

REVISED DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

GREG ROCKROHR

SAFETY AND RELIABILITY DIVISION
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

MidAmerican Energy Company
d/b/a MidAmerican

DOCKET NO. 14-0494

Application of MidAmerican Energy Company for (i) a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, pursuant to Section 8-406 of the Public Utilities Act, to construct, operate and maintain a 345,000 volt electric transmission line in Rock Island, Mercer, Henry and Knox Counties, Illinois; (ii) an order pursuant to Section 8-503 of the Public Utilities Act approving construction of the 345,000 volt electric transmission line; (iii) an order pursuant to Section 8-509 of the Public Utilities Act authorizing use of eminent domain; and (iv) such other relief as may be necessary.

December 11, 2014

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Attachments:

- A: MEC's Response to Staff DR ENG 1.6.
- B: MEC's Response to Staff DR ENG 3.10.
- C: MEC's Response to Staff DR ENG 1.11.
- D: MEC's Response to Staff DR ENG 3.15.
- E: Docket 14-0572, Appendix A, page 34.
- F: Docket 14-0572, Appendix D.

1 **Introduction**

2 Q. **What is your name and business address?**

3 A. My name is Greg Rockrohr. My business address is 527 East Capitol Avenue,
4 Springfield, Illinois 62701.

5 Q. **By whom are you employed and in what capacity?**

6 A. I am employed by the Illinois Commerce Commission (“Commission”) as a Senior
7 Electrical Engineer in the Safety and Reliability Division. I review various planning
8 and operating practices of electric utilities that operate in Illinois and provide
9 opinions or guidance to the Commission through staff reports and testimony.

10 Q. **What is your previous work experience?**

11 A. Prior to joining the Commission Staff (“Staff”) in 2001, I was an electrical engineer
12 at Pacific Gas and Electric Company in California for approximately 18 years. Prior
13 to that, I was an electrical engineer at Northern Indiana Public Service Company
14 for approximately 3 years. I am a registered professional engineer in the state of
15 California.

16 Q. **What is your educational background?**

17 A. I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Valparaiso
18 University. While employed in the utility industry and at the Commission, I have
19 attended numerous classes and conferences relevant to electric utility operations.

20 Q. **What is the purpose of your testimony?**

21 A. On August 4, 2014, MidAmerican Energy Company, d/b/a MidAmerican (“MEC”)
22 filed a petition requesting that the Commission: (i) grant it a Certificate of Public
23 Convenience and Necessity (“CPCN”) pursuant to Section 8-406 of the Illinois
24 Public Utilities Act (“Act”) (220 ILCS 5/8-406) to construct, operate, and maintain a

25 new 345 kilo-volt (“kV”) electric transmission line in Rock Island, Mercer, Henry
26 and Knox Counties, Illinois; (ii) issue an order pursuant to Section 8-503 of the Act
27 (220 ILCS 5/8-503) approving construction of the transmission line; and (iii) issue
28 an order pursuant to Section 8-509 of the Act (220 ILCS 5/8-509) authorizing its
29 use of eminent domain. My testimony provides and explains my recommendations
30 regarding MEC’s requests.

31 As the Second Revised Case Management Plan requires¹, my direct testimony is
32 segregated into two documents: the first, Staff Exhibit 1.0N, discusses the need
33 for MEC’s proposed 345 kV transmission line, and the second, Staff Exhibit 1.0,
34 discusses issues other than need.

35 **Q. What have you concluded regarding MEC’s requests?**

36 **A.** As I discuss in Staff Exhibit 1.0N, MEC needs to provide additional information in
37 order to adequately demonstrate that its proposed 345 kV transmission line is
38 necessary and should be constructed. In its recent decision in Docket 12-0560,
39 the Commission approved a different transmission line proposed by Rock Island
40 Clean Line LLC, which, after it is constructed, will likely affect power flows on
41 MEC’s transmission system. I recommend that MEC provide and explain power
42 flow analyses that include Rock Island Clean Line LLC’s approved project.²

43 If the Commission concludes that MEC’s proposed 345 kV transmission line is
44 needed, my position is that MEC’s proposed route is the least-cost available route.

45 I also conclude that MEC made reasonable attempts to acquire the easements it
46 needs to construct its proposed project by negotiating with landowners. Since

¹ Second Revised Case Management Plan, October 20, 2014, 3.

² Staff Ex. 1.0N, 15.

47 MEC's proposed 345 kV transmission line is only one component of a larger
48 transmission project identified as MISO's MVP-16, however, the Commission
49 should grant the relief MEC seeks only with the condition that certain other related
50 components of MISO's MVP-16 also receive Commission approval: in particular
51 ATXI's request for a CPCN in Docket No. 14-0514. The Commission would then
52 ensure that MEC only constructs its \$69 million project if the remaining segment of
53 the 345 kV line that is part of MVP-16 is also constructed.

54 **Overview of MEC's Request**

55 Q. **What does MEC's petition request?**

56 A. MEC seeks the Commission's approval to construct a new 345 kV transmission
57 line between Oak Grove³ and East Galesburg, and to use eminent domain
58 authority with respect to specific properties along its proposed transmission line
59 route. MEC anticipates completion of line construction by December 1, 2016.⁴
60 MEC explains that its proposed 345 kV transmission line between Oak Grove and
61 East Galesburg is just one component of a larger project identified by Midcontinent
62 Independent System Operator, Inc. ("MISO") as Multi-Value Project Number 16
63 ("MVP-16").⁵ MVP-16 is a project within both MEC's and Ameren's service areas,
64 and both companies plan to construct specific components of MVP-16. The
65 components of MVP-16 for which MEC and Ameren individually or jointly have
66 responsibility include:

³ Oak Grove is the location of MEC's substation south of the Quad Cities. The Quad Cities include Davenport and Bettendorf in Iowa, and Rock Island and Moline in Illinois.

⁴ MidAmerican Ex. 2.0, 11.

⁵ MISO Multi-Value Project Number 16; MidAmerican Ex. 3.0N, 4-6.

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- Construction of a new +/-72-mile 345 kV transmission line that connects the Quad Cities area to the Peoria area via a new substation in Galesburg. MEC is responsible for and plans to construct the northern segment, about 32 miles (this docket), and Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois (“ATXI”) plans to construct the southern segment, about 40 miles (Docket No. 14-0514).
 - Construction of a new 161 kV line that connects the Quad Cities area to the Galesburg area. MEC is responsible for constructing the new 161 kV line to wholly replace its existing 161 kV line between the Quad Cities area and the Galesburg area. MEC plans for the new higher-capacity 161 kV line to be supported by the same steel poles that support the 345 kV line that is the subject of this docket, so that the new transmission line between the Quad Cities area and the Galesburg area would be a double-circuit 345/161 kV transmission line. MEC plans to completely remove the existing 161 kV conductor, crossarms, insulators, and wooden poles when it constructs the new 345/161 kV double-circuit line on single-shaft steel poles generally along the same route as its existing 161 kV line.
 - Construction of new 345 kV substation facilities by MEC at Oak Grove Substation, in the Quad Cities area.
 - Replacement of existing conductor by MEC with higher capacity conductor on an existing 161 kV line connecting its Substation 56 to its Substation 85, in Iowa.
 - Construction of a new transmission substation in East Galesburg, identified as “Sandburg Substation”, by ATXI. This proposed substation includes

91 installation of a new 560 MVA 345/138 kV transformer. MEC's proposed
92 double-circuit 345/161 kV transmission line is to terminate at ATXI's
93 proposed Sandburg Substation.

94 • Expansion by ATXI and/or Ameren Illinois Company ("AIC") of AIC's
95 existing Fargo Substation, near Peoria, where ATXI's proposed 345 kV
96 transmission line would terminate.

97 • Upgrade, relocation, and reconfiguration by ATXI and/or AIC of existing
98 138kV facilities in the Galesburg area to integrate MEC's proposed double-
99 circuit 345/161 kV transmission line, ATXI's proposed 345 kV transmission
100 line, and ATXI's proposed Sandburg Substation into the existing
101 transmission system.

102 As the above list of separate components illustrate, MEC's request in this docket
103 does not include all of the work necessary to complete MVP-16. MEC's petition
104 covers only the northern 32 miles of one component: the new 72-mile long 345 kV
105 transmission line between the Quad Cities area and the Peoria area. Specifically,
106 MEC's proposed 345 kV transmission line that is the subject of this docket would
107 be routed between MEC's Oak Grove Substation and ATXI's proposed Sandburg
108 Substation, in East Galesburg.⁶

109 **Criteria for a CPCN**

110 Q. **What must MEC demonstrate to the Commission prior to receiving a**
111 **CPCN?**

112 A. Section 8-406(b) of the Act, in relevant part, states:

113 The Commission shall determine that proposed construction will
114 promote the public convenience and necessity only if the utility

⁶ Petition, 1, 7-8.

115 demonstrates: (1) that the proposed construction is necessary to
116 provide adequate, reliable, and efficient service to its customers
117 and is the least-cost means of satisfying the service needs of its
118 customers or that the proposed construction will promote the
119 development of an effectively competitive electricity market that
120 operates efficiently, is equitable to all customers, and is the least
121 cost means of satisfying those objectives; (2) that the utility is
122 capable of efficiently managing and supervising the construction
123 process and has taken sufficient action to ensure adequate and
124 efficient construction and supervision thereof; and (3) that the utility
125 is capable of financing the proposed construction without significant
126 adverse financial consequences for the utility or its customers.

127 Though I am not an attorney, I generally understand the above citation from the
128 Act to require MEC to demonstrate to the Commission that: (i) MEC's proposed
129 345 kV line is "needed", i.e., necessary to provide reliable service to customers
130 or will promote the development of an effectively competitive electricity market
131 and is the least cost means of achieving either of those objectives, (ii) MEC is
132 capable of efficiently managing and supervising construction and has taken steps
133 to ensure adequate and efficient supervision and construction, and (iii) MEC can
134 fund the proposed construction without adverse financial consequences.

135 Q. **Did MEC make all of the required demonstrations in its petition and direct**
136 **testimony?**

137 A. No. With respect to requirement (i) above, it is my opinion that MEC's
138 demonstration of need should include consideration of the Commission's
139 November 25, 2014 order that grants Rock Island Clean Line LLC a CPCN for a
140 high-voltage DC line connecting Iowa to northeastern Illinois.⁷ My discussion
141 about project need is contained in ICC Staff Ex. 1.0N.

⁷ Rock Island Clean Line LLC, ICC Order Docket No. 12-0560 (Nov. 25, 2014).

142 With respect to requirement (ii), MEC witness Mr. Steve J. Ambrose asserts that
143 MEC is capable of efficiently managing and supervising the construction process.
144 MEC currently owns and operates over 4,300 miles of transmission lines in
145 Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and South Dakota, approximately 1000 miles of which are
146 345 kV lines, and is seeking approval in Iowa to construct two separate double-
147 circuit 345/161 kV transmission lines totaling 192 miles in length.⁸ Given MEC's
148 experience with similar transmission lines and projects, I have no reason to doubt
149 that MEC is capable of constructing the 345 kV transmission line that is the
150 subject of this docket.

151 With respect to requirement (iii), Staff witness Michael McNally discusses MEC's
152 financing capabilities in ICC Staff Ex. 2.0.

153 **Route**

154 Q. **Why does MEC propose to use the route of its existing 161 kV transmission**
155 **line for its proposed 345 kV transmission line?**

156 A. MEC states that using the existing line's corridor would reduce impacts because
157 the new double-circuit 345/161 kV line would not cross new properties.⁹ As Exhibit
158 A to its petition illustrates, the existing 161 kV line connecting Oak Grove to
159 Galesburg follows a straight route, which results in a shorter and less costly line.

160 Q. **If the Commission approves MEC's proposed route, can MEC install its**
161 **proposed 345 kV line using only existing easements?**

162 A. No. MEC's existing 161 kV transmission line occupies 100-foot wide easements,
163 and MEC requires 150-foot wide easements for the double-circuit 345/161 kV

⁸ MidAmerican Ex. 1.0, 6-7.

⁹ MidAmerican Ex. 2.0, 4.

164 transmission line that it plans to install. The easement width is generally
165 determined by the distance the transmission conductors could be blown during
166 storms or heavy winds. In other words, the width of the easement is based on the
167 calculation that regardless of weather conditions, the conductors will not be blown
168 outside the easement. Since the height and spacing of the transmission line
169 structures determine how much allowable sag can occur in the conductor between
170 the structures, the structures also determine the horizontal distance the
171 transmission conductors could theoretically be blown during heavy winds. This
172 means that MEC must acquire additional/expanded easements from landowners
173 if it is to use the same route as its existing 161 kV line for its proposed double-
174 circuit 345/161 kV line. MEC indicates that, in addition to requiring a wider
175 easement, there are six locations where the route for the proposed 345/161 kV
176 double-circuit line would deviate from the existing 161 kV line's route to avoid
177 outbuildings or due to a landowner's request. For each of these six deviations,
178 MEC worked with the affected landowner(s) to successfully identify a route
179 modification that was mutually acceptable.¹⁰

180 **Q. Is MEC's proposed route for its double circuit 345/161 kV line the least cost**
181 **route available?**

182 **A.** Yes. I am unaware of another route that is more direct and that would utilize more
183 of MEC's existing easements. I fully support MEC's proposal to use the corridor
184 that its existing 161 kV line occupies for its proposed double-circuit 345/161 kV
185 transmission line. Since MEC will remove its existing 161 kV transmission line,
186 including the existing multi-pole wooden structures, landowners along the route

¹⁰ MidAmerican Ex. 2.0, 5.

187 will generally benefit. This is because MEC plans to replace its existing multi-pole
188 wooden structures with single-shaft steel poles, which have a smaller footprint and
189 would be less of an obstacle for farmers.¹¹ In addition, MEC will require fewer
190 poles because greater span lengths are possible with the steel poles. I find MEC's
191 proposed route to be logical, and the best available.

192 **Q. Are you aware of any specific environmental issues associated with this**
193 **route that MEC has considered, or still must consider?**

194 **A.** Yes. The existing 161 kV transmission line spans the site of a cemetery that the
195 Illinois Historic Preservation Agency identified as a site that might require special
196 consideration during construction. MEC plans no excavation at the site of this
197 cemetery, but the presence of this cemetery might mean that MEC must modify its
198 construction practices when removing the existing 161 kV line and installing its
199 new double-circuit 345/161 kV conductors.¹² MEC also contacted the Illinois
200 Department of Natural Resources, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency,
201 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and United States Corps of Engineers
202 about the proposed transmission line. I am aware of no issues identified by these
203 agencies that would preclude MEC from constructing its project on the route that
204 it proposes. Furthermore, MEC states it will obtain all necessary permits/approvals
205 prior to beginning construction.¹³ MEC also agrees that it will enter into an
206 Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement that is consistent with the State of Illinois
207 Farmland Preservation Act [505 ILCS 75] to minimize negative impacts to
208 agricultural land. It is my understanding that, at the time of this writing, MEC has

¹¹ MidAmerican Ex. 2.0, 6-9.

¹² MidAmerican Ex. 6.0, 3-4.

¹³ MidAmerican Ex. 6.0, 4-6.

209 not yet entered into this agreement. Finally, MEC notified the Federal Aviation
210 Administration about its planned project, and the FAA determined the project would
211 cause no hazard to air navigation.¹⁴

212 **Eminent Domain**

213 **Q. Why does MEC's petition include a request for eminent domain authority**
214 **pursuant to Section 8-509 of the Act?**

215 A. MEC requests eminent domain authority because, to date, MEC has been unable
216 to acquire all of the easements it requires for its proposed double-circuit 345/161
217 kV line by negotiating with landowners. MEC indicates that it began contacting
218 landowners in October of 2013.¹⁵ At the time MEC filed its petition on August 4,
219 2014, MEC had obtained options for easements across 111 of the 128 tracts for
220 which it determined easements would be necessary.¹⁶ In its transmittal letter filed
221 on e-Docket on October 30, 2014, MEC states it obtained several additional
222 easements so that it presently seeks eminent domain authority with respect to 12
223 tracts.

224 **Q. Do you have any general concerns regarding MEC's request for eminent**
225 **domain authority within its petition?**

226 A. No. Though I am not an attorney, it is my understanding that, prior to initiating
227 construction, MEC will need to possess property rights for the entire route of its
228 planned 345/161 kV double-circuit transmission line. MEC has, in most cases,
229 been successful in reaching voluntary agreements with landowners for new and/or
230 expanded easements. MEC seeks eminent domain authority to obtain only 12

¹⁴ MidAmerican Ex. 2.0, 10-11.

¹⁵ MidAmerican Ex. 5.0, 4.

¹⁶ Petition, 7.

231 easements out of 128 easements needed for its proposed 345/161 kV double-
232 circuit transmission line. Further, MEC provides information in its direct testimony
233 about its attempts to negotiate with the landowners to obtain voluntary easements
234 for each of these parcels.

235 **Q. What information has the Commission considered in prior Section 8-509**
236 **proceedings when making its decision regarding eminent domain?**

237 A. The Commission has previously identified and relied upon five criteria to evaluate
238 whether the granting of eminent domain is appropriate: (1) the number and extent
239 of contacts with the landowners; (2) whether the utility has explained its offers of
240 compensation; (3) whether the offers of compensation are comparable to offers
241 made to similarly situated landowners; (4) whether the utility has made an effort to
242 address landowner concerns; and (5) whether further negotiations will likely prove
243 fruitful.¹⁷ I will discuss each of these criteria separately:

244 (1) Contacts with Landowners

245 **Q. Do you have any concerns regarding the number and extent of MEC's**
246 **landowner contacts?**

247 A. No. In MidAmerican Ex. 5.0, MEC's witness Mr. David Lane summarizes MEC's
248 communications with the landowners. Mr. Lane does not, to my knowledge,
249 specifically provide the number of times MEC contacted each landowner, but it is
250 clear from Mr. Lane's testimony that MEC has made reasonable attempts to
251 contact each landowner in an effort to acquire easements.¹⁸ In my opinion, Mr.
252 Lane's testimony illustrates that the number and extent of MEC's landowner

¹⁷ Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois, ICC Order Docket No. 14-0291, 4 (May 20, 2004).

¹⁸ MidAmerican Ex. 5.0, 7-33.

253 contacts is adequate. However, within its rebuttal testimony, I suggest that MEC
254 provide a table or worksheet that summarizes the number of times it has contacted
255 each landowner (or his/her representative). This information may be useful to the
256 Commission when considering MEC's request.

257 (2) Explanation of Compensation Offers

258 Q. **Did MEC adequately explain the basis for its offers of compensation to**
259 **landowners?**

260 A. Yes. MEC's response to Staff DR ENG 1.6, included with this testimony as
261 Attachment A, provides a copy of the calculation sheet that MEC gave to
262 landowners along with MEC's explanation of its offer calculations. It is my
263 understanding that MEC explained its compensation offers in the same manner to
264 all landowners. Mr. Lane's direct testimony, along with MEC's response to Staff
265 DR ENG 1.6, convinces me that MEC adequately explained its offers of
266 compensation to affected landowners.

267 (3) Compensation Offers Comparable to Offers for Similar Properties

268 Q. **Did MEC use a consistent methodology when determining its offers of**
269 **compensation to landowners?**

270 A. Yes. The methodology that MEC used to determine its offers of compensation
271 was the same for all parcels along its proposed route. Referring again to
272 Attachment A, MEC used the same "Methods and Factors Easement Payment
273 Calculation Sheet" for all parcels. The methodology MEC used appears to me to
274 be reasonable. Since I have no expertise or experience with regard to property
275 appraisals, I offer no opinion regarding MEC's actual property valuations and
276 monetary offers.

277 (4) Responsiveness to Landowner Concerns

278 Q **Did MEC demonstrate that it attempted to address landowner concerns?**

279 A. Yes. MEC witness Lane's direct testimony provides examples of landowner-
280 requested changes that MEC agreed with as part of its negotiations with property
281 owners. For example, MEC explains that it is working with a landowner to alleviate
282 drainage concerns.¹⁹ As a second example, MEC agreed to amend easement
283 language at the landowner's request.²⁰ As a third example, a landowner wanted
284 one of AIC's distribution poles moved as a condition of granting the easement, so
285 MEC worked with AIC to relocate the distribution pole per the landowner's
286 request.²¹

287 Q. **Are you aware of any unresolved landowner concerns, other than financial**
288 **compensation, that may have prevented MEC and landowners from agreeing**
289 **on terms for an easement?**

290 A. Yes. Two adjacent landowners requested that MEC provide them with the wooden
291 poles from the existing 161 kV line when those poles are removed. MEC has
292 refused to do so because MEC's written environmental policy regarding treated
293 wood poles prohibits it from granting the landowners' requests.²² As a second
294 example, a landowner who presently has two wooden H-frame structures on his
295 property is dissatisfied with the proposed placement of two single-shaft steel poles
296 on his property, requesting that one of the new poles instead be moved to an
297 adjacent parcel that he does not own. Though MEC plans to place the new pole

¹⁹ MidAmerican Ex. 5.0, 7-8; MEC response to Staff DR 3.10, included as Attachment B.

²⁰ MidAmerican Ex. 5.0, 9-10.

²¹ MidAmerican Ex. 5.0, 20; MEC response to Staff DR 1.11, included as Attachment C.

²² MidAmerican Ex. 5.0, 14-17.

298 very near the property line, it remains on the same parcel because the affected
299 owner of the adjacent parcel would not agree to the first landowner's request.²³

300 (5) Usefulness of Further Negotiations

301 Q. **Would further negotiations be fruitful with respect to the easements that**
302 **MEC has been unable to acquire?**

303 A. I do not know whether further negotiations might be fruitful. More than a year has
304 passed since MEC began its negotiations with landowners, and MEC still does not
305 know why at least one of the landowners has not granted the easement sought.²⁴
306 Negotiations require participation by both parties, so even for parcels where the
307 landowner has not provided MEC reasons for refusing to grant an easement,
308 MEC's request for eminent domain authority within its petition appears to me to be
309 reasonable.

310 **Additional Consideration**

311 Q. **Are you aware of any additional issues that the Commission might wish to**
312 **consider when evaluating and responding to MEC's petition?**

313 A. Yes. As previously mentioned, MVP-16 includes several projects not covered in
314 MEC's petition. One such project is the replacement of MEC's existing 161 kV line
315 between Oak Grove and Galesburg with a new higher-capacity 161 kV
316 transmission line. MEC's petition seeks a CPCN for a new 345 kV transmission
317 line, and as part of MVP-16, MEC intends to completely replace its existing 161 kV
318 line with a new 161 kV line installed on the same single-shaft steel poles that
319 support its proposed 345 kV line. As previously explained, MEC plans to entirely

²³ MidAmerican Ex. 5.0, 26-27.

²⁴ MidAmerican response to Staff DR ENG 3.15, included as Attachment D.

320 remove its existing 161 kV line, including the multi-pole wooden structures.²⁵
321 Though I am not an attorney, I presume MEC excluded its planned new 161 kV
322 line from its request for a CPCN in this docket because MEC already has a CPCN
323 for its existing 161 kV line: the 161 kV line that it plans to entirely remove. Even
324 though MEC may not require a new CPCN from the Commission to upgrade its
325 existing 161 kV line, the Commission may wish to grant MEC two new CPCNs that
326 cover MEC's upgraded 161 kV line and cancel MEC's CPCN for the existing 161
327 kV line once that line is removed.

328 Q. **Why do you make this suggestion?**

329 A. My primary reason for making this suggestion is that in a separate docket, Docket
330 No. 14-0572, MEC and AIC jointly explain their intent that ownership of the
331 southern 17 miles of MEC's proposed new 32-mile 161 kV line will transfer from
332 MEC to AIC. The petition in Docket 14-0572 explains that AIC plans to construct
333 a new distribution substation, Mercer Substation, about 17 miles northwest of
334 ATXI's proposed Sandburg Substation. AIC plans to connect the proposed Mercer
335 Substation to MEC's existing Oak Grove to Galesburg 161 kV line, but when MEC
336 completes upgrades to its 161 kV line, AIC plans to purchase the segment of the
337 new 161 kV transmission line between its Mercer Substation and ATXI's Sandburg
338 Substation. A diagram illustrating MEC's and Ameren's future ownership of these
339 various transmission system components is included as Attachment E.²⁶

340 Q. **Why should the Commission consider MEC's and AIC's request in Docket**
341 **No. 14-0572 in this proceeding?**

²⁵ MidAmerican Ex. 2.0, 7-8.

²⁶ Docket 14-0572, Petition, Appendix C, 4.

342 A. In relevant part, MEC and AIC's joint petition in Docket No. 14-0572 requests that
343 the Commission:

344 (1) declare that the purchase by Ameren Illinois of certain Illinois-
345 based electric transmission assets of MidAmerican is exempt from
346 approval pursuant to Section 7-102 of the Illinois Public Utilities Act
347 ("Act") and 83 Illinois Administrative Code 105.40 or, in the
348 alternative, approve the purchase pursuant to Section 7-1022; or (2)
349 if the Commission must approve the purchase, approve the
350 Transmission Facilities Purchase Agreement Agreement [sic]
351 ("Agreement") and its exhibits attached to this Petition as Appendix
352 A; (3) transfer to Ameren Illinois the franchises, licenses, permits or
353 rights to own said assets pursuant to Section 7-203 of the Act; (4)
354 transfer to Ameren Illinois the necessary portions of the electric
355 transmission Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity
356 ("Certificates") in the name of or that were granted to MidAmerican
357 pursuant to Section 8-406 of the Act; and (5) grant all other
358 necessary and appropriate relief necessary to approve the purchase
359 by Ameren Illinois of the assets, and approve the Transaction as it
360 relates to the Commission's jurisdiction. (See 220 ILCS 5/7-102, 5/7-
361 203, and 5/8-406; 83 Ill. Admin. §105.40, and 200.220).
362 Docket No. 14-0572, Petition,1-2. [emphasis added].

363 The underlined Item (4) within the joint petition in Docket 14-0572 specifically
364 requests that the Commission transfer to AIC the necessary portions of the CPCN
365 for the 161 kV transmission line granted to MidAmerican pursuant to Section 8-
366 406 of the Act. Appendix E to the Petition in Docket No. 14-0572 includes a copy
367 of MEC's existing CPCN, which I understand was issued to MEC's predecessor,
368 Iowa-Illinois Gas and Electric Company on November 16, 1955.²⁷ This existing
369 CPCN covers the entire route of the existing 161 kV transmission line between
370 Oak Grove and East Galesburg. It is unclear to me how the Commission could
371 transfer to AIC a portion of MEC's existing CPCN, especially considering the line
372 to be transferred will be the new 161 kV transmission line that will extend from
373 AIC's yet to be constructed Mercer Substation to ATXI's yet to be constructed

²⁷ A copy of MEC's existing CPCN that MEC provided in Docket No. 14-0572 is included as Attachment F.

374 Sandburg Substation, in East Galesburg. Again, I am not an attorney, but it
375 appears to me that if the Commission would, within its order in this docket, grant
376 MEC two new CPCNs for MEC's new 161 kV transmission line that MEC plans to
377 install on the same poles with the proposed 345 kV transmission line, one CPCN
378 for the new 161 kV line from MEC's Oak Grove to AIC's proposed Mercer
379 Substation and a second for the new 161 kV line from AIC's proposed Mercer
380 Substation to ATXI's proposed Sandburg Substation, the Commission could then
381 later readily transfer the CPCN for the Mercer Substation to Sandburg Substation
382 segment of the 161 kV line to AIC, just as MEC and AIC request in Docket 14-
383 0572. Conversely, if the Commission were to deny the requested asset transfer
384 by the MEC and AIC in Docket No. 14-0572, I can think of no negative
385 consequence resulting from the Commission's issuance of two new CPCNs that
386 identify the actual updated routing of MEC's new 161 kV transmission line.

387 Q. **Is the asset transfer discussed in Docket 14-0572 the only reason for your**
388 **suggestion?**

389 A. It is the primary, but not the only reason. In addition, I am concerned that the
390 existing CPCN may not, in all locations, accurately reflect the route of the new
391 double-circuit 345/161 kV line that MEC proposes to construct. MEC plans to
392 wholly replace the existing 161 kV line between Oak Grove and the Galesburg
393 area: new wire, new poles, and some new easements. Rather than using multi-
394 pole wooden structures on 100-foot easements, the new 161 kV transmission line
395 will be installed on the same single-shaft steel poles that support MEC's proposed
396 new 345 kV transmission line on 150-foot easements. The CPCN for the existing
397 161 kV line (that MEC plans to remove) was issued to Iowa-Illinois Gas and Electric

398 Company to connect two specific substations: one near Milan, in Rock Island
399 County, and one near Galesburg, in Knox County. MEC's proposed new 161 kV
400 line will have an additional connection point 17 miles northwest of East Galesburg,
401 at AIC's proposed Mercer Substation, and in the south it will terminate at ATXI's
402 proposed Sandburg Substation instead of at AIC's existing East Galesburg
403 Substation. Again, I am not an attorney, and so I do not know whether any of these
404 facts, by themselves, should cause the Commission to revise or amend the
405 existing CPCN that MEC possesses for its existing 161 kV line. It is apparent,
406 however, that neither the route deviations identified on page 5 of MidAmerican Ex.
407 2.0 nor the new substation terminations at Mercer Substation and Sandburg
408 Substation could have been included or considered in the route description on
409 pages 2 and 3 of the existing CPCN issued in 1955. Given that the Commission
410 has the benefit of knowing about MEC's, ATXI's, and AIC's plans to construct new
411 substations and transfer the southern 17-mile segment of MEC's proposed new
412 161 kV transmission line from MEC to AIC, this appears to me to be an excellent
413 opportunity for the Commission to issue an updated CPCN to split MEC's proposed
414 new 161 kV line into two segments in order to facilitate the transfer of the CPCN
415 for the southern segment from MEC to AIC. I can think of no reason any party
416 would be harmed by this approach to potentially facilitate the asset and CPCN
417 transfer that MEC and AIC request in Docket No. 14-0572.

418 **Conclusion**

419 Q. **Will you summarize your positions regarding MEC's requests for a CPCN**
420 **and orders pursuant to Sections 8-503 and 8-509 of the Act?**

421 A. I do not believe the Commission should approve MEC's request for a CPCN and
422 orders pursuant to Section 8-503 and Section 8-509 for MEC's proposed 345 kV
423 transmission line unless and/or until MEC explains how the benefits provided by
424 its project would be affected by completion of the Rock Island Clean Line project,
425 which the Commission approved in Docket No. 12-0560. If MEC successfully
426 demonstrates its proposed 345 kV line is necessary whether or not the Rock Island
427 Clean Line project is constructed, then:

- 428 • The Commission's approval of MEC's request should be contingent upon the
429 Commission's approval of ATXI's concurrent request for a CPCN for the
430 southern portion of MISO's MVP-16, covered in Docket No. 14-0514.
- 431 • Though not requested in MEC's petition, the Commission should issue two
432 CPCN's for MEC's new 161 kV line between Oak Grove and the Galesburg
433 area to replace the CPCN for the existing 161 kV transmission line: one for the
434 segment from Oak Grove to AIC's proposed Mercer Substation, and one for
435 the segment from AIC's proposed Mercer Substation to ATXI's proposed
436 Sandburg Substation, in East Galesburg.
- 437 • The Commission should grant MEC's request for an order pursuant to Section
438 8-503 of the Act.
- 439 • The Commission should grant MEC's request for an order pursuant to Section
440 8-509 of the Act.

441 Q. **Does this conclude your prepared direct testimony?**

442 A. Yes.

ENG 1.6

ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

Utility Company: **MidAmerican Energy Company**

Regarding: **Docket No. 14-0494 – Application of MidAmerican Energy Company for (i) a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, pursuant to Section 8-406 of the Public Utilities Act, to construct, operate and maintain a 345,000 volt electric transmission line in Rock Island, Mercer, Henry and Knox Counties, Illinois; (ii) an order pursuant to Section 8-503 of the Public Utilities Act approving construction of the 345,000 volt electric transmission line; (iii) an order pursuant to Section 8-509 of the Public Utilities Act authorizing use of eminent domain; and (iv) such other relief as may be necessary (filed August 4, 2014).**

Date Submitted:

STAFF DATA REQUEST ENG 1.6

Responder Name: David A. Lane
Job Title: Sr. Right-of-Way Agent
Address: 401 Douglas Street, Sioux City, Iowa 51102
Phone: 712-277-7574

ENG 1.6 Please fully explain how MEC determined the monetary offers it made for the easements it seeks, and provide a generic copy of the documents and worksheets that MEC presented to each landowner when communicating these offers. Did MEC use the same methodology and document templates for determining and presenting its offer to each landowner? If no, explain why not, and fully explain how MEC determined which methodology and document templates it would use for each landowner.

Response: The monetary offers made for the easements MidAmerican seeks in this Docket have been made in accordance with the Methods and Factors Sheet presented at the landowner informational meetings conducted prior to beginning the acquisition of voluntary easements for this project. A generic copy of the Methods and Factors Sheet is attached as requested. The determination of the values used in the offers was based on actual land sales reports provided by Illinois Land Sales Bulletin published by Lemenager Land Services, LLC. A basis of \$12,500.00 per acre for tillable land was selected based on the actual sales averages and \$8,000.00 per acre for non-tillable land. In January of 2014, an Illinois Land Sales Bulletin update revealed that there had been a number of higher land sales reported in December of 2013. MidAmerican reviewed these sales and determined that it was necessary to amend our basis from \$12,500.00 per acre to \$15,700.00 per acre for tillable land.

Referring to the Methods and Factors Sheet, the acquisition offer is comprised of three primary sections: 1) area, 2) pole payment and 3) miscellaneous payment.

Area: The area payment uses the formula of the basis multiplied by 50% for new alignment, and 25% for existing alignment. Note, the majority of the acquisitions in this Docket used the 25% factor as MidAmerican is almost entirely utilizing an existing 161kV transmission line corridor.

Pole payment: This payment uses the factor of \$2,500.00 per pole installed on the landowner's property.

Miscellaneous payment: The miscellaneous payment is used primarily for additional compensation factors such as the relocation of facilities within the proposed corridor such as grain bins, buildings or other features that are inconsistent with the operation of the transmission line.

All of the sections are totaled and that result is the total compensation offered to the landowner. Upon agreement and execution of the Option for Electric Easement, MidAmerican pays the landowner twenty percent (20%) of the total compensation. The balance of the compensation would be paid to the landowner following the final approval of the regulatory process before the Illinois Commerce Commission.

The same methodology and document template has been used for all compensation offers made to landowners. Valuations were adjusted for parcels zoned commercial within the Galesburg, Illinois area.

Attachment ENG 1.6

Parcel # 0

Landowner 0

METHODS & FACTORS
Easement Payment Calculation Sheet

A. Land Value / Acre \$15,700.00 / Acre

Land Values Based on an Illinois Land Sales Report

B. Permanent Easement Area Value \$3,925.00 / Acre

25% of land value / acre

C. Temporary Easement Area Value \$3,925.00 / Acre

25% of land value / acre

D. Permanent Easement Area In Acres 0.00 Acres

E. Temporary Easement Area in Acres 0.00 Acres

F. Pole Payment \$0.00

0 x \$2500 value per pole

G. Payment For Permanent Easement \$0.00

Payment = B x D

H. Payment For Temporary Easement \$0.00

Payment = C x E

I. Miscellaneous Payment 0.00

Description 0

J. Total Easement Payment \$0.00

Payment = F + G + H + I

K. Easement Option Payment \$0.00

Payment due at signing = 20% of J

L. Balance of Total Easement Payment \$0.00

Payment due upon exercise of option, Payment = J - K

Date: _____

Landowner:

Land Service Company, agent for
MidAmerican Energy Company

11/11/2013

ENG 3.10

ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

Utility Company: **MidAmerican Energy Company**

Regarding: **Docket No. 14-0494 – Application of MidAmerican Energy Company for (i) a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, pursuant to Section 8-406 of the Public Utilities Act, to construct, operate and maintain a 345,000 volt electric transmission line in Rock Island, Mercer, Henry and Knox Counties, Illinois; (ii) an order pursuant to Section 8-503 of the Public Utilities Act approving construction of the 345,000 volt electric transmission line; (iii) an order pursuant to Section 8-509 of the Public Utilities Act authorizing use of eminent domain; and (iv) such other relief as may be necessary (filed August 4, 2014).**

Date Submitted: **October 31, 2014**

STAFF DATA REQUEST ENG 3.10

Responder Name: **Steve Ambrose**
Job Title: **Project Manager**
Address: **4299 NW Urbandale Drive, Urbandale, IA 50322**
Phone: **515-281-2555**

ENG 3.10 At lines 136–138 of MidAmerican Ex. 5.0, Mr. Lane explains that Mr. Coyne’s tile contractor visited tract RI-0010, but had not yet provided MidAmerican with an estimate for work to address the landowner’s drainage concerns. Since the time of Mr. Lane’s testimony, has MidAmerican and the landowner agreed to a mutually acceptable plan to handle the drainage from the site and over his farm land? Please detail any communications MidAmerican has had with this landowner since July, 2014, including any remaining disagreement regarding site drainage.

Response: We continue to work towards a mutually agreeable solution to Mr. Wayne Coyne’s request to improve the site drainage southeast of the Oak Grove Substation adjacent to his farm land. We have not reached agreement on the details of the drainage plan or the applicable costs. We met with Mr. Coyne on August 6 to review the area and have since hired an experienced civil engineer to design a drainage plan that addresses his concerns. On August 21, MidAmerican provided a cost sharing proposal to Mr. Coyne for his consideration. Mr. Coyne did not respond to the proposal. On September 12, MidAmerican received a letter from an attorney indicating he is representing Mr. Coyne, requesting we work on a solution and to direct communication to him. The letter included an attachment

that had the details of a previous unrelated case. On October 6, Wayne Coyne called me to discuss the drainage plan design work that was in progress and requested a copy of it and a desire to meet to go over it when it was done. We indicated that we would provide it when we thought it was ready to construct. We completed a revised site drainage plan on October 27 and we are in the process of communicating the report and plans to Mr. Coyne for his review.

We have agreed in principle to his request to place a drain tile across his land, in a location and path as he has requested, to minimize the effects of surface runoff. He also wants to tie his farm's drainage system into the new system for the benefit of his farm fields in the region. We intend to work with Mr. Coyne towards a mutually agreeable plan. We have not received a cost estimate or plan on the drain tile work that Mr. Coyne desires on his property to make this solution effective. We offered in our proposal of August 21 to pay Mr. Coyne for a significant portion of the drain tile that would be installed on his land to make this a complete solution, but need further documentation to substantiate the expenses associated. There is no dispute concerning the need for improvements in the site drainage where it affects his farm ground. We do need Mr. Coyne's support and reasonableness on our respective scopes of how drainage is handled in the region.

ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

Utility Company: **MidAmerican Energy Company**

Regarding: **Docket No. 14-0494 – Application of MidAmerican Energy Company for (i) a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, pursuant to Section 8-406 of the Public Utilities Act, to construct, operate and maintain a 345,000 volt electric transmission line in Rock Island, Mercer, Henry and Knox Counties, Illinois; (ii) an order pursuant to Section 8-503 of the Public Utilities Act approving construction of the 345,000 volt electric transmission line; (iii) an order pursuant to Section 8-509 of the Public Utilities Act authorizing use of eminent domain; and (iv) such other relief as may be necessary (filed August 4, 2014).**

Date Submitted:

STAFF DATA REQUEST ENG 1.11

Responder Name: **David A. Lane**
Job Title: **Sr. Right-of-Way Agent**
Address: **401 Douglas Street-Sioux City, Iowa 51102**
Phone: **712-277-7574**

ENG 1.11 Referring to lines 429-451 of MidAmerican Ex. 5.0, has Ameren Illinois Company (AIC) either relocated the distribution pole or indicated to MEC when it will do so? If yes, when did/will the relocation occur? If no, has MEC inquired of AIC when it will complete the planned relocation?

Response: Ameren Illinois Company (AIC) completed the relocation of the distribution pole referenced in this Staff Data Request on August 18, 2014. The property owners Dale Tornquist (MR-0570) and Ronald Tornquist (MR-0580) signed voluntary easements on August 19, 2014. MidAmerican will withdraw Exhibits 5.2.6, Dale Tornquist, and 5.2.7, Ronald Tornquist, and its request for the grant of the right of eminent domain for these parcels.

ENG 3.15

ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

Utility Company: **MidAmerican Energy Company**

Regarding: **Docket No. 14-0494 – Application of MidAmerican Energy Company for (i) a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, pursuant to Section 8-406 of the Public Utilities Act, to construct, operate and maintain a 345,000 volt electric transmission line in Rock Island, Mercer, Henry and Knox Counties, Illinois; (ii) an order pursuant to Section 8-503 of the Public Utilities Act approving construction of the 345,000 volt electric transmission line; (iii) an order pursuant to Section 8-509 of the Public Utilities Act authorizing use of eminent domain; and (iv) such other relief as may be necessary (filed August 4, 2014).**

Date Submitted: **October 31, 2014**

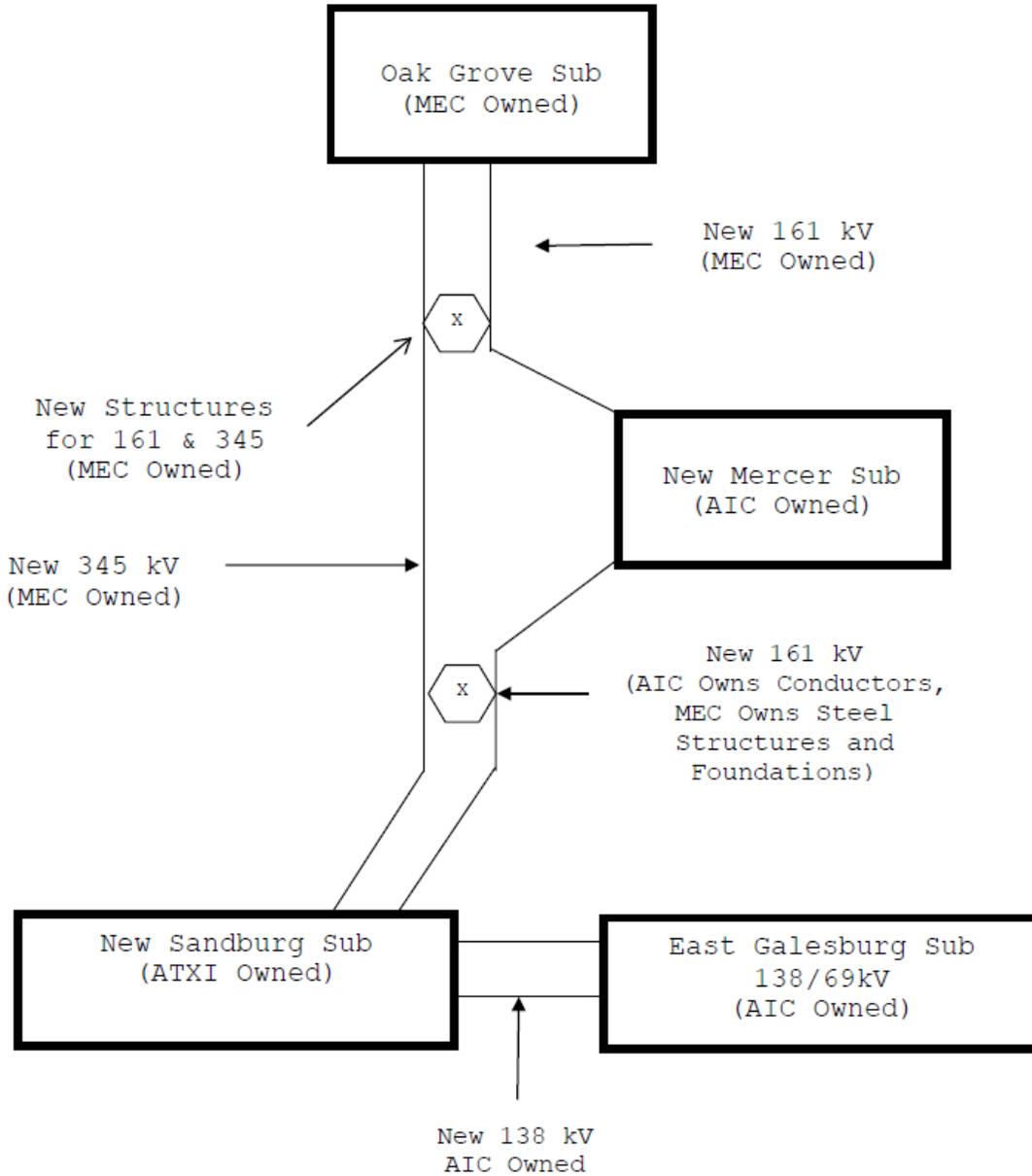
STAFF DATA REQUEST ENG 3.15

Responder Name: **David A. Lane**
Job Title: **Sr. Right of Way Agent**
Address: **401 Douglas Street- Sioux City, Iowa 51102**
Phone: **712-574-2982**

ENG 3.15 At lines 678-681 of MidAmerican Ex. 5.0, Staff interprets Mr. Lane's testimony to indicate that MidAmerican does not know why United Contractors has not granted the voluntary easement that MidAmerican seeks across tract KX-1280. Is this a correct interpretation? Regardless, please detail any communications MidAmerican has had with United Contractors regarding the easement request since MidAmerican filed its petition in this docket.

Response: MidAmerican and United Contractors arrived at a verbal agreement on September 29, 2014. On October 6, 2014, United Contractors was notified by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) that it would be seeking additional right of way for a project on the adjacent Interstate 74. MidAmerican is in the process of completing a minor design change to accommodate the thirty foot right of way request from IDOT. Updated acquisition plats were ordered and MidAmerican is awaiting the delivery of the updated acquisition plats in order to have a final meeting with United Contractors. MidAmerican believes United Contractors is prepared to sign a voluntary easement; however, the easement has not been executed as of the date of this response.

By end of 2016



STATE OF ILLINOIS

ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

IOWA-ILLINOIS GAS AND ELECTRIC :
COMPANY :
 :
Application for a certificate of :
public convenience and necessity : No. 42732
to construct and thereafter operate :
and maintain a certain 161 kv electric :
transmission line in Rock Island, :
Henry, Mercer and Knox counties, Illi- :
nois. :

ORDER
and
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

By the Commission:

On September 22, 1955, Iowa-Illinois Gas and Electric Company, hereinafter referred to as the Petitioner, filed its application in the above matter. Pursuant to notice as required by law and by the rules and regulations of this Commission the matter came on for hearing before a duly authorized officer of the Commission at its offices in Springfield, Illinois, on October 21, 1955. At the said hearing appearance was entered by the Petitioner only.

The Commission having given due consideration to the petition, to all of the evidence, both oral and documentary, and being fully advised in the premises, is of the opinion and finds:

- (1) that Petitioner is a corporation duly authorized and existing under the laws of the State of Illinois, and as such is engaged with charter powers so to do, in the distribution and sale of electricity to the public in various municipalities and places in the State of Illinois; that Petitioner makes application in this case for a certificate of convenience and necessity to construct, operate and maintain an extension of its transmission line system as hereinafter more particularly set forth and described; and that by reason of the foregoing the Commission has jurisdiction over the subject matter herein and of Petitioner;
- (2) that Petitioner has entered into an inter-connection agreement with Illinois Power Company which agreement has been presented to this Commission for approval and a hearing held thereon in Docket No. 42555; that said agreement involves an electric transmission line from Petitioner's Substation

- near Milan in Rock Island County to the Substation of Illinois Power Company near East Galesburg, Knox County; that the petition herein is for a certificate of convenience and necessity for said interconnecting line; and that the purpose of said line is to provide a means for the interchange of energy which will result in improved continuity of service and increased capacity for Petitioner and Illinois Power Company;
- (3) that pursuant to the rules and practice of this Commission proper notice has been given to all public utilities whose tracks or wires will be crossed or paralleled by the facilities herein proposed;
 - (4) that the route selected is reasonable, will cause little or no interference to other wire using companies;
 - (5) that the construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed line will promote the public convenience and is necessary thereto;
 - (6) that public convenience and necessity require such construction, operation and maintenance of said electric transmission line and Petitioner should be directed to construct, operate and maintain the proposed electric transmission line within two (2) years from the date hereof; and
 - (7) that a certificate of convenience and necessity should be granted to Petitioner for the construction, operation and maintenance of the said electric transmission line herein described.

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that public convenience and necessity require the construction, operation and maintenance of approximately 35.27 miles of 161 kv electric transmission line in Rock Island, Henry, Mercer and Knox counties, along a route described as follows:

Commencing at a point on the site of the Petitioner's proposed substation in the Northwest Quarter (NW $\frac{1}{4}$) of the Northeast Quarter (NE $\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Twenty-eight (28), Township Seventeen (17) North, Range Two (2) West of the Fourth Principal Meridian, Rock Island County, Illinois, thence Southeasterly through said Section Twenty-eight (28), sections Twenty-seven (27), and Thirty-four (34), said Township and Range; thence continuing Southeasterly through Sections Three (3), Two (2), Eleven (11), Fourteen (14), Twenty-three (23), Twenty-four (24), Twenty-five (25), and

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42732

Thirty-six (36), all Township Sixteen (16) North, Range Two (2) West of the Fourth Principal Meridian, Rock Island County; thence continuing Southeasterly through Section Thirty-one (31), Township Sixteen (16) North, Range One (1) West of the Fourth Principal Meridian, Rock Island County, thence continuing Southeasterly through Sections Six (6), Seven (7), Eight (8), Seventeen (17) Twenty (20), Twenty-one (21), Twenty-eight (28), Thirty-three (33) and Thirty-four (34), all Township Fifteen (15) North, Range One (1) West of the Fourth Principal Meridian, Mercer County, Illinois; thence continuing Southeasterly through Sections Three (3), Ten (10), Eleven (11), Fourteen (14), Twenty-three (23), Twenty-four (24), Twenty-five (25) and Thirty-six (36), all Township Fourteen (14) North, Range One (1) West of the Fourth Principal Meridian, Mercer County; thence continuing Southeasterly through Section Thirty-one (31), Township Fourteen (14) North, Range One (1) East of the Fourth Principal Meridian, Henry County, Illinois; thence continuing Southeasterly through Sections Six (6), Seven (7), Eight (8), Seventeen (17), Twenty (20), Twenty-nine (29), Twenty-eight (28), and Thirty-three (33), all Township Thirteen (13) North, Range One (1) East of the Fourth Principal Meridian, Knox County, Illinois; thence continuing Southeasterly through Sections Four (4), Three (3), Ten (10), Fifteen (15), Fourteen (14), Twenty-three (23), Twenty-six (26), Twenty-five (25) and Thirty-six (36), all Township Twelve (12) North, Range One (1) East of the Fourth Principal Meridian, Knox County, to the Petitioner's proposed substation terminal in the Southeast Quarter (SE $\frac{1}{4}$) of the Southeast Quarter (SE $\frac{1}{4}$) of said Section Thirty-six (36), said Township and Range, a total distance of 35.27 miles, more or less;

all as shown on a plat marked Exhibit "A" attached to the petition in this case.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Illinois Commerce Commission that the above certificate of convenience and necessity be, and it is hereby, granted to the Iowa-Illinois Gas and Electric Company for (1) the construction, operation and maintenance of said electric transmission line and (2) the transaction of an electric public utility business in connection therewith.

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42732

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Iowa-Illinois Gas and Electric Company construct and place in operation the said electric transmission line within two (2) years from the date hereof.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Iowa-Illinois Gas and Electric Company shall make a report in writing to the Secretary of the Commission five (5) days in advance of the date upon which the said electric transmission line is to be placed in operation.

By order of the Commission at Chicago, Illinois,
this 16th day of November, 1955.

(Signed) FREDERICK B. RESAG

Secretary

(SEAL)