

506 Chatsworth Court  
Springfield, Ill. 62711  
Feb. 5, 2014

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

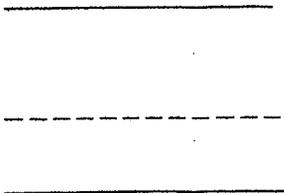
ILLINOIS  
COMMERCE COMMISSION  
FEB 7 2014  
Office of Chairman  
And Commissioners

Re: Case #12-0598

Dear Mr. Scott:

This letter is to show my opposition to the proposed route of the 345 KV transmission line from Meredosia to Pawnee Illinois. I have several reasons for this opposition which I will detail in this letter. My family and I recently purchased a 48 acre tract of prime farmland which will be significantly impacted by this line. Something that we all seem to forget is that prime agricultural land is being swallowed up for the needs of modern society whether that is transmission lines, shopping malls or other entities. My father who was a farmer and has been dead for about 20 years bemoaned the rate the good farmland was being destroyed. So he was sounding an alarm over 25-30 years ago. This is considered a natural resource, and once it is gone, there is no more. Food production should be equally as important as electrical needs. You, as a member of the commission, not only need to be looking at future electrical needs but at food production needs too.

In regards to the particular tract I just mentioned, the proposed transmission line will go approximately in the middle of the tract thus, splitting it into two small tracts. This creates several problems. With the size of farmer's equipment, it will be very difficult for it to be farmed, and thus this reduces the value of the ground if we should need to sell it. Secondly, the tract will be located inside a 90 degree angle turn which will make aerial spraying impossible on portions of this tract which will reduce our production year after year. This tract is located approximately 1/2 mile north of Old Route 36 and west of Riggston, Illinois about 1 1/4 miles.



The solid lines are the boundary line of the 48 acre tract. The split line represents where the proposed 345 kV transmission line will be.

There are several other landowners and farmers who will be impacted by this same problem of a 90 degree turn if this route is still the sanctioned route.

GPS systems will be impacted also. They are relied on heavily in our farming operation. My brother-in-law checked with the local John Deere dealer and he told him that through his experience there are times the GPS systems will not work when used in proximity to high voltage lines.

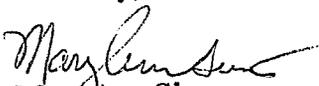
So the proposed line will impact us which includes my sister and husband Ruth and Charles Powell, and their sons who are involved also—David and Matthew Powell.

Besides how this line impacts us directly, there are some other factors, I would like for the commission to review again. We do not understand why the route which is parallel to the existing 138 kV line cannot be used. It is my understanding that Ameren representatives were concerned about possible disruption to service to customers in the event of lighting strikes with the lines running parallel. What is the frequency of this likely to happen? Who is to say that there couldn't be strikes all along the proposed new route? So what it boils down to is the possibility of something happening versus what will occur to the farmers who are involved in the proposed new route—reduced production and land values. There is no way to compensate for this loss into perpetuity.

It is our understanding that the proposed route that runs parallel with the current 138 kV route if selected would cost \$36.78 million dollars less and would be 18.3 miles shorter. I would suspect at some point of time, Ameren would be asking for a rate hike to compensate for the extra money being spent rather than totally absorbing it. Therefore, customers will be paying for increased electrical costs. We have been advised that no existing landowners along the 138 kV line have voiced any opposition to the parallel route. Since GPS is heavily used in the agricultural community both by farmers and 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.

Finally, the commission's own staff recommended the parallel route to the existing 138 kV line. I would respectfully request that the commissioners strongly consider the benefits of the Merdosia to Pawnee route which parallels the existing 138 kV line and approve the route as recommended by your own staff. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Mary Ann Sievers

Cc: Charles and Ruth Powell  
David Powell  
Matthew Powell.