

Linda M. Cline  
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February 4, 2014

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

ILLINOIS  
COMMERCE COMMISSION  
FEB 10 2014  
Office of Chairman  
And Commissioners

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

Dear Mr. Scott:

My name is Linda Cline. My husband, Gary and I own a home at 749 McNeely Road, Franklin, IL. The home sits 1300 feet to the west of the Meredosia to Pawnee Segment of Transmission Company's proposed Illinois Three Rivers Project. Gary and I raised our three children in this home (from 1981-2009) and we are returning this year, as I retire from my career as a grade school principal. I have an agriculture degree from the University of Illinois (1977).

I was fortunate to have inherited the 110 acres across from our farm home in 2006 from my mother and father, Eileen and Paul Bergschneider. This farm will be cut in half with the proposed Ameren line. Please understand, my parents worked for many years, my father, 78 years until his death, on this land and not once took a vacation. My husband and I are now given the responsibility to care of this gift for future generations. Not just our children, but for all who come after us. My husband and I have a farm plan and started with removing 10 acres of the 110 from conventional to sustainable farming.

You and I are responsible citizens for our country. I believe you share that same belief that I do, and I acknowledge you have a difficult decision to make. As a school administrator, I must make decisions daily. I am able to make these decisions because my mission for school remains steady and clear, I must do what is right for the children under my charge. There are those that don't always agree with me, but with experience and a long term vision I have had a successful career as a public school principal.

I wish to share two major points:

1. Consider the following from The Art of the Commonplace /The Agrarian Essays of Wendell Berry. In this Berry asks the question, "How does the corporate takeover of social institutions and economic practices contribute to the destruction of human and natural environments?" I would like to share with you a few of the critical standards listed in his essay regarding solutions-
  - "A good solution solves more than one problem, and it does not make new problems."
  - "A good solution will satisfy a whole range of criteria; it will be good in all respects."
  - "A good solution always answers the question, How much is enough? Industrial solutions have always rested on the assumptions that enough is all you can get. But that destroys agriculture, as it destroys nature and culture."
  - "A good solution should be cheap, and it should not enrich one person by the distress or impoverishment of another. "

2. My objection: Why would the ICC allow the company to build a longer and more expensive route, when a shorter, less expensive alternative is available? Don't you agree that an existing corridor between Meredosia and Pawnee, is in existence, and has been for many years, carrying a 138 kV line? Isn't that route 18.3 miles shorter and will cost \$36.78 million less to construct? Who will pay the cost of the new line? Who will pay for the additional cost? Didn't the Commission Staff recommend the shorter route? Which route best serves our country's precious and non-renewable resource, soil?

You and the Commission have to solve these questions.

Mr. Scott, I respectfully request that you approve the shorter line as recommended by the Commission Staff.

Sincerely,



Linda Cline