

ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 14-0754

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

Dennis R. Minick

ILLINOIS COMMERCE
COMMISSION
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CHIEF CLERK'S OFFICE

ON BEHALF OF

International Union of Operating Engineers , Illinois State Council of Operating
Engineers and its affiliated Local Unions, 143, 148, 150, 318, 399, 520, 649, 841, 965

August 28, 2015

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I. INTRODUCTION AND WITNESS QUALIFICATIONS

Q: Please state your name, affiliation and address.

A: My name is Dennis R. Minick. I am the Business Manager of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 965 and a member of the Illinois State Council of Operating Engineers. I have held this position since August 1, 2015. Prior to this, I was the Assistant Business Manager and the Training Coordinator. My business address is 3520 E. Cook Street, Springfield, IL 62703.

Q: What is your occupation?

A: As stated, I am the Business Manager of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 965.

Q: Please summarize your background and professional experience.

A: In 1975, I enlisted in the United States Air Force and worked as an equipment operator. I have been working in the construction industry since 1975 performing work as a laborer, a landscaper to operating heavy equipment. I entered the Apprenticeship Training Program for the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 965 in 1996 and became a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers in 1996. In 2002, I began working as an Operating Engineers' Training Instructor and in 2005 I became the Training Coordinator/Business Representative for Local 965. Most recently, on August 1, 2015, I became the Business Manager of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 965.

Q: What are your duties and responsibilities in your current position and how does that relate to the construction industry in Illinois?

A: As Business Manager of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 965, I represent Operating Engineers as well as signatory contractors on issues in the Construction Industry as well as our members who work in the Public Sector. I run the day to day operation of the Local Union, handle grievances, negotiate contracts and essentially look out for the interests and wellbeing of the International Union of Operating Engineers. In addition to my Business Manager duties, I serve as the Chairman of our Health & Welfare fund and the Chairman of the Apprenticeship Training and Retraining for Central Illinois and a member of the Illinois State Council of Operating Engineers.

Q: On whose behalf are you testifying?

A: I am testifying on behalf of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Illinois State Council of Operating Engineers and its Local Unions in Illinois.

II. Dakota Access Pipeline Project

Q: What is the purpose of your testimony?

A: To support Dakota Access, LLC's application to construct the proposed Dakota Access pipeline.

Q: What is your understanding as to the purpose and scope of this proceeding?

A: I understand that Dakota Access, LLC is seeking and Certificate of Good Standing and Related Authority (including relevant eminent domain authority) from the Illinois Commerce Commission to construct and operate a common carrier petroleum pipeline.

Q: Why do you support this petition?

A: Members of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) reside within counties in the proposed construction region including the counties of Adams, Bond, Brown, Fayette, Hancock, Macoupin, Marion, Montgomery, Morgan, Pike, Schuyler, and Scott. IUOE members also live in every adjacent county of the proposed construction region and our membership is well represented throughout the State of Illinois. Illinois IUOE locals anticipate hundreds jobs and thousands of work hours from the proposed project that is estimated to create 8,000 to 12,000 jobs nationwide. Our

members have significant experience in pipeline construction and similar projects in the past have created significant employment opportunities with competitive wages and fringe benefits for our membership.

Q: What impact do you believe the approval of this project will have on the construction industry in Illinois?

A: As I stated in my previous answer above, I believe this project will create hundreds of jobs for IUOE members and those jobs will pay competitive wages and fringe benefits. However, the project will also require the skills provided by other crafts in Illinois including the Laborers, Teamsters, Pipefitters and Welders. As a result, there will be a significant impact on construction industry employment during the duration of the project. Additionally, each craft listed invests industry-training funds through payroll deductions that will benefit future construction employees. Our industry training programs, or apprenticeship programs, benefit the entire State by maintaining and growing a highly skilled construction workforce necessary for future construction needs.

Q: Is the use of IUOE members instrumental to the construction of the Dakota Access Project?

A: Yes. Our members' skills, training and related experience are instrumental to the construction of the project. Our experience in operating the necessary machinery to construct the pipeline will help ensure timely completion of the project in a safe and efficient manner that will benefit the safety of the persons residing within the construction region.

Q: What type of training does IUOE provide to its members, and how is that training beneficial to the project?

A: The pipeline industry has a unique set of skill requirements, and the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) maintains a robust training program in partnership with the Pipe Line Contractors Association to meet the industry's specific needs. The IUOE, in coordination with the Pipe Line Contractors Association, maintains a joint labor-management training partnership centered on the pipeline sector, the National Pipeline Training Fund. More than 130 classes were offered in different areas of the pipeline sector. The IUOE National Training Fund (NTF), in coordination with the Pipeline Training Fund and the NCCER, also administers a pipeline operator qualification (OQ) program. NCCER's Pipeline Training and Assessment Program (PTAP) consists of pipeline curriculum and pipeline skill assessments to qualify pipeline personnel under the Department of Transportation's regulation for Pipeline Operator Qualification. DOT's operator qualification rule requires pipeline operators to document that certain employees have been adequately trained to recognize and react to abnormal operating conditions that may occur while performing specific task. The program conducts evaluations of the 13 equipment operator tasks.

- 44 regional 3 week intermediate training classes
- 29 maintenance and rehabilitation classes
- 13 pipe bending classes
- 16 John Henry rock drilling classes
- 2 winching classes
- 7 Vacuworxs pipe lifter classes
- 9 Deckhand pipe lifter classes
- 12 -New- HDD directional drilling classes

The focus on training is reflected in the skills and productivity of members of the Operating Engineers union making them the safest, most proficient in the Industry.

Q: How do IUOE safety programs relate to the proposed project?

A: IUOE locals, IUOE member employers, and the State of Illinois all have a vested interest in the safety of its workforce. Workplace injuries and deaths have obvious societal and financial impacts. Less obvious are the benefits that a highly skilled workforce have on the environment and persons living around the project. As noted in public comments submitted on this project, there are always environmental concerns with a pipeline project and a skilled and experienced workforce is the best way to ensure the safety of persons living in the proposed construction region.

Q: What type of jobs will the proposed project create?

A: As I stated previously, jobs created will pay wages and benefits that are competitive to wages and benefits earned by construction workers in the proposed construction region. IUOE wages and benefits ensure a middle class living standard. Our wages, health insurance and retirement plans make our members self-sufficient and not reliant upon governmental assistance.

Q: Are there other benefits to this project?

A: IUOE locals in Illinois anticipate hundreds of jobs from the project and wages paid to our members will circulate back into communities within the proposed construction region. IUOE member wages together with wages earned by other crafts will have a significant impact to local economies. Local businesses will benefit from increased consumer spending, while governmental units will benefit from increased income tax receipts, sales tax receipts, and improvements to personal property.

III. Conclusion

Q: Does this conclude your testimony?

A: Yes.

Illinois Commerce Commission

DAKOTA ACCESS, LLC)
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Application to Section 15-401 of the)
Common Carrier by Pipeline Law and Sections 8-503)
And 8-509 of the Public Utilities Act and for a)
Certificate of Good Standing and Related Authority)
To Construct and Operate a Petroleum Pipeline as)
A Common Carrier Pipeline and When Necessary to)
Take Private Property as Provided by the law of)
Eminent Domain)

NOTICE OF FILING

Please take notice that on August 28, 2015, the undersigned, a member, caused the Direct Written Testimony of Dennis R. Minick of behalf of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Illinois State Council of Operating Engineers and the affiliated Local Unions 143, 148, 150, 318, 399, 520, 649, 841, 965 ("IUOE Local Unions) to be filed with the Illinois Commerce Commission in the above referenced proceeding.

By: 
Dennis R. Minick

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Dennis R. Minick, a member, on behalf of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Illinois State Council of Operating Engineers and the affiliated Local Unions 143, 148, 150, 318, 399, 520, 649, 841, 965 ("IUOE Local Unions) hereby certify that copies of the foregoing Direct Written Testimony and all documents referenced therein were served by electronic mail on August 28, 2015 to the individuals on the Commission's Service List.

By: 
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