

Exhibit No.: _____
Issues: Adverse Effects of Route
Witness: Victor & Mabel Renkemeyer
Exhibit Type: Rebuttal Testimony
Sponsoring Party: Intervenor CCOFFH

Case No. EO-2002-351
Date: August 8, 2002

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE NO. EO-2002-351

**REBUTTAL TESTIMONY
OF
VICTOR AND MABEL RENKEMEYER**

ON BEHALF OF

**INTERVENOR CONCERNED CITIZENS OF FAMILY
FARMS AND HERITAGE**

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

FILED²
AUG 08 2002
Missouri Public
Service Commission

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of Union)
Electric Company for Permission and)
Authority to Construct, Operate, Own, and)
Maintain a 345 Kilovolt Transmission Line)
in Maries, Osage, and Pulaski Counties,)
Missouri ("Callaway-Franks Line").)

Case No. EO-2002-351

AFFIDAVIT OF VICTOR & MABEL RENKEMEYER

Victor & Mabel Renkemeyer being first duly sworn, deposes and says that they (he/she) is the witness who sponsors the accompanying testimony entitled "Rebuttal Testimony of Victor & Mabel Renkemeyer"; that said testimony was prepared by them (him/her) and/or under their (his/her) direction and supervision; that if inquiries were made as to the facts and conclusions in said testimony, they (he/she) would respond as therein set forth; and that the aforesaid testimony is true and correct to the best of their (his/her) knowledge.

Victor Renkemeyer
Victor Renkemeyer

Mabel Renkemeyer
Mabel Renkemeyer

State of Missouri
County of Maries
SUBSCRIBED and sworn to
before me this 24 day of July, 2002.

Donna S. Thompson
Notary Public Donna S. Thompson

My Commission Expires: _____

DONNA S. THOMPSON
Notary Public - Notary Seal
STATE OF MISSOURI
Maries County
My Commission Expires: Oct. 13, 2005

**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
VICTOR AND MABEL RENKEMEYER**

1 Q. Please state your name and residence address.

2 A. Victor and Mabel Renkemeyer, 10441 RR 614, Vienna, Missouri 65582.

3 Q. Are you a property owner in one of the three counties through which Union Electric
4 Company is applying for permission and authority to construct, operate, own and maintain
5 a 345 kilovolt transmission line?

6 A. Yes, I am the owner of property which I am advised will be crossed by this new 345,000 volt
7 transmission in Maries County.

8 Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

9 A. I am providing this testimony in opposition to the application to construct this transmission
10 line on the route requested by Ameren UE. The law requires that construction of this power
11 line must be shown by Ameren UE to be necessary and convenient for the public service.
12 Regardless of any necessity for a transmission line somewhere else, it is neither necessary
13 nor convenient to the public to build the transmission line as proposed. The line can be
14 constructed in other areas and its construction in the place and manner proposed will be
15 destructive of family farms, family farm values, and does irreparable harm to the history and
16 heritage of the local area and its communities.

17 Q. Are you a member of the Intervenor group known as Concerned Citizens for Family Farms
18 and Heritage?

19 A. Yes, I am a member of that group and offer my testimony in support of its statement of
20 purpose, which is attached to this testimony and incorporated.

1 Q. Have you as a property owner in the path of the proposed transmission line been contacted
2 by Ameren UE for purpose of discussing where the line would go through your property and
3 what alternatives, if any, might be available?

4 A. They only said it would be east of the existing line, but they have never contacted me in
5 person. As of now, they do not have an easement across our property.

6 Q. How long have you owned the property in question?

7 A. Sixty-eight years.

8 Q. Could you describe the nature of the property and its past and current use?

9 A. This is a family farm. As we are full time farmers, this effects our bottom land and also our
10 pasture and it is very close to our home and barns.

11 Q. Is the current use of the property income producing to you?

12 A. Yes. It is the only income we have.

13 Q. Is the proposed transmission line to run near or over any residence, structures, or
14 improvements to your property?

15 A. Yes. It will run between my two cattle barns within about 125 feet of each one. But my
16 biggest concern is my home. The line will be about 250 feet from my front door. This I do
17 not want!

18 Q. Do you already have any power lines over your property?

19 A. Yes. Every time we go to town we have to drive under this line, and when we look out our
20 windows or front door that is all we see. As to the bottom ground, we must farm under these
21 lines and they do hum and we have to work under them.

22 Q. Will the proposed power line, if built, affect the value of your land?

1 A. Yes. A power line of this size on my property will without question decrease the overall
2 value of the remaining property. The power line itself, the large easement taken on a strip
3 through that part of the property will impair present and future use of the entire parcel of
4 property I own. The option of selling the property to get rid of the problems caused by the
5 power line is unavailable. The power line will make the property virtually unsaleable,
6 requiring that I simply live with Ameren UE's solution to a problem that I do not feel I even
7 share with them. While I am unsure of the health affects of such a large power line so close
8 to my own daily activities, it is ingrained in the popular mentality that such power lines
9 constitute a health hazard, rendering unlikely any sale of my property at all. No one will buy
10 this property with this 345,000 volt electric line through it. Certainly the line will effect the
11 value of our property if you have to drive under it at all times to get anywhere. Plus, every
12 time we look out window or door that is the first thing we see.

13 Q. What other adverse impacts do you feel this line will create for yourself and others?

14 A. The attached statement of purpose for Concerned Citizens for Family Farms and Heritage
15 sums up the overall bad impact. I and my neighbors live where we do by choice. We forego
16 the luxuries of more urban living in exchange for the peace, quiet and more rustic lifestyle
17 of the family farm and the small local community. Every reason and purpose that my
18 neighbors and I own property here for is drastically impaired or practically destroyed by the
19 presence of this high voltage power line, and the constant commercial activity anticipated in
20 building and maintaining it in the future. People that own land where this line is proposed
21 to go, some live in town and could care less, but as full time farmers we have to put up with
22 it every day.

1 Q. Do you know of any alternatives to the Ameren UE proposal which might change your
2 opinion about this project?

3 A. The alternatives are all within the power of Ameren UE to implement, and I do believe an
4 alternative exists. I believe Ameren should restudy the route and balance the interests of the
5 community against their need to relieve overloading problems. There are other corridors
6 equally available to Ameren to build this line which would be better able to bear the burden
7 of the line's presence without destroying property values, life styles and family farms. My
8 neighbors and I have no alternatives, and construction of the line as proposed will change our
9 lives and circumstances forever. We will not be able to sell even though we may not wish
10 to stay. Given our lack of options and alternatives, and the numerous alternatives available
11 to Ameren UE to put this line almost anywhere it wants, it is my hope that the Public Service
12 Commission will require Ameren UE to balance their mere commercial need against our vital
13 need to preserve the family farm and our way of life.

14 Q. Have you had past experiences with power companies and their maintenance of their
15 easement and right-of-way, and do you have concerns about this aspect of the new power
16 line?

17 A. If they put in a gate it is never hung right, and they could care less. Raising hogs on the
18 ground with a gate 1 ½ feet off the ground doesn't work.

19 Q. Does this conclude your Rebuttal Testimony?

20 A. Yes.

**CONCERNED CITIZENS OF FAMILY
FARMS AND HERITAGE**

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Concerned Citizens of Family Farms and Heritage ("Concerned Citizens") is an unincorporated membership association of family farm owners, small property owners, small business owners and farm community residents formed to promote the interests of family farming, small town communities and rural life. Membership is open to all who share the desire to promote the interests of family farms and small communities in the rural areas of central Missouri, and those who wish to preserve the rural environment against the continuous encroachment of large commercial development and urban sprawl. Our primary concern is with preservation and protection of the family farm and its heritage in rural Missouri. Concerned Citizens oppose through all lawful means the encroachment on and destruction of family farms, which are the fundamental economic and cultural basis for the rural lifestyle. Concerned Citizens promotes all reasonable efforts to preserve and protect family farms and rural lifestyle, and vigorously opposes impairment or destruction of property which is used or useful for perpetuation of rural existence on family farms, or diversion of property from use as family farms.