

Decatur IL
Feb. 13, 2014

ILLINOIS
COMMERCE COMMISSION

FEB 18 2014

Office of Chairman
And Commissioners

ICC Commissioners
527 East Capitol Ave
Springfield, IL 62701

Dear ICC Commissioners

We are asking for your support
for the ICC proposed order and the
least costly PDM/CFT route.

We oppose the longer and more
expensive MCPO route thru Douglas
& Piatt Counties, Case # 12-0598

We appreciate the help you can
give us. Thanking you in advance

Sincerely,
James Rossi &
Wynna Matley

Feb 12th 2014

VOICE YOUR OPPOSITION NOW!

STOP

THE MCPO-PROPOSED HIGH-VOLTAGE POWER LINE ROUTE!

REHEARING UPDATE! Ameren/ATXI is set to build a 380-mile, 345,000-volt transmission line across Illinois—the largest in Illinois history! The towers in this project (known as the Illinois Rivers Project) could be up to 140 feet tall with bases up to 10 feet wide. These massive structures would be seen for miles and would destroy farm ground and negatively affect property values for generations. After years of study that included a review of 32 different geographic sensitivities, identification and publication of potential routes, and dozens of public forums/meetings used to gather public input and feedback, Ameren/ATXI submitted a primary and alternate route to the ICC (Illinois Commerce Commission) in November 2012 for their approval. Both of Ameren's original routes would run through Moultrie County, which lies directly between proposed substations in Mt. Zion and Kansas, IL. As you may know, in the original case, a group of SIX influential Moultrie County property owners (MCPO) came up with their own alternate route (*in less than three weeks*) that would travel miles off course to the north and throw this massive transmission line project on the backs of citizens in Douglas and Piatt Counties—two counties that were *never even selected* by Ameren as routing sites and *were not even included* in Ameren's formal petition.

In the ICC rehearing for this case, concerned citizens from communities across the 70-mile MCPO route banded together and submitted their own hybrid "PDM/CFT" route utilizing parts of Ameren's original and properly vetted routes through Moultrie County. The PDM/CFT route is over 9 miles shorter and \$17 million less expensive than the MCPO route, and it outperforms the MCPO route on 11 of the 12 known factors in this case.

After months of testimony and a hard fought legal battle, the ICC's Administrative Law Judges recently recommended the PDM/CFT route for use in this project! That said, the ICC Commissioners could be making the final decision in this case at their February 20th meeting, and we need everyone (in all of the communities along the MCPO route) to post comments on the ICC Comment site and write letters to the ICC Commissioners to let them know that we support the shorter and "least cost" PDM/CFT route and reject the longer, more expensive, and far more destructive MCPO route. Again, the final weeks of this yearlong legal battle are here, and we need everyone to act NOW to help us defend our communities and support the ICC's selection of the PDM/CFT route. Please include the facts below in your letters and posts and help contribute to our cause.

- The PDM/CFT route is the "least cost" and outperforms the MCPO route on 11 of 12 known factors.
- The MCPO route is over 9 miles longer and would cost \$17 million more than the PDM/CFT route.
- The MCPO route includes 50 more towers and spans than the PDM/CFT route, thereby increasing construction and maintenance costs, visual and environmental impacts, and the danger to the public.
- The MCPO route splits 103 family farms (4x the PDM/CFT route!) by placing these massive towers and high-voltage lines right through the middle of cultivated fields for over 27 miles! In stark contrast, the PDM/CFT route reflects public input by attempting to follow roads, section lines, and property lines.
- The MCPO route would run massive high-voltage lines unnecessarily close to multiple towns (1/4 - 1/2 mile).
- In contrast, the PDM/CFT route follows Ameren's original, properly vetted routes, which Ameren spent years studying, reviewing, publicizing and refining based on feedback from multiple public meetings.
- The MCPO route would include SIX 90° turns in just over 2 miles while crossing over US 36 and the Arthur Road into the historic Amish Community and would forever destroy the area's beautiful, rural sight lines.
- The MCPO route, with its massive towers, runs right through a registered Native American archeological site and right next to the widely used Tuscola airport—which is a training site for U of I Flight School students.
- The MCPO route would also require the clearing of forestland along the Lake Fork, Kaskaskia, and Embarras rivers, impact 40% more cropland, more wetland areas, and 19 more streams, thereby causing far more damage to the ecosystem than the much shorter and far less destructive PDM/CFT route.

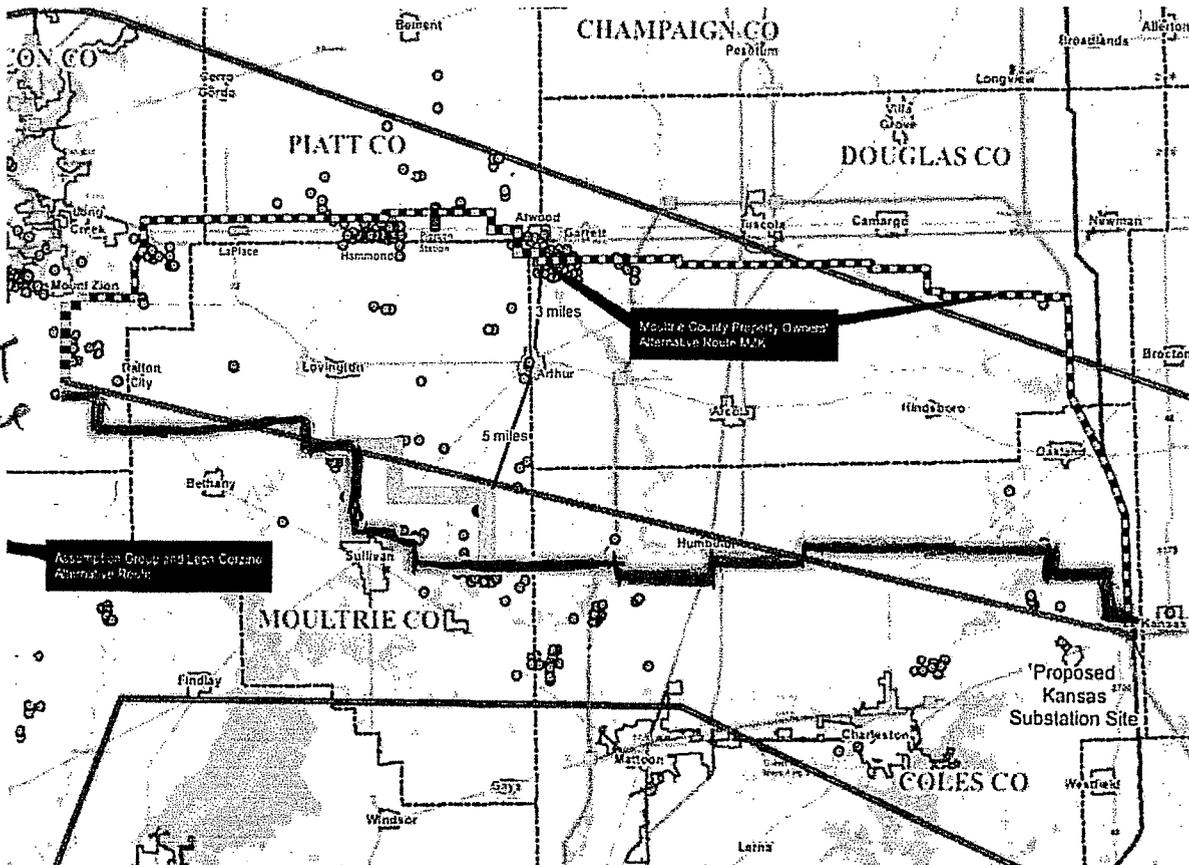
What can you do to support the Law Judges' decision? You need to act NOW and take the following steps to let the ICC Commissioners know that you "support the PDM/CFT route" and you "OPPOSE the longer and more expensive MCPO route through Douglas and Piatt Counties!"

- **Post your opposition to the MCPO route on the ICC's "Public Comment" site by going to <http://www.icc.illinois.gov/docket/comment/default.aspx> and selecting "Comment" under Case #12-0598.**
- **Write the five ICC Commissioners at 527 East Capitol Avenue, Springfield, IL, 62701, reference Case #12-0598, and state your support for the ICC Proposed Order and the "least cost" PDM/CFT route.**
- **Spread the word! Contact family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers, and ask them to get involved.**

In addition to immediately taking the steps above, we are asking for your support with the legal bills that have been incurred while defending our communities. To date, many generous individuals have provided donations that have helped to offset the legal expenses during this yearlong battle. That said, we recently received the legal bill for the trial portion of this case, and despite a generous deduction in fees from our attorney, our current bills equate to over \$25,000. As everyone along the MCPO route was facing a significant loss in property value at the start of this rehearing process, our suggested donation was \$100 per family per month for those within a half mile of the MCPO route and an even higher level of contribution for those with property directly crossed by the transmission line. As we have just concluded our fifth month of this rehearing process, we are asking for your help with the legal bills. If you have the ability to donate, **please consider sending a check to Defend Piatt and Douglas Counties, c/o Tuscola National Bank, 900 S. Progress Blvd., Tuscola, IL 61953.** Thank you for supporting our efforts and helping to defend our communities!

For more information, please visit our website at www.DefendPiattandDouglas.com or contact Erik.Hammerstrom@gmail.com, Mary Burns (mdbsnowkat@gmail.com), Gary Appleby (217-251-3342 or bibby.appleby@netcare-il.com), or Terry Schlach (217-460-1439 or terrys@live.com).

Map of Proposed Routes for Rehearing



ICC Proposed PDM/CFT Route in Blue with Staff modification in Gold

Straight Line in Red

MCPO Route in Green/Black Check

Ameren map updated by concerned citizens in Piatt and Douglas Counties.