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ILLINOIS  
COMMERCE COMMISSION  
FEB 10 2014  
Office of Chair  
And Commissioners

January 29, 2014

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

**RE: Docket No: 12-0598, Ameren Transmission Company Illinois Rivers Project – Meredosia to Pawnee Segment”**

Dear Mr. Scott:

My name is Nicholas Cline; I am the son of Linda and Gary Cline. As a future landowner, I am writing to express my objection to Ameren Transmission Company's proposed Illinois Three Rivers Project, specifically the Meredosia to Pawnee Segment.

The route under approval will bisect my family's 110 acres of high yielding farmland. Additionally, the proposed power lines will run within 1300 feet of my parents' home – the house in which I grew up. I have a number of concerns with this proposed plan, *especially* with the understanding that a shorter and less expensive option for the project exists.

1. **Aesthetics** – the power lines will disturb the eastern view from the homestead.
2. **Health** – the potential health risks associated with electrical and magnetic fields and stray voltage from high voltage power lines constructed where power lines do not already exist does not seem warranted. This concern extends to both humans as well as livestock kept on the land.
3. **Environmental** – the construction of power line poles will disrupt the natural flow of water and the machinery used will compact the soil and potentially damage drain tiles. Additional unforeseen environmental impacts are untold.
4. **Agricultural** – the construction process will negatively impact yields for years to come (soil compaction, erosion of top soil, obstacles that decrease efficient fieldwork patterns, irrigation, etc).

These categories are facets of my larger concern for the future of this farmland and residential property. I am greatly concerned that the impact of erecting high voltage power lines will have harmful and irreversible effects that will consequently reduce the value of the land. The potential for sustainable stewardship – implementing organic farming practices, for instance – is thwarted by the construction of these power lines.

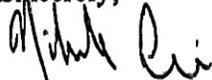
It is my understanding that a shorter route, which uses an existing corridor between Meredosia and Pawnee, has been in existence for many years for a 138 kV line. It is also my understanding that this existing route (18.3 miles shorter and \$36.78 million less to construct) is in fact the route that the Commission Staff has recommended. Furthermore, I have been advised that all of the landowners along the existing route have been notified of this case and not a single one has voiced any objection to the new line being placed along the shorter/existing route.

The only party whose interests appear to be unsatisfied if the line is placed parallel to the existing 138 kV line is Ameren. I understand that Ameren would *prefer* not to have the lines run parallel; that paralleling the lines *might* cause some problems in the event of a catastrophic storm. Certainly with the \$36.78 million in savings, Ameren should be able to add the necessary safeguards.

Mr. Scott, I respectfully request that you take a strong look at this case as to the Meredosia to Pawnee segment and approve the line as recommended by the Commission Staff. Your decision could prevent the disruption of pristine land that will occur if the route proposed in the August 2013 order is approved.

Thank you kindly for your time and consideration in the matter.

Sincerely,



Nicholas Cline