

Exhibit No. 600
Issues: Impact on Interveners' Property
Witness: Charles Henke
Type of Exhibit: Rebuttal
Sponsoring Party: Charles and
Robyn Henke
Case No.: EA-2016-0358
Date Testimony Prepared: January, 2017

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE NO. EA-2016-0358

REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF
CHARLES HENKE
ON BEHALF OF
CHARLES AND ROBYN HENKE

January, 24, 2017

1 **Q. Please state your name.**

2 A. Charles Henke.

3 **Q. On whose behalf are you testifying?**

4 A. I am testifying on behalf of myself, and my wife Robyn Henke.

5 **Q. What is the basic purpose of your testimony?**

6 A. To describe for the Commission the impacts that the proposed high-voltage
7 transmission line would have on our property.

8 **Q. Please briefly describe the property you are referring to.**

9 A. My wife and I jointly own a farm of approximately 467 acres, located in
10 Chariton County, approximately 2 miles from Salisbury, Missouri.

11 **Q. Is it your understanding that the proposed high-voltage transmission line
12 would cross over your farm?**

13 A. Yes, I understand that the line would pass directly over our farm, with a span
14 of over one mile. I also understand that 7 pole structures would be erected on my
15 property.

16 **Q. Please describe the nature of your farming operations.**

17 A. The line would go over two pastures where we have cattle year-round. We
18 have fall calving cows in these pastures which means they calve in September and
19 October. It would also cross four crop fields. We rotate the fields between corn and
20 soybeans.

21 **Q. Are you also employed outside of your own farming operations?**

22 A. No, I am not. My wife is a second-grade teacher.

1 **Q. Are you opposed to the high-voltage electric transmission which Grain**
2 **Belt Express is proposing to build across northern Missouri, and across your farm**
3 **in particular.**

4 A. Yes I am, for a number of reasons which I address in the remainder of my
5 testimony.

6 **Q. Are you concerned about the possible health effects on you and your**
7 **family from the long-term exposure to the proposed line?**

8 A. Yes, I am. I do not claim to be an expert in this field, but I have read and
9 heard enough about the effects of EMFs to realize that some people do consider this to be
10 a serious long-term health problem. I would certainly not volunteer to live for years
11 within a close distance to the line being proposed by Grain Belt Express. We definitely
12 wouldn't put our sons through that risk and will be forced to move if this line is built.

13 **Q. How old are your sons?**

14 A. Colin is 6 and Byron is 4.

15 **Q. Are you also concerned about the possible dangers of the line falling and**
16 **coming into contact with your family or others in the vicinity?**

17 A. Yes, I am. I assume that the risk of the towers collapsing is small, but if it
18 does happen the potential risk to people in that area would be significant.

19 **Q. Would the proposed line have a negative impact on the view from your**
20 **property?**

21 A. It most definitely would. Our house is a little over 300 yards south of the
22 proposed line. We have a beautiful open view from our yard. We can see the lights of
23 town in the distance and open fields and tree lines all around. We have always said we

1 have prettier sunsets from our house and farms than from any beach we have been on.
2 This line would be at the center of that sunset.

3 **Q. Do you believe that the line would have a negative impact on the value of**
4 **your property?**

5 A. Yes, I do. As is apparent from the many people in northern Missouri who are
6 opposed to the line, I believe that it is generally viewed in a negative light in this area.
7 This would surely have an effect on the value of our property. A recent farm auction in
8 Salisbury sold three tracks. The track with transmission line, which had better ground,
9 sold for one thousand dollars less per acre than the other two tracks. That is an \$80,000
10 difference for that farm. With our acreage around the line and the devaluation of our
11 home that could easily be over a half million-dollar loss.

12 **Q. Would the line have any immediate impacts on your farm and farming**
13 **operations?**

14 A. Yes, I believe it could lead to several problems.

- 15 1. During construction topsoil would be mixed with infertile subsoil.
- 16 2. Disturbing the soil can lead to erosion problems like the ones we experienced
17 with pipelines.
- 18 3. Soil compaction from the multitude of vehicles and machinery during
19 construction would be significant.
- 20 4. Cattle would have to be relocated during construction. This would be a
21 major inconvenience especially if it fell within breeding or calving periods. We are also
22 worried about the health effects on cattle. I have heard there are studies that show
23 decrease in milk and fertility.

1 5. Farming around the structures would not only be a big nuisance but also
2 dangerous. Not only would it be a pain to go around the poles but I believe they would
3 also interfere with the satellite signal for GPS that controls autosteer, controlling planting
4 populations, and row shutoffs. Some of our equipment is quite large. If something were
5 to happen it would be hazardous for my life and the destruction of our equipment. It is
6 very expensive to work on.

7 **Q. Do you and your wife have any other reason to oppose the transmission**
8 **line?**

9 A. Yes, we do. These two farms both have special meaning. One farm is the
10 first farm I purchased by myself when I was eighteen. This was my first real
11 commitment into becoming the fifth generation to farm. I proposed to Robyn on my
12 favorite spot of the farm. This spot is towards the top of a hill right between the crop
13 ground and hay field. From this spot, you can see almost the whole farm. The pond sets
14 right below and this is the best place to watch the sunset. Even before that day I have
15 always planned on building a house on that spot. If Grain Belt is approved, a tower will
16 be sitting right in that exact place! We currently live in a small farm house which we
17 have already outgrown and we plan to have a bigger family. Our home is very old and
18 needs more work than what is feasible. If it was not for this line, we would have already
19 built at the new location on our property. We have held out for over two years waiting for
20 the results. We have no backup plan. There is no other place to build. We have made
21 many improvements on the land thinking we would be there forever. If this line is built,
22 that would all have been for nothing.

1 The second farm we purchased just over four years ago. We purchased it because
2 Robyn was pregnant with another boy. I know there is a chance that both boys won't
3 want to farm, but I wanted to make sure that if they both wanted to, we would have
4 enough to support both of them. She was eight months pregnant at the auction and
5 Byron, our four-year-old, came with us to sign the papers just a few days old. This farm
6 was purchased with hope for our boys.

7 Paula Priest came to my home this fall to negotiate an easement. I discussed with
8 her the possibility of moving the line. We looked at the map and I showed her how it
9 could be moved to better suit me. She said she would work on it, but I haven't heard
10 anything since. I also told her that the amount they were proposing was insufficient and
11 asked how negotiations would take place. She said they are starting with their top dollar
12 amount and they will not raise their offer. I asked what would happen when I refused to
13 accept that amount. She said they would offer the same amount three times and then
14 condemn me. Their idea of "fair" is offensive. On the adjacent tract, we spent more per
15 acre than their supposed best offer. That was for whole tract, not just the prime center
16 section. They are offering the same for our dirt that raised our best crop this year, as they
17 are offering others that have infertile soil. I don't see that as fair. They are also offering
18 agriculture price for land that they are building commercial structures. Why are we not
19 getting commercial price? We are the ones being forced to sacrifice. Their "fair" price for
20 land that is not for sale is insulting.

21 **Q. Does this complete your testimony?**

22 A. Yes, it does.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI


In the Matter of the Application of Grain Belt Express)
Clean Line LLC for a Certificate of Convenience and)
Necessity Authorizing it to Construct, Own, Operate,)
Control, Manage, and Maintain a High Voltage, Direct) Case No. EA-2016-0358
Current Transmission Line and an Associated Converter)
Station Providing an interconnection on the Maywood-)
Montgomery 345 kV Transmission Line)

Affidavit of Charles Henke

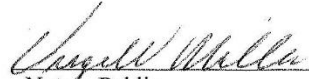
STATE OF MISSOURI)
) SS
COUNTY OF CHARITON)

Charles Henke, being first duly sworn on his oath states:

1. My name is Charles Henke.
2. Attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes is my testimony submitted to the Missouri Public Service Commission.
3. I hereby swear and affirm that my answers contained in the attached testimony to the questions therein asked are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.


Charles Henke

Subscribed and sworn before me this 24th day of January, 2016.


Notary Public

