

February 6, 2014

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ILLINOIS
COMMERCE COMMISSION
FEB 10 2014
Office of Chairman
And Commissioners

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

RE: Proposed 345kV transmission line; Case # 12-0598

Dear Chairman Scott:

In response to the proposed 345kV transmission line from Meredosia to Pawnee (case # 12-0598), I am writing to express my opposition to this route. Our family recently purchased 48 acres that will be severely impacted by this plan as the transmission line will not only cut through the farm but will also make a 90 degree turn. Consequently the value of the property located approximately 1/2 mile north of Old Rout 36 and west of Riggston about 1 1/4 mile will be harmed. Near term negative consequences of the line will be:

- Elimination of our ability to have aerial spraying done resulting in reduced yields as insects and weeds will not be treated.
- Inability to utilize current technology for efficient farming operations like GPS systems as high voltage lines disrupt them.

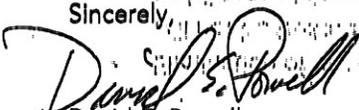
Due to the points stated above, long-term implications will be reduced rents and/or property values. This issue is not limited to our farm exclusively as other land owners in the proposed path of the 345kV transmission line will also experience 90 degree turns on their properties as well.

Additionally, it is important to note that this line from my understanding is not in the best interest of the public as it costs an additional \$37 million over another proposed option of a parallel line to the existing 138kV route. This alternative is 18 miles shorter. Furthermore, those landowners affected by a proposed parallel line, to my knowledge, have not voiced any concern or opposition to that alternative. Finally, it is worth noting that the Commission staff – experts on transmission lines – have recommended the parallel route to the existing 138kV line over the proposed 345kV line.

Thus, I respectfully request that the commissioners strongly consider the benefits of the Meredosia to Pawnee route that parallels the existing 138kV line and approve the route as recommended by the Commission Staff.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,


David E. Powell

