

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION**

AMEREN TRANSMISSION COMPANY OF ILLINOIS)	
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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.)	Docket No. 12-0598

**APPLICATION FOR REHEARING
BY
MIDCONTINENT INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR, INC.**

I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to 220 ILCS 5/10-113 and Section 200.880 of the Illinois Commerce Commission’s (“ICC”) Rules of Practice,¹ the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (“MISO”) hereby respectfully submits its Application for Rehearing to the ICC’s Order dated August 20, 2013 (“Order”) in the above-captioned matter. While MISO agrees with much of the substance of the Order, MISO requests rehearing on a fundamental issue that may negatively affect MISO’s ability to satisfy its obligations as a regional transmission organization (“RTO”) for the region that includes a majority of the State of Illinois.

¹ 83 Ill. Adm. Code 200.880.

As the RTO, MISO is responsible for ensuring that the regional transmission system is reliably planned to provide for existing and expected use of that system.² To fulfill its RTO obligations, MISO performs collaborative planning functions for the transmission system with its member transmission owners (“TO”), state regulatory authorities, and other stakeholders while independently assessing regional transmission needs.³ In the instant case, MISO identified the Illinois Rivers Project (“IRP” or “Project”) as a key project that will provide benefits to Illinois as well as the surrounding region.

II. ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR

Pursuant to 220 ILCS 5/10-113 and Section 200.880 of the ICC’s Rules of Practice, MISO states the following as its Assignment of Error:

The Commission erred when it recognized the overall need for the IRP, but failed to authorize certain elements of the Project that are essential to provide the recognized net benefits to Illinois and the adjacent region. The result is a transmission line project having unconnected segments, which is unjust and unreasonable and should be modified.

III. ARGUMENT

As the Order correctly recognizes, the IRP is an important portion of MISO’s Multi-Value Project (“MVP”) portfolio of transmission upgrades that is a necessary transmission addition:⁴

² For a general description of MISO’s functions, *see* MISO Ex. 1.0(Rev) at 4-5 (Webb Direct).

³ MISO Brief at 2 (referencing MISO Ex. 1.0(Rev) at 5 and MISO Ex. 2.0(Rev) at 4-6 (Webb Rebuttal)).

⁴ Order at 14 (Section V); *see also* Section VI at 14 (“Although overall the need to construct the transmission lines is not questioned”).

Overall, based on the analyses presented by ATXI and MISO, the Commission agrees that a 345 kV transmission line is necessary to address transmission and reliability needs in an efficient and equitable manner and will benefit the development of a competitive electricity market.

The Order also aptly concludes that the record supports a finding that the IRP is “generally . . . the best approach to meet the needs at hand.”⁵ MISO concurs with this overall assessment, and states that the evidentiary record also supports the finding that each component of the Project is “necessary to provide adequate, reliable, and efficient service” to the customers of Illinois and is the least cost means of doing such, and that the “Project will promote the development of an effectively competitive electricity market that operates efficiently, is equitable to all customers, and is the least cost means of satisfying those objectives.”⁶

Despite the Order’s finding that ATXI’s application for the IRP is necessary and appropriate under Section 8-406.1(f)(1) of the Public Utilities Act for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity,⁷ the Order discusses each line segment and substation of the IRP and selectively approves or defers approval on each segment and substation, and grants a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for only portions of the Project.⁸ Accordingly, the Order’s conclusion that there is a general need for the entire Project is severely encumbered by subsequent provisions of the Order.

The necessary service that will be adequate, reliable, and efficient and/or that will promote the development of an effective competitive market can only occur and operate efficiently if the electricity can reach the customers in Illinois. Without a contiguous transmission system, reliable and efficient service cannot be provided. Without a fully

⁵ Id. at 14.

⁶ 220 ILCS 5/8-406.1(f)(1). MISO’s position in this regard is essentially that taken by ATXI in its Application for Rehearing that was recently filed in this docket on September 18, 2013.

⁷ 220 ILCS 5/8-406.1(f).

⁸ Order at 133.

completed Project, the stated benefits of the Project will not be realized: local load serving needs of the system in the area will not be met; a reliable and efficient competitive electric market will not be developed; assurances of satisfying the renewable portfolio standards of all states in the MISO footprint will not occur; and, economic benefits from reduced congestion and production costs to ratepayers within the region will not come to fruition.⁹

The timely construction and proper sequencing of the construction of the entire Project is essential for continued reliable service to customers.¹⁰ Further, such timely construction is important to provide Illinois with the economic benefits provided by completion of the MVP portfolio of transmission projects, as well as benefits to the entire MISO footprint. Each segment of MISO's well designed, comprehensive regional plan needs to be constructed in a timely manner to provide the full benefits of the Project to Illinois, and a delay of any of the segments could cause a delay of the benefits that have been determined a key component of the approval of the IRP.¹¹

Despite the forgoing, to the extent that the Commission deems it necessary prior to approval of the segments and substations that were deferred or not approved as part of the IRP, rehearing is appropriate to gather additional evidence and information about those line segments and substations in order to construct an end-to-end transmission line across the state to meet both local and regional reliability needs. The Commission may, for example, seek additional evidence regarding the line segments between Pawnee and Pana and between Pana and Mt. Zion as well as the proposed new or expanded substations at Ipava, Pana, Mt. Zion, Kansas, Sidney,

⁹ MISO Reply Brief at 4 (referencing MISO Ex. 1.0(Rev) at 17-26 (Webb Direct)); ATXI Reply Brief at 62; WOW Brief at 2, 3.

¹⁰ MISO Reply Brief at 2; ATXI Reply Brief at 61-63; see also ATXI Ex. 11(Rev) at 10 (Kramer Rebuttal).

¹¹ Staff Brief at 7-8; MISO Brief at 2, 4, 9-12.

and Rising.¹² Given the current state of the record and the numerous parties that were active in the proceeding, continuing the proceeding and building upon the existing record would be a more efficient and effective approach, as opposed to commencing new proceedings to address elements of the Project that were not approved or that were subject to deferred approval. Building upon the facts and evidence in the existing record will save time and expense for everyone concerned, including the intervening parties.

IV. CONCLUSION

MISO is concerned about deferred approval for certain segments and substations of the IRP, and respectfully requests that the findings be reconsidered on rehearing to approve the Application, as modified during the proceeding, to provide the benefits to Illinois customers that the Project was designed to provide without delay.

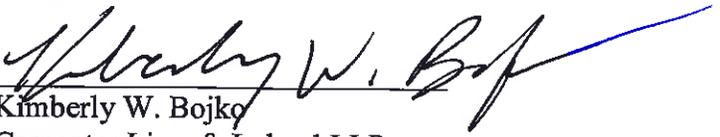
In the event that the Commission seeks additional support for portions of the Project, MISO respectfully requests that the Commission grant rehearing in order to gather additional information and evidence to resolve the outstanding issues raised in the Order so that the IRP may be constructed and connected in a timely manner to eliminate any gaps in the transmission line and to provide the benefits to Illinois customers that the Project was designed to provide.

¹²See also, ATXI's Application for Rehearing at 4-7 (September 18, 2013).

WHEREFORE, MISO respectfully requests that its Application for Rehearing be granted, the Order be modified to approve construction of an uninterrupted end-to-end Project, and, to the extent necessary, that the Commission grant rehearing in order to obtain additional evidence and reconsider its findings regarding the line segments between Pawnee and Pana and between Pana and Mt. Zion and the proposed new or expanded substations at Ipava, Pana, Mt. Zion, Kansas, Sidney, and Rising.

Dated: September 19, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

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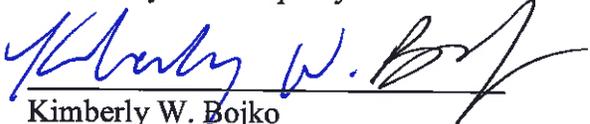
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NOTICE OF FILING

To: Attached Service List

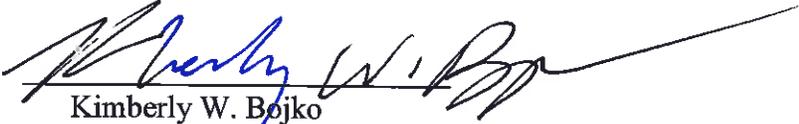
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on this 19th day of September, 2013, I have electronically filed with the Illinois Commerce Commission the Application for Rehearing by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc., copies of which are hereby served upon you.



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing Brief on Exceptions by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc., were served upon the parties on the attached service list by electronic mail this 19th day of September, 2013.



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