

February 1, 2014  
Attn: Mr. Doug Scott, Chairman

Case # 12-0598 – The Meredosia to Pawnee segment

ILLINOIS  
COMMERCE COMMISSION  
FEB 10 2014  
Office of Chairman  
And Commissioners

Dear Doug,

I am personally writing to you today in regards to the proposed route of the Meredosia, Illinois to Pawnee, Illinois power line, specifically, case number 12-0598. I'm Susan Bergschneider, born and raised in Franklin, Illinois, and I've been a farm girl since the day I was born. Franklin, my hometown, is a part of the proposed power line route that Ameren wants to build a new line through. My father, Joseph Bergschneider, also from Franklin, has taken care of our family land for generations. This potential power line route will cut through our farm, through several fields, not just one, if this route is approved. In today's world, it seems impossible that a little farmer like my father could win a battle against a corporate giant like the Ameren company. I was taught at a very young age to defend myself and to always fight for what's right, and I'm hoping you make the right decision.

As a current public relations professional in the greater Peoria, Illinois area with a background in agriculture, I know first hand that it's merely impossible to please everyone in the public eye. It's nearly impossible to gain everyone's approval on every situation that comes your way, and I am certain that you and your team of commissioners fight for what's right for your citizens, in any case number. This case number is at the heart for many reasons, but my main concern for this power line is simple. It comes down to the facts.

I am very aware that there is an existing power line corridor between Meredosia and Pawnee, and that corridor has been around for a long time. I am also aware that this corridor will make Ameren's project 18.3 miles shorter, saving \$30.78 million dollars. That may seem like pocket change to Ameren, but that's not the point. Ameren has not given any valid, detailed explanation about why they want to build even more power lines instead of using existing lines. Zero of the landowners along the existing corridor route oppose selection of this route. Your commission staff has been recommending the shorter, existing route, since August of 2013, and that route is the route Ameren should be approved to work on.

The information Ameren has provided is vague. Ameren stated that they prefer the longer path because of parallel power lines and for issues due to storms. Well, that just doesn't add up. All Ameren's power lines are designed to withstand storms, and Ameren did not give any facts to back it up. Ameren never mentioned the fact that the longer new route would go through our land and exposes 18.3 more miles of power line to the storms. Bottom line is, keeping the power line on the shorter, already existing corridor would prevent disruption to natural land, save money, and save miles of new line that isn't necessary to build.

I respectfully request that you take a strong look at this case because of the Meredosia to Pawnee segment and approve the power line as already recommended by the commission staff. The cost savings and far fewer miles of transmission lines would benefit everyone by sticking with the already existing line. I truly appreciate you taking the time to read this letter, and I value your job to do what's right for your citizens.

Regards,  
Susan Bergschneider

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