

ICC Chairman Doug Scott
Illinois Commerce Commission
527 East Capitol Ave.
Springfield, IL 62701

Feb. 7, 2014
re: case # 12-0598, Meredosia/Pawnee segment

ILLINOIS
COMMERCE COMMISSION
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Office of Chairman
And Commissioners

Dear Chairman Scott,

In regards to Ameren's ATXI alternate route which was initially approved in August 2013, I have been informed there exists a shorter route which uses the existing corridor between Meredosia and Pawnee. This shorter route has been in existence as a 138kV line, and is 18.3 miles shorter and would cost \$36.78 million less to construct. In fact this existing route is the one the Commission staff recommended throughout this case. In addition it is my understanding that more than 90 homes are in close proximity to the AXTI route, as opposed to less than 40 in the existing route.

All the landowners along this existing route have been notified of the case and not a single one has voiced any objection to the new line being place along the existing route. It would seem it would satisfy everyone's best interests if the new line be placed parallel to the existing 138 kV line: everyone's that is except Ameren. Ameren would prefer not to have the lines run parallel as that might cause some problem in the case of a catastrophic storm. A catastrophic storm is going to cause problems wherever it occurs. In all actuality, accessing downed lines in much of the proposed route in Scott County will be difficult because the land in our immediate area that is being considered is wooded and hilly.

It seems to me that with the estimated \$36.78 million in savings, Ameren should be able to add safeguards, and could prevent the additional destruction of farmland and habitat that will certainly occur should the line take the proposed route approved in August 2013. It is also my understanding that the project is largely taxpayer funded, and it would make sense to go the less expensive route and not waste taxpayer dollars, let alone Ameren's.

Please consider carefully this case as to the Meredosia-Pawnee segment and approve the line as recommended by the Commission staff.

Respectfully,



Michael Dappert
The Richard J. Coultas Farm
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