

Paul J. Bergschneider

Franklin, IL

February 4, 2014

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

ILLINOIS
COMMERCE COMMISSION
FEB 10 2014
Office of Chairman
And Commissioners

RE: Case 12-0598, Meredosia to Pawnee Section

Dear Mr. Scott:

My name is Paul Bergschneider, and I live just north of Franklin, Illinois with my wife Janie and our children, Luke, Bethany, Thaddeus, Clark, Bryndelyn, and Gracia. Our house, farm and office are approximately 800 feet south of Ameren's proposed line that was initially approved in August of 2013. The line will travel very near our home, place of business and farmland. The power line affects approximately 80% of the land that my father and I farm. I am the fourth generation to farm this land, and our family is making plans for my children and grandchildren to farm. The location of this power line will affect my family forever.

I am writing to ask you to approve the existing 138kv power line that already exists from Meredosia to Pawnee. This existing corridor has been in existence for many years and would not adversely affect any homes or farms. The line is 18.3 miles shorter and 36.8 million dollars cheaper than the alternate route. My understanding of the financing is that eventually all of us consumers will have to pay for the line. I do not think building a longer and more expensive line when a better choice already exists is in the best interest of the consumers.

The legal documents on your website also show that the staff of the ICC recommends this existing route. The staff is the only party whose responsibility is to look at the big picture and balance the route, upfront and long term cost with this project. They have done that, and have recommended the existing route. I ask you to look over Mr. Rockrohr's testimony and approve the existing 138kv line as he outlines.

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This existing route would also satisfy all parties in the case, as no landowners along the existing route have voiced an objection to the new line. All parties would be satisfied with the existing route, other than Ameren. Ameren is concerned about weather and maintenance regarding paralleling the two lines. Ameren has never given us facts to prove their point, just general statements that they prefer not to parallel lines. Parallel lines meet all guidelines set forth to build lines as per testimony from the ICC Staff. The existing line is 25% shorter than the alternate line that Ameren wants to build. A shorter line will result in 25% less upfront cost, future maintenance and less risk for storm exposure. We had a tornado that went through the area of these two lines several years ago. The storm was on the ground from over 20 miles and destroyed everything in its path. No matter if these lines are 75' feet apart or 10 miles, they will subject to the same weather, and both would have been affected by that storm. Additionally, these lines are not supplying power to the same area. The existing 138kv line supplies power to Illinois consumers, while the new line will be carrying power to Indiana and the east. I travel from Springfield to Dixon IL for business regularly. There are 3 sets of parallel lines that I drive past during that trip. Paralleling does occur and can be managed in our state.

I request that you would please closely look over the Meredosia to Pawnee segment of case 12-0598 and approve the route along the existing 138kv line as recommended by the Commission Staff.

Sincerely,



Paul J. Bergschneider

Thank you for reading this.