

1165 Old Route 36  
Winchester, IL 62694

February 1, 2014  
ILLINOIS  
COMMERCE COMMISSION  
FEB 5 2014  
Office of Chairman  
And Commissioners

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

Dear Chairman Scott,

My name is Ruth Powell and I am writing in response to case# (12-05908) which concerns the Meredosia to Pawnee section of the 345 kV high voltage transmission line. First, as you may have noticed, I have enclosed a copy of a letter which my husband has sent to you concerning the long route. I agree with his comments in the letter, but I will add a couple of points I feel he failed to mention. I will attempt to be brief.

I was raised as a farmer's daughter near the Illinois River, married a farmer, and have loved farming since my youth. I am a farm wife who enjoys nature, animals, the land, and the fresh air smells that go with farming.

I feel a couple of points my husband failed to mention in his letter are as follows:

1. Because of the uncertainty of the economy and because we are to be good stewards of our money, we need to be concerned about the cost of electricity to both individuals and business consumers. The cost of construction of the longer route is estimated to be \$36.78 million more than the shorter route paralleling the existing 138 kV line. As the person who writes a check each month for the electric utility bills, keeping them as low as possible is important. The extra \$36.7 million spent on the longer route would have to increase the cost of electricity to all customers. In addition, maintenance costs on the extra 18.3 miles of line would also add to the cost of electricity.
2. I love the beautiful countryside and do not understand why we would need to choose the longer route. The longer route would require construction of an additional 18.3 miles of poles and high voltage wires which could be avoided if the route parallel to the existing 138 kV route were chosen. I feel we also need to be good stewards of the land. When my father was living, I heard him say many times when he saw good productive farm land being used for other uses such as this, "This land can never be returned to its original condition and cannot be used as productive soil again".

I would request that you approve the route that parallels the existing 138 kV transmission lines. I want to thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,  
*Ruth Powell*  
Ruth Powell

1165 Old Route 36

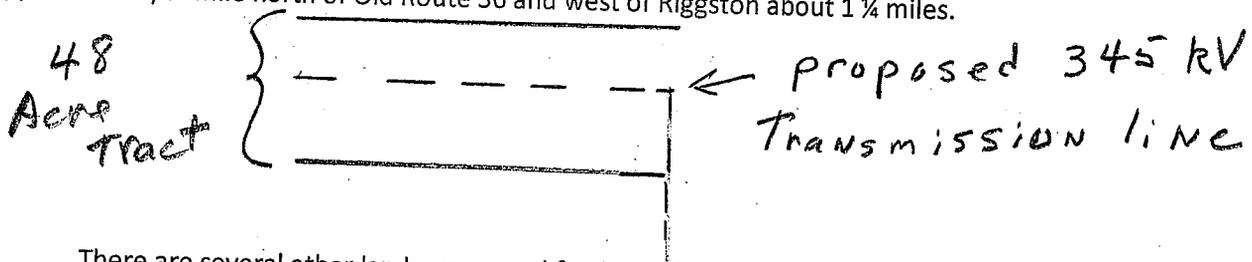
Winchester, IL 62694

January 29, 2014

Mr. Doug Scott, Chairman  
Illinois Commerce Commissioner  
527 East Capitol Avenue  
Springfield, IL 62701

Dear Chairman Scott,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed route of the location of the 345 kV transmission line from Meredosia to Pawnee (case # 12-0598). Our family recently purchased a 48 acre tract of pristine farm land. The route which has been proposed will go approximately in the middle of the tract and split the small tract into. Furthermore, the tract will be located inside of a 90 degree angle turn which will make aerial spraying impossible on portions of this tract. This tract is located approximately ½ mile north of Old Route 36 and west of Riggston about 1 ¼ miles.



There are several other landowners and farmers who will face the same problem of being inside a 90 degree turn if the longer route is chosen.

Also impacted will be GPS systems which we currently rely on heavily in our farming operation. (NOTE—I checked with the local John Deere dealer and he told that through his experience, there are times when the GPS systems will not work when used in proximity of high voltage lines.)

The ownership of this tract includes Ruth Powell (wife), Matthew and David Powell (sons), and Mary Ann Sievers (sister-in-law).

I will also briefly state other factors that I would ask you to consider in locating the route parallel to the existing 138 kV line.

- 1 It is my understanding that there is a much shorter route if the route selected would parallel the existing 138 kV route. This route would cost \$36.78 million less and would be 18.3 miles shorter.
- 2 I have been advised that there have been no existing landowners along the 138kV line that have voiced any opposition to the parallel route.
- 3 The Commission staff has recommended the parallel route to the existing 138kV line.
- 4 Since GPS is heavily used in the agricultural community both by farmers and the agricultural service providers, it is very important not to interrupt the reception of the GPS signal. If the parallel route is used, there would be 18.3 miles less of GPS signal disruption.

I would respectfully request that the commissioners strongly consider the benefits of the Meredosia to Pawnee route which parallels the existing 138 kV line and approve the route as recommended by the Commission Staff.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Charles Powell