

In The Matter Of:
*Public Forum to discuss Comed's Grand
Prairie Gateway Projects*

*Hearing before John Sagone
April 24, 2014*

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1 PUBLIC FORUM TO DISCUSS COMED'S GRAND PRAIRIE

2 GATEWAY PROJECT

3
4 Aril 24th, 2014

5 7:00 p.m.

6 Docket No. 13-0657

7 MR. JOHN SAGONE, Public Hearing Officer

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10 The Report of Proceedings had in the
11 meeting of the above-entitled cause, taken before PAMELA A.
12 MARZULLO, a Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public
13 in and for the County of Cook and State of Illinois, at
14 45 Symphony Way, Elgin, Illinois, on April 24th, 2014, at
15 the hour of approximately 7:00 p.m.
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1 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: All right, everyone.
2 Good evening. I have that it's 7:00 o'clock. So, I
3 think it's probably time to get started. I just
4 want to say good evening.

5 My name is John Sagone. This evening I am
6 serving as the Illinois Commerce Commission's Public
7 Hearing Officer.

8 The subject of this evening forum, public
9 forum, is the Illinois Commerce Commission Docket
10 No. 13-0657. Docket 13-0657 involves the
11 Commonwealth Edison company's application for a
12 Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to
13 install, operate and maintain a new 345-kilovolt
14 transmission line in Ogle, DeKalb, Kane and DuPage
15 Counties, and it's also referred to as the Grand
16 Prairie Gateway Project.

17 The applicable law here is Section 8-406.1
18 of the Illinois Public Utilities Act. I did put
19 copies of Section 8-406.1 on the table out in the
20 lobby by the sign-in sheet.

21 Now, under the law, 225 days are allowed
22 for this case. The case was filed on December 2nd,
23 2013, and it's going to be concluded by July 15,
24 2014.

1 Now, at this point in the case, all
2 testimony has been entered into the record.
3 Hearings were conducted April 15th through
4 April 17th.

5 The next steps here include the filing of
6 parties' briefs, with initial briefs to be filed on
7 April 30th, and reply briefs to be filed on May 9th.
8 These will be followed by the distribution of a
9 proposed order, as prepared by the Administrative
10 Law Judges.

11 Now, the primary purpose of today's public
12 forum is to provide an opportunity for interested
13 persons to comment on any aspect of the case. Those
14 comments will be transcribed and posted in the
15 Commission's E Docket System; thus, making them
16 available for viewing and consideration by the
17 public and all parties participating in the case.

18 I did put a sign-in sheet over on the
19 table in the lobby. Unfortunately, I think a number
20 of people did sign that thinking that it was kind of
21 a general attendance sheet. We don't take
22 attendance. That is only for individuals who wish
23 to speak, and you'll see the microphones on either
24 side.

1 So, if you want to get up and give formal
2 comments, that's what the sign-in sheet is for. So,
3 if I -- if you do want to speak, I'll go ahead and
4 read the names off of the sign-in sheet.

5 You'll be called in the order in which
6 your name appears; but if you kind of mistakenly
7 signed and didn't really want to get up and here
8 talk, you can just wave me off.

9 So, there's going to be two parts to this
10 evening's hearing. The first part consists of
11 comments on the case at hand. There will be no
12 questions during this part.

13 Upon the conclusion of this first part, I
14 will go ahead and excuse the court reporter. Time
15 permitting, we'll take a five-minute break. After
16 the break, we will begin the second part, which
17 consists of a question-and-answer period. So, if
18 you do have question, that's when you'll be able to
19 ask those questions.

20 Now, during the first part of the hearing,
21 following my introductory comments, representatives
22 from ComEd will describe the project. Following
23 ComEd's comments, you'll be invited to offer your
24 comments. A stenographer is here to make a record

1 of all the comments.

2 In addition, if you have written comments,
3 you can leave those with me. Alternatively, you can
4 also file public comments in one of the following
5 ways: First, you can file comments to the ICC's
6 website, and that's at www dot ICC dot Illinois dot
7 gov forward slash docket, that's d-o-c-k-e-t,
8 forward slash comment, c-o-m-m-e-n-t.

9 The second way is you can go ahead and
10 call the clerk's office at 1-880-524-0795. Or
11 finally, third, you can send written comments to the
12 following address: The Clerk of the Commission,
13 Illinois Commerce Commission, 527 East Capitol
14 Avenue, Springfield, Illinois, 62701.

15 I would also like to note that I left
16 sheets on the sign-in table out in the lobby with
17 this same information.

18 Now, during the comment period, if you've
19 signed up to speak, I'll call your name. You go
20 ahead and come forward, say your name and please
21 make sure to spell it so the stenographer has an
22 accurate record of who comments.

23 When we reach the final name on the list,
24 I will ask if anyone else wishes to make comments;

1 and at that time if you do, you can go ahead and
2 state your name and approach the microphone, again
3 reminding you to spell your name for the
4 stenographer.

5 I've also been asked by the stenographer
6 to mention to you that if you do have written
7 comments that you read from, when giving your
8 comments here, that if you want to go ahead and hand
9 them to me or to the stenographer, and that will
10 assist in her preparation of the transcript.

11 I do want to note the speakers will not be
12 held to a strict time limit in their comments, but
13 if a speaker does appear to be using a
14 disproportionate amount of time, or is sort of
15 wandering, then I'll probably ask you to go ahead
16 and conclude.

17 Following the comments portion of the
18 meeting, you may ask questions about the project and
19 the case. I'll ask company representatives to come
20 back up here to answer your questions. The
21 stenographer will be dismissed for that portion, as
22 there is no transcript to be made of the questions
23 and answers.

24 As a reminder, please conduct yourself

1 with civility at all times. Try to keep in mind how
2 you would want to be treated if you were up here,
3 and please do not interrupt or talk over individuals
4 while they're speaking.

5 And also as a reminder again, there will
6 be no questions during the first part of today's
7 forum. Make sure to save your questions for the
8 question-and-answer period at the end.

9 So, with that, I want to thank you for
10 coming tonight. I would now like to invite
11 Mr. Fidel Marquez, the Senior Vice-President of
12 Government Relations and Government Affairs for
13 ComEd, to briefly describing the Grand Prairie
14 Gateway Project that has been filed with the
15 Commission and that is the subject of Docket No.
16 13-0657.

17 MR. MARQUEZ: Thank you, John. I appreciate
18 the time to join in this evening and talk to you
19 about this very important project.

20 We fully recognize that people have
21 concerns and questions about the Grand Prairie
22 Gateway. We are here because your concerns and
23 questions do matter to us.

24 We have come before the public, as you

1 know, many times since we announced this project.
2 We've held multiple meetings with local and county
3 officials over the past ten months, and we have
4 submitted thousands of pages of testimony, to
5 explain the critical need for this project and to
6 address all the issues that had been raised about
7 this project.

8 Tonight we again want to provide the
9 background on the project and why it's necessary to
10 meet the needs and interests of the businesses and
11 residents in this area.

12 The need for the Grand Prairie Gateway
13 Project was first identified in 2012 as part of the
14 annual regional planning process managed by PJM.

15 PJM is the independent regional
16 transmission organization that operates the
17 transmission system and is responsible for ensuring
18 that competitive wholesale market operates
19 appropriately and fairly for all customers.

20 PJM is regulated by the Federal Energy
21 Regulatory Commission, which regulates the
22 transmission system in the associated competitive
23 markets.

24 As you would expect, considerable analysis

1 has gone into the planning and siting of the
2 project, along with the degree to which the benefits
3 outweigh the costs.

4 An independent study shows that it will
5 benefit customers in three significant ways: First,
6 it will reduce high congestion costs for which we
7 are now paying.

8 It will provide a large pathway, kind of
9 like a super highway, for nearly 1,000 megawatts of
10 additional cheaper energy from points out west to
11 get to population centers, which will lower our
12 overall energy costs.

13 And third, that cheaper energy will
14 displace older, less-efficient, coal-based
15 generation, which will result in significant
16 emissions reductions, after consulting an
17 independent expert on energy markets utilizing a
18 well-accepted industry model to forecast future
19 energy costs to customers if the line is
20 constructed.

21 The study concluded that the line, by
22 reducing congestion costs and opening up a path for
23 lower-cost energy out west to reach customers,
24 conservatively estimates that customers will save

1 more than \$500 million in energy costs within the
2 first 15 years of its service, far outweighing the
3 cost of the line of \$251 million.

4 There are other benefits as well. The
5 line will result in reliability improvements,
6 especially during extreme weather events, by
7 providing substantially greater route diversity.

8 The lower-cost greener energy will
9 displace more expensive coal generation and reduce
10 carbon dioxide emissions by 473,000 tons over 15
11 years. That is the equivalent of removing more than
12 6,000 cars off the road.

13 As John explained, we filed our petition
14 and testimony identifying the primary alternate
15 routes with the ICC in early December. As you might
16 expect, the route for that line that we recommended
17 that ICC approve contains well over 100 parcels of
18 land that is privately owned.

19 We understand that this is not, in many
20 cases, a popular topic for those land owners, but we
21 will commit to the Commission to all land owners
22 that we will deal fairly and respectfully with each
23 of you. In the coming weeks, we expect to send
24 letters to those land owners regarding the easement

1 negotiation process.

2 There are rules that we must follow in
3 order to provide the ICC with the names and
4 addresses of the land owners on the route. We
5 provided that information with our filing on
6 December 2nd, based on information in the official
7 real estate records in each of the four counties
8 through which this route runs.

9 We have done our best to provide the most
10 accurate information, including discrepancies that
11 occur simply because real estate records cannot be
12 updated as rapidly as we all wish, and we will do
13 our best to work with the affected parties to iron
14 out those issues, to the extent that we can.

15 Our filing followed three rounds of public
16 open houses, nine total, and they were attended by
17 more than 2,000 people. As many of you know, each
18 public open house included informational sessions
19 that addressed topics such as needs and benefits,
20 engineering and construction, routing and
21 environmental considerations.

22 We also held 50 stakeholder working group
23 meetings with interested individuals, including
24 local and state officials, over six months; and

1 these meetings provided us the opportunity to talk
2 about the project in detail with the state, county
3 and municipal leaders.

4 As you can imagine, transmission line
5 siting is complex. It's very rigorous and unbiased
6 and included extensive data gathering throughout the
7 roughly 700-square mile file study area.

8 In sum, the data was gathered from more
9 than 50 resources, the majority of these being
10 federal, state and local agencies. This data was
11 then incorporated into an electronic system that
12 uses satellite imagery.

13 A team of actors then began identifying
14 and assessing potential corridors and ultimately the
15 preferred and alternate lines routes that were
16 identified.

17 The routing of any electrical transmission
18 line typically involves studying potential for
19 displacement of land uses. That's why ComEd began
20 purchasing property in this area more than 30 years
21 ago, so that the company would not have to displace
22 people when it came time to bring more transmission
23 capability to the region.

24 We have spent many months evaluating the

1 data to identify and compare potential routes. We
2 have used the information gathered as part of the
3 public process to find a reasonable balance between
4 environmental, social, economic, engineering, and
5 cost factors.

6 Balancing all the relevant interests, we
7 believe that we submitted the best primary alternate
8 routes available, given the complexity for projects
9 and the requirement by the ICC to achieve the
10 least-cost solution in order to minimize the impact
11 of cost to customers.

12 ComEd examined the feasibility of placing
13 a portion of the project underground, rather than
14 construct it on overhead, poles which is customary.

15 However, installing such facilities
16 underground is several times more costly than
17 overhead construction. We understand that no route
18 will satisfy all constituents, but ComEd is
19 responsible for creating a solution that meets our
20 responsibilities to the entire region, and that's
21 what this project is designed to do.

22 Thank you for the opportunity to be here
23 this evening. This concludes my opening remarks.

24 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: All right. Thank you,

1 Mr. Marquez. Our first commenter tonight I've got
2 down is John Tomasiewicz. I apologize if I didn't
3 pronounce that correctly. If you could approach.

4 Sir, make sure to state your name and
5 spell your name for the court reporter. Thank you.

6 MR. TOMASIEWICZ: My name is John Tomasiewicz,
7 and it's T-o-m-a-s-i-e-w-i-c-z.

8 I want to thank everyone for coming. I
9 want to thank the Commonwealth Edison people and the
10 ICC for this opportunity.

11 As I said, my name is John Tomasiewicz.
12 My wife and I have lived in Elgin for approximately
13 seven years, a little over seven years.

14 On behalf, and with the support of the
15 Bowes Creek community, I'm an intervenor in
16 opposition to ComEd's Gateway Project.

17 I am not going to reiterate my testimony.
18 It is available online, and I have tried to make
19 everyone understand my positions on property values,
20 health issues and the environment.

21 Simply put, I don't believe anyone shops
22 for a new home that is by high-voltage lines. After
23 listening to the tobacco industry for over 40 years,
24 repeatedly between cancer and smoking, I do not

1 believe that the power industry when they say
2 high-voltages lines poses no hazard to your health.

3 And finally on the environment, Gateway is
4 going to destroy a mile-long section of tree line
5 that they consider vegetation, and a 30-foot berm
6 along the railroad tracks in front of my home.

7 That can't be good for my environment, and
8 sometimes in the words of a child, my granddaughter
9 McKenzie said tonight when she came here, "Why is
10 Commonwealth Edison going to kill the trees?"

11 I appear tonight to appeal to Commonwealth
12 Edison to act responsibly for the public good. Just
13 because you own an easement and have the right to
14 install power lines, does not make that installation
15 right.

16 Your proposed primary route for the
17 Gateway will put high-voltage power lines in my
18 front yard 150 feet, not yards, from my front door,
19 and in the front and backyards of my neighbors.

20 Your Gateway route passes near an
21 elementary school, adjacent to a playground for
22 children. I can't help but wonder if ComEd CEO or
23 the board of directors have high-voltage lines near
24 their homes, or adjacent to their children's school.

1 You seem to be ignoring a utilities
2 responsibility to act on behalf of the public good.
3 With regard to the Gateway, ComEd's only motivation
4 seems to be corporate greed. Please stop acting
5 like a corporate bully.

6 I also appeal to the ICC. Utilities are
7 corporate monopolies, unleashed, unreined
8 capitalism. The ICC is the only protection the
9 public has against corporate greed.

10 We need your protection against a company
11 that is acting like a corporate bully. They have
12 not met their burden under the expedited process
13 406.1 for alternate routes.

14 Based on the ICC staff testimony, ComEd
15 has not met their burden to justify the project or
16 the return on investment. They have completely
17 ignored the Bowes Creek community, as well as
18 neighboring communities.

19 They have simply dismissed opposition from
20 local governments, Elgin, South Elgin, Wayne, Kane
21 County. The ICC is our last resort, and only the
22 ICC has the power to stop a corporate bulldozer.

23 Every good story has a hero. The ICC
24 could be our hero. I want every member of the

1 Illinois Commerce Commission to understand they are
2 having an Erin Brockovich moment.

3 Please turn this into a good story.
4 Reject the Gateway Project as it is proposed, make
5 them resubmit under a normal process. Do the right
6 thing for the people. Thank you again.

7 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Thank you, sir. The
8 next person I have is Connie Jones. Again, if you
9 could make sure to announce yourself and spell your
10 name for the stenographer thank you.

11 MS. JONES: Connie, C-o-n-n-i-e, Jones,
12 J-o-n-e-s. I, like John, I think he's a lot more
13 eloquent than I am, but I'm an intervenor in the
14 case as well; and my testimony is online, so I'm not
15 going to go over my concerns in terms of health and
16 property values.

17 I just have one question. My question is
18 really directed at the Commission, because I live in
19 the River Ridge Subdivision, and we're adjacent to
20 Sugar Ridge Subdivision, and where ComEd is going to
21 build these high-tension wires are literally within
22 10 feet of our property lines.

23 So, when the new towers go in, and I don't
24 know how far out this goes, but I have a feeling

1 it's going to be literally hanging over our
2 backyards.

3 Right now we have two sets of power lines,
4 and there's 15 -- I'm sorry, two sets of poles
5 through this easement, and there's 15 wires. I have
6 no idea how many more wires are going to be added to
7 the 15 that are already there.

8 I don't think the Commission can truly
9 understand how close this is to our living, to our
10 swimming pools, to our parks, to our kids, until you
11 come and look at it.

12 My question to you is: Before you make
13 this decision, before you render this decision, will
14 you please come and look at this one-mile stretch in
15 South Elgin that we would ask that you bury the
16 lines rather than put these high wires over?

17 I know you can put four, you know, feet
18 and distances and all that on a piece of paper, but
19 until you really get a visual of how it's going to
20 impact everyone along that line, I don't think you
21 can make that decision fairly, and that's my
22 comment.

23 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Thank you.

24 MS. JONES: And if I could add one more. I'm

1 sorry, I forgot one more. Currently in this
2 easement, we've noticed workers working, and they're
3 putting up little white poles.

4 We've been advised that ComEd is back
5 there working right now. They're not maintaining
6 the poles that are already there.

7 So, my question is: Has a decision been
8 made, or, you know, what is this process? Because
9 it appears they are already working back there to
10 prepare for this project.

11 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: As a reminder, there
12 is no questions during the commentary. This is
13 purely for comments.

14 If you do have questions that you would
15 like to ask the ICC or of ComEd, please hold those
16 until the second part for the question and answer.

17 MS. JONES: Thank you.

18 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Thank you. Okay, the
19 next person I have on the list is Tim Polz.

20 Again, if you could make sure to announce
21 yourself and spell your name for the stenographer;
22 and also, if you're going to read from those, if you
23 want to give those to the stenographer afterwards.

24 MR. POLZ: They are just handwritten notes.

1 Thank you.

2 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: All right, thank you.

3 MR. POLZ: My name is Tim, last name Polz,
4 P-o-l-z, and I live at 47W598 Chapman Road in
5 Hampshire, Illinois. It's an address south of the
6 County Road in Burlington Township.

7 I just wanted to come tonight. I'm not an
8 intervenor in the case. I'm not necessarily close
9 to the Grand Prairie Gateway line. I understand the
10 need for it and the process that's been put forth so
11 far.

12 My question, I guess my comment, rather,
13 is more one of a process. I've been following this
14 project since earlier this summer, when we were
15 notified of the potential for the line to run near
16 our house, and I went to a public meeting.

17 I went to the ICC and sat in on that
18 process in January. I studied the proposed primary
19 route. I went out there and looked to see where it
20 was going to be.

21 I look out my window every day. That's
22 where that primary route is going to intersect
23 through near my property, to the north of my
24 property; and I chose not to intervene because, like

1 I said, I understood the need for the line, and I
2 got comfortable with where it was located.

3 I think at this point, the ICC and ComEd
4 have done a fairly good job of running an open and
5 transparent process, and I commend you for that.

6 My issue is that I learned at 3:00 o'clock
7 today that a group of individuals that live near the
8 primary route did intervene in the process; and they
9 went to the ICC, hired an attorney and proposed an
10 alternate route to ICC and ComEd.

11 My understanding is that, well, ComEd or
12 the ICC didn't give an opinion one way or the other
13 for this proposed route for this small section of
14 line in Burlington Township. It did make it into
15 the record.

16 The ALJ is going to consider this proposed
17 alternate route for this small section of line. The
18 proposed new route runs immediately through my
19 backyard. It runs through my neighbor's backyards
20 and through their neighbors' backyards.

21 We haven't been notified of this potential
22 new route. We weren't given the opportunity to come
23 and participate in the open and transparent process
24 because this is the first we've learned of it.

1 We were never notified by ComEd or the
2 ICC, or the folks who are proposing this new
3 alternate route. Instead, I found out really by
4 coincidence today at 3:00 p.m. that this new
5 proposed route could potentially be located in my
6 backyard, literally on my property.

7 So, I'm here just to say that, you know,
8 if this is going to be considered, that the people
9 who it affects need to be allowed to be part of the
10 process. You need to go back through the process to
11 allow new intervenors.

12 You need to allow for public comment. You
13 need to allow for time for us to evaluate the
14 location of this route and everything else.

15 And I'm also here to tell you that I,
16 personally, don't support the potential change from
17 the primary route to this new proposed alternate
18 route, nor do my neighbors.

19 I have a petition here with me today I
20 would like to submit into the record, with really
21 just a few signatures, six individuals. Keep in
22 mind this is a rural area, so there's not all that
23 many more people, you know, that are adjacent to it,
24 but these are people that I got to sign since 3:00

1 o'clock this afternoon.

2 Many of my other neighbors, probably twice
3 this amount, weren't home, and I couldn't reach them
4 presently, but I called them. A few of them are
5 supportive of this petition.

6 So, I want to leave it with you just to
7 let you know I know folks may be proposing
8 alternatives to the primary route, and that might be
9 appealing because you're not hearing opposition from
10 the other side, but that's only because we didn't
11 know about it.

12 Well, now we know about it, and you are
13 going to hear from us. I want the opportunity to
14 intervene in the process. I want the opportunity to
15 have my voice heard and be considered.

16 So, that's really why I'm here today. I'm
17 not here to oppose things. The other comment that I
18 will make about the proposed new route is that it
19 would require the cutting of a Sandoval Road Forest,
20 a fairly large substantial forest that is
21 immediately adjacent to my house.

22 This forest is a known habitat for known
23 endangered species called the Swainson's Hawk. And,
24 so, it is another thing that should be considered if

1 this proposed alternate route is going to truly be
2 considered by the ALJ and by the ICC and by ComEd,
3 and this is just one example of why revisions for
4 the primary route at this stage of the game for
5 personal gain from other individuals just aren't
6 appropriate, because it hasn't gone through the full
7 vetting process that the primary route has gone
8 through.

9 That route was put in place by ComEd for a
10 reason. It was deemed to be the least impacted by
11 them. It went through the public comment process,
12 and that's what, you know, was presented to the
13 public.

14 To present 11th-hour changes and consider
15 them at this point, I think is unfair and not in
16 keeping with the mandate of the ICC. That's all I
17 have. Thank you.

18 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: The next person on the
19 list is Rachel Lange. Again, if you could make sure
20 to spell your name for the stenographer. Thank you.

21 MS. LANGE: It's Rachel, R-a-c-h-e-l. Lange,
22 L-a-n-g-e. Good evening. Tonight I'm going to
23 share my story with you.

24 My story is only one of many, but no

1 individual deserves to live this story.

2 On July 22nd, 2013, my finance, Riley, and
3 I closed only our first home. We used up a small
4 savings, but we were finally able to put down
5 payment on our dream home.

6 On that very same day in our new home, my
7 finance asked me to be his wife. It was a day we'll
8 never forget. Since July, I have been thinking
9 about the day we will raise our children on this
10 land with so much room for them to run free.

11 On Easter Sunday, just five days ago, we
12 learned that these hopes and aspirations would soon
13 be crushed. We stopped by one of our neighbors to
14 bring them some homemade applesauce and wish them a
15 happy Easter.

16 During the conversation, they brought up
17 the Grand Prairie Gateway Project and asked if we
18 heard anything about it. We said, no, we had not.

19 We got home on Sunday night and we did
20 some research. To our surprise, the primary route
21 runs right through our backyard. We were astonished
22 and cannot believe that we had not been informed of
23 this when it was on our property. As we continued
24 on with our investigation, we learned that this has

1 been going on for a while and we knew nothing.

2 Further to our surprise, our names were
3 not even on the list of the property owners that
4 were notified. How is that possible? How can
5 ComEd proceed with a proposed route without doing
6 due diligence to the homeowners?

7 We went to talk to our neighbors down the
8 road and found out more shocking news. Nine
9 families in our neighborhood got together and hired
10 attorneys to get the line moved away from their
11 properties and to place it directly beside our
12 house.

13 This is a different route than the
14 proposed primary route, and it was recently
15 recommended to the ICC in a pending case. Once
16 again, we were not made aware of this.

17 Is this really a game of time, politics
18 and money; or more importantly, is this a game of
19 turning neighborhoods and communities against each
20 other? Can everyone hire an attorney and keep
21 getting the route moved to another road, another
22 home and another family?

23 I really hope not. We are real people and
24 real families. This proposed route in the pending

1 case would run so close to our house. What would
2 that mean for us?

3 We would have to move out of the our
4 house, and it would never be sold for what we paid,
5 and our future aspirations to own a home would be
6 ruined.

7 Since Sunday night, my fiance and I have
8 stayed up countless hours and wiped away countless
9 tears trying to figure out what's best for us. We
10 realize no one is fighting for us except ourselves,
11 and we have to give this fight everything we have.

12 However, in this game of money and
13 politics, we lose because we don't have either of
14 those. We will use what little money that we do
15 have to fight this battle; however, we already used
16 our small savings for this house, our house.

17 We're also paying for our own wedding in
18 September. It hurts so bad to know that in only
19 year, we might lose both our house and our wedding
20 to a problem we did not even ask for.

21 We understand that we're only one, one
22 voice, one property owner, one family and one young
23 couple with hopes and dreams, but our voice matters
24 and our opinions should be heard.

1 There are many other families and
2 potential families that this will affect, and I hope
3 and pray that you take into consideration the
4 lasting effect that this will have on our lives and
5 the lifestyles of many other families.

6 We urge the ICC to honor the voice of all
7 residents and families and decline ComEd's request
8 to continue with this project.

9 However, if the ICC deems it necessary to
10 accept a route, we hope that the primary route or
11 secondary route is chosen, not a route that is
12 forced upon someone else, because some neighbors got
13 together, hired an attorney, and moved the route
14 next to our house.

15 Also, ComEd already owns property along
16 the railroad tracks, so why was this route moved
17 away from the railroad tracks in the first place.
18 And isn't ComEd supposed to use the shortest route
19 so it cost the least amount of money? If so, why
20 did ComEd take away someone's property instead of
21 using their own existing property?

22 This does not make senses. The ICC should
23 also look into the option of burying the lines near
24 homes.

1 Most importantly, the ICC needs to take
2 into deep consideration the words you are hearing
3 from citizens and fight with your voice to deny this
4 project.

5 If you haven't listened to one word I have
6 said, I want you to remember this: My fiance,
7 Riley, and I have tried to do everything right in
8 our lives, and we have always been committed to
9 being good citizens.

10 We went to school and got a degree. We
11 completed higher education, and we have good jobs.
12 We saved money and bought our first home. We are
13 hard workers and are trying to live the American
14 dream.

15 In the last five days, we have learned
16 that none of that matters, and we may lose what we
17 worked so hard for, and we won't lose it by our own
18 action but by the actions of others.

19 My story, and everyone else's story here,
20 is real. How beneficial are these towers really
21 going to be to ComEd customers, and is it worth
22 taking everything from a handful of hard-working
23 property owners?

24 Please put yourself in my position for one

1 second, and you will see that my fiance and I are a
2 young couple trying to start our lives together, and
3 that opportunity is being taken from us, without us
4 even knowing.

5 Henry Ford once said, "When everything
6 seems to be going against you, remember that the
7 airplane takes off against the wind, not with it."

8 Thank you for your time, and I desperately
9 hope that you will consider my comments.

10 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: All right, thank you.
11 The next person on the list is Elizabeth Dublin. If
12 you could spell your name for the stenographer.
13 Thank you.

14 MS. DUBLIN: Hello. My name is Elizabeth
15 Dublin. That's D-u-b-l-i-n, and I'm just here as a
16 homeowner. I live at the Riverwoods Subdivision.
17 I'm here as a homeowner and as a mom.

18 These power lines that ComEd plans on
19 building are going to be put in our backyard, a
20 backyard in an already-existing community, a
21 community that has been around for a little over 16
22 years.

23 This community is growing, growing with
24 young families and with many children. It's a

1 community where in the back is a yard where children
2 play, and there are already two existing towers, two
3 existing power lines; and to add another one, which
4 will be exactly in our backyard, is just a very bad
5 health risk for the young families which already are
6 there and are in a community that is just growing.

7 All I ask, as a mother of this community,
8 is please reconsider the building of these power
9 lines. I know we all need power, but to help others
10 in helping others, you know, you're destroying the
11 lives of other families also.

12 Please reconsider because we are also
13 ComEd paying customers. Thank you.

14 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Thank you. Next on
15 the list is John Drews. If you could spell your
16 name for the stenographer. Thank you.

17 MR. DREWS: Good evening. My name is John
18 Drews, D-r-e-w-s. I am also a resident of River
19 Ridge Subdivision.

20 When you have two sets of power lines that
21 currently run behind our house, and I would like to
22 address the health issues regarding this. We have
23 what is an unbelievable amount of cancer in our
24 neighborhood already.

1 Over the last two to three years in our
2 neighborhood alone, we have had four that I know of
3 cancer diagnoses, including my wife who was
4 diagnosed a year ago last October with breast
5 cancer. We have just on Tuesday lost one of our
6 neighbors to cancer.

7 I believe that with the two sets of power
8 lines that we currently have running behind that we
9 are living with, a third would complicate this issue
10 and further hurt the health risks of all of our
11 neighbors and people in our subdivision.

12 I ask the ICC to please review this and
13 take a look at it before anybody else loses their
14 life to cancer. Thank you.

15 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Thank you, sir. The
16 next person I have on the list is Tom Barker. If
17 you could spell your name for the stenographer.
18 Thank you.

19 MR. BARKER: My name is Tom Barker,
20 B-a-r-k-e-r, and I live in River Ridge also, and my
21 concerns are the power lines coming through our
22 backyards.

23 We weren't notified of this until it's
24 almost been too late it sounds like. We were told

1 there could be an alternate, which everybody has
2 seem to push for and now recently I heard the
3 alternate has been turned down. I'm not sure why.
4 I'll ask that question later I guess.

5 I'm just asking that these lines be buried
6 or moved. We've got enough power going through our
7 yards now. These new power lines will be in our
8 backyards, over our pools literally, and it's just
9 not fair.

10 Our house values are going to be going
11 down. We won't be able to sell our homes. There's
12 got to be a better way. They gave us an alternate
13 route. I think everybody would be agreed with that
14 in River Ridge and Sugar Ridge if they met it.

15 It sounds like they are not going that
16 way. That's my comment.

17 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Thank you, sir. The
18 next person I have is Brenda Tannehill.

19 MS. TENNEHILL: Pass that.

20 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Pass, okay. The next
21 person is Bob Treadwell.

22 If you could spell your name for the
23 stenographer.

24 MR. TREADWELL: T-r-e-a-d-w-e-l-l. It's not

1 that hard. Anyway, I'm out in DeKalb County, Lukens
2 Road and Baseline.

3 The proposed route they have presently
4 that's been presented to all the people out there is
5 one thing. It's when they change it without telling
6 us or talking to us about it that's another.

7 I fully understand the concern of
8 everyone. Also, when it comes down to my neighbors,
9 we actually -- basically, what's happened is we pit
10 one neighbor against another neighbor.

11 My one neighbor they have dairy cows. His
12 concern is stray voltage. I fully understand that.
13 It's not good for his dairy cows. It can disrupt
14 his business.

15 I get it. But if it's no good for a cow,
16 how could it be good for a human? When Commonwealth
17 Edison talks about how long they owned this
18 property, some of the property was bought in 1973,
19 where some of these things were pastures, corn
20 fields, and every other thing you could possibly
21 imagine.

22 There was no houses there. It makes a
23 difference now when you have to deal with people.
24 You have to go along the Elgin route. I understand

1 the concern most people are from there. That cost
2 gets shipped to everybody at Commonwealth Edison.

3 If it's such a cost savings to put these
4 lines in eventually over a 50-year period, that's
5 not a problem. Just like the one through
6 Burlington, originally they were going through
7 Burlington.

8 There is a complete subdivision put in
9 there now. So, that's acceptable to put it back
10 there since, what, the last 10 years these houses
11 were built, and they've owned the land there 40
12 years or had easement rights. That's not right.

13 Any change in any of the mapping that
14 should be presented to the public before it's ever
15 approved, and that should go to another hearing and
16 a whole new process versus just shoving it down
17 people's throat. Thank you very much.

18 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Thank you, sir. I'm
19 going to call a couple names in a row just so we
20 have people sort of lined up.

21 The next person is Kristine Pienkowski;
22 and then after that, I've got Tom Pienkowski.

23 MS. PIENKOWSKI: Hi, my name is Kristine
24 Pienkowski. It's spelled P-i-e-n-k-o-w-s-k-i. My

1 husband and I own White Oak Acres in Burlington.

2 Just as background, I grew up as a foster
3 child and always dreamed of some day of giving back
4 and working with kids and families that needed help.

5 Well, my dream was realized when eight
6 years ago, I partnered -- I started a partnership
7 with Hope Reins. At my horse facility, together
8 with our horses, we are able to help children and
9 families that have so many difficulties in their
10 life.

11 It is amazing work that brings health and
12 hope to so many people. But when I found out that
13 the ComEd Grand Prairie Gateway primary route had
14 changed from passing through the Village of
15 Burlington to instead to pass alongside of our
16 property, I was stunned.

17 ComEd owns easements in Burlington along
18 the railroad tracks, and we felt sure that would be
19 the chosen route. We began talking -- when we found
20 out that the primary route was changed, we began
21 talking to some of our clients who come to our farm
22 to have help and work through difficulties in their
23 lives.

24 What we soon discovered was it was a very

1 consistent message that people had feared of being
2 near high-tension power lines. They expressed not
3 only fear for themselves, but when we spoke to the
4 parents, the idea of their children being in a
5 pasture, supposedly for the purpose of getting help,
6 would be standing possibly 150 feet from
7 high-tension power lines.

8 So, to save Hope Reins, we hired a lawyer.
9 So, I am one of the people who had a petition to
10 take away the children's dreams. ComEd's response
11 to our petition to move the route, they said, "We
12 fiercely resist," I'm so sorry, "We firstly resist
13 route changes.

14 I messed up my cards. They fiercely
15 resisted any changes when it came to one property
16 owner asking to pass on to another property owner
17 the route change. They continued to say that Rachel
18 and I's problem was only a problem because we made
19 it a problem.

20 I don't think any of us who are struggling
21 with this have made this our problem. The ICC is
22 responsible for protecting the rights and welfare of
23 ComEd citizens to assure equitable treatment.

24 How is it equitable for some customers to

1 be required to sacrifice their businesses, their
2 dreams? ComEd says they are required by law to find
3 the least-cost solution, but whose costs are they
4 talking about?

5 Why does ComEd feel that the least-cost
6 solution is equitable when it is at a very high
7 price for only a few of their customers.

8 To say that there is no alternative is a
9 lie, because burying the line is an option; but that
10 does depend on if ComEd and the ICC want to share
11 the cost with all of ComEd's customers, or they just
12 want a few of us to pay a very high price.

13 MR. PEINKOWSKI: Hi, I'm Tom Pienkowski. My
14 wife and I we live on Longrove. I'm a law school
15 engineer by trade. I ended up getting some graduate
16 electrical engineering degree from Ohio State.
17 Sorry for those you who are Ohio State fans.

18 Our property resides just to the north
19 where the proposed primary route is; and so because
20 of my background, I was very interested in some of
21 the technical side, some of the technical side of
22 electromagnetic fields.

23 So, I've read and read and read a lot.
24 There is a lot of information on the web, in terms

1 of what they found in terms of health aspects of the
2 electromagnetic fields.

3 So, it has raised obviously some concerns
4 with me. There appears to be through a couple of
5 different studies, and I can point them out if you
6 want to see them, but a couple different studies
7 that late childhood leukemia between elevated
8 magnetic field lines.

9 There is also studies around the
10 hydroelectric lines, the high-voltage power as
11 opposed to magnetic field. Those aren't quite --
12 those studies aren't quite as conclusive; however,
13 they usually say that they can neither prove nor
14 disprove the effects. Because of the fact that they
15 can't disprove them, that also raises a concern.

16 So, like my wife pointed out, there are
17 alternatives. I'm going to read a small section
18 from an article published by RETA. They are an
19 organization up in Canada and have done a lot of
20 research on high-power lines, and specifically
21 recently research around burying high-power lines.

22 So, I'm going to just read the end of this
23 article that points out two common things around
24 burying high-power lines.

1 "In summary, when we compared the overhead
2 or above-ground lines to bury high-power lines:
3 One, we eliminate the electric fields through
4 shielding and significantly reduce the magnetic
5 field through phase cancellation.

6 "We reduce the negative health impacts of
7 overhead line electromagnetic fields to almost zero.
8 Eliminate the negative health impacts of overhead
9 line corona effects. They are safer because they
10 cannot electrocute people or animals.

11 "They eliminate EMF and stray voltage that
12 negatively affects livestock" as I mentioned
13 earlier.

14 "They do not negatively impact agriculture
15 or crop production. They do not interfere with
16 agricultural operations. Are safer because buried
17 lines don't fall over in terms of hurricanes,
18 tornadoes or other storms.

19 "Eliminate costly power outages to
20 hundreds of thousands of customers resulting from
21 damage to the above-ground infrastructure. Are not
22 affected by solar storms. Do not start wild fires.
23 Are safer because of helicopters, airplanes and high
24 balloons don't find them.

1 "Do not cause nearby pipelines corrosion
2 or hazardously-induced current in the pipelines.
3 They do not lower adjacent property values." We
4 talked about that.

5 "They are not an eye sore. They do not
6 buzz. They do not hum. They do not kill millions
7 of birds through collisions every year. They do not
8 threaten wildlife with ultraviolet flashes."

9 The last couple of points here are
10 probably the most important. "They're more
11 reliable. They have lower maintenance costs. They
12 are more effective and have lower transmission loss
13 cost," meaning the more the electricity gets to
14 where it's going through a buried line.

15 And then lastly, with kind of recent
16 advances in burying power lines, at least according
17 to RETA, that the buried lines can be done for only
18 slightly more, not twice, but slightly more capital
19 costs than what overhead lines can be put in for.
20 Thank you.

21 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: The next couple names
22 is Barbara Wojnicki and Glenn Hausl.

23 MR. HAUSL: I'll take a pass.

24 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Was that Mr. Hausl?

1 MR. HAUSL: Yes.

2 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: And then after that,
3 Mary --

4 MS. HIRSCHBERG: Excuse me, I was supposed to
5 be after Kristine and before Tom. I signed up. Can
6 I speak now?

7 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Yes, Ms. Hirschberg.
8 And then after that would be Ms. Wojnicki.

9 MS. HIRSCHBERG: Sorry about that. Thank you.

10 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: If you could spell
11 your name for the court reporter.

12 MS. HIRSCHBERG: My name is Debra Hirschberg,
13 H-i-r-s-c-h-b-e-r-g. As I said, my name is Debra
14 Hirschberg, and I'm the clinical director of Hope
15 Reins.

16 You've heard a little bit about Hope Reins
17 already, and that the work that I do, that I do with
18 Kristine and Tom Pienkowski at White Oak Acres.

19 I've a been a clinical social worker for
20 over 25 years working with at-risk youth and their
21 families, and I'm going to give you a little bit of
22 background about what we do at Hope Reins. You
23 heard a little bit about it. It's rather unique.

24 What makes us unique, instead of

1 traditional counseling services, that along with
2 traditional counseling services, we offer
3 alternative therapy using horses to help those
4 individuals for whom traditional therapy has been
5 mostly ineffective.

6 In 2013, I moved my whole practice that
7 had been split between Crystal Lake and Hampshire
8 Burlington location to the Hampshire Burlington
9 location at White Oak Acres; and in nine months, we
10 tripled the amount of that we had seen, tripled.

11 So, clearly with this move showed that
12 this location that there is a great need for the
13 kinds of services that we provide at Hope Reins.

14 We see children on the autism spectrum, as
15 well as individuals of all ages who struggle with
16 depression, anxiety, sexual abuse, physical abuse,
17 trauma and chemical dependency.

18 We also provide, because of the
19 relationship that I have with White Oak Acres and
20 then dedication to this community of individuals who
21 cannot receive help, we are able to reduce fees to
22 over one-third of our clients, and this is a fairly
23 expensive type of service to use horses in therapy.

24 So, to be able to reduce fees is highly

1 unique, and I consider it an incredible blessing to
2 be able to do that. So, when we found out that the
3 power towers were going to be along the property
4 lines, we're concerned obviously how this is going
5 affect us and how it's going affect our clients and
6 how they would feel.

7 And as Kristine said, we actually did an
8 online survey of our clients to find out exactly how
9 they would feel. In our field, as a counselor, it's
10 imperative that my clients feel safe, that they feel
11 emotionally safe and they feel physically safe.

12 So, that is primarily what we're looking
13 at in our survey, and what we found specifically is
14 that over 70 percent of our clients would not feel
15 safe working within the power lines.

16 And then we asked them, "How would you
17 feel about your children working within 150 feet,
18 our pasture comes 150 feet with those high-voltage
19 power line?" And the numbers popped up to
20 90 percent saying that they would not feel
21 comfortable or that their children were safe.

22 And again, as I said, it is a field of
23 counseling. The perception of safety paramount to
24 the success of counseling. Our clients' perceptions

1 of not feeling safe is just not acceptable to the
2 work that we do.

3 In addition, as we began to do some
4 research into the field, as Tom just discussed about
5 electromagnetic fields, and, oh, my gosh, I learned
6 so much about things I knew nothing about before, we
7 discovered a really significant new piece of
8 research in the Journal of Pathophysiology, which is
9 a peer-reviewed journal.

10 So, there are high standards for this,
11 that shows that exposure to even low levels of
12 electromagnetic fields, and this is not high power.
13 High-power lines are much more than that.

14 I get lost in the differences, but these
15 are low levels of electromagnetic fields can
16 aggravate, will aggravate, symptoms of autism.

17 Now, I feel very strongly that it would be
18 completely unethical for me to try to provide
19 services to autistic clients in a location which
20 would worsen the very symptoms we're trying to
21 alleviate.

22 So, at this point, when we're looking at
23 all of this, we're feeling like Hope Reins needs to
24 shut down or move. So, I thought I would share with

1 you another client who asked me to share her words,
2 how she would feel if Hope Reins were to move.

3 She says, "Hi. I'm Lydia Ferdina
4 (phonetic). I've been here at Hope Reins for about
5 a year-and-a-half, and I've learned a lot about my
6 time at Hope Reins. They have a spirit of helping
7 and letting you learn at your own pace.

8 "When my husband told me I would be
9 working with horses, I felt like it was an answer to
10 my prayer. I needed it and wanted it. It was a
11 dream of mine that I thought I would never come
12 true.

13 "I came to Hope Reins with post-traumatic
14 stress disorder, fibromyalgia and other traumatic
15 events that have occurred in my life. Through the
16 peaceful environment and the nurturing time with
17 Debby and Kristine, they and the horses have helped
18 me overcome fears and obstacles, such as standing up
19 for myself and for my family, protecting my family,
20 learning to have a confidence just to get my
21 children to school every day, and how to deal with
22 flashbacks and how to keep them from potentialling
23 my life.

24 "I thank God for finding me a place to be

1 myself, and the horses are very intuitive; and they
2 communicate and seem to know what I need, and I
3 learn a lot about how to take care of them.

4 "Now I see them and everyone else here as
5 a second family. It would break my heart to see it
6 gone. I want my feeling to keep going and to keep
7 progressing.

8 "I have a long way to go, and I want to
9 see Hope Reins to be here for people like me and
10 others for many years to come. It is truly a place
11 of restoration, healing and has given me hope for a
12 much brighter future.

13 "Thank you for taking the time to read
14 this and to know this is from the depths of my
15 heart."

16 So, that just gives you a picture of what
17 one client feels like in moving, and our surveys
18 also showed people would be quite dismayed and not
19 really know where to go, because there really is not
20 a place like ours that provides traditional
21 counseling, equine therapy.

22 We have beautiful nature walks, which
23 would be completely destroyed by high towers. There
24 are white oaks with three wetlands, and I'm sure

1 those hawks are there as well. I see all kinds of
2 creatures.

3 We also have a place for families to come
4 and unplug from nature. They don't do that anymore.
5 To get rid of their cell phones, put it away, work
6 with the horses, walk on our path. Then it will be
7 gone if those lines were to be where they are
8 proposed at this point.

9 So, my concern is to the ICC is to
10 carefully think about this. In reading ICC
11 testimony of your own economic -- the economist and
12 your engineer, what I seen in the testimony is that
13 they come to the conclusion, your own people at the
14 ICC, your own staff, this line does not meet the
15 standards of the statute, that it is not necessary
16 or will not provide enough benefit to justify the
17 cost.

18 Those are the costs that you guys -- that
19 ComEd measured, but I don't think they measured any
20 of the costs that we just discussed, I just
21 discussed, and Rachel just discussed and other
22 neighbors in this room have a discussed.

23 Those are intangible costs that have not
24 been measured. I would ask you to consider these

1 costs. I would ask you and Hope Reins to consider
2 what it would mean if Hope Reins is gone from our
3 location.

4 People who are very vulnerable will not
5 get this kind of therapy anymore. People who cannot
6 afford this kind of therapy will not get it anymore.
7 How can you measure those kinds of costs? I don't
8 know.

9 If ComEd has come up with new studies that
10 have demonstrated that the benefit outweighs the
11 cost, and again, your own staff at ICC says that is
12 not the case at this point from what I've read,
13 although it's hard to get through everything, if
14 there is new evidence of that, then I would ask you
15 please consider burying this.

16 Please consider burying this so that the
17 most vulnerable people that we have that come out by
18 us can continue to get the services that we provide.
19 Thank you very much.

20 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Thank you. I think
21 the next person is Barbara Wojnicki, and then Mary
22 Kay Wlezen.

23 MS. WLEZEN: I'll pass.

24 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Okay. Ed Kortum. Did

1 you want to speak?

2 MR. KORTUM: No.

3 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: No?

4 MR. KORTUM: I'll pass.

5 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Then Amato, Bonnie

6 Symon.

7 MS. SYMON: I'll also pass.

8 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Barbara Quwerda.

9 MS. AUWERDA: Pass.

10 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Beth Thomas.

11 MS. THOMAS: Pass.

12 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Sue Turner.

13 MS. TURNER: Pass.

14 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Omar Nashif. So, the
15 next person is Barbara Wojnicki. If you could spell
16 your name.

17 MS. WOJNICKI: W-o-j-n-i-c-k-i. I want to
18 thank you for hosting this forum and thank you for
19 pronouncing my name correctly as well.

20 I'm an elected Kane County Board
21 Representative District 15. I'm also president
22 Pro-Tem for the Kane County Forest Preserve. I was
23 elected in 1998. So, it's been an interesting more
24 than a decade on the Kane County Board.

1 When asking ComEd for the needs
2 assessment, their answer is that the added towers
3 and lines will improve electric system reliability.

4 With our population switching to CFLs and
5 halogen light bulbs, we have increased efficiency by
6 at least 40 percent.

7 A. The Kane County Government Center, along
8 with other office and commercial buildings, have
9 switched to motion-sensor lighting and streetlights
10 now have a time-out period before turning back on
11 throughout the night.

12 Haven't these environmentally-sound
13 methods help reduce constraints on the electric
14 grid? Who will ultimately benefit from these power
15 lines? Not our neighbors who live in Bowes Creek
16 Country Club, Elgin.

17 These towers will be installed directly
18 behind their existing new homes. Not the 150 plus
19 year old family farms that are being passed down
20 from generation to new generation. Not Debra, at
21 White Oak Acres and Hampshire, who runs a business
22 called Hope Reins, which is equine-assisted
23 psychotherapy, and I could name many, many more.

24 I asked ComEd to consider the negative

1 impact these power towers will have on our
2 residents, farms and communities. Don't rush, look
3 for an alternative and do it right the first time.
4 Thank you.

5 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Mr. Nashif, if you
6 could spell your name for the stenographer.

7 MR. NASHIF: Omar Nashif, N-a-s-h-i-f.

8 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Sir, you might want to
9 back away from the microphone just a little bit.

10 MR. NASHIF: Okay. I'll make my remarks very
11 brief. I live at 1456 Blume Drive, and I am a
12 residents of Elgin for the last 47 years, and I'm
13 here tonight to voice opposition to the project.

14 I live almost 300 yards on the upper
15 school, which is elementary school adjacent on Hopps
16 Road. What I believe is I think the Commonwealth
17 Edison did all the right things.

18 They did go through all the public
19 hearings. They hired engineers. They wrote
20 reports. They did all the public hearings, all the
21 stakeholders. They followed the procedures. They
22 did go to the ICC.

23 They did all the right things, but they
24 had -- they came with lots of alternatives, but I

1 don't know if they considered all the alternatives,
2 which is the no-build alternative. That is one
3 thing.

4 I don't know if they -- I came from an
5 agency where I worked before that I came from the
6 highway department where we use state money and
7 federal money and we prepare reports.

8 We relocate people, and we vote right
9 away. We build highways and we have to do lots of
10 things, and we have to answer all the questions, you
11 know, to everybody who has concern; and on many
12 occasions, we didn't build the highway because the
13 people have objection to a roadway which goes
14 through.

15 Look at Route 53, for example. How many
16 people opposing to that route for how many years?
17 Because it was a concern. So, I don't know if
18 Commonwealth Edison is considering all the
19 alternatives, which is the no-build alternative.

20 So, my opposition tonight is I live within
21 150 feet. If they're going to use that route, which
22 is the proposed route, which is the right-of-way for
23 the railroad, which would be right close to my
24 backyard, and that's my comment.

1 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Thank you, sir. The
2 next two names I have on the list are Gary Hoffman.

3 MR. HOFFMAN: Pass.

4 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Gabriela Barker, and
5 then William Andreozzi.

6 MR. ANDREOZZI: Pass.

7 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: And Arlen Andreozzi.

8 MS. ANDREOZZI: Pass.

9 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Donna Vanselow.

10 MS. VANSELOW: Pass.

11 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Susan Luzak.

12 MS. LUZAK: Pass.

13 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Owen Trimble?

14 MR. TRIMBLE: Yep, here.

15 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: You'll want to speak?

16 MR. TRIMBLE: Yes.

17 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: So, first we'll go
18 with Ms. Gabriel Barker. If you could spell your
19 name for the stenographer.

20 MS. BARKER: Okay, Gabriel Barker, that's
21 G-a-b-r-i-e-l-a, last name Barker, B-a-r-k-e-r.

22 I understand that, you know, we all need
23 power. I do understand that. The part that is
24 disconcerting to me is the fact that we didn't know

1 that this was going to happen until, you know, a
2 couple months ago, and the power lines are going to
3 go right behind our house.

4 I've been living there, it will be --
5 July 31st will be 16 years with my husband, and my
6 boys used to live there before they went off to
7 college.

8 And after 11 years, my husband got cancer.
9 You know, is this because of the power lines? We'll
10 never know. You know, I do understand that there's
11 been studies done. A lot of studies have been done
12 by Commonwealth Edison, and there are those that,
13 you know, "I'll never know how my husband's cancer
14 came to be."

15 You know, as of right now, you know, he
16 doesn't have cancer at this moment; and hopefully,
17 you know, he will remain healthy. But I just don't
18 understand in our subdevelopment in South Elgin,
19 there's an easy alternative route that could be put
20 on to Stearns Road where it wouldn't affect
21 homeowners.

22 You know, ComEd has to stop and think, and
23 the ICC has to stop and think that putting it in our
24 backyards, where it's going to go over our homes,

1 over our pools, and we already have the two separate
2 sets of power lines back there. You know, how much
3 more?

4 We have the train back there. Once they
5 cut down the trees, you know, now the quarry's dust
6 comes, you know, past of our house. Sometimes we're
7 in the flight path, you know, the path of the
8 planes. So, you know, the disruption of the noise
9 from the planes.

10 All I'm asking is for that section, why
11 aren't they not -- why are they going back on what
12 they originally said if the forest preserve allows
13 that, you know, that they would consider Stearns, to
14 put it on Stearns, and I would just like for them to
15 consider that.

16 Thank you for listening.

17 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Thank you. I think
18 the next person up is Mr. Trimble and then Jim
19 Rynott would be the next person. So, Mr. Trimble.

20 MR. TRIMBLE: Yes, my name Owen Trimble. I'm
21 one of the blessed guys -- T-r-i-m-b-l-e. I am one
22 of the blessed people that was part of the
23 alternative that was not selected, but I do
24 understand what is going through all of your minds.

1 I had been, since its incision, a member
2 of a club which has found out in the years past,
3 they were going to courts to fight that one most of
4 the time reductions in fees and issues with all of
5 the utilities, up-crease another bureaucracy, but
6 that is costly.

7 Here in Springfield or Illinois, itself, I
8 would like to see a little exercise happen in this
9 hallway. How many people in this area, in this
10 building, trust our political powers of all of our
11 politicians, the republicans and democrats, could
12 you please raise your hands? Thank you.

13 I guess nobody needs exercise. Nobody
14 needs exercise, apparently. Now, I have an issue
15 that the public opinion we have, and I'm probably
16 going against your policy, there's a direct link
17 between political powers, and the voluntaries of the
18 utilities, and I have a strong opposition to how
19 this policy is determined.

20 I do not wish to have these utilities or
21 these power lines go through anybody's yard, going
22 along the school district, along that one border is
23 ludicrous, but it depends on how much money we have
24 to fight it.

1 I fought in years past Firestone. I
2 fought against the Fermi Lab, the super glider, and
3 we all won, but this is powerful because the power
4 grows.

5 I do have one comment about the counties
6 will receive, what, \$20,000 per mile within their
7 construction district of \$20,000. Well, within
8 visual sight, all of the construction that's gone on
9 with subdivisions and so on, the housing along this
10 similar route, far exceeds that.

11 I think that permit fee should be a lot
12 more to compensate for the loss of our property
13 values. Thank you.

14 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Next I have Jim
15 Rynott, and then also next on the list after that is
16 Tom Nodurft, and you want to speak?

17 MR. NODURFT: Yes, sir.

18 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Okay. Mr. Rynott, if
19 you could spell your name for the stenographer.

20 MR. RYNOTT: My name is Jim Rynott,
21 R-y-n-o-t-t. I'm a resident of Bowes Creek
22 community in Elgin. I've been there less than a
23 year.

24 One of the reasons that I chose to live

1 there it's a great tranquil setting out there. So,
2 quite a ways west of Randall Road, surrounded by
3 open area, farm land, forest preserve districts, and
4 the railroad is really shielded from us by a berm,
5 plantings, trees, very tranquil environment; and I
6 was greatly disturbed that ComEd wants to come and
7 bulldoze their way through our property.

8 Additionally, if you go to Exelon's
9 website, ComEd is affiliated with Exelon. Exelon is
10 the owner and very prominent. First paragraph on
11 the website, "We are committed to doing what's
12 right. We want to insure the safety and security of
13 our communities, of our employees and the customers
14 within those communities. The well-being of the
15 communities and those customers is one of Exelon's
16 highest priorities."

17 So, I have to wonder are these just words
18 that look good on paper, or is Exelon and ComEd
19 truthfully and totally committed to doing what's
20 right? In 2013, they reported revenues of
21 \$24.9 billion.

22 I understand it cost to bury those lines.
23 Depending on whose estimate you believe, it's
24 somewhere in the neighborhood of 20,000,000 to

1 50,000,000. To me, that is a pittance to pay for
2 someone's safety, the environmental concerns that
3 have been expressed, the safety concerns that have
4 been expressed, and the lowering of our property
5 values.

6 I'm totally opposed to anything but
7 burying these lines in anyone's community, let alone
8 mine. Thank you.

9 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Mr. Nodurft.

10 MR. NODURFT: My name is Tom Nodurft. Last
11 name is spelled N, as in Navy, o-d-u-r-f-t.

12 I am a registered intermediary for
13 myself, personally, and for my homeowner
14 association, the Oak Ridge Farm Homeowner's
15 Association, west of the Bowes Creek Subdivision.
16 We're unincorporated Kane County.

17 There is a common theme you are hearing
18 here, and I think it's been having read hundreds of
19 different requests for data research from ComEd and
20 from us sending information back.

21 I don't ever read anyone objecting to the
22 power lines. I think that we need -- everyone
23 recognizes we need infrastructure redevelopment in
24 this nation. It is a sorely lacking problem.

1 Unfortunately the federal government doesn't get
2 behind, which it should be doing on a national
3 scale.

4 The issues here are simply everybody is
5 getting pitted against one another in the community,
6 me not in my backyard.

7 I think the original proposed line makes
8 sense. It follows a railroad. I've got no problem
9 with that. I recognize the need for future energy
10 resources. I back them 100 percent.

11 I don't care how much money ComEd or
12 Exelon will make off the project, in the long run,
13 because if they are not in business, we don't have
14 power.

15 The reality is they are regulating these
16 utilities. They are given a return on their
17 investment, but we're going to pay for that
18 investment, now or in the future.

19 If we're going to take ComEd at its face,
20 and I have no reason to disregard it, this is
21 supposed to benefit 92-and-a-half percent of
22 Illinois -- northern Illinois customers, in terms of
23 their revenue cost.

24 The problem is you heard from a number of

1 people here is that it will not impact everybody
2 equitably. You're going to harm homeowners,
3 business owners, directly on this route. There is
4 no question it does that.

5 ComEd has had a lot of these easements for
6 40, 50, 60 years. Back then, they didn't have any
7 ability to project what the growth would be, what
8 energy needs would be.

9 They thought it was going to be a normal
10 transmission line as opposed to a distribution line.
11 I mean, a distribution line as opposed to a
12 transmission line.

13 No urban planer, no builder, developer and
14 certainly no homeowner would build their house
15 intentionally under what was going to be designated
16 as a high-tension line.

17 Irrespective of whether the studies on
18 health are accurate or inaccurate is irrelevant.
19 What is relevant is the public's perception that it
20 harms values and it harms businesses.

21 The only way around this is to bury the
22 lines. I'm not opposed to it. I want them buried.
23 Everyone in northern Illinois will pay for that.

24 It is not right to benefit 92-and-a-half

1 percent -- well, the northern Illinois community as
2 a whole and let them have their energy costs
3 reduced, while impacting each and every one of these
4 people in this room all along that line.

5 If you spread the cost over every single
6 person as a part of the cost for paying for energy,
7 no one is harmed. It's the right thing to do.

8 Thank you.

9 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: If you could spell
10 your name for the reporter.

11 ms. mosher: Gail Mosher, G-a-i-l M-o-s-h-e-r.
12 I'm also a resident of the Oak Ridge Farm
13 Subdivision, and pretty much Tom has summed it up;
14 however, I just want to point out that when ComEd
15 spoke earlier, he talked about that over
16 \$500 million of energy cost savings that the power
17 lines will instill for us.

18 Use that money bury those lines. That's
19 all I want to say.

20 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: All right, thank you.
21 The next name I have is Ralph Perry and also David
22 Wigdahl. Mr. Perry.

23 MR. PERRY: My name is Ralph Perry, P-e-r-r-y.
24 I'm a resident of River Ridge in South Elgin. I

1 have a whole notebook here filled with comments and
2 statements. I'm going to keep it simple.

3 I don't care what anyone says, there was
4 not proper notification from ComEd about this
5 Gateway Project, or any updates along the way as
6 it's gone on, nothing, no communication, anything.

7 Last statement, I guess just to keep it
8 real simple, ComEd said tonight, I think it was
9 Fidel, benefits outweigh the costs.

10 What about all our costs? Thank you.

11 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Mr. Wigdahl. Next is
12 Jerry Fisher. Jerry Armato.

13 THE WITNESS: Here.

14 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Did you want to speak,
15 sir?

16 MR. ARMATO: Yes.

17 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Okay. Then also Rob
18 Mason.

19 MR. MASON: Right here.

20 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Okay. So, we'll hear
21 from Mr. Armato and then Mr. Mason.

22 MR. ARMATO: Good evening. My name is Jerry
23 Armato, A-r-m-a-t-o. My wife and I, Jane, live in
24 the Bowes Creek community. We also have a son

1 Anthony, his wife Alyssa, and two wonderful
2 grandchildren who also live in Bowes Creek.

3 We moved to Bowes Creek seven years ago.
4 We lived in Naperville just south of 95th Street for
5 15 years. We had high-tension power lines directly
6 in back of our home.

7 When we moved to Bowes Creek, our realtor
8 told us we would have difficulty selling our house
9 in Naperville because of the power lines and because
10 of the reduced cost of property value.

11 This is not why I'm here today. The
12 reason I am a here today is to talk about the health
13 issues concerning the power lines. I'm going to
14 read a short paragraph here that gives you a little
15 information about the health problems associated
16 with the power lines.

17 The Bio-Initiative Report of 2012 confirms
18 previously-reported health risks of overhead power
19 line electromagnetic fields, EMFs. The report
20 prepared by 29 authors from 10 countries includes
21 the review of approximately 1800 new studies on the
22 biological effects and adverse health effects of
23 EMF.

24 The report indicates the existing public

1 safety limits of EMF and radio frequency radiation
2 are not adequate to protect public health.

3 We're not willing to risk our children,
4 our loved ones, when the expected leukemia risks are
5 6 in 100,000 times 30 in 100,000; and the specific
6 community indicates that the increased risk of
7 cancers, and so many other diseases from exposure to
8 EMF, can no longer be ignored.

9 Common sense says that the scientific
10 community is warning us about the overhead power
11 lines; and if the governments and power companies
12 don't know for sure they are safe, then don't build,
13 ComEd, the Gateway Project so close to our homes,
14 schools and daycares.

15 Other jurisdictions have come up with
16 common-sense solutions to this dilemma. They don't
17 build new above-ground, high-voltage power lines
18 near people. Burying the high-voltage power lines
19 totally eliminates the electric field component of
20 EMF through shielding, thereby eliminates any health
21 impacts caused by electric fields and significantly
22 reduces the magnetic field component of EMF through
23 phase cancellation, thereby essentially eliminates
24 negative health effects caused by magnetic fields,

1 other than immediately above a buried line.

2 Shortly after moving to Bowes Creek, I was
3 diagnosed with prostate cancer. A year later, I was
4 diagnosed with thyroid cancer. I did some research,
5 and this did not run in my family. After living 15
6 years behind power lines, I have a question in my
7 mind, what caused that?

8 I'm concerned for safety and well-being of
9 my family and my grandchildren. This is why I
10 oppose the project. Please consider burying for our
11 safety and our families.

12 I was going to say or rerouting, but after
13 listening to so many stories tonight, rerouting just
14 pushes it to somebody else. We have to bury the
15 power lines.

16 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: We'll hear from
17 Mr. Mason.

18 MR. MASON: Yes, my name is Rob Mason,
19 M-a-s-o-n. My wife and I reside in Savanna Lakes
20 Subdivision, which is just east of Bowes Creek.

21 The power lines will go directly behind
22 our house. We have the same concerns everyone else
23 does, the health risk, the property value, et
24 cetera. I won't dwell on that. I just want to make

1 a couple quick comments.

2 First of all, the gentleman from ComEd
3 threw out some statistics, which I actually hadn't
4 heard before, the \$500 million savings over 33
5 years; but if you actually crunch the numbers and do
6 kind of a back-of-the-napkin calculation, I think
7 what it comes out to, assuming, as I say, 4,000,000
8 customers in Northern Illinois, it's less than a
9 dollar a month per customer per year.

10 You know, a dollar a month, I mean, come
11 on, that's nothing. They talk about 6,000 cars off
12 the road in terms of the savings on emission.
13 That's one-tenth of one percent of the cars in
14 Illinois. There's over 5.6 million cars in
15 Illinois. That doesn't even include the trucks, et
16 cetera.

17 So, it's a microscopic savings. So, let's
18 keep that in perspective. The other anecdote I
19 would just share with you back, I think it was in
20 August, when we learned that the route was going
21 directly behind our house, okay, the following
22 Monday I made it my mission to speak with someone at
23 ComEd, and I literally made over 20 phone calls
24 being dropped on voice mail, transferred, et cetera.

1 I was bound and determined to talk to a
2 live human being, and I finally did after over 20
3 tries. I spoke with a young woman who was very
4 polite, nice and cordial and patient listening to
5 me.

6 I subsequently learned that she was the
7 woman who is ComEd's routing expert, who was
8 actually overseeing the selection of the route. I
9 asked her point blank, "Would you want this in your
10 backyard?"

11 And she said, "No." So, if it's not good
12 enough for her, why is it good enough for us? Thank
13 you. Bury the line.

14 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: All right, thank you.
15 The next name I have is Dick Wendelken.

16 MR. WENDELKKEN: I'll pass.

17 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Okay. Jim and Jay
18 Carroll.

19 MS. CARROLL: Pass.

20 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Jake Zimmerman and
21 then Jeff Solch.

22 MR. SOLCH: Pass.

23 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Cindi Davidson.

24 THE WITNESS: Pass.

1 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Ren Davidson.

2 MR. DAVISON: Pass.

3 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Tersa Root.

4 MS. ROOT: Here.

5 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Did you want to speak
6 today?

7 MS. ROOT: Yes.

8 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: I'm sorry?

9 MS. ROOT: Yes.

10 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Okay. So, we'll start
11 with Mr. Zimmerman.

12 MR. ZIMMERMAN: Good evening. My name is James
13 Zimmerman, and that's Z-i-m-m-e-r-m-a-n. I will be
14 brief because I already made comments on the
15 website.

16 I live here in Elgin in the Bowes Creek
17 Subdivision, less than 1,000 feet from where this
18 project is proposed. I would like to draw the
19 Commission's attention to the fact that ComEd is
20 required under the law, which they filed this
21 petition, to propose both a primary and alternative
22 route for the entire project, unless there is good
23 cause not to.

24 However, we know that in the eastern

1 20 percent of the project from Plato Township to the
2 Wayne substation, they did not do that. There is
3 only one route, and their claim to good cause is
4 that it cost too much.

5 They already own the easements, and it's
6 too populated for another route. I think the fact
7 that they say that it's too populated speaks to the
8 fact that it should be moved somewhere else.

9 Instead, they want to put the line in some
10 of the most vulnerable parts in Illinois' eighth
11 largest city within a baseball's throw of the
12 playground at Otter Creek Elementary School and
13 literally in the backyards of Bowes Creek's active
14 adult 55-year-old-and-older community.

15 These populations are much more
16 susceptible to the electromagnetic fields. I'm also
17 concerned about the effects on property values. In
18 my own research, I have seen that these lines can
19 have up to a 30-percent negative effect on property
20 values.

21 I asked ComEd's real estate expert, their
22 contractor at the Kane County Fair grounds open
23 house last summer, what type of effect this would
24 have on my properties, and they said, "It's not

1 going to help."

2 ComEd has also talked about how much money
3 this project will save its consumers, yet they just
4 applied the increase rates that we pay. I urge the
5 Illinois Commerce Commission to deny ComEd's
6 petitioner.

7 If they don't do that, I urge them to move
8 the power lines somewhere else; and if they don't do
9 that, bury them in the eastern 20 percent of the
10 route. Thank you.

11 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Next we'll hear from
12 Ms. Root.

13 MS. ROOT: Right. My name is Teresa,
14 T-e-r-e-s-a, Root, R-o-o-t. My husband and I bought
15 a home in Bowes Creek Senior Community about nine
16 months ago.

17 We moved from about three miles from
18 O'Hare. We lived in the Woodale area. One of our
19 incentives to move where we did was the peace and
20 quite, as the other people had mentioned.

21 Needless to say, we had jets going
22 overhead every five minutes where we lived. We were
23 looking for some quiet time where we could spend
24 time outdoors. What we bought, we perceived to be

1 our dream home.

2 Right now, the things that I could say
3 about it pretty much would be the noise from the
4 lines. My understanding is that these high-power
5 lines snap and crackle and buzz.

6 I'm sure it probably interferes with cell
7 phone usage, probably interferes with any
8 communications and cable and what have you and phone
9 lines within our home.

10 We have friends who live near power lines
11 in Elk Grove Village, and they told us that it
12 causes interference. Besides the obvious health
13 risk, they create a terrible eye sore.

14 My understanding is they are very big.
15 They extend 52 feet. We happen to be located at the
16 far north end of Bowes Creek regency, so we're the
17 last homes on the north end of the subdivision, and
18 we're right behind the berm, the treeline and the
19 railroad tracks.

20 Another concern of mine is they will be
21 removing the berm, they will flatten the berm and
22 taking the trees out.

23 One of the things that we considered when
24 we moved there was to listen to the freight train

1 that goes along those tracks, and the berm and the
2 tree lines does a considerably good job of masking a
3 lot of that sound.

4 So, without the berm, without the trees,
5 we're going to be back to square one with noise like
6 we had in Woodale. So, and also the track from
7 Nesler Road, because that blocks -- the berm and
8 trees block a lot of that.

9 When ComEd talks about savings, I agree
10 with a lot of -- I'm not a statistics person or
11 numbers cruncher, but I think that the proper thing
12 to do is to provide electricity, but to bury the
13 lines anywhere whatsoever near any residential
14 areas, any businesses, any schools. I think it
15 should be buried probably the majority of the way,
16 at least through our four counties.

17 And just pass it along, as the gentleman
18 before me mentioned, a dollar amongst more, I would
19 be happy to pay that to keep everybody's health in
20 tact. Thank you.

21 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Thank you. I've got
22 Dale Root.

23 MR. ROOT: Pass.

24 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Tracy Teter-Chan.

1 MS. TETER-CHAN: Pass.

2 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Melissa Payne Wagner;
3 and after that, Susan Payne.

4 MS. PAYNE: No.

5 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: I'm sorry?

6 MS. PAYNE: No.

7 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Okay. Charles Payne?

8 MR. PAYN: Pass.

9 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Stephanie Payne.

10 MS. PAYNE: Pass.

11 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Richard Dunne, did I
12 get that right?

13 MR. DUNNE: Dunne, D-u-n-n-e.

14 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Yes. Did you want to
15 speak?

16 MR. DUNNE: Okay.

17 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: So, we'll start first
18 with Ms. Payne Wagner and then we'll go to Mr.
19 Dunne.

20 MS. WAGNER: Hi. Melissa, M-e-l-i-s-s-a, and
21 then Payne, P-a-y-n-e, and then Wagner, W-a-g-n-e-r.

22 I just want to share a little, you know,
23 story from the rural part of this power line. We
24 are -- my family has a farm in DeKalb County, and I

1 don't want to take too much time, but I just want to
2 say the power lines do affect the farms in rural
3 homes and businesses, too.

4 So, our family just really wants the whole
5 line buried. Thank you.

6 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Mr. Dunne.

7 THE WITNESS: Good evening. My name is Richard
8 Dunne, D-u-n-n-e. I am a City Council Member for
9 the City of Elgin. We are in the area where the
10 city is.

11 So, we've had testimony of the mayor on
12 the record, but my concerns are that the City of
13 Elgin is the eighth largest city in the State of
14 Illinois. We are a Home Rule community.

15 We have adopted ordinances that we would
16 like to see work, so that we could have proper
17 development. Those ordinances require utilities to
18 be buried within the city and any trees that were to
19 be damaged, permits being issued for the trees to be
20 preserved or reallocated back into the property.

21 It is interesting that the state has taken
22 -- has given the City of Elgin in one hand that
23 right and making us a Home Rule community, but at
24 the same time removed that right from us by giving

1 the power to the ICC.

2 So, I'm asking the ICC to return the power
3 that the legislatures have given to the City of
4 Elgin, the power being the Home Rule community, and
5 let us make decisions that matter to our citizens at
6 the lowest level of government, and that is the City
7 Council.

8 Let the City Council determine what's the
9 best interest for its community, and we feel we
10 passed our resolution unanimously in December that
11 the power lines should go underground in all
12 residential areas.

13 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Thank you. Next I've
14 got Bill Coves, and then after Tim Mote. Mr. Mote,
15 are you out there? Victoria Sanko-Perocco.

16 MS. SANKO-PERUCCO: Yes.

17 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: So, we'll go with
18 Mr. Koves.

19 MR. KOVES: Hello. I'm Bill Koves, K-o-v-e-s.
20 I'm a new resident of the Bowes Creek community, as
21 a lot of others were that spoke before we.

22 The power lines are going right behind our
23 house, which we learned about the day after we
24 signed on our contract. So, it was not well

1 communicated to people.

2 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Sir, sorry to
3 interrupt you, if you could speak into the
4 microphone.

5 MR. KOVES: As I said, the day after we moved
6 into our home, we learned about the new power lines
7 coming in.

8 My concern that it's not just the affect
9 on our property values and the environment in our
10 community, but also the health values. My wife is a
11 two-time cancer survivor; and from what I've read
12 about the EMF is that there are no conclusive
13 studies that conclude that there's no affect on your
14 health due to these power lines, especially for
15 cancer survivors that are more prone.

16 The web link provided by ComEd in their
17 literature is a dead end. It's not accurate. If
18 the power lines go in, we will be forced to move.
19 We're not going to become a statistic in the
20 American Cancer Society's database.

21 The lines must be rerouted to where they
22 do not affect people, or they must be buried and
23 when buried, the berms and the tress are destroyed,
24 they must replace that to protect our current

1 environment.

2 So, I'm asking ComEd do the right thing
3 for our citizens and our community and not for
4 corporate profit. Thank you.

5 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Ms. Sanko-Perucco.

6 MS. SANKO-PERUCCO: Yeah, Victoria
7 Sanko-Perucco. S-a-n-k-o hyphen Perucco,
8 P-e-r-u-c-c-o. I'm a resident of Oak Ridge Farm.

9 The opening speech that we just had at the
10 beginning of this meeting mentioned aspects of
11 acting fairly and respectfully.

12 How is it fair that ComEd purchased land
13 30 years ago for this plan, but it isn't
14 communicated when there is the building of these
15 planned communities, or if you're purchasing a home,
16 even as this gentleman who just spoke?

17 You know, if people knew about this plan,
18 they would never have moved to these affected areas.
19 I've been living in my neighborhood for 16 years,
20 and I would never have moved into my neighborhood if
21 I had known this.

22 The neighborhoods wouldn't exist as they
23 are today. How is it fair that ComEd did not
24 directly communicate with all the impacted people

1 for this project, especially in established
2 neighborhoods, so that, you know, they could voice
3 their concerns?

4 I recently learned about this project just
5 this year. I had to inform some of my neighbors
6 about the power lines that will be built in their
7 backyard. They never knew about it. So, it is poor
8 communication.

9 How is it fair that everyone here, and
10 people who are not able to attend tonight's meeting,
11 or these other meetings that I honestly didn't know
12 about that occurred, you know, last year, everyone
13 here is stressing about multiple concerns ranging
14 from, you know, our health, because ComEd can't
15 guarantee safety 100 percent, our environment and
16 our property values.

17 So, the process and the communication has
18 been poor and unfair, but we do understand the need
19 for the project. There is the option of burying the
20 lines, which is a good option.

21 Look at what has happened this past
22 winter, where there has been so many ice storms in
23 areas such as Pennsylvania that had downed power
24 lines and such an expense to fix them and it took

1 them a long time.

2 I'm just asking that you be fair and be
3 respectful, and we ask that you bury the lines,
4 especially in residential areas. Thank you.

5 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Thank you. Next I
6 have John Kavalunas. Is that Mr. Kavalunas over
7 there?

8 MR. KAVALUNAS: That's me.

9 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: And then Bob Wery.
10 So, we'll first hear from Mr. Kavalunas and
11 Mr. Wery.

12 MR. KAVALUNAS: John Kavalunas,
13 K-a-v-a-l-u-n-a-s, and I'm a resident and board
14 member of the Bowes Creek community; and I've really
15 followed along with a lot of comments that have been
16 said. I oppose this project, and would just like to
17 look at a few aspects of it.

18 When I was in business for 35 to 40 years,
19 and we do financial evaluations of projects, we go
20 through all the statistics. You do the
21 spreadsheets, you do all the math and you say
22 ultimately, "Does it pass the smell test? Does it
23 make sense?"

24 And when I hear and read from ComEd that

1 property values have no impact from overhead lines,
2 that doesn't pass the smell test. How can that
3 possibly be if these power lines have no impact on
4 property values?

5 So, right up front, I question the
6 veracity of a lot of the statements from ComEd
7 because it doesn't pass the smell test.

8 The ICC analyst, as Barbara Wojnicki
9 motioned, a couple of them even questioned the
10 project's need. So, to say we need electricity, for
11 sure; but do we need this project becomes a
12 question.

13 As a couple of the analysts, themselves,
14 have said, they question the basic premise of the
15 project is it even needed. We know the cost of
16 under grounding.

17 I'm going to read the summary from the
18 RETA project. I don't know if RETA is absolutely
19 right or absolutely technical, but the fact is they
20 have those studies, and they have done evaluations
21 that run counter to what ComEd said.

22 When the capital maintenance and
23 transmission loss cost are combined over the 60-year
24 life of a line underground high-voltage lines are

1 generally less expensive than overhead lines.

2 High voltage direct current lines are even
3 easier and cheaper to bury than high voltage
4 alternating currents lines.

5 We bury sewer lines, water lines,
6 telephone lines, electricity distribution lines, TV
7 cable, natural gas oil pipelines, gas pipelines and
8 other pipelines.

9 It's time we started burying more
10 high-voltage transmission lines because overhead
11 lines and power are unsightly and have so many other
12 negative impacts.

13 And lastly, even tonight the ComEd
14 representative brought up these open houses. I've
15 heard that in direct testimony sessions at the ICC
16 about these open houses all the public input and all
17 the transparency.

18 Well, hundreds of us have attended two of
19 these open houses last summer and made our comments.
20 As we walked through these open houses, no one had a
21 big-picture approach on anything. You were passed
22 on help, you were passed to another person. If you
23 asked about environment, you were passed to another
24 person. If you asked about the property value, they

1 didn't know. They passed you to another person.

2 So, there is not an overall acknowledgment
3 of what the project was big picture at these open
4 houses, nor with all our comment cards, have myself
5 on the board, or any of my neighbors, have any had
6 any feedback from ComEd that we were heard, that
7 they evaluated or changed anything on their plan
8 from all this public comments. There is no evidence
9 that it made any difference.

10 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Next is Mr. Wery.

11 MR. WEERY: Right. Good evening. My name is
12 Bob, last name is Wery, W-e-r-y. My wife and I
13 purchased a new home in Bowes Creek 55 plus
14 community less than a month ago; and like other
15 members have spoken before me, we had no idea about
16 Gateway.

17 We were notified via E-mail thankfully by
18 John, who was kind enough to put us on the mailing
19 list, and that was the first time we heard about any
20 power lines being constructed or the possibility of
21 power lines in the Bowes Creek community.

22 My wife and I looked for a long time to
23 find the right residence and community for us. Like
24 the gentleman who spoke earlier, Bowes Creek has so

1 much to often, tranquil, it's peaceful, it's secure.
2 It has activities that we can participate in, in our
3 golden years.

4 I'm more fortunate than some of the
5 neighbors that had talked about having the power
6 lines in their backyard. My home is on the further
7 east side or south side. We're in the new community
8 for the 55 plus.

9 So, while I may see the power lines, I
10 don't have to look at them outside my window every
11 day. My appeal to ComEd representatives and to the
12 ICC is bury those lines, please. Thank you.

13 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Thank you. Next we
14 have Bavech Patel, and then M.K. Miceli.

15 Is Mr. Patel out there? M.K. Miceli? Jim
16 Milano or Milan. Okay.

17 And then Len Sjostedt. So, we'll hear
18 from Mr. Milano first.

19 MR. MILANO: Thank you for the opportunity to
20 speak tonight. My name is Jim Milano, M-i-l-a-n-o,
21 like the cookies.

22 I'm here for two reasons. One is I'm a
23 minority owner of a business in Elgin where we
24 employ 298 employees, and today was bring your child

1 to work day at our company; and we had dozens of
2 kids running around and found out through talking to
3 a lot of these children that were walking around,
4 that they attended the Otter Creek School.

5 And needless to say a lot of these smiling
6 faces, you know, in talking to the parents saying
7 about this situation with the power lines, it was a
8 tough situation to look at these smiling kids.

9 The other reason why I'm here, I'm
10 actually going to be moving into Bowes Creek in 30
11 days and just found out, right after we had signed
12 the agreement, that this situation was happening,
13 and Ms. Lange earlier spoke about the American dream
14 and building a home and raising your children.

15 Well, you know, I'm kind of heading to my
16 golden years as well. The American dream of
17 retiring and retiring in a situation, you know, like
18 we may be facing with these power lines, is not what
19 I had in mind, in terms of retirement.

20 In business, there's something called
21 negotiating, and you talked about this \$500 million
22 savings that you all would achieve here, and let's
23 negotiate and take some of that, like the many
24 people spoke earlier, spread that cost out and bury

1 those lines.

2 In conclusion, ComEd, please bury the
3 lines before you make us bury our children.

4 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Sir, what's the name
5 of the school that you mentioned?

6 THE WITNESS: Otter Creek.

7 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Thank you. I think
8 next is Mr. Sjostedt.

9 MR. SJOSTEDT: That's very good, by the way.
10 My name is Len Sjostedt. My name is
11 S-j-o-s-t-e-d-t, and I'm resident of Bowes Creek.

12 We hear ComEd come out and say they don't
13 think the electronic transmission lines affect
14 health. We heard this from the tobacco companies
15 forever. They were wrong.

16 We're hearing from ComEd, maybe they're
17 wrong, too. They just came out and asked for a
18 price increase, and they're going to make piles of
19 money from this new power line when it comes
20 through.

21 They've got the money to bury the lines.
22 Please bury the lines.

23 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Next we have Ben
24 Rodriquez.

1 MR. RODRIQUEZ: Yes, here.

2 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: And then Susan Davie.

3 MS. DAVIE: Pass.

4 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Judy Gorr.

5 MS. GORR: Here.

6 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Did you want to speak,
7 Ms. Gorr?

8 MS. GORR: Yes.

9 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: So, we'll hear from
10 Mr. Rodriguez and then Ms. Gorr.

11 MR. RODRIQUEZ: Hello. My name is Ben
12 Rodriguez, R-o-d-r-i-q-u-e-z.

13 When I was younger, I used to go to this
14 elementary school that many have mentioned earlier
15 Otter Creek. At some parts of that playground where
16 I once stood, the distance from me to the power
17 lines is less than me to that table right there.
18 That's just in perspective.

19 Now, I don't know how many of you might
20 have children or know people who do have children
21 who to go Otter Creek. That's not okay to have
22 high-power lines right there. It's just unethical.

23 These corporations, they don't see us, you
24 know, as individuals. All they see us is just these

1 big bags of money; and I just think that, you know,
2 maybe they should open whatever heart they have and
3 ask themselves would they send their children to a
4 school that close to a power line. Thank you.

5 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Thank you. Ms. Gorr.

6 MS. GORR: Yes, Judy Gorr, J-u-d-y G-o-r-r.
7 I'm a resident of Bowes Creek, and just been there
8 for five weeks. So, I found out about this about a
9 week after moved in, and I want to get some
10 information.

11 What I don't understand is where is the
12 Environmental Protection Agency. It was mentioned
13 at the beginning of the meeting that federal
14 agencies were brought in. If they were brought in,
15 where is the reports from the Environmental
16 Protection agency.

17 There are laws to protect the people here,
18 and there is laws to protect the flora, the fawn and
19 the wetlands. We have a lot of laws that can make
20 ComEd bring safety to all of the communities, and
21 they are the only ones that can enforce it.

22 As far as state agencies, yes, state
23 agencies like the Illinois Commerce Commission,
24 they're great, but the federal laws say certain

1 things have to be done in order to protect people
2 and in order to protect the wildlife.

3 We have wetlands in the Bowes Creek
4 community. I don't know how you are impacting the
5 wetlands, but I'll bet if we got some grass-root
6 agencies in here, they could probably tell us how
7 that's going to impact the wildlife and all of the
8 wetlands.

9 They are protected, federally protected.
10 And, so, these agencies, and the Army Corps of
11 Engineers, should be brought in to protect the land,
12 to protect the people, to protect the wildlife.

13 There is something called the Freedom of
14 Information Act that if there were reports, we
15 should all be entitled to see those reports. What
16 does the Environmental Protection Agency say about
17 this project?

18 I think that that's who we should be
19 calling. That's who we should be writing. We
20 should be telling them there is a project out here
21 that's impacting people, their health, their lives,
22 communities. Let's have them get involved.

23 Everyone start writing, start calling.
24 They are accessible. These federal agencies are

1 accessible. So, let's do that, and maybe that's
2 something that will make ComEd understand what they
3 need to do to protect the people.

4 We need someone with power. I know that
5 in ComEd, there are people that are working for
6 ComEd that probably hear these heart-wrenching
7 stories and want to make a change, because they are
8 people, and they are good people; but as a
9 corporation, let's face it, ComEd it's the bottom
10 line. We all know that.

11 And if it's going to take 33 years or 50
12 years for there to be any kind of a benefit, then
13 what about technology and improving all those lines?
14 It's not going to even matter by 50 years, and I
15 certainly will be dead.

16 So, at this point, I say you need to
17 either stop building this project or bury the lines.
18 That's the conclusion that I think everyone here has
19 come to, because it's hurting people, and it's
20 hurting the environment; and I, for one, will
21 contact the EPA. Thank you.

22 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Thank you. Next is
23 Charles Lasky. Mr. Lasky? Brad Cahow. Katie
24 Cahow. Sean Kearney. What's your name?

1 MR. CAHOW: My name is Brad Cahow.

2 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Oh, okay. So, we'll
3 hear from Mr. Cahow. Could you spell your name,
4 please, for the reporter?

5 MR. CAHOW: Yes, it's C-a-h-o-w, and I live in
6 the Oak Ridge Farm Subdivision as well, and I would
7 like to thank everybody for their comments tonight.
8 I really appreciate it.

9 Does it make sense to build a transmission
10 line to a nuclear generator that is failing to
11 compete because of lower power sources. Frazier
12 Farmer's Business Report in March 2014 that Exelon
13 executives and lobbyists and law makers and other
14 interested parties, that three of the six nucs
15 Exelon operates in Illinois are at risk of shutting
16 down.

17 In recent weeks, Exelon privately has said
18 its large Byron Nuclear Plant in northwest Illinois
19 is at risk, along with the Quad Cities and the
20 Clinton Plant, which have already been identified as
21 hardship cases.

22 Similarly, the Tribune reported in March,
23 the Tribune analysis has found that Exelon's six
24 nuclear power plants in Illinois have failed to turn

1 a profit during the last five years.

2 What ComEd is asking the ICC to connect a
3 grant for power to the Byron substation, it is
4 telling the state legislature that it unless it
5 receives help competing with wind power and natural
6 gas, electrical generators, it will have to close
7 nuclear power plants.

8 While ComEd is telling the ICC that it
9 will not raise rates to build these towers, it is
10 asking for a rate increase comparable to the cost of
11 these towers.

12 ComEd just received a \$340 million rate
13 hike in 2014 and now is seeking a new \$275 million
14 rate increase for 2015. While ComEd is asking for
15 rate increases in Illinois, in a filing on
16 March 21st, 2014, with the Federal Energy Regulatory
17 commission, ComEd has stated that the Grand Prairie
18 Project will reduce congestion and lower rates for
19 customers in the ComEd zone; but in the filing, they
20 are asking the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
21 for transmission rate incentives to recover
22 100 percent of the construction work in progress on
23 the Grand Prairie Project.

24 Authorization also to recover 100 percent

1 of development and construction costs if the Grand
2 Prairie Project is abandoned or canceled. The
3 filing says that the cost of the Grand Prairie
4 Project is from 277,000,000 for the proposed route
5 to 336,000,000 or more for alternative routes.

6 These Grand Prairie Project towers will be
7 165 feet high. To put the height of the towers into
8 perspective for me, I drove past the towers
9 currently along the Jane Adams Tollway, the Shales
10 Parkway and Stearns Road in South Elgin.

11 It is difficult to estimate the height of
12 these towers while driving past them, but I believe
13 they are not likely to be more than 75 feet high.

14 In downtown Elgin, the 15-story Elgin
15 tower building, which you can all see when you leave
16 here this evening, is 186 feet high, only 21 feet
17 higher than these Grand Prairie towers. Why do they
18 need such tall towers?

19 These towers will have a single circuit at
20 the top. They will be conducted at 165 feet, which
21 is much higher than the project they originally
22 proposed to PJM to allow ComEd to add two levels of
23 circuits below the top circuit at some later date.

24 Yet it is unknown whether that height will

1 be needed, or if those extra circuits will ever be
2 added. The towers will likely be visible for miles,
3 in addition to all the other criticisms that we've
4 heard about these towers tonight, they are unsightly
5 at best.

6 ComEd is not confirming which nuclear
7 power plants will close. If Byron closes, will
8 these towers be abandoned after they were built? If
9 they are abandoned, will the Federal Government pay
10 ComEd the cost to the abandonment towers?

11 Will ComEd remove the abandoned towers or
12 just leave them? Maybe ComEd can't afford to build
13 these towers. On the other hand, with all this
14 financial wealth, why can't ComEd just bury the
15 wires?

16 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: I'm sorry, your name,
17 please?

18 MR. KEARNEY: My name is San Kearney.

19 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: If you could spell
20 your name for the reporter.

21 MR. KEARNEY: K-e-a-r-n-e-y. My comments are I
22 felt it important to add another face, another
23 family, to this issue. I believe the man that
24 kicked off the evening here on the stage,

1 Mr. Marquez, on behalf of ComEd stated ComEd put
2 together a plan in which the benefits outweigh the
3 costs.

4 Mr. Marquez said ComEd put together a plan
5 in which the benefits outweigh the costs. Well,
6 what about our costs? Listening to the room, there
7 seems to be a lot of costs that are being ignored.

8 I've lived in Bowes Creek for six years,
9 my wife Jessica, seven-year-old son Aden, twins,
10 four-year-old twins Nathan and Adam. There are a
11 lots of young families like mine in Bowes Creek.

12 I'm concerned with the value of my
13 community, a community that hasn't yet recovered
14 from the real estate bubble years ago. I'm also
15 concerned with the health of my family and many
16 families in Bowes Creek and others in this room.

17 Childhood leukemia, cancer, miscarriages,
18 these are not acceptable costs. The double whammy
19 for me is that my children also go to Otter Creek
20 Elementary School, the school mentioned earlier
21 today by several others.

22 I, too, drove by the school today with my
23 kids to take a peek at the route. It's absolutely
24 absurd. There are areas where the lines will run

1 nearly on top of the school and a play area. I
2 estimate less than a 100 feet, maybe less.

3 My young kids and 450 other children will
4 spend seven hours a day, 5 days a week, 9 months a
5 year under these lines for 7 years. In what world
6 does that cost have a counter-benefit?

7 U46 superintendent, Dr. Jose Torez, where
8 Otter Creek is located, just sent out this tweet a
9 few moments ago, "I'm at the ComEd public hearing
10 attendance. I arrived too late to speak to oppose
11 the power lines running by Otter Creek Elementary
12 School."

13 I'm very good to hear that, Dr. Torez, and
14 I look forward to the school district's amplified
15 support in this matter.

16 ComEd, please bury these lines at Otter
17 Creek Elementary, Bowes Creek and the other
18 sensitive areas being represented here today. Thank
19 you.

20 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Thank you. Next name
21 on the list is Van Asunto, and then we've got Thomas
22 Rhoads, and then the last person actually on the
23 list is Debbie Miller or Miler. Sir, if you could.

24 MR. RHOADS: I'm Thomas Rhoads, R-h-o-a-d-s.

1 I'm one of the strangers in the room, because I live
2 about 25 miles west of here on a farm, and my wife
3 and I both filed the intervention back in February
4 on this project, because I have a lot of
5 disagreements about why they proceed with it.

6 But first of all, I heard about it in
7 probably August or July before the first meeting,
8 and they said, well, they are thinking about
9 building a route going from Byron to Wayne.

10 And what bothered me, it's going to be
11 real close to where I was at, because 45 years ago
12 when the gentleman from ComEd made a comment about
13 30 something years, it was 40 something years ago,
14 when all of this property was easements for purchase
15 when they were going to put a substation in just
16 east of me about three miles.

17 They bought easements from Byron, or tried
18 to get some of the easements, and bought a 320 acres
19 to put that substation in, which down the road it
20 never really happened, but they already purchased a
21 lot of those easements.

22 As a matter of fact, about 75 percent of
23 the land they were purchasing were going to be used
24 and had already been bought that have easement

1 rights on them.

2 That was when the ground was selling for
3 \$1,000 an acre compared to today when it's 10,
4 \$12,000 an acre. So, they made a good buy, even
5 though it didn't go through with their project at
6 that point in time; but when I heard about this
7 taking place, it was already in the books it was
8 going to be the primary route.

9 They were calling for legal authority.
10 They had already purchased the easements. Well,
11 with that, I operate and own -- I operate about
12 1275 acres. I own 124 acres, and that my 124 acres,
13 my wife and I have had and lived in the same spot
14 for 42 years, and it's going right through our farm.

15 It's going to be within about 400 feet of
16 our house. We had to rebuild our house 17 years
17 ago, because the one we had was a farmhouse, it
18 burned. I've got a house, over \$500,000 house.

19 The reason I'm concerned about this
20 project, and we all should be, you're going to lose
21 20 to 40 percent of the value the property has,
22 whether it's your house, real estate, a business.

23 Talk to any realtor, and that is one of
24 the main reasons why I filed an intervention and my

1 wife along with me. There's been several farmers
2 out our way that filed an intervention because
3 they've got livestock, and power lines going over
4 livestock can cause a lot of problems.

5 We have a health farm that I help manage
6 and operate that's 400 feet from these towers; and
7 transmission-wise, there are a lot different,
8 people, than just regular lines you see up and down
9 the road here. They are carrying 345,000 volts.

10 They are getting permission to get the
11 second proposal to put up for dual poles. Down the
12 road there's going to be 690,000 volts going across
13 your rooftops.

14 No, 440 feet, I feel good about that. I
15 don't feel bad. I don't feel real good about it,
16 but I feel really good compared to a lot of you
17 sitting here in Elgin and Bowes Creek, it's going
18 right in your backyards.

19 You are right, the only way for this thing
20 to go through, if it goes through, the Illinois
21 Commerce Commission is the only salvation you got.
22 That's the only one you got. It has to be willing
23 to say, "You're going to have to bury it, you're
24 going to take that route."

1 If they put it overhead, it's very
2 dangerous. When they approached us 40 years ago to
3 purchase this property, when we were buying all
4 this, at that point in time we had about 750
5 breeding cows, beef animals; and when they came to
6 us and said what they were going to do, we made
7 additional research and found out that it caused
8 sterility in beef cows.

9 It would cause sterility in dairy animals.
10 We don't know exactly, but any animals it could
11 affect, but we're talking about kids. Schools are
12 right close to them.

13 The reason they are so high is to get that
14 electromagnetic field away. It is not putting one
15 of them up there. It's to get it out of the reach
16 of where it is dangerous.

17 The reason I came here tonight is because
18 I have a strong feeling this thing should not go
19 through as planned. It's just a shame that they're
20 not going to take care of everybody in this room and
21 they won't.

22 I could be happy if they said, well, don't
23 put it on my property. You know what, I'm just
24 pushing it over to my neighbor.

1 So, what good am I doing? I'm going to
2 move that line 400 feet to my house to 600-foot from
3 my house. The damage is still there.

4 I got eight grandchildren that spend a lot
5 of time in my house, in my home, with my wife and I,
6 and I'm interested in their safety. They've waited
7 40 years to buy this easement.

8 So, they already went through one
9 generation that you've already fought with. Now
10 they're going go move it about seven miles or seven
11 acres of this property they're going put lines one.
12 The rest of it is already taken care of. West of
13 here is done.

14 Most of the primary routes are already on
15 the easement. They will probably go around Elgin.
16 Good luck to you. I'm going to be fighting it. I
17 know most of you are.

18 I just hope the Illinois Commerce
19 Commission stands with us and does the right thing.
20 Either bury it or forget it.

21 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Thank you. I just
22 wanted to make sure, Van Asunto. Debbie Miller.

23 Well, that is everyone that I have on my
24 list. Is there anyone who did not sign in who would

1 like to make comments? If you could go ahead and
2 approach the microphone; and the same as everybody
3 else, identify yourself and spell your name for the
4 stenographer.

5 MS. DINAPOLI: My name is Wendy Dinapoli,
6 D-i-n-a-p-o-l-i. I live in Elgin, and I'm here for
7 two reasons, cancer and children.

8 40 million Americans have cancer today
9 already diagnosed. The World Health Organization
10 says that number is going to double in the next six
11 years of 2020, and it's because of everyday
12 decisions like this, and we need to start making
13 changes.

14 Leukemia is directly impacted by power
15 lines, as other kinds of cancer and our children are
16 at risk. They have developing brains and thinner
17 skulls, and they are much more impacted by power
18 lines than adults are and we need to protect them.
19 We need to protect the future generations, your
20 grandchildren as well.

21 Two of the more well-known biological
22 impacts from electric smog are the interruption of
23 your brain wave patterns leading to behavior issues,
24 and the interference with your body's communication

1 system leading to abnormal neurologic functions,
2 such as dementia, chronic fatigue syndrome and
3 fibromyalgia, just to name a few.

4 We need to become more aware of these
5 issues, and we need to keep talking about this and
6 sharing this information, and ComEd is part of that
7 process. They need to look to the future and make
8 wise choices. Thank you.

9 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Thank you. Is there
10 anybody else? If you could identify yourself and
11 spell your name.

12 MS. BURCH: I'm Lyn Burch, B-u-r-c-h. L-y-n my
13 first name. I'll try to keep this short.

14 One thing I wanted to address about the
15 open houses that ComEd had was in our area anyway,
16 it wasn't a forum like this where we could come up
17 and talk and feel out how other people felt about
18 it. We were divided, I felt, so that we couldn't
19 comment like this, and that other people alluded to
20 that also.

21 We live way out in Ogle County. We live
22 in the eastern side of Ogle County, and we're
23 farmers, and there are several applications that
24 haven't been discussed here as far as farming.

1 The power lines are greatly going to
2 affect our farming operations; and even though it's
3 not a residential area, and I certainly understand
4 all of you that live in Elgin how upsetting that is,
5 and I sympathize with all that, we're more spread
6 out in the country, but we're still people.

7 And I would love to see the power lines
8 buried out there, too. We have kids and grandkids,
9 and we live near the power lines. They're going to
10 be along the edges of our fields, which is going to
11 affect any crop spraying.

12 We were told that near the power lines,
13 farmers sometimes have to drag a chain behind so
14 their electronics will work in the combine. This is
15 2014. Who has to drag a chain around behind your
16 combine? That is just ridiculous in this day and
17 age.

18 The way the comments were about the money,
19 how much money it would cost, just why can't they
20 bury it everywhere and not just in the residential
21 areas.

22 And there's one more thing, we've all
23 talked about health and safety and the obvious
24 discussions about how it's going to affect people's

1 property, which are valid reasons to reject ComEd's
2 proposal, but they are not as obvious as the reason
3 that ComEd has not proven the need for this project.

4 I don't claim to understand anything about
5 auction and revenue rights, and no one has brought
6 that up tonight, but I understand that ComEd intends
7 to use them to hedge their costs and to get credit
8 to compensate for congestion costs on the grid.

9 These facts come from the testimony of
10 Richard Zuraski, who is an economist focusing on
11 energy and regulatory issues in the policy division
12 of the Illinois Commerce Commission dated
13 February 146th, 2014.

14 He states, this is a man with the Commerce
15 Commission, "I see no evidence in this case to
16 suggest that the project will have a noticeable
17 impact on competition; and with respect to Mr. Now
18 Naumann's that is essential to relieve congestion,
19 it's simply not true.

20 "There always has been, and there always
21 will be, congestion in the grid. It's a natural and
22 expected condition of the grid." There is a little
23 bit more of that. It's getting late.

24 I don't want to keep everyone, but in his

1 final statement he concludes, "According to my
2 analysis, the project is not cost effective."

3 And there's one more by Hassir Rashid, the
4 Engineering Program Safety and Reliability Division
5 off the Illinois Commerce Commission also says that
6 he has reached the following conclusion: "While the
7 project may provide some operational benefits to the
8 transmission system, it is not needed to resolve
9 reliability violations on ComEd's transmission
10 system; and, therefore, is not necessary to provide
11 adequate, reliable and efficient service to ComEd's
12 customers.

13 "ComEd has provided no basis for a
14 determination of whether its projected -- proposed
15 project is the least cost means of providing
16 adequate, reliable and efficient service to ComEd's
17 customers," and those again were ICC staff members.

18 So, they could speak so much better than I
19 can. Thank you for listening.

20 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Anybody else who wants
21 to speak?

22 MR. DUFFY: Are you ready? My name is Bob
23 Duffy. D, as in David, u-f-f-y. I live out in
24 Creek Side Subdivision, which is right by Otter

1 Creek School. Can you hear me? All right, maybe we
2 should get a new stenographer. Right by Otter Creek
3 School.

4 Years ago, Kane County Forest Preserve
5 approached us as taxpayers and asked us to allow a
6 tax increase in order to purchase additional open
7 land in the County of Kane.

8 The county was probably lacking forest
9 preserve land. We okayed it. They started buying
10 land. Some of the land they bought was the Otter
11 Creek Forest Preserve. All right?

12 Otter Creek Forest Preserve runs directly
13 behind my house, where the subdivision is. So, now
14 we bought all this open land we're going to put high
15 poles in the middle of the forest preserve?

16 I understand it's on a railroad
17 right-of-way, but put high poles there? The truth
18 is business decisions are always made what's best
19 for the business, not what's best for you guys.
20 They don't really give a rep. You're going to pay.
21 All right?

22 Why don't we just, since we have the
23 technology, our natural gas isn't running over our
24 head, bury the stinking lines and be done with it.

1 If you need it, bury it. You have the technology,
2 bury it.

3 You're not running these high wires in
4 downtown Chicago, because of technology exists, and
5 you are burying them. You could easily run them
6 along the lakefront, a lot of open land there, but
7 you're not doing that.

8 You are burying them. Bury them out here,
9 because our vote counts as much as anything else.
10 Thank you.

11 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Could you identify
12 yourself and spell your name?

13 MS. RAFAEL: Hi. My name is Florence Rafael,
14 F-l-o-r-a-n-c-e R-a-f-a-e-l. I just wrote my speech
15 while I was sitting here listening to everybody
16 else.

17 I really hesitated to come here tonight.
18 Why? Because politics is really not my cup of tea.
19 Politics is all about money and power. Whoever has
20 more power and weight has a much greater advantage
21 than anybody else.

22 I was told the decision has already been
23 made, and this meeting is merely a formality. I am
24 hoping that, you know, is an incorrect statement.

1 I actually live two miles away from where
2 this is all going on, but the reason I'm here today
3 is because I have a third grader at Otter Creek, and
4 I thought that I should at least try to have my
5 voice be heard; and, by the way, there are 740
6 students at Otter Creek, which is increasing in the
7 2014-2015 school year.

8 When people talk about costs, what's
9 typically considered, it's the direct cost. What
10 about the indirect cost?

11 In the article from November, it states,
12 and this is from a quote, ComEd communication
13 spokesman David O'Dowd stated "ComEd is required to
14 by law to construct transmission lines at the least
15 cost to customers, and we would meet those
16 objectives with a primary and alternate routes that
17 we are submitting to ICC for the Grand Prairie
18 Gateway Project.

19 "According to the E-mail, underground
20 transmission lines have not been considered because
21 they would not qualify under least cost
22 requirements. The routes reflect the public input
23 from three rounds of open houses, along with data
24 and review of environmental issues, real state

1 records and overall constructability."

2 And again hearing everybody else's
3 speeches, it sounds like there are indirect costs
4 that have not been considered, and it says it is
5 feasible to bury these power lines.

6 How about the health and safety of our
7 children? How much does that cost to care for a
8 family that has cancer? ComEd, would you want your
9 child or grandchild playing outside under a
10 high-voltage power line?

11 One of those students who was previously
12 stated, "From where I stand from where that table
13 is." So, please, ComEd, please consider burying
14 these power lines for the sake of our children.

15 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Is there anybody else
16 who wanted to provide comment?

17 MR. NODURFT: Can I add something? Can I add
18 something?

19 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Sure. Come on down
20 and identify yourself and spell your name.

21 MR. NODURFT: This is Tom Nodurft again, from
22 the Oak Ridge Farm Subdivision, N-o-d-u-r-f-t. The
23 first thing I would like to make a comment to
24 Mr. Cahow, very good comment research.

1 I was doing some rough calculations on the
2 cost savings, and I took a look. We were told
3 earlier, I heard a lot of difference costs on this
4 project ranging between \$250,000,000 and
5 325 million. So, we will just make it at 250.

6 I figure five years to complete the
7 project is \$50 million bucks a year. I figure three
8 percent cost of money.

9 When it's all said and done, the time
10 factor for that is 30 years, not 33. So, 25 years
11 after the work is completed will be a period of
12 where we're paying less at three-percent cost of
13 money.

14 I calculated the actual cost about
15 364,000,000. Now, admittedly, I'm not using my
16 financial calculator, so it's very rough; but if you
17 divide that, then, if you take that 364 from the 500
18 million dollars savings, leaves us with a buck 36.
19 \$136 million divided d by 30 years divided by
20 4,000,000 customers, it cost a buck 13 a year per
21 customer.

22 So, I am not sure what kind of savings
23 we're talking about. My wife wanted me to bring
24 something up. Kane County spoke earlier. Kane

1 County -- backing up to the forest preserves, Kane
2 County was very quick to make an offer to ComEd, and
3 I think through the ICC, they'll be more than
4 willing to sell the rights in land for \$1.7 million
5 so that they can take the money they made from this
6 area here and build something down in St. Charles,
7 which I thought was kind of interesting on how the
8 Forest Preserve District works for Kane County.

9 That's not commentary for ICC or for
10 ComEd, but that is certainly Kane County and ComEd
11 commiserate together, which is kind of I think very
12 interesting, very telling thing on political
13 climates and how they work.

14 But the savings we're taking about just
15 don't necessarily mesh with what we're being told.
16 So, again, we get back to the point of what's the
17 most equitable cost structure, because I believe
18 this is going through whether we want it to or not.

19 So, the only equitable thing for everyone,
20 again, is to bury the lines and spread that cost
21 over all of the users, end users, whether it's
22 northern Illinois customers or people in
23 Pennsylvania.

24 Because this grid system, from what I

1 gather, runs from Iowa to Pennsylvania down to
2 Georgia and up into Canada. I can't believe that
3 it's only going to being utilized for northern
4 Illinois customer. Thank you.

5 HEARING OFFICER SAGONE: Thank you. Is there
6 anyone else? All right, there being no further
7 comments, I'm going to go ahead and now dismiss the
8 court reporter.

9 I had originally planned on taking a
10 five-minute break, but given the lateness of the
11 hour, in the interest of maximizing the Q and A
12 portion, I would suggest we just go straight into
13 the question and answer.

14 (WHICH WERE ALL THE PROCEEDINGS HAD.)
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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS:
2 COUNTY OF C O O K)

3

4 PAMELA A. MARZULLO, C.S.R., being first duly sworn,
5 says that she is a court reporter doing business in the city
6 of Chicago; that she reported in shorthand the proceedings
7 had at the Proceedings of said cause; that the foregoing is
8 a true and correct transcript of her shorthand notes, so
9 taken as aforesaid, and contains all the proceedings of said
10 hearing.

11

PAMELA A. MARZULLO
License No. 084-001624

12

13

14 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO
before me this ____ day
15 of _____ 2014.

16

Notary Public

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