

1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

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3 **A. Witness Identification**

4 **Q:** Please state your name?

5 **A:** Susan Schoenekase.

6 **Q:** Please state your current residence?

7 **A:** 539 Hwy 96 S. Payson, Illinois.

8 **Q:** Have you intervened in this docket?

9 **A:** Yes. I petitioned to intervene on May 21, 2015.

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11 **B. Purpose of Testimony**

12 **Q:** What is the purpose of your testimony?

13 **A:** The purpose of my testimony is to object to the Primary Route proposed by
14 ATXI and provide the bases for my objection. In addition to objecting to the Primary
15 Route, I propose an alternate route for consideration by the Commission.

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17 **C. Itemized Exhibits to Direct Testimony**

18 **Q:** Are you sponsoring any exhibits to your direct testimony?

19 **A:** Yes. The following exhibits are attached to my testimony:

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21 **Schoenekase Ex. 1.01** Aerial picture of the property at 1300 550th
22 Street depicting the lot and the garage.

23 **Schoenekase Ex. 1.02** Aerial picture of the property at 539 96 S.
24 Payson, Illinois.

25 **Schoenekase Ex 1.03** Map depicting the Schoenekase Adjustment.

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D. The Schoenekase Properties

Q: Please identify any real property in which you claim an interest that will be impacted by the proposed electric transmission line and related facilities that are subject of ATXI’s Petition currently before the Illinois Commerce Commission, commonly known as the Adams County Rd 550 Connector Project (the “Project”).

A: My husband, Timothy Schoenekase, and I own the property located at 1300 N. 550th Avenue (the “550th Street Property”). A true, correct and accurate aerial photo depicting the 550th Street Property is attached hereto as Schoenekase Ex. 1.01. The Property contains a garage and fresh water well. We reside at 539 Hwy 96 (the “Homestead”). A true, correct and accurate aerial photo of the Homestead is attached hereto as Schoenekase Ex. 1.02. The Homestead is across the street and to the south of the 550th Street Property.

Q: Is the 550th Street Property impacted by the Primary Route?

A: Yes.

Q: Please describe how the 550th Street Property is used?

A: The 550th Street Property has a garage structure on it. My husband and I added the garage. We intend to construct a residential house on the 550th Street Property in the future. My Husband is an owner-operator of a tractor-trailer hauling company and often hauls a tanker with hazardous material, including corrosive, flammable material. He parks his tanker on the 550th Street Property and performs maintenance and repairs on the tractor trailer in the garage. The 550th Street Property is the only location from which we conduct our business. We also pasture our horse, Dobbler, at the 550th Street Property.

57 **II. THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF THE PRIMARY ROUTE ON THE**
58 **SCHOENEKASE PROPERTIES**

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60 **Q:** Do you have concerns about the proximity of the Primary Route to the 550th
61 Street Property?

62 **A:** Yes. Based on the map produced by ATXI, the centerline of the Primary
63 Route crosses directly over the 550th Street Property and is 125 feet from the garage.

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65 **Q:** What are your concerns about the proximity of the Primary Route to the 550th
66 Street Property?

67 **A:** I have three primary concerns regarding the proximity of the Primary Route
68 to the Property:

- 69 1. **The Impact of the Primary Route on Our Business:** As stated above, my
70 husband is the owner-operator of a tractor trailer and he does business from the
71 Property. The presence of the transmission line creates safety concerns about
72 conducting his business underneath high voltage power lines. As Schoenekase
73 Ex. 1.01 depicts, my husband stores his tractor trailer on the lot and he accesses
74 the lot from the road. Some of the maintenance he performs on the tractor
75 trailer and will be conducted underneath the proposed high voltage power line.
76 Moreover, we are concerned about the risk of storing hazardous materials
77 underneath a high voltage transmission line.
- 78 2. **Health and Safety:** Given the high level of activity on the 550th Street Property,
79 we have health and safety concerns about working in such close proximity to the
80 high voltage power line. These concerns include the possible negative effect of
81 electromagnetic fields (“EMF”) on humans and livestock as well as stray voltage.
- 82 3. **Future Development:** My husband and I intended to develop the 550th Street
83 Property into a residential lot in the near future. My father, Fredrick Loos, lives
84 in the house immediately south of me on Hwy 96. My brother lives in the house
85 immediately south my father. Thus, we have family surrounding us on Hwy 96.

86 **My husband and I intended to develop the 550th Street Property for residential**
87 **use so that one of our children could eventually reside near us and our extended**
88 **family. If the Commission grants the Primary Route, this development plan**
89 **cannot go forward.**

90 **Q:** Do you have concerns about the proximity of the Primary Route to the
91 Homestead?

92 **A:** **Yes. As stated above, the Homestead is across the street of the 550th Street**
93 **Property. The Homestead is depicted in Schoenekase Ex. 1.02. The Homestead is**
94 **approximately 510 feet from the Primary Route.**

95 **Q:** What are your concerns about the proximity of the Primary Route to the
96 Homestead?

97 **A:** **Our son is a disabled adult who lives with my husband and me. He has been**
98 **diagnosed with obsessive compulsive disorder, sensory disorder, autism traits, dyspraxia,**
99 **and he has spacial issues, which causes many problems with his functioning outside the**
100 **house. My son spends nearly all of his time between the Homestead and the 550th Street**
101 **Property, working with his Dad. I have concerns about the possible negative health effects**
102 **of the EMF may have on my son and family. I also have concern about the possibility of**
103 **stray voltage.**

104 **I am also concerned about the negative impact the transmission line will have on the**
105 **quiet enjoyment of the Homestead. ATXI proposes putting the transmission line in front of**
106 **our house. We currently have an unobstructed view from the front of our house. ATXI**
107 **proposes placing the unsightly transmission line and structures in front of our house, which**
108 **will then be a visual nuisance for my family as well as our neighbors.**

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110 **III. THE SCHOENEKASE ADJUSTMENT**

111 **Q:** Do you have an alternate route that you would like to propose to the Commission?

112 **A:** **Yes. I propose the route in Schoenekase Ex. 1.03, which I will refer to as the**
113 **Schoenekase Adjustment.**

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115 **A. Description of the Schoenekase Adjustment**

116 **Q:** Please describe the Schoenekase Adjustment to the Commission.

117 **A:** **The Schoenekase Adjustment follows the Primary Route along Road 550 and**
118 **proceeds north from the Primary Route west of Hwy 96. The Schoenekase Adjustment then**
119 **proceeds northeast for approximately 1,420 feet. It then proceeds generally east through**
120 **vacant farmland for approximately 5,070 feet until it reconnects with the Primary Route**
121 **going north.**

122 **Q:** Do you believe Schoenekase Adjustment is preferable to the Primary Route?

123 **A:** **Yes.**

124 **Q:** Why do you believe Schoenekase Adjustment is preferable to the Primary Route?

125 **A:** **I believe Schoenekase Adjustment is preferable to Primary Route for the**
126 **following reasons:**

- 127 **1. Fewer Residences Impacted: The Schoenekase Adjustment has only a**
128 **single residence within 500 feet. This house is on 1325th Street and is 400**
129 **feet from the centerline of the Schoenekase Adjustment. The Primary**
130 **Route has two houses within 300 feet of the centerline of the right of way.**
131 **Thus, there is one less home that will be impacted if the Schoenekase**
132 **Adjustment is approved by the Commission. Furthermore, Ms. Hyland**
133 **stated that the most consistently raised concern at the open houses was**
134 **the proximity of the line to residences. The Schoenekase adjustment has**
135 **no residences within 300 feet and only one residence within 500 feet. The**
136 **Schoenekase Adjustment would alleviate the public's greatest concern.**
- 137 **2. Shorter Total Length: The Schoenekase Adjustment removes 0.2 miles**
138 **from the Primary Route, resulting in a total length of 3.1 miles, versus the**
139 **3.3 miles of the Primary Route. The shorter total length will mean fewer**
140 **structures to build, less land to purchase and cheaper construction costs.**
- 141 **3. Less Impact on Farmland: The Schoenekase Adjustment, being shorter**
142 **than the Primary Route, will require fewer structures, thus farmland that**

143 is removed from production due to structure foundations will be less than
144 that of the Primary Route.

145 **4. Less Negative Impact on Schoenekase Properties: Obviously, the**
146 **Schoenekase Adjustment will remove the negative impact on my**
147 **husband's business, which is conducted on the 550th Street Property,**
148 **which the Primary Route goes directly over. I am unaware of any**
149 **business being negatively impacted by the Schoenekase Adjustment. If**
150 **the Primary Route is approved by the Commission, my husband and I**
151 **will be forced to vacate the 550th Street Property for purposes of our**
152 **business because of the health and safety concerns listed above. The**
153 **Schoenekase Adjustment will avoid all of the negative impacts on the**
154 **550th Street Property and the Homestead, which I have previously**
155 **discussed in my testimony.**

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157 **Q:** Do you have anything else to add regarding the differences between the Primary
158 Route and Schoenekase Adjustment?

159 **A: Yes. I disagree with the testimony of Emily Hyland at lines 436-37 of her**
160 **direct testimony, ATXI Exhibit 5.0. When asked why ATXI selected the Primary Route as**
161 **its preferred route for the transmission line, Ms. Hyland stated, among other things, that**
162 **one of the residences provided written support for the Primary Route compared to the**
163 **Alternate Route. Through discovery, ATXI disclosed the identities of individuals who**
164 **provided their preference for a route. The property owner referenced in lines 436-37 of**
165 **Hyland's direct testimony is not within 500 feet of either the Primary or Alternate Routes.**
166 **There is no residence within 300 feet of either the Primary or Alternate Routes that have**
167 **provided support for the Primary Route, as Ms. Hyland has claimed.**

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170 **B. The Staff's Proposed Route**

171 **Q:** Have you reviewed Staff Engineer Rockrohr's testimony?

172 **A: Yes.**

173 **Q: What is your observations regarding Staff Engineer Rockrohr's testimony?**

174 **A: Staff Engineer Rockrohr discussed a scenario whereby the VORTAC**
175 **equipment could possibly be replaced for \$1.5 million, which would be half of the cost of**
176 **the route modification. I am not a lawyer, but if least-cost were a factor for consideration to**
177 **the Commission, then a solution that costs half of a route modification would make sense. I**
178 **would not object to this solution.**

179 **Q: Do you have any other observations regarding Staff Engineer Rockrohr's?**

180 **A: Yes. I reviewed the Staff Proposed Route and I have no objection to it.**

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182 **C. Preference of Routing Alternatives**

183 **Q: If the Commission concluded the Primary Route is preferable to the Schoenekase**
184 **Adjustment, do you contend the Alternate Route is preferable to the Primary Route?**

185 **A: Yes.**

186 **Q: Why?**

187 **A: I believe the Alternate Route is preferable to the Primary Route because it is**
188 **shorter and will likely involve less land acquisition. Moreover, I am unaware of any**
189 **businesses along the Alternate Route that will be negatively impacted by the Alternate**
190 **Route. Finally, I am unaware of any residences along the Alternate Route experiencing the**
191 **same negative environmental impact as the Primary Route will have on my family. As**
192 **stated above, ATXI proposes placing the transmission line near the front of our house,**
193 **which will be an ever-present, unsightly structure that we be forced to experience anytime**
194 **we look out our front windows.**

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199 **IV. CONCLUSION**

200 **Q: How would you like the Commission to rule on ATXI's Petition?**

201 **A: I would like the Commission to select the Primary Route with the**
202 **Schoenekase Adjustment. If the Commission did not select the Primary Route with the**
203 **Schoenekase Adjustment, then I would like the Commission to select the appropriate route**
204 **after a complete analysis of the least-cost means factors. I object to the Primary Route.**

205 **Q: Does this conclude your testimony?**

206 **A: Yes.**