

Exhibit No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Issues: Adverse Effects of Route  
Witness: Alvin and Jill Drennen  
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  
ALVIN AND JILL DRENNEN**

**ON BEHALF OF**

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

**JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI**

**FILED<sup>2</sup>**  
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 ) Case No. EO-2002-351  
Maintain a 345 Kilovolt Transmission Line )  
in Maries, Osage, and Pulaski Counties, )  
Missouri ("Callaway-Franks Line"). )

AFFIDAVIT OF JILL DRENNEN

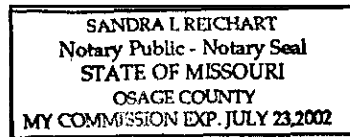
~~At~~ Jill Drennen, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that ~~she~~ <sup>she</sup> (he/she) is the witness who sponsors the accompanying testimony entitled "Rebuttal Testimony of Alvin + Jill Drennen"; that said testimony was prepared by ~~her~~ <sup>her</sup> (him/her) and/or under ~~her~~ <sup>her</sup> (his/her) direction and supervision; that if inquiries were made as to the facts and conclusions in said testimony, ~~she~~ <sup>she</sup> (he/she) would respond as therein set forth; and that the aforesaid testimony is true and correct to the best of ~~her~~ <sup>her</sup> (his/her) knowledge.

Jill Drennen

State of Missouri  
County of Osage  
SUBSCRIBED and sworn to  
before me this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2002.

Sandra L. Reichart  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 7-23-02



**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF  
ALVIN AND JILL DRENNEN**

1 Q. Please state your name and residence address.

2 A. Alvin and Jill Drennen, Route 1, Box 77, Freeburg, Missouri 65035.

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, in Osage County.

7 Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

8 A. I am providing this testimony in opposition to the application to construct this transmission  
9 line on the route requested by Ameren UE. The law requires that construction of this power  
10 line must be shown by Ameren UE to be necessary and convenient for the public service.  
11 Regardless of any necessity for a transmission line somewhere else, it is neither necessary  
12 nor convenient to the public to build this proposed line. The line can be constructed in other  
13 areas and its construction in the place and manner proposed will be destructive of family  
14 farms, family values, and does irreparable harm to the history and heritage of the local area  
15 and its surrounding communities. If this proposed line goes through, it will take the home  
16 which we now reside in. Our home which we have lived in for the last seven years and  
17 hoped to retire in someday. The home which we raise our two small children near family and  
18 friends. No amount of money can replace the bond and history we have with this  
19 community.

20 Q. Are you a member of the Intervenor group known as Concerned Citizens for Family Farms

1 and Heritage?

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

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

7 A. We were informed by our neighbor after he attended one of the local workshops, which we  
8 were not invited to, that the proposed line would take out our home. We had to make the  
9 initial contact to Ameren UE to find out if this was the case. After several contacts, we were  
10 informed by Ameren UE that the route they were proposing would take out our home. We  
11 were then visited by an Ameren UE representative (after we requested this visit) and was told  
12 that there was no alternative route available and it was a “done deal” and there wasn’t  
13 anything we could do but to settle with them as soon as possible. We were informed that the  
14 project would start this summer and the sooner we settled the more time we would have to  
15 find another place to go. When we asked Ameren UE how much time we had before we  
16 would have to move, they would not give us a date. They told us that their deadline to start  
17 this project was coming up and we were running out of time.

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

19 A. We purchased the property in October, 1995. We were lucky to be able to buy this home,  
20 since homes in this area rarely are sold. Most of these homes are handed down to children  
21 and family. I (Jill) grew up in this community and my dream was to move back to this area  
22 and raise my two children in a quiet, friendly community and give them an opportunity to

1 attend a small Catholic school. My parents, aunts, uncles, and cousin all live in this area.

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

3 A. This home was built in the late 70's and was owned by Vince and Pearl Mengwasser until we  
4 purchased it in October, 1995.

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

7 A. Yes. It will take out our home.

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

9 A. Yes. We have one in the front of our property and one down each side of our property.

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

11 A. Yes. A power line of this size on my property will without question decrease the overall  
12 value of my property. To sell our property is not an option that we have, unless we sell it to  
13 Ameren UE. The community in which we live in does not have a high retail market for  
14 homes or property. All or most of this land has been owned by families in this community  
15 for many generations. People value their property and land in this area and are not willing  
16 to sell to anyone. If we are forced to sell our home to accommodate Ameren UE in regards  
17 to this transmission line, we will have to move to another community. This will involve  
18 leaving family and friends behind and also sending my children to another school. If we  
19 decide not to sell our property to Ameren UE and move our home to another portion of our  
20 property, we face the health affects of such a power line. Although I am unsure of the health  
21 affects of such a large power line so close to my own daily activities, it is ingrained in the  
22 popular mentality that such power lines constitute a health hazard that I will not risk on my

1 children.

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

3 A. The attached statement of purpose for Concerned Citizens for Family Farms and Heritage  
4 sums up the overall bad impact. I and my neighbors live where we do by choice. We forego  
5 the luxuries of more urban living in exchange for the peace, quiet and more rustic lifestyle  
6 of the family farm and the small local community. The threat of this power line has already  
7 devastated our family, through stress and anxiety not knowing where we will live if this  
8 proposed line application is approved. The stress of being told that it is a “done deal” and  
9 explaining to my children why we might have to move is not a burden that is easy to bear.  
10 This stress has caused my husband to have migraine headaches and our children to have fear  
11 of losing their friends and leaving the school that they are attending. There is not a day that  
12 goes by that we do not think about what will happen to our lives if this power line application  
13 is granted.

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

16 A. The alternatives are all within the power of Ameren UE to implement, and I do believe an  
17 alternative exists. I believe Ameren should restudy the route and balance the interests of the  
18 community against their need to relieve overloading problems. There are other corridors  
19 equally available to Ameren to build this line which would be better able to bear the burden  
20 of the line’s presence without destroying property values, life styles and family farms. My  
21 neighbors and I have no alternatives, and construction of the line as proposed will change our  
22 lives and circumstances forever. We will not be able to sell even though we may not wish

1 to stay. Given our lack of options and alternatives, and the numerous alternatives available  
2 to Ameren UE to put this line almost anywhere it wants, it is my hope that the Public Service  
3 Commission will require Ameren UE to balance their mere commercial need against our vital  
4 need to preserve the family farm and our way of life.

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

8 A. We have had no past experiences with this matter, but I have been informed by other  
9 neighbors that there have been problems in the past with damaging of property, leaving trash,  
10 and not notifying the property owners before any timber is cut or pesticide is sprayed.

11 Q. Do you have any further testimony or observations to make for the Public Service  
12 Commission?

13 A. We feel that we have been misled by Ameren UE regarding this proposed line. As stated  
14 before, we were never contacted about the workshops that were offered in November and  
15 February. The first contact that we had regarding this proposed line was through a neighbor  
16 that attended one of these workshops and informed us that the proposed plan would put the  
17 power lines over the top of our home. After several attempts to contact Ameren UE, we were  
18 informed that the proposed line would involve the removal of our home. We then had to  
19 “request” a meeting with Ameren UE to discuss this matter further. We were told that it was  
20 a “done deal” and that no alternatives were available. We were also told that it would be in  
21 our best interest to settle with them as soon as possible and that they were only required by  
22 law to give us a “fair market value” for our home. This seems a little unfair to us,

1 considering that we are being FORCED out of our home without choice, having to start all  
2 over again regarding home loan, new community, new school, etc. Not to mention the stress  
3 and anxiety it has caused our whole family not knowing when or if this proposed line will  
4 go through. There is not a day that goes by where we don't feel the pressure of this proposed  
5 line and the situation that we may be faced with if this application is approved. We feel that  
6 it is not right to give a "private" company the power of eminent domain that will be building  
7 a 345,000 kV line that will not even benefit the surrounding counties in which it will reside.  
8 We are taxpaying citizens and have worked hard for the property and home that we have and  
9 feel that our freedom to live where we choose is being taken away from us. We are also  
10 concerned about the health risks that are involved if the line is moved to miss our home and  
11 we have to live in close vicinity to this power line. My children deserve a safe environment  
12 in which to grow.

13 Q. Does this conclude your Rebuttal Testimony?

14 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.