

February 6, 2014
ICC: Chairman and Commissioners
527 East Capitol Avenue
Springfield, IL 62701

Hunter Sauer
1235 Sauer Rd
Winchester IL 62694

ILLINOIS
COMMERCE COMMISSION
FEB 7 2014
Office of Chairman
And Commissioners

Dear Chairman and Commissioners,

I am writing you concerning the proposed Ameren power line route. This alternate route will affect me in several ways. It will run along the edge of my farm, go through the center of another farm, taking out a barn and cattle feeding area, and divide yet another farm for a half mile and then proceed another half mile along a fence of an actively used cattle pasture. This will mean some major changes and restrictions in the farming of these three farms. It will also undoubtedly cause a marked rise in the cost of my monthly utility bills due to the much higher cost of construction on this alternate route.

\$36.78 million is the estimate of extra cost for the secondary route (most times the actual costs go much higher) and these costs will be passed on to all Ameren customers. The maintenance costs of this route will be much higher also, due to the rougher terrain it will take, compared to the original primary route which is much shorter (18.3 miles), more level terrain, and much more accessible at most all points. The proposed power line will also lower land values along the entire route, including mine.

There is no sensible rationale for using this alternate route over the existing route. Ameren says there might be a problem in the case of a catastrophic storm with parallel lines. This is a stretch, to put it mildly. I am told that a portion of this same line in Eastern Illinois will be parallel with other lines. I have observed many parallel high power lines in both Illinois and Missouri since the issue of this proposed power line came up. I am sure NO problems have been raised with these lines.

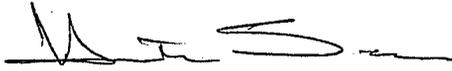
The cost, construction, and maintenance of a power line built parallel to the existing line would be much less on the original primary route as compared to the longer, rougher, less accessible secondary route. There would be no, or very little, disruption and inconvenience to people and land owners along the existing route, while there will be a great deal of trouble and inconvenience for construction of a new route. Ameren has given no good rationale for this secondary route.

I have many friends that were employed at the Ameren plant in Meredosia. They were treated very poorly with the abrupt closure of that plant. As a result, I do not trust or believe anything they (Ameren) says at face value. There must be some other reason for them to push for this secondary route, because there is no good economic reason to do so.

A note of speculation; Ameren would acquire easements along the proposed secondary route. Could it be possible in the future, they (Ameren) would possibly want a gas pipeline from the existing gas pipeline from north of Aley to go to Meredosia and convert it to a gas fired unit?

I am to understand that originally the Commission Staff recommended the primary route for good reason. These good reasons still exist without refute from Ameren. Therefore, the secondary route should be abandoned, along with the higher costs, work, and troubles.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Sauer', written over a horizontal line.

Hunter Sauer

cc: Doug Scott
John T. Colgan
Ann McCabe
Miquel del Valle
Sherina E. Maye