

January 30, 2014

Doug Scott
Chairman
Illinois Commerce Commission
527 East Capitol Avenue
Springfield, IL 62701

ILLINOIS
COMMERCE COMMISSION

FEB 3 2014

Office of Chairman
And Commissioners

RE: Docket No. 12-0598 (Meredosia to Pawnee Segment)

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you today as a landowner who may be potentially affected by the route initially approved in August 2013. The reason I state "may be potentially affected" is because I am still unsure as to the placement of poles on the route. My husband and I own and operate a small family farm on the east edge of Morgan County. We attended a public meeting in September of 2012 where Ameren had a large map depicting the original proposed route and an alternative route. Our understanding from the meeting was that Ameren was proceeding to request Commission approval for the proposed route based on many factors (cost, residences, affected crop land, etc). We were told Ameren wanted to pursue the original proposed route. I assumed Ameren had already conducted many engineering studies to determine the most feasible and cost effective route to pursue. We never officially received any notification that Ameren changed their position from the proposed route to the alternative route, until after it was all said and done. From the information I can gather on the ICC site, after many hours of reading all the documents, is that Ameren changed their position after objections from FutureGen, a landowners group, and a family. I also read a statement in a brief from Ameren's attorney that the now proposed approved route has community acceptance. I'm sure the community acceptance is the landowners along the original proposed route, not the landowners along the now approved proposed route (originally the alternate route). To assume that people accept it just because you have not heard from them is a real stretch, especially when a lot of landowners probably were unaware the selected route was changing. I am not an attorney, nor pretend to know all the legalities around the petition for a certificate of public convenience and necessity. But to change direction without fully notifying potential landowners does not seem like a transparent way of conducting business. The same determining factors that led Ameren to originally propose one route over another remains, don't they? (cost, length for construction and maintenance) Or did Ameren really not fully conduct the studies needed to determine possible objections. It would appear as though it might have rushed through the process. I also realize the Commission has ruled and the original route is no longer an option, but I felt as though you needed to hear from a potentially affected landowner how this process is being perceived.

I realize the decision before the Commission is not an easy one. All citizens want and need reliable electricity. But, I feel that Ameren misled landowners and possibly even the Commission when they stated all potentially affected landowners have been notified.

Mr. Doug Scott

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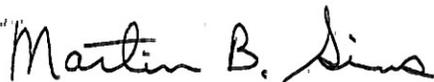
There exists an alternate route. This route has been proposed by the MSSCLPG as well as recommended by the Commission staff. This route parallels an existing 138kV line, is 18.3 miles shorter, and would cost \$36.78 million less to construct. This route is already part of an existing corridor. I have been advised that all of the landowners along this existing 138kV route have been notified of this case and not a single one has voiced any objection to the new line being placed along the shorter/existing route. Therefore, it appears everyone's interest will be satisfied if the line is placed parallel to the existing 138kV line, with the exception of Ameren. Ameren does not want to follow this route on the Meredosia to Pawnee segment for a variety of reasons. One of which is anticipation of problems in the event of a catastrophic storm. I would think no matter where a line is located, Ameren has the technology and funding to add safeguards to minimize the impacts of such "if" a storm occurred. There is no "if" to minimize the effects of disturbing additional land. As a farmer, I can tell you that once disturbed to the degree it will take to build this transmission line, the land will truly never be the same. To disrupt additional land, whether it be residences or agricultural ground, is an unnecessary and tremendous impact to landowners. My adult sons will be the fourth generation to farm this ground that is in question.

As a landowner, I do not feel Ameren's reasons or concerns outweigh that of the property rights of the citizens of the state of Illinois.

Ameren requested an expedited review and that in itself is bothersome to me. How can you expect citizens to thoroughly understand everything and prepare a proper defense (so to speak) when they are not even properly contacted to know deadlines even exist. Do citizens and landowners really not have much of a say on their own property anymore? If so, this is a sad state of affairs for the state of Illinois.

I respectfully request that the Commissioners take a strong look at this case as to the Meredosia to Pawnee segment and approve the line as recommended by the Commission staff.

Respectfully,



Martin B. Sims

Waverly, IL 62692

cc: John T. Colgan, Commissioner
Ann McCabe, Commissioner
Miquel del Valle, Commissioner
Serina E. Maye, Commissioner