

Docket No: 12-0598
Meeting Date: 08-14-13
Deadline: 08-20-13

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission

FROM: John D. Albers, Administrative Law Judge
J. Stephen Yoder, Administrative Law Judge

DATE: August 8, 2013

SUBJECT: Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois

Petition for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, pursuant to Section 8-406.1 of the Illinois Public Utilities Act, and an Order pursuant to Section 8-503 of the Public Utilities Act, to Construct, Operate and Maintain a New High Voltage Electric Service Line and Related Facilities in the Counties of Adams, Brown, Cass, Champaign, Christian, Clark, Coles, Edgar, Fulton, Macon, Montgomery, Morgan, Moultrie, Pike, Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott and Shelby, Illinois.

RECOMMENDATION: Enter the attached Post-Exceptions Proposed Order

This matter was held at the August 6, 2013 Regular Open Meeting and is being resubmitted for the August 14, 2013 Bench Open Meeting. No changes have been made.

On November 7, 2012, Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois ("ATXI") filed a petition under Section 8-406.1 of the Public Utilities Act ("Act") seeking authorization to construct, operate, and maintain a new 375-mile long 345-kilovolt electric transmission line running generally from the Mississippi River near Quincy, Illinois to the Indiana border, just south of Terre Haute, Indiana. On July 3, 2013, a Proposed Order was served on the parties and the Commission finding generally that the project is necessary. As noted in the July 3, 2013 memorandum concerning the Proposed Order, however, the record in this proceeding does not allow the Commission to reach final conclusions on some portions of the proposed project.

ACPO, ATXI, MISO, Moultrie PO, MSSCLPG, PDM Coalition, Staff, and WOW each filed a Brief on Exceptions. Champaign and Savoy jointly filed a Brief on Exceptions. JDL, Stop Coalition, and Tarble filed a joint Brief on Exceptions as well.¹ The schedule in this matter did not permit the filing of Briefs in Reply to Exceptions. Those filing a Brief on Exceptions raised various concerns.

¹ Appendix A to the Post-Exceptions Proposed Order identifies the abbreviations used for each party.

In addition, ACPO, MSSCLPG, and Champaign/Savoy each requested oral argument. ACPO wishes to air its concerns pertaining to the route recommended for that segment of the project between Quincy and Meredosia. MSSCLPG objects to the route recommended for the segment between Meredosia and Pawnee. Champaign and Savoy are troubled by the route recommended for the east-west portion of the segment between Rising and Sidney. Oral argument in this matter may be held at the Commission's discretion. Unless the Commissioners believe that oral argument will help them to personally better understand the issues, the Administrative Law Judges do not believe that oral argument would be useful and recommend denying the requests for oral argument.

Although some changes have been made to the Proposed Order, none of the conclusions have been fundamentally altered. All changes from the Proposed Order are shown in the attached Post-Exceptions Proposed Order in legislative style. The deadline for Commission action is August 20, 2013.

Additionally, pursuant to Section 2-107 of the Act, the Commission must accept from Illinois residents' comments on matters before the Commission through its web site and toll-free telephone number. A report on the comments must be provided to the Commission before the relevant vote on each matter. Accordingly, the Commission is advised that as of July 22, 2013, 213 comments have been received with regard to ATXI's proposed transmission line project. With very few exceptions, those submitting comments question the need for the transmission line in their area and/or oppose the construction of any facilities on or near their land.

JDA/JSY