameren has done none of the vetting process with this site that was done on the original choice.
2. **The initial route is a direct route whereas the MCPO route travels miles off course, impacts more cropland and includes 90 degree angles.**
 - From what I understand, each turn would cost an additional 1 million dollars in project costs. Why would a new route that substantially increases the cost be chosen?
3. **Douglas and Piatt counties are not even listed as affected counties on the ICC website. Nor are they listed as an affected county on the Ameren website either.**
 - If Douglas/Piatt counties were not considerable at that time; why are they considerable now?

As a citizen of Douglas County, I ask that you please vote NO to the MCPO route.

Thank you for your time.



Theresa Quinn

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STOP

THE HIGH-VOLTAGE POWER LINES PROPOSED THROUGH DOUGLAS AND PIATT COUNTIES!

PROPOSED POWER LINE ROUTE: Ameren is set to build a 330-mile, 345,000-volt transmission line across Illinois, and the towers in this project (known as the Illinois Rivers Project) could be up to 170 feet tall with bases up to 10 feet wide. These massive structures would be seen for miles and would negatively affect farm ground and property values for generations. After years of study that included a review of 32 different geographic sensitivities, identification and publication of potential routes, and dozens of public forums used to gather public input and feedback, Ameren submitted a primary and alternate route to the ICC (Illinois Commerce Commission) last November for their approval. Both of Ameren's routes run through Moultrie County, which lies directly between proposed substations in Mt. Zion and Kansas, IL. In contrast, a group of Moultrie County property owners (MCPO) came up with their own alternate route (in less than three weeks) that travels miles off course to the north and avoids all of Moultrie County except for a small corner. This longer, off-course MCPO route throws this project on the backs of unsuspecting property owners in Douglas and Piatt Counties—two counties that were not even selected as sites for Ameren's "study" routes published and discussed in 2012. ICC hearings for this case are underway, and based on a last-minute/May 10th deal with MCPO, Ameren is now supporting this longer, "property owner created" route. As a result, **we need to act now** to defend Piatt and Douglas Counties and voice our opposition to this MCPO reroute, as the ICC will be making its final decision on or before August 20, 2013.

The MCPO-proposed reroute through Douglas and Piatt Counties should be rejected for the following reasons:

- Ameren **spent years studying and reviewing** possible routes for this project, and based on Ameren's findings, Douglas and Piatt Counties **were not selected** as sites for the "study" routes published by Ameren and discussed during dozens of public forums held across the state in the summer of 2012.
- Piatt and Douglas Counties **were not listed** as project sites in **Ameren's 2012 petition** to the ICC.
- The originally submitted MCPO route **was developed in less than three weeks** (per MCPO).
- Part of the MCPO route **was submitted two days after** the ICC's **December 31 deadline**. This zigzagging segment includes **SIX 90° turns in just 2 ½ miles** while crossing from Piatt County into the Amish Community in Douglas County and would forever destroy the area's beautiful, rural sight lines.
- **Part of the MCPO route through Douglas County is not even in Ameren's original study area.**
- MCPOs' route **consisted of a two-mile wide swath**, not an exact 150-foot corridor like Ameren's routes.
- The MCPO route **travels miles off course to the north, is longer, and impacts more total cropland.**
- The MCPO route, with its massive towers, **runs across the Amish community, right through a registered Native American archeological site, and right next to the widely used Tuscola airport.**
- No public forums or opportunities for public feedback have been held in connection with the MCPO route.
- Ameren reviewed 32 geographic sensitivities in selecting their routes whereas **MCPO only reviewed six.**
- **The only ICC notification** sent to Douglas and Piatt property owners in relation to this project was dated January 7, 2013, and the letter listed **18 impacted counties** across Illinois (including Moultrie County). Piatt and Douglas Counties were not included in the list, nor are they mentioned anywhere in the letter.
- Douglas and Piatt **are not listed** as impacted counties on Ameren's *Illinois Rivers Project* website.
- Piatt and Douglas Counties **are not listed** on the ICC web page describing the nature of this case, despite the fact that **the ICC directed property owners to go to the case site for more information.**

In short, Douglas and Piatt property owners **cannot find** clear information related to their counties in this case. Based on the presence of vague—and even conflicting—information, the **lack of proper notification and full due process** provided to individual property owners, the **absence of any public meetings regarding or discussing the MCPO route**, not to mention months of testimony from Ameren's routing expert(s) stating that **Ameren's routes represent the only "viable" options** for this project, the MCPO route should be rejected!