

MEMORIALIZATION OF EX PARTE
COMMUNICATION FROM INTERESTED PARTY

ICC Docket Number, or Docket Number or Case Number from Other Jurisdiction

(Please be specific): 13-0657

Subject of the Communication (Note - This field is limited to 8 lines of text):

ComEd Grand Prairie Gateway Project transmission line.

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ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION
CHIEF CLERK'S OFFICE

Name of the Commission Officer or Employee Making Report (first, then last name):

Heather

Jorgenson

Job Title:

Administrative Law Judge

Names and Job Titles of Other Commission Employees Present:

Terrance Hilliard, Administrative Law Judge
Elizabeth Rolando, Chief Clerk

Date of Communication: Feb 17, 2015

Location of Parties to Communication:

Mode of Communication (Please Check All That Apply):

e-Mail FAX In Person Mail Telephone

Nature and Substance of All Oral Communications (Note - This field is limited to 15 lines of text):

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Responses Made to Written or Oral Communications (Note - This field is limited to 8 lines of text):

Please Check One:

- Submitted are copies of all written items received (optional).
- No written communications were received.
- Written communications were received but are not being submitted.

Please Check One:

- Submitted are copies of written responses (optional).
- No written responses were made.
- Written responses were made but are not being submitted.

Name of, Title of, and Entity Represented by Person Communicating to You:

Janet Halstead, Executive Director, Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy

State What Action, if Any, the Person Requested or Recommended (Note - 11 lines of text):

Correspondence against Commission approval of any revised route of the transmission line near the Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve.

Include Any Other Information You Deem Pertinent (Note - Limited to 8 lines of text):

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Instructions for Locking the Form and Submitting It to e-Docket:

Once you've completed this form and any other necessary documentation, please lock the form and submit it, together with any accompanying documents, to e-Docket. If you are submitting additional documents with the form, please convert those documents first to PDF files by following the instructions below. Using this method will ensure that the contents of the accompanying documents cannot later be changed.

Converting other documents to PDF files:

To save a Word or Excel document as a PDF, click on the Office button in the upper left-hand corner of the screen, move the cursor to "Save As," and select the "PDF or XPS" option. "Pdf" will appear as the default choice in the "save as type" pull down menu. Once you've converted the necessary documents and named them, please identify those additional documents in the "Other Pertinent Information" field above.

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Select this button to change all fields, including the docket number or case number field, to "read only." Once locked, no field in the document can be changed. 

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Under Section 5-50(b-5) of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, the information required by this form shall promptly be memorialized and made a part of the record.



Jorgenson, Heather

From: Rolando, Elizabeth
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 8:48 AM
To: Hilliard, Terrence; Jorgenson, Heather
Subject: FW: ICC Docket # 13-0657 ComEd Grand Prairie Gateway/Muirhead Springs proposed revised route
Attachments: 2015.2.13 FLWBC to ICC re Muirhead.pdf

From: Janet Halstead [mailto:JHalstead@savewright.org]
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2015 4:25 PM
To: Rolando, Elizabeth
Cc: Weller, Carol
Subject: ICC Docket # 13-0657 ComEd Grand Prairie Gateway/Muirhead Springs proposed revised route

Please see the attached letter to the Commissioners re ICC Docket # 13-0657 ComEd Grand Prairie Gateway/Muirhead Springs proposed revised route.

I understand that this item will be considered at the meeting that will take place Feb 19 at 10 am at 160 North LaSalle Street, #C800.

Can you please point me to information about public comment opportunities related to the ICC agenda items ?

Thank you.

Janet Halstead Executive Director Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy
53 W Jackson Blvd Suite 1120 Chicago IL 60604
Tel 312.663.5500 fax 312.663.5505 www.savewright.org

FLWBC Annual Conference Wisconsin: Frank Lloyd Wright's Laboratory Sept 30 – Oct 4, 2015 Milwaukee



FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT BUILDING CONSERVANCY

February 13, 2015

Illinois Commerce Commission
c/o Elizabeth Rolando, Chief Clerk
Illinois Commerce Commission
527 East Capitol Avenue,
Springfield, IL 62701

erolando@icc.illinois.gov

Re: ICC Docket # 13-0657 ComEd Grand Prairie Gateway/Muirhead Springs proposed revised route

Dear Commissioners,

This letter addresses the proposed placement of new power lines in the vicinity of Frank Lloyd Wright's Muirhead Farmhouse. The Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy is an international education, preservation and advocacy organization which works to safeguard all of Wright's remaining built work. Wright is widely considered to be America's greatest architect. His work is now under consideration to be entered on UNESCO's World Heritage List, as announced last week by the Secretary of the Interior, an indication of the global respect and importance of his work.

The Muirhead Farmhouse is a wonderful example of Wright's approach to meld simple beautiful design with a special relationship to the natural world to produce architecture that was affordable for middle-class families. Site selection, building orientation, relationship to the landscape and viewsheds were all extremely important in Wright's designs and play a key role at the Muirhead Farmhouse and its site.

The original proposed location of the towers, proposed by ComEd and previously approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission, was sensitive to the site of this building. The new proposed alternate route would have a very negative impact: 160 foot towers looming in close proximity to the house would be a prominent and devastating first visual when entering the site. The towers would be seen from virtually every room of the home that faces south, including the bedrooms, living room and breezeway. This is totally in opposition to one of Wright's cardinal principles -- providing a strong bond with nature and bringing the outside in. The imposition of these towers basically guts Wright's design vision for this house. It would not demolish the house but would demolish the site, which is an integral part of the design.

Muirhead Farmhouse with its setting is an important cultural and historical asset for Kane County, for the Chicagoland area and is a part of an extraordinary American architectural legacy. Allowing the direct intrusion of these electric power towers would indicate a general disregard for this architectural legacy and should warrant review by state and federal agencies. We urge you to approve a plan that avoids the direct negative visual and viewshed impacts on the

immediate environment of Muirhead Farmhouse that would be caused by the alternative proposal.

We urge the ICC to re-affirm its decision to route the GrandPrairie Gateway line around the Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve (the ICC approved route) and to deny new requests by ComEd and the Forest Preserve to route the lines through the preserve (the ComEd proposed revised route).

Sincerely,



Janet Halstead
Executive Director

cc: Richard Bernet, Exelon Business Services, 10 S. Dearborn St., 49th Fl.
Chicago, IL 60603 richard.bernet@exeloncorp.com

Lisa DiChiera, Director of Advocacy, Landmarks Illinois
David J. Halpin, Cultural Resources Manager, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Rachel Leibowitz, Division Manager, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Elizabeth Safanda, Executive Director, Preservation Partners of the Fox Valley
Mary Lu Seidel, Chicago Field Director, National Trust for Historic Preservation
Shauna Wiet, Chairperson, Kane County Preservation Commission
Mike and Sarah Petersdorf, Muirhead Farmhouse