

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF MISSOURI

Local Public Hearing

October 19, 2015

North Shelby High School Gymnasium
3071 Highway 15
Shelbyville, Missouri

Volume 2

In the Matter of the Application)	
of Ameren Transmission Company of)	
Illinois for Other Relief or, in)	
The Alternative, a Certificate of)	
Public Convenience and Necessity)	
Authorizing it to Construct,)	EA-2015-0146
Install, Own, Operate, Maintain)	
and Otherwise Control and Manage)	
A 345,000-Volt Electric Transmission)	
Line from Palmyra, Missouri to the)	
Iowa Border and an Associated)	
Substation Near Kirksville, Missouri)	

Ronald D. Priddin, Presiding
SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

STEPHEN M. STOLL, Commissioner
MAIDA J. COLEMAN, Commissioner

REPORTED BY:
Cindy Keast Plowman, CCR
TIGER COURT REPORTING, LLC

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A P P E A R A N C E S

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1 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Good evening. We are on the
2 record. It's a little after six o'clock. The Missouri
3 Public Service Commission has set this time for a local
4 public hearing in the proposed ATXI transmission line.
5 My name is Ron Pridgin. I'm the regulatory law judge
6 assigned to preside over this hearing. And with me this
7 evening, on my right is Commissioner Stoll, and on my
8 left is Commissioner Coleman.

9 I would like to thank everyone for coming
10 out this evening. I will have a few more remarks to
11 make in an opening statement very shortly but let's see
12 if the commissioners have any opening statements for us.

13 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you. I want to
14 welcome everyone. Thanks for coming out this evening.
15 Local public hearings are a very important part of this
16 process. We're here to listen to public testimony. So
17 if you have something to say -- you probably already
18 signed up -- you'll be given an opportunity to speak.

19 The fact that there are two of the five
20 commissioners here does not reflect how we all view the
21 importance of this. Other commissioners are attending
22 other duties this evening. A transcript of the
23 proceeding is being made. You can see the court
24 reporter. And they will be reading that testimony in
25 the next few days. So again we're here to listen to

1 your comments and concerns regarding the case before us
2 and thank you for coming out.

3 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you. For those
4 of you who are old-fashioned like I am, you probably
5 wondered why the judge gave the man the microphone
6 before the woman. We go by seniority at the Public
7 Service Commission and I have only been on the board not
8 yet two months, just at two months now. But being a
9 girl from Sikeston, Missouri, and being brought up the
10 way that I was, it's still hard not to see the gentlemen
11 and ladies, the way we're treated. But never mind.
12 Maybe they'll figure it out eventually. It won't change
13 though.

14 But as I said, I am brand new. This is
15 actually my first public hearing that I've attended.
16 But I did want to make it a point to come here, because
17 being an out-state girl, I understand how important
18 issues like this are to people. And I want to be here
19 to hear your concerns, so that as the commissioners make
20 decisions, we know what everyone is thinking.

21 And I do want you to know that I don't
22 usually sound like this. But I don't have any pain at
23 all. It's just laryngitis. And other than that, you'll
24 see me popping cough drops.

25 So thank you for being here. I really

1 appreciate the turnout.

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Commi ssi oner Coleman, thank
3 you. Let me see if we have any counsel that wants to
4 enter an appearance. Any counsel from ATXI?

5 MR. LOWERY: Thank you, Your Honor. Jim
6 Lowery with the law firm of Smith Lewis, LLP, P.O. Box
7 918, Columbi a, Mi ssouri , 65205 representing Ameren
8 Transmi ssi on Company of Illi noi s.

9 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Lowery, thank you.
10 On behal f of the Offi ce of the Public
11 Counsel , pl ease.

12 MR. ALLISON: Yes. Dustin Allison, Office
13 of the Public Counsel , P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson Ci ty,
14 Mi ssouri , 65102.

15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Allison, thank you.
16 On behal f of the staff, pl ease.

17 MR. WILLIAMS: Nathan Williams, P.O. Box
18 360, Jefferson Ci ty, Mi ssouri , 65102.

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Williams, thank you.
20 On behal f of IBEW Uni on 1439? No

21 appearance?

22 Any appearance of behal f of MI S0?

23 MI EC?

24 Nei ghbors Uni ted?

25 MS. HERNANDEZ: Jenni fer Hernandez,

1 Hernandez Law Firm, LLC. Our address is 1802 Sun Valley
2 Drive, Jefferson City, Missouri 65109, here on behalf of
3 Neighbors United.

4 JUDGE PRIDGEN: Ms. Hernandez, thank you.
5 United for Missouri?

6 MR. LINTON: Good evening, Your Honor. On
7 behalf of United for Missouri, David Linton, 314 Romaine
8 Spring View, Fenton, Missouri, 64026.

9 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Linton, thank you.
10 Did I overlook anyone?

11 Before taking any testimony, I want to give
12 a little information about why the Commission is holding
13 this local public hearing. And I'm sure you're familiar
14 with a lot of the facts. But just for the record, let
15 it be known that ATXI has applied to the Commission for
16 approval of plans to build a transmission line
17 throughout Shelby, Marion, Knox, Schuyler and Adair
18 Counties and as well as the associated converter station
19 in Adair County.

20 The Commission may grant permission if it
21 finds this line is necessary or convenient for the
22 public service. The Commission cannot decide any
23 questions about eminent domain. Those questions can
24 only be addressed in Circuit Court.

25 The Commission has already scheduled an

1 evidentiary hearing for December to take evidence about
2 this application. But obviously we have scheduled local
3 public hearings here tonight and also next week to give
4 the public a chance to comment about the project. And
5 that's the purpose of tonight's hearing. We want to
6 hear from you.

7 I'm going to call the names listed on the
8 signup sheet. When I call your name, if you'll please
9 come up to the podium, I will put you under oath, ask
10 you to state your name and spell it so the court
11 reporter gets it spelled correctly. If you do not wish
12 to take an oath, please let me know and I'll ask that
13 your testimony be affirmed.

14 Because of the number of people that have
15 signed up, I would ask you to keep your remarks to five
16 minutes. I've got a clock up here and I will give you
17 an indication when your five minutes are up. I won't
18 actually physically stop you from talking but I would
19 ask you, when the five minutes are up, if you could wrap
20 up as quickly as you could afterwards, we would
21 appreciate it. There are a lot of people that would
22 like to testify tonight.

23 The Commissioners won't be able to answer
24 any of your answers tonight because they have to remain
25 impartial until after the evidence is presented at the

1 evidentiary hearing. If you want to ask questions you
2 may do so from any of the folks who identified
3 themselves earlier. We have people from ATXI, from
4 staff and from Public Counsel, and you're free to ask
5 questions of them. And my final request is that if you
6 could be polite and courteous to whomever is speaking
7 and treat them as you would like to be treated.

8 All right. Let me go on to the first
9 witness. And I believe Representative Nate Walker.
10 Would you like to testify, sir?

11 MR. WALKER: Yes.

12 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If you'll come forward to be
13 sworn.

14 NATE WALKER

15 having been sworn by the Judge, testified as follows:

16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much. If you
17 would, please state your name and spell it for the court
18 reporter.

19 MR. NATE WALKER: Okay. My name is Nate
20 Walker. That's capital N-a-t-e, Walker, W-a-l-k-e-r. I
21 represent the third district of the state of Missouri.
22 I reside at 2800 Weatherstone Drive in Kirksville,
23 Missouri. My Post Office Box is 7549, Kirksville,
24 Missouri, 63501.

25 As I said, I'm state representative for the

1 third district, which is the City of Kirksville, parts
2 of Adair County, Putnam County, Sullivan County and
3 Mercer County. And I represent a large part of north
4 Missouri. But I also used to represent Shelby County
5 and Macon County and Knox County when I was in the
6 legislature back in the eighties. I have an asterisk by
7 name because I served twice.

8 And Commissioner Coleman, I think you
9 understand about serving in the legislature and
10 Commissioner Stoll. But for you, being in north
11 Missouri, it's just about like being in the boot heel or
12 being southeast Missouri, we still have good manners and
13 we do things the right way. We just don't have the same
14 accent that you have. And I know that when you leave
15 the southeast corner of the state, it's hard to give up
16 that accent. And I served with several nice people in
17 the legislature from the boot heel area or from
18 southeast Missouri.

19 I'm here tonight to ask you all to be
20 open-minded. I first learned about this project back a
21 year ago in June. I met with the representative from
22 Ameren Transmission Company and they briefed me and area
23 legislators on this project. And then as this project
24 evolved, I became more and more knowledgeable. And I
25 started listening to my constituents. And then I

1 started seeing quite a bit of concern that bothered me.

2 And in my initial meetings with Ameren, I
3 indicated that I think you need to listen to the
4 landowners and get their input. And if you have to have
5 this line go through, you need to be genuine with your
6 input from them and go down property lines, go on
7 existing property that you may have the right-of-way on
8 and so forth.

9 But it seems, at about that time, it was
10 pretty obvious that they were going to do it their way
11 and not listen to the people. So I'm glad that you're
12 here today, tonight, to listen to the testimony.

13 I'm not going to speak a whole long time on
14 this subject tonight. I will be at the hearings next
15 week in Schuyler County and also Adair County. And I
16 probably will be a little more specific in my opposition
17 in Kirksville which is where I represent.

18 But tonight you've got a lot of people that
19 want to testify. And I think, based on a lot of time
20 doing research and -- Their livelihood and their life is
21 greatly affected by this transmission line. And from
22 what I can understand, I don't believe that this is a
23 good project for the state of Missouri or for north
24 Missouri. And so I ask you to be open-minded and listen
25 to this testimony tonight. And I know that you'll try

1 to do the right thing. And thank you all for being here
2 in northeast Missouri. And if you have any questions,
3 I'd be glad to answer them.

4 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Representative Walker, thank
5 you. Any questions?

6 COMMISSIONER STOLL: No. Thank you for your
7 testimony.

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Bobby Myers.

9 BOBBY MYERS

10 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much, sir.

12 If you would please, state your name and
13 spell it for the court reporter and then you may give
14 your statement.

15 MR. BOBBY MYERS: Bobby Myers. B-o-b-b-y,
16 M-y-e-r-s. I reside at 475 Highway E, Bethel, Missouri.

17 My family has owned and operated a farm here
18 in Shelby County for the past ninety-two years. We grow
19 corn, soybeans, wheat, and also have a cow-calf
20 operation. We recently built a new home on the
21 property. And if the Mark Twain Transmission Project is
22 built, it will be approximately one thousand feet from
23 us.

24 The proposed project right-of-way is just
25 over the fence on our neighbors which means noise,

1 possible health effects, et cetera. The transmission
2 line would become a backdrop of our home and most likely
3 decrease the property value. This project would dissect
4 three properties that I cash rent. Our farm, along with
5 these rented properties, are farmed using machine
6 farming practices where we grow corn, soybeans and
7 occasionally wheat.

8 Chemicals and fertilizer are custom-applied
9 using GPS technology. Aerial application of
10 insecticides and pesticides are used when necessary.
11 Our current farming practices will be impeded by this
12 proposed power line. Construction would interfere with
13 equipment usage and access. The extra time to seed, et
14 cetera, it takes to maneuver around these structures
15 would cut into the farm practices.

16 Future land options would also be at risk.
17 As families, landowners and renters, our livelihood and
18 hopes for future single agriculture practices could be
19 destroyed if landowner rights are not considered and the
20 authority of eminent domain is granted.

21 Also none of the five county commissioners
22 have given their consent. Please deny ATXI's
23 application. Thank you.

24 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Myers, thank you.
25 Commissioner Stoll, any questions?

1 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you for your
2 testimony.

3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Myers, thank you very
4 much.

5 Pat Goers.

6 PATRICIA GOERS
7 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much. If you
9 would please, state and spell your name for the court
10 reporter and then you may give your testimony.

11 MS. PATRICIA GOERS: My name is Patricia
12 Goers. That is capital P-a-t-r-i-c-i-a, capital
13 G-o-e-r-s.

14 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Any testimony that you may
15 have?

16 MS. GOERS: Pardon?

17 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'm sorry. Did you have any
18 testimony?

19 MS. GOERS: Yes, I do.

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Whenever you're ready.

21 MS. GOERS: I'm Patricia Goers. And I'm
22 seventy-one years old. I have assisted my husband daily
23 by working our land since 1979. I drive a tractor that
24 pulls a thirty-five foot disc, a forty-three point five
25 field cultivator and a grain cart. I also operate a

1 combine with a thirty foot corn head and a forty-foot
2 draper head. This combine has an unloading auger that
3 is nineteen feet tall. At times I still become
4 terrified and feel anxiety while driving machinery.

5 Why do I do it? Because my husband depends
6 on me. I worked also in a nursing home for nineteen and
7 a half years as well as coming home and assisting him
8 after work. I have looked forward to being with him
9 full-time. One of the reasons we purchased this ground
10 is because of the straight fields with no obstructions
11 such as power lines.

12 According to the Missouri Constitution,
13 which has a right to farm law, I feel I have a right to
14 continue to do these things. If I have any more time, I
15 relinquish my time to my husband, Dale.

16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Any questions?

17 COMMISSIONER STOLL: No.

18 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No.

19 DALE GOERS

20 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

21 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. If you
22 would please state and spell your name for the court
23 report and then give your remarks to the Commission.

24 MR. DALE GOERS: My name is Dale Goers.
25 D-a-l-e, G-o-e-r-s. My address is 5101 Shelby 452,

1 Shelbyville. We live southwest of Shelbyville, four
2 miles, but we own land at Leonard, Missouri that this
3 proposed power line would cross. We purchased this land
4 four years ago. And the unique thing about it is half
5 mile rows, and the power line, proposed line would come
6 in at the middle and then go diagonal across some of the
7 best ground in the country.

8 I don't know if the Public Service
9 Commission is aware of it but Shelby County is really
10 famous for two things. One, our good soil. But most of
11 all, we're famous for Norm Stewart, head basketball
12 coach at MU. So we're kind of proud of all those things
13 here in Shelby County.

14 When we purchased this land -- I have a
15 Settlement Statement -- it was at public auction three
16 years ago so I don't think I'm telling anything out of
17 school. But we gave five hundred fifty thousand dollars
18 for it. If it hurts the appraised value of it by twenty
19 percent, it will cost me a hundred and ten thousand
20 dollars. And that's going to get kind of make hard to
21 make up when you're our age.

22 Also, that there will be some type of
23 settlement for this property if they want to build a
24 power line across but the adjoining property will
25 depreciate their land value and they won't get any

1 settlement at all.

2 According to the American Land Trust -- And
3 I have some things to leave with you. But according to
4 the American Farm Land Trust -- and they're interested
5 in Missouri agriculture land, and they're saying we lose
6 fifty acres of crop land every hour in the United
7 States. I've heard we're losing a million acres a year.

8 I preached for eleven years and maybe that's
9 why you asked me to affirm to tell you the truth. But
10 in Bowling Green, Missouri they built a Walmart two
11 years ago. And it covered up thirty-four acres of land.
12 That land, I promise you, will never be farmed again.

13 Abraham lived at 2166 B.C., about four
14 thousand years ago. We can't continue to lose a million
15 acres of farm ground every year for the next four
16 thousand years. This has got to be stopped sometime.
17 In the four-lane 36 Highway from St. Joe to Hannibal,
18 they took at least three thousand acres out of
19 production, okay?

20 According to MODOT, if they -- if MODOT
21 wants to build a highway some place, they have to have
22 mitigation for wetlands. In other words, if they're
23 going to build a highway across the wetland, they will
24 have to go some place else and turn that into a wetland
25 and mitigate that wetland, according to DNR and the EPA.

1 But you can't mitigate good cropland. Once it is gone,
2 it's gone. If you dispose of good cropland over here,
3 you can't go over there and mitigate that. There's
4 nowhere to get it.

5 The machinery we farm, it's much like Bobby
6 Myers stated. We have a twenty-four row planter. The
7 clutch is on the planter so that when come you to point
8 rows, the rows will shut off. Those clutches were
9 twenty-five thousand dollars. The display that I have
10 in the receiver and the subscription was another ten so
11 we've got thirty-five thousand dollars tied up in GPS
12 farming and we think it probably won't work underneath
13 the power line, okay?

14 The planter is a twenty-four row planter.
15 It's sixty foot wide. If the marker is down, it's
16 ninety foot wide. So you can imagine -- We called the
17 superintendent here at the school today to ask if we
18 could bring our planter. She said she was concerned
19 about parking area so we don't bring it. But you can
20 imagine coming up to this power line with a planter
21 that's sixty foot wide and you've got to go around this
22 power pole, okay?

23 In 1971, I was pulling a Case two-row
24 planter on a skid of wheels with a 'kitty' rope, okay?
25 If you come to something, an obstruction in the field,

1 you just went around it. It's only two rows wide. But
2 our equipment today is not that way.

3 The neighbor to the east of me, Mike
4 Novinger, he has the same twenty-four row wide planter.
5 The neighbor to the west of me rents his land, Sam and
6 Bill Blackford, rent that farm, and they also have a
7 sixty-foot wide planter, twenty-four row planter.

8 So these are unbelievable things,
9 threatening things when you come up and have to go
10 around them. The sprayer today has ninety-foot booms.
11 Back in 1971, if you sprayed at all -- We didn't use
12 many herbicides back then. But if you sprayed at all,
13 you had a twenty-eight foot boom. So now you're coming
14 up to -- with this ninety-foot spray boom or this
15 sixty-foot planter and you're facing head-on to this
16 utility pole. Modern machinery is just that way.

17 I propose that there are other options that
18 could be done. We have purchased the farm where we live
19 in 1972 and I want to leave you two pictures of this.
20 This is the power lines in front of my house. On one
21 side of the road is the rural electric power line. On
22 the other side of the road is this high voltage power
23 line they put in front of our house in 1972, forty-three
24 years ago.

25 Do I like it? No. To be honest with you

1 today, it doesn't cause me any trouble. It's a
2 sixty-nine thousand volt power line. We don't pull
3 machinery underneath of it. It follows the local county
4 road. It is approximately two foot inside my property
5 line, okay? And I'd like to say I'd like to just get
6 rid of it, but to be honest, it doesn't cause me any
7 trouble. So I think there are other options available.

8 I'm going to leave these pictures with you.
9 I'm going to leave a picture of this settlement sheet
10 with you. And I also want to leave this article from
11 the American Farm Land Trust.

12 I think the reason why my wife says she's
13 threatened sometimes not maybe because of the machinery
14 but because she's afraid I'll fuss at her if she tears
15 something up. But that's how it goes. We've been
16 married for fifty-three and a half years. She kind of
17 knows me, I guess. Thank you. Any questions?

18 COMMISSIONER STOLL: No, sir. Thank you for
19 your testimony.

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much.

21 MR. GOERS: Can I leave this with you?

22 MR. LOWERY: Judge, how do you want have
23 those marked?

24 JUDGE PRIDGIN: We have those as three
25 different documents. They'll be Exhibits 1, 2 and 3.

1 Three different documents.

2 (Said instruments were marked as Exhibits 1,
3 2, 3, 10-19-15, CKP.)

4 MR. LOWERY: Your Honor, in past local
5 public hearings where we've had different exhibits
6 submitted -- And I point in particular to the Labadie
7 Utility Ashland Fill here that Judge Woodruff handled a
8 couple years ago -- instead of the lawyers raising any
9 objections that they might have to any exhibits, the
10 documents were identified and received at this time
11 subject to any proper objection that might be made in
12 due course after the transcript is available. I'm
13 assuming that process would be acceptable to you this
14 evening.

15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: That's fine.

16 MR. LOWERY: Thank you.

17 JUDGE PRIDGIN: You're welcome. Next
18 witness will be Tony Mersman.

19 TONY MERSMAN
20 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

21 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. If you
22 would please state and spell your name for the court
23 reporter and then give your testimony.

24 MR. TONY MERSMAN: My name is Tony Mersman.
25 I live just west of Bethel over here just a little ways

1 not too far from Bobby Joe. Spelled T-o-n-y
2 M-e-r-s-m-a-n, Shelbyville, Missouri, 5146.

3 Can we ask the Ameren people questions?

4 JUDGE PRIDGIN: You can certainly do so
5 after the hearing. If you have any testimony we'd like
6 to hear it. But that's for after the hearing.

7 MR. MERSMAN: Basically we're concerned.
8 Our family has owned our farm since 1948. Our
9 generation is just like these other people have. It's
10 very concerning to us and we're wondering why there's
11 just this imaginary line stuck out there running across
12 us like this. It's not fair in any way, shape or form.
13 And it's going to affect our bottom line tremendously.

14 You're cutting up our land. You're creating
15 huge weed patches. Once you run across this land with
16 your equipment, putting those poles in, that land is
17 really hurt big time. We may never get that piece of
18 property back to production levels again. And basically
19 that's why where I stand right there.

20 It's not fair. And we feel like we're being
21 run over. There's no discussion here. It seems it's
22 like it's all being shoved down our throat. And thank
23 you.

24 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Commissioner Stoll.

25 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Mr. Goers said that the

1 line crossed his property at kind of a diagonal. How
2 does it cross your property?

3 MR. MERSMAN: It's going to be going
4 straight from east to the west.

5 COMMISSIONER STOLL: And in the middle of
6 your property? Or how would you describe it?

7 MR. MERSMAN: Most of it is going to be
8 right through the middle of it, yes. And also it's
9 going up the edge of a little bit of our property. You
10 know, the property on the other side of our property
11 line is very unused ground, you might say. It's CPR,
12 stuff like that. It's been there for years.

13 How do you come up with this line? Cutting
14 through people's farms, not looking at what's going on.
15 Not a good deal.

16 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you for your
17 testimony.

18 MR. MERSMAN: Thank you.

19 MR. WILLIAMS: Judge, if I might ask one
20 question.

21 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Williams.

22 MR. WILLIAMS: Is CRP Crop Rotation Program?

23 MR. MERSMAN: Conservation Reserve Program.

24 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: What was your answer?

1 What's the definition?

2 MR. MERSMAN: It's Conservation Reserve
3 Program.

4 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Conservation Reserve
5 Program.

6 MR. MERSMAN: Yes. Which is set aside
7 ground is what that is. It's not in crop production.

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Weldon Mersman.

9 WELDON MERSMAN

10 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If you would please state
12 and spell your name for the court reporter and then you
13 may give your testimony.

14 MR. WELDON MERSMAN: My name is Weldon
15 Mersman. It's W-e-l-d-o-n M-e-r-s-m-a-n. And my
16 address is 1083 Shelby 142. And my folks bought this
17 property in 1948. I was seven years-old and I've lived
18 there ever since. And it's mine. But I'm about done
19 with it because of my age. And it's going to cut right
20 across the center of it.

21 I've got a drain down through that bottom.
22 It's a quarter mile long. It's got one hinge upon it
23 where it drains. Does a good job. But if you get
24 trucks and so forth going down through there whenever
25 they want, it's not going to drain.

1 And the only hunting property I've got is
2 right along the edge of it. And it's going to clear
3 most of that. It's just pretty doggone disgusting to
4 me. Because I've worked on it -- Well, I'm seventy-five
5 so it's close to seventy years. And it kind of hurts.
6 And down -- Mr. Mars sitting there on the east where
7 there's a fence row. It's going on the north side of
8 the fence row.

9 When they get up to me, I've got my ground
10 cleared on the south side. So there's one on the south
11 side. They will still be going across the bottom. And
12 I can live with it. But they don't need to be switching
13 sides. They're just going to have to lose a bunch of
14 brush. Thank you.

15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you very much.

17 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Nancy Gander.

18 NANCY GANDER

19 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If you would please, state
21 and spell your name for the court reporter and give your
22 testimony.

23 MS. NANCY GANDER: My name is Nancy Gander,
24 N-a-n-c-y G-a-n-d-e-r.

25 I'm speaking on behalf of the Nancy Jean

1 Rainey, trustee of the Nancy Jean Rainey revokable
2 trust. Do I need to spell any of that? This is her
3 affidavit. She lives in Oklahoma. She's in her
4 eighties. And her family owned this land forever and we
5 farm her land. So she couldn't be here so she wanted to
6 know if I could be here for her.

7 She opposes the Mark Twain Transmission
8 Project. I cash rent to a tenant for row property.
9 Farming. Large pieces of farm machinery such as
10 combines, planters and et cetera would have a difficult
11 time maneuvering around all the poles if the
12 transmission line should go through. The transmission
13 line would greatly hinder the application of fertilizer,
14 lime, chemicals, herbicides, insecticide, even more so
15 if guided by GPS equipment.

16 Any air application of fertilizer,
17 pesticides or crop dusting would not be feasible with
18 the transmission poles in line. The beauty of the rural
19 landscape would be ruined. The project lines would be
20 disastrous to not only my present farming operation but
21 to all future years for now to eternity. This
22 transmission line would cause such permanent damage to
23 not only my farming operation but to countless other
24 farming operations.

25 To approve the transmission route currently

1 proposed, it would go diagonally across my land and
2 would be most detrimental to my farming operation. The
3 number of tillable acres would be greatly reduced. The
4 line would cause my property value to drop immensely.

5 The historical nature of my land which is a
6 centennial farm -- which means it's been her farm for
7 over a hundred years -- is not a replaceable piece of
8 history. It would be totally decimated if the
9 transmission lines go diagonally cross my land.

10 The line would interfere with plan of ever
11 putting any improvements on the land in the future. It
12 would also interfere with recreational uses of the land
13 in the future. There are other damages to the enjoyment
14 of my property as income from my property which are not
15 listed here.

16 The transmission line would pose a potential
17 health hazard for humans, livestock and wildlife.
18 Please don't let ATXI the use of eminent domain and deny
19 their application.

20 Thank you for the opportunity to express my
21 concerns. That's for Nancy Jean Rainey.

22 I'd like to speak a little bit on my behalf.
23 We farmed all my life ever since I was a child.
24 Everybody around here is third and fourth generation
25 farms. My son has always wanted to farm. He just

1 purchased a farm. By the time he borrowed the money --
2 which farmers hate to go in debt that much. But that's
3 what his livelihood is, he wants to farm. He has
4 finally borrowed the money to buy land.

5 Thirty years from now hopefully he will get
6 it paid off. He will have paid double what the purchase
7 price of that land was. If those transmission lines
8 come across, or in the area of that farm, is that farm
9 going to be worth what his purchase price was? He's
10 already spent double on that. Farming, you hope you can
11 pay that back with your income from crops and stuff that
12 you take off.

13 He's also an outfitter so he makes money on
14 his land from timber. Other people, he leases their
15 land for hunters to come in to try to make enough money
16 to help make the farm payment. If these transmission
17 lines come through, a lot of that timber land is
18 valuable to us here. He can make extra income off of
19 that. The only that he made his payment last year was
20 between the hunting and the farm income. Farming
21 straight alone wouldn't make that.

22 Our biggest expense -- Normal people, their
23 biggest expense they've ever had is their home. Farmers
24 aren't that way. Our biggest expense in investment is
25 the land. I try to describe to my daughter, it's like

1 you buy a house. You have no say what to do with that
2 house. So I'm going to come paint it with fluorescent
3 paint and leave it that way for life. Are you going to
4 get the value of that house back? Is anybody going to
5 buy that house from you? That's what those poles are
6 going to do to our land. It's going to deface the value
7 of our land.

8 We are concerned about the health risk. And
9 everybody in the county, the county commissioners, all
10 of them have opposed it. And we're just -- everybody is
11 family here. So we're all trying to cover each others'
12 back. We're scared of health issues and afraid -- Young
13 farmers. If my son had known this was going to happen,
14 would he have put that much money invested in land if
15 someone can come and take it or do what they want with
16 it?

17 That's all I have to say that you.

18 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ashley Gander.

19 ASHLEY GANDER

20 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

21 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much. If you
22 would please, state your name and spell it for the court
23 reporter. And then give your testimony.

24 MS. ASHLEY GANDER: My name is Ashley
25 Gander. A-s-h-l-e-y G-a-n-d-e-r.

1 Okay. I oppose the Mark Twain Transmissi on
2 Project because it is not fair. Farmers and landowners
3 like my dad and brother, for example, have spent their
4 lives working hard to be able to buy land. Farmers have
5 to borrow money to purchase land. By the time they
6 finally get it paid for, they have invested twice the
7 money of the original price. If these poles are on our
8 land the value will drop. Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you for your
10 testimony.

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much. Next
12 witness is Marilyn -- I can quite read this last name
13 correctly. Is it Lyse? L-y-s-e?

14 MARI LYN PYSE

15 having been sworn by the Judge, testi fies as follows:

16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If you would please, state
17 your name and spell it for the court reporter and then
18 give your testimony.

19 MS. MARI LYN PYSE: My name is Marilyn Pyse,
20 P-y-s-e. I have one statement here from our neighbor.
21 I'd like to read that first. This is from Gary and
22 Kathy Page who's going to be affected by the power line.

23 It says: To members of the Public Service
24 Commission. Our property, located at 1986 County Road
25 157, Maywood, Missouri, will be directed impacted by the

1 installation of transmission lines along the farm strip
2 of the proposed route. We oppose the placement of these
3 power lines for various reasons. Our grandchildren play
4 in that area and can risk detrimental health from the
5 installation of power lines.

6 The proposed route would cross the field we
7 currently farm. The poles would make it more difficult
8 to farm and reduce the amount of acreage we have to
9 farm. Our property value will be reduced. The
10 appearance of the area will be adversely affected by the
11 removal of trees and placement of the power lines and
12 local wildlife could be impacted. This area is
13 currently abundant with deer, turkey and other wildlife.

14 And for these reasons we ask for your
15 support in opposing the placement of these transmission
16 lines. That's from Gary and Kathy Page.

17 I'm going to come from a little different
18 angle. While we're not being affected, our family, I'm
19 just going to read this. This is what we experienced.

20 We live in Marion County and are standing
21 with our neighbors and friends against the construction
22 of the Mark Twain Transmission Project. At one time,
23 before the southern right was chosen by Ameren, our
24 property was proposed to be crossed by this line. We
25 attended these open houses held by Ameren. We were

1 di sappointed by the way Marion County landowners were
2 treated. We went, signed in and herded around the
3 computers set up on tables. One computer showed us
4 where the line was going to cross the properties and
5 there were members of the wildlife advocates who
6 really -- didn't really tell us anything, only that they
7 were advocating the line and would not do any harm to
8 any wildlife.

9 I have since read several articles about the
10 harms these high transmission lines are doing to the
11 bird population, endangering species of bats, and mud
12 slides, livestock, and decreased production of crops and
13 adverse health problems.

14 When they showed us where the line was going
15 to cross our property, it would cut across two-thirds to
16 the southeast part to the northwest corner of the
17 eighty-acre tract of highly erodible ground. Would come
18 close to six hundred feet from our son's house and our
19 neighbor's house and that piece of property grants many
20 acres adjoining to it. It caused great concern about
21 the torrential rains we have been having.

22 I mentioned this as they are the same type
23 of farmland Mark Twain Transmission Project proposes to
24 cross. I asked one of the gentlemen from Ameren, who
25 will be responsible to maintain those ditches to incur

1 further erosion. At first, he said all dirt work will
2 be done to your satisfaction and in tact. Also stated,
3 while the trees would be cut, they would leave roots.
4 And when I pressured him that I understood what he said,
5 but tree roots eventually rot. So I asked him again,
6 who will maintain those ditches after torrential rains.
7 He just stood like a deer in headlights and didn't
8 answer me.

9 The other gentleman from Ameren -- And our
10 group included my husband, myself, my son and my
11 daughter-in-law. We didn't get an answer there either.
12 Oh, wait a minute. I'm sorry.

13 Ameren said that information would be over
14 here and took us to some other computers. We didn't get
15 an answer here either. So it was clear to us we are not
16 going to get an answer. We also felt that if Ameren had
17 wanted to be truthful and informative, that those open
18 houses would have been in a forum setting where we could
19 all ask questions and all heard the answers.

20 I have since read several articles of
21 dangers from the electromagnetic fields and articles
22 from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
23 who are opposing the EPA's over-regulation of coal -
24 burning plants. And we have to remember that the basic
25 problem here is the over-regulation by the EPA and the

1 transmission of cheap energy. The EPA is also now
2 wanting to regulate our waters. So we're -- all the
3 farmers are quickly losing their property rights.

4 Our family will not -- Personally I would
5 like to see Missouri and all states become energy
6 independent within their state borders. Close-generated
7 energy is more reliable. Our family will not be
8 directly affected at this time but continue to oppose
9 for these reasons. The disruption of the landowners'
10 right to farm and the use of eminent domain, Mark Twain
11 Transmission Project is not in the public's interest.
12 Devaluing property is detrimental to the lifestyles due
13 to increased electromagnetic fields and increased energy
14 from the lines coming down from storms and arcing from
15 the lines, increased erosion caused by the destruction
16 of forests and other undergrowth and the resolution of
17 all county commissioners to oppose.

18 Marion County has two century farms these
19 lines will be going through. We respectfully ask the
20 Public Service Commission to vote against this project.

21 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Pyse, thank you for your
22 testimony. Any questions?

23 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Ms. Pyse, excuse me.
24 Would you read your last paragraph to me again?

25 MS. MARILYN PYSE: Very last paragraph?

1 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Yes.

2 MS. MARILYN PYSE: While we're not directly
3 at this time? Is that what you meant?

4 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Uh-huh.

5 MS. MARILYN PYSE: While not directly
6 affected, at this time, continue to oppose for these
7 reasons. The disruption of the landowners' right to
8 farm, the use of eminent domain, Mark Twain Transmission
9 Project is not in the interest -- in the public
10 interest. Devaluation of property is detrimental to the
11 lifestyles due to increased electromagnetic fields or
12 increased energy coming down from storms and arcing from
13 the lines. Increased erosion comes from the destruction
14 of forests and undergrowth and the resolution of all
15 county commissioners to oppose.

16 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you very much.

17 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Roger Barrick.

18 ROGER BARRICK

19 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If you would please, state
21 and spell your name for the court reporter and then give
22 your testimony.

23 MR. ROGER BARRICK: Roger, R-o-g-e-r. Roger
24 Barrick, B-a-r-r-i-c-k. 418 Shelby 142 is the address.

25 My testimony is -- I have a lot of confusion

1 of a lot of this stuff especially when they're going
2 right through the middle of a four hundred and some acre
3 field. It's got recreation for hunting. I just bought
4 it about twenty some months ago and give a pretty good
5 price for it. And it's going to -- the devaluation is
6 going to be pretty rough and when you carry heavy debt
7 like that and stuff. Like I said, it's been two years.

8 It's pretty concerns, as I got like
9 twenty-seven thousand foot of electric fence on this
10 farm. I got -- And I'm building more every day. We got
11 cattle -- a cow-calf operation going on. Row crop.
12 Same problems that I think almost everybody mentioned so
13 I won't spend much time with that.

14 I'm really concerned with the recreation
15 end. I've got a daughter who would like to build a
16 house. And I told her not to do anything until we find
17 out what's going on with this. And that's created some
18 interesting comments.

19 And three other farms that I farm is on
20 this -- also three others we have something to do with.
21 So really concerned about health issues. My father had
22 a pacemaker and I may end up with one, too. Who knows?
23 And a lot of times I have a lot of trouble with some of
24 this stuff. I've got some information in my pickup that
25 talks about going to be a proposed three hundred and

1 forty-five thousand volt line. And then it says
2 underneath that may be five hundred K plus. And then
3 this map I got here tonight says: Disclaimer. This map
4 was created on October 19, 2015 for ATXI's Mark Twain
5 Transmission Project one hundred sixty-one thousand volt
6 line -- transmission line.

7 So I'd like to leave you all this with this
8 map so you can see where it's going to go through this
9 farm. And I think that there's got to be some better
10 places to put it. And I don't want it going over my
11 grandkids. We've got a lot of projects going on with
12 this farm through equip and there's going to be a lot of
13 dozer work and stuff done around this which is -- my
14 understanding can't be done.

15 So it's going to be a main concern because I
16 want to build a bunch of dry ponds and stuff to prevent
17 erosion and stuff. And one time we went through a
18 wetland and we had to build a fire pit to kind of make
19 up for that. And they're going to get to go right
20 through the middle of it and do what they want. And I
21 just don't understand how it's different from what I've
22 seen. So I just don't understand all their thinking on
23 that because I'd like to have done some projects, you
24 know, for soil conservation in them areas that I was not
25 able to because of trees that's over six inches in

1 diameter. Lots of woods on this. Lots of hunting.
2 I've got quite a bit of family that likes to hunt so --
3 I'm really concerned about the pond, about a five-acre
4 pond. It's got a lot of -- Oh, we have lots of picnics
5 and stuff down there. And this line is going to be
6 right behind the dam, a few hundred feet. And I'm real
7 concerned work about that and working around it all the
8 time.

9 Grandkids. And if there's going to be any
10 adverse affects with the cattle, cattle herd, on
11 conception and stuff. And I've already started a
12 veterinary program that we're getting -- having heifers
13 checked to see if any of that changes at all if it does
14 go through. And I hope we don't have to cross that
15 bridge.

16 That's my testimony. And thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thanks for your
18 testimony.

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Barrick, thank you. If
20 you want to give that to the court reporter. It's up to
21 you.

22 (Said instrument was marked as Exhibit No.
23 4, 10-19-15, CKP.)

24 DEBBIE BARRICK

25 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

1 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much. Before
2 you before you spell and state your name, remind you
3 that is a hand-held mic. If you want to take that out.
4 However you're comfortable but you are allowed to take
5 that out if you'd like to.

6 I'm sorry. If you will state and spell your
7 name for the court reporter and then give your
8 testimony, please.

9 DEBBIE BARRICK: Debbie Barrick, D-e-b-b-i-e
10 B-a-r-r-i-c-k.

11 I just want to share, on this Ameren handout
12 that says: A source of tax revenue. The Mark Twain
13 Transmission Project will lead to additional local tax
14 revenue to support schools, roads, police and fire
15 protection districts.

16 I'm a bookkeeper. I work here at this
17 school. I know once the power line is on our land and
18 stays, the Missouri State Tax Commission will require us
19 to lower our local tax levy. Therefore, we're not going
20 to be reaping a whole bunch of extra money. We don't
21 know how the electric current will be assessed so we
22 don't really know all that. Property values are
23 possibly going to go down because of the lines which
24 would lower our overall assessment for our property
25 which would also lower our local money for our schools.

1 Thank you.

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much.

3 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you for your
4 testimony.

5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'm not sure on the first
6 name on this. I don't want to mispronounce it.
7 Mr. Hawkins.

8 TANDY HAWKINS

9 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

10 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. If you would
11 please, state and spell your name for the court reporter
12 and give your testimony, please.

13 MR. TANDY HAWKINS: I realize my name is a
14 little funny. But it's Tandy, T-a-n-d-y, Hawkins,
15 H-a-w-k-i-n-s. My address is 1082 Shelby 161, Bethel,
16 Missouri, 63434.

17 We've been hearing a lot about the economic
18 problems that these lines would cause us as farmers
19 which I concur totally with. Now, my family has come
20 from a second perspective. We're very concerned about
21 the health problems that can come because of these
22 lines. Now, I realize there's Ameren representatives
23 here who are lawyers. One of them is a fine guy who's
24 even been to Bethel to the Bethel sheep festival and he
25 and his brood started out in Clarence. And however, the

1 challenge that we're facing -- and I realize that
2 lawyers will talk against this even being a problem.
3 But my problem, as I see it, is health complications
4 that can happen because of these lines for mostly for me
5 and my family but also for livestock as well.

6 We are livestock farmers as well as crop
7 farmers. And so we raise hogs on an outdoor natural
8 furrowing system on pasture, have a cow herd. We have
9 spent lots of time out taking care of our livestock.

10 And when we are working under these lines,
11 we have been told by Ameren officials at the Newark
12 meeting, that electric fences can carry charges even
13 without being plugged into a charger. My electric fence
14 representatives, who I buy chargers from, tell me that I
15 will have trouble with my chargers blowing out. And
16 I'll have to go buy a new charger or get them fixed.
17 Low impedance chargers cost a lot of money, four or five
18 hundred dollars.

19 But the big challenge is it happens at an
20 inconvenient time. Perhaps when I need to be getting
21 ready to go to church on Sunday morning I find I need to
22 go chase animals. That's not the kind of lifestyle I
23 want to live. And I wonder -- I took a little different
24 angle. I told my kids -- My son who is now farming with
25 me, who is a now a cancer survivor since the

1 mid-nineties and who was told by his doctors when he
2 finished his stem cell transplant and finished up other
3 treatments he took several years from 1995 to 1998, he
4 was told to stay away from as much radiation, from
5 electromagnetic imaging type machines. Use them what
6 you need to but don't take extras.

7 And unfortunately on my livestock farm, I
8 have -- this goes diagonally across where we have to
9 travel over and over every day. We load out hogs
10 underneath where this line is supposed to go. We run a
11 water hydrant there so we can cool hogs off to keep them
12 from getting hot in the summertime. So we're affected
13 by getting to be right underneath these things.

14 And I asked Clayton to do some research on
15 his own, look up, see what's happening. He went beyond
16 the United States. He went -- Googled things from
17 Australia, even from the middle eastern countries. The
18 middle eastern countries say, don't build a park
19 underneath these lines. Even though that's an open
20 space in some of these big cities, don't build a park
21 underneath it. You don't want kids spending time
22 underneath it. There's leukemia problems and other
23 cancer problems that can come because of these
24 challenges.

25 I believe that research can be tainted by

1 big dollars. I really do. I've seen it happen in too
2 many other areas. Turn on 60 Minutes, listen to the
3 world news, you hear about it every day. Ameren is a
4 big entity. And I know there's lot of people that are
5 looking for jobs. They want -- They have a job, they
6 have to do what they have to do. But not even all of
7 them agree with how this project works.

8 Even people that work for electric
9 companies -- Okay. I see I'm getting close on my time.
10 So anyway, as I close up, I have to think about a great
11 aunt. I went to visit her in the hospital when I was a
12 kid. She was dying of lung cancer. She was a grade
13 school superintendent. She lived where second-hand
14 smoke was around, she lived where there was a lot of
15 asbestos. And so what caused her cancer? They
16 speculate those two problems. It could have been partly
17 the genes.

18 The point I'm making is, as we go forward,
19 we need to do more research on these projects before
20 they are allowed to come along. I fear that this could
21 be the next smoking cigarette tobacco problem. We're
22 facing all kinds of lawsuits because of that as well as
23 asbestos. I worry this could be a problem in the future
24 that we're all going to have to face.

25 Thank you for your time. Appreciate it very

1 much. Thank you for being here tonight.

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. Appreciate
3 it. Sonja Hawkins.

4 SONJA HAWKINS
5 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Ma'am, if you
7 would please, state and spell your name for the court
8 reporter and give your testimony.

9 My name is Sonja Hawkins, S-o-n-j-a capital
10 H-a-w-k-i-n-s. And my address is 1083 Highway 15,
11 Shelbyville, Missouri. But I actually live of north of
12 Bethel. My address is Shelbyville.

13 With your permission, I would like to
14 relinquish my name to Clayton Hawkins, my nephew.

15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Certainly. Ms. Hawkins,
16 thank you.

17 CLAYTON HAWKINS
18 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much. And if
20 you'd please state and spell your name for the court
21 reporter and then give your testimony.

22 MR. CLAYTON HAWKINS: My name is Clayton
23 Hawkins, C-l-a-y-t-o-n H-a-w-k-i-n-s.

24 Will I be able to take up my next five
25 minutes or will this be my only five minutes?

1 JUDGE PRIDGIN: You can -- I guess, since
2 you're taking your aunt's time, I can allow you ten
3 minutes if you'd like.

4 MR. CLAYTON HAWKINS: I'm a diversified
5 livestock and row crop farmer. Tandy Hawkins is my
6 father. He spoke ahead of me. I raise hogs, cattle,
7 corn, soybeans and wheat, grass for pasture and head.
8 In this day and age we have a unique operation. We
9 continue to operate in an outdoor farrow-to-finish
10 operation where we raise natural hogs for non-range
11 workout means. There are few farmers that store
12 in-and-out hogs across the United States these days.

13 But anyway, as I'm a sixth generation farmer
14 and our farm's been in our family for over a hundred
15 fifty years. And the impact the Mark Twain Transmission
16 line would have on the future of my farming operation is
17 limitless, huge. And opportunity costs would be
18 devastating.

19 Ameren is proposing to take up one of the
20 best locations for my dad and I to build his buildings
21 for our expanding hog operation. Like he mentioned, we
22 have mile after mile of electric fence that we use to
23 fence our hogs and cattle.

24 When we talked with an engineer at Ameren's
25 open house at Heartland, he told us we'd still be able

1 to feel that volt in the electric fence when I'm working
2 on it. So when building or repairing when the electric
3 fence charger was turned on it would still give us a
4 volt. Who wants to do that? It would be very expensive
5 and time-consuming to replace the fences with barb wire
6 or woven wire, who wants to do that while the fence is
7 still pulsing? And who wants to pay for that? From
8 packet fence to woven wire, the University of Missouri,
9 average cost as twenty-five hundred dollars a quarter a
10 mile.

11 It's hard to foresee all the problems and
12 economic impact that this line may cause. This line
13 could affect the way I'm able to farm and stay
14 competitive in an ever-changing agricultural industry
15 and restrict my ability to farm efficiently in the
16 future.

17 They'll take out acres for us to row crop
18 and graze. And a person has to not only think about the
19 poles and their concrete pads that will take out our
20 farm ground, but the fact that farm machinery would not
21 be able to navigate between the property boundary and
22 the poles making it impossible to farm between
23 approximately a hundred fifty foot boundary along the
24 edge of the property at seventy-five foot. May be hard
25 to navigate around.

1 It would be kind of hard, perhaps I should
2 say impossible, to run irrigation or build a livestock
3 building or build terraces so the cover crop won't tear
4 away, or build a pond or lagoon, shed for farm machinery
5 and equipment, build a fence or corral, store head. I
6 mean, it just makes it hard to farm. If there were to
7 be a problem with straight row trenches -- I've read a
8 lot about it in my research on-line that other lines of
9 similar magnitude have caused.

10 It could impact my livestock causing them to
11 drink less, slow down rate of gain, even cause them not
12 to re-breed or reproduce. Also we have a hired hand
13 that has a pacemaker. Time will tell whether the line
14 impacts his pacemaker, inhibiting his ability to help us
15 on the farm.

16 As Ameren has indicated on their
17 transmission line website that pacemakers can be
18 affected. And transmission lines -- Our notes here --
19 is for their electromagnetic fields to transmit a
20 growing body of scientific evidence just an invisible
21 EMF created by everything from high voltage utility
22 companies lines, personal computers, microwaves and
23 ovens are linked to a frightening array of cancers and
24 other serious health problems in children and adults.

25 I was advised not to spend any unnecessary

1 time in these electromagnetic fields. Like my dad
2 mentioned, I am a cancer survivor and have spent time
3 with radiation and everything and the Lord blessed me
4 with the ability to farm and be outside away from these
5 EMFs a little bit more.

6 And anyway, I just am opposed to the line.
7 And I have done a lot of research on these high voltage
8 power lines and concluded that no matter what these big
9 transmission line companies say, it is undeniable that
10 there is still potential that EMFs can cause serious
11 health issues.

12 I believe that we should error on the side
13 of precaution regarding things as transmission lines
14 that have the potential to put our community, people,
15 children, livestock and environment at risk.

16 This transmission line will cause Missouri
17 residents' electricity rates to go up -- for especially
18 customers of Ameren -- in order to pay for this
19 expensive line. I'm not very excited about having a big
20 power line with big unsightly poles cluttering and
21 defacing the beautiful countryside where I plan to live
22 and work for the rest of my life.

23 Missouri does not need to be responsible for
24 paying for the renewable energy mandates of the eastern
25 states of the United States. Most of the public does

1 believe that these higher power lines are not healthy.
2 In addition, the presence of lines, if observable, is a
3 visual detractor.

4 These health, safety and unappealing view
5 concerns often translate into considerable devaluation
6 of property values. Like we've heard before, maybe
7 twenty or twenty-five percent -- but it can be up to
8 fifty percent from what I've read on-line.

9 Ameren claims they will be compensating
10 these landowners for easements of the Mark Twain
11 transmission line. But we have not been able to get
12 ahold of any contract so we have no idea what's -- what
13 to expect. And if it's a one-time lump sum payment,
14 there's many more years where we're going to be farming
15 and the opportunity cost is just huge to think about the
16 revenue that they're going to be taking away from taking
17 our acres of row crops out of production.

18 And if it's a lump sum, the opportunity cost
19 has probably already been wrapped up and all the time
20 we've spent as Neighbors United and researching the
21 harmful effects of these lines and going to meetings
22 like this, and we just cannot afford to have everything
23 come through the heart of all of this.

24 The amount of compensation -- Anyway, it is
25 my dream that future generations will be able to be

1 productive agriculturists and have the same opportunity
2 that I have had, to help feed the world in a productive
3 and safe environment.

4 I believe that no investor or corporate
5 utility company should have the right to condemn our
6 homes and our way of life, to take what they need for a
7 ten percent plus expected return on your investment
8 without paying the landowners anything except for a
9 one-time payment. It should be an annual payment. Just
10 can't take -- There's no way to put a price tag on this
11 sweat equity that my ancestors put into this land for a
12 hundred fifty years, clearing the land so we can row
13 crop it and have more pasture for all our livestock.

14 I feel that we should be able to use
15 existing routes that have already been made for these
16 utility rights-of-way. There's currently approximately
17 nine million acres for power lines already taken out and
18 twelve main pipelines across the U.S. And I feel we
19 should be able to continue to use those instead of just
20 plowing right through the middle of our property.

21 Thank you for hearing my concerns. I can
22 say more but time is running out.

23 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you for your
24 testimony.

25 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Hawkins, thank you.

1 Michael Pontius.

2 MICHAEL PONTIUS

3 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

4 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If you would please, state
5 and spell your name for the court reporter and then give
6 your testimony.

7 MR. MICHAEL PONTIUS: My name is Michael
8 Pontius, M-i-c-h-e-a-l, P like in Paul o-n-t-i-u-s. My
9 address is 219 East Olive Street, Palmyra, Missouri,
10 63461. The property that I have that is involved with
11 the proposed line is Township 59 North, Range 7 West,
12 Section 29 and 30.

13 Ladies and gentlemen, lady commissioner,
14 gentlemen commissioners, thank you for letting me speak.
15 I bought my property in 2006 for a place for my sons,
16 grandchildren and myself to hunt. It had power lines in
17 an oil pipeline on it when I bought it. After owning it
18 about six years, the oil company disrupted my place
19 about one and a half years, putting in another pipeline
20 adjacent to the existing line. While putting in this
21 new line, prehistoric artifacts were uncovered
22 processing a delay by nesting habits of bats. And I was
23 unable to use or get to parts of my property due to the
24 pipeline.

25 About one month after my property was back

1 to normal, and I had full use of it, I received a letter
2 from Ameren Illinois stating their intention of putting
3 a transmission line in which would T the existing oil
4 pipelines in the middle of my property. The oil
5 pipeline took and the proposed transmission line would
6 take additional trees which would hinder hunting. Also
7 I just signed a ten-year contract for CPR, Conservation
8 Reserve Program, and part of this contract is burning
9 the grasses that were planted.

10 I strongly oppose the granting of eminent
11 domain to Ameren Illinois which would give them access
12 to my property for a lot less than its value and would
13 decrease the value of my property. I've already had to
14 witness the eminent domain process when Consolidated
15 Electric took about two hundred acres of my dad's farm
16 in 1964 for Thomas Hill Lake and Power Plant.

17 I don't feel this proposed transmission line
18 is in the public's best interest and definitely not mine
19 for reasons I purchased the property. So I would
20 appreciate it if you would deny ATXI's application.

21 Thank you.

22 Now, I also have a copy of the letter from
23 Enbridge Oil Company on the prehistoric artifacts they
24 found. They would not tell me exactly where on my
25 property it was located because they don't want me or

1 anybody else to dig up those artifacts so I don't have
2 any idea. But this letter is from a representative of
3 Enbridge Oil Company so could I give this to --

4 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If you'd like to, yes, sir.

5 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you for your
6 testimony.

7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much.

8 (Said instrument was marked as Exhibit No.
9 5, 10-19-15, CKP.)

10 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Joyce Spring.

11 JOYCE SPRING

12 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

13 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If you would please, state
14 and spell your name for the court reporter and then give
15 your testimony.

16 MS. JOYCE SPRING: Joyce Spring. J-o-y-c-e
17 S-p-r-i-n-g. I live at 16155 North 200 Road, Industry,
18 Illinois but my husband and I own ground in northeast --
19 or in north Shelby County.

20 We, as farmers. Only get to use the land
21 for a little while.

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Spring, can I ask you to
23 pull that microphone down. Thank you very much.

24 MS. JOYCE SPRING: We, as farmers, only get
25 to use the land for a little while. It belongs to God.

1 And we have an obligation and duty to be protectors of
2 it so that when we leave it for the next generation to
3 use to feed this nation of people, it will be in as good
4 as condition as we received it. So if we let huge
5 equipment come in to dig holes, pour cement and deliver
6 poles and wire, the conditioning of the soil will be
7 diminished greatly.

8 I had opportunity to watch the pipeline go
9 in that goes across Illinois and Missouri. I was taking
10 my aunt to Havana four days a week to see her husband
11 in the nursing home and we crossed twice and then the
12 fifth day I went across it to church. And I have to
13 give them -- They tried. They took bulldozers and
14 pushed the topsoil back. Then they had huge backhoes
15 that they dug the trenches with and then they took semis
16 and hauled pipe all across all the fields. And then
17 when they got all done, they pushed the topsoil back
18 then like they should have.

19 And I know this year was not a good crop
20 year but they did get a crop up. On one side of the
21 road it was corn. That corn, in a huge area where they
22 had messed with the soil, would not even have made good
23 Halloween decorations. They didn't even run the combine
24 overall. The beans on the other side were eight inches
25 tall. And it will be years before this will come back

1 to what it should be. The pasture ground they had
2 sowed, they sowed grass twice to get it even grow.

3 And is this what we deserve? Just to have
4 some corporation come in and climb all over us so they
5 can line their pockets supposedly for the good of some
6 people that don't even want their help. They expect the
7 dumb in parenthesis farmers to let them climb all over
8 them so that the big business can make money, not to say
9 anything about general jeopardizing our health, lowering
10 our property values and limiting our use of our land.

11 Thank you. But we don't want the
12 transmission line.

13 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you for your
14 testimony.

15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Spring, thank you.
16 Jack Mann.

17 JACK MANN

18 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If you would please, state
20 your name for the court reporter and then give your
21 testimony.

22 MR. JACK MANN: My name is Jack Mann.
23 J-a-c-k M-a-n-n. My residence is 1909 Tenth Avenue,
24 Belle Plaine, Iowa, 52208. I was born possibly fifty
25 yards from where the Mann family farm is right now. I

1 probably should have my residence there, as much as I'm
2 there. I'm there an awful lot.

3 I want to make you aware of a term that I
4 don't know if you heard it tonight or not because I'm
5 hearing-impaired and I'm having a very difficult time
6 hearing what's going on here. Anyway, this term is
7 acceptable collateral damage. Any time that a project
8 of this magnitude is attempted and put through, there is
9 a certain amount of collateral damage.

10 We talked about some of that here tonight.
11 I was educated here in Shelby County. I went to school
12 at Shelbyville, Missouri. I was educated up at Truman
13 State. It wasn't called Truman State at that time. I'm
14 a retired industrial technology teacher. I taught
15 school for thirty-five years.

16 We're dealing with sixty cycle alternating
17 current, I'm assuming here. That means the current goes
18 from negative to positive and back to negative. That's
19 one cycle. Sixty cycle, that means it changes direction
20 one hundred twenty times each second. Now, that creates
21 a tremendous electromagnetic field. A tremendous one.
22 We have volts, amps and resistance which is measured in
23 ohms. And the proposal is to bring a tremendous amount
24 of electro current along a line? Or several lines? We
25 don't know how many lines there's going to be. There's

1 a lot of voltage here. There's going to be a lot of
2 electromagnetic energy generated because there will be a
3 tremendous electromagnetic field.

4 Anybody know what this is? You can shake
5 your head or whatever. This is called a pacemaker.
6 It's a pacemaker defibrillator combination. It can do
7 both things. This one was in my body for almost seven
8 years, right here. I have a new one now to the tune of
9 about ninety-six thousand dollars they billed Medicare
10 for.

11 To tell you the truth, this thing scares me
12 silly. It really, really does. I do not want to be a
13 part of acceptable collateral damage, okay? A guy said
14 to me the other day, they said, Jack, what you need to
15 do is you need to find a rare bird or rare butterfly or
16 something on your farm and you can make them go around
17 it. I said, there's an endangered species on my farm.
18 Me. Okay?

19 Now, I reside in another state but I spend a
20 tremendous of time at the Mann family farm. That's my
21 favorite place in the whole world. That's where I grew
22 up. My grandchildren and children, they love to come
23 there. In fact, my granddaughter was really torqued
24 because she didn't get to come this time. But she has
25 things to do and she's in school right now. So she

1 can't be here.

2 I talked to a man the other day and he said,
3 you know, they may go across my farm. And he said, I'm
4 going to have to farm around poles but I can live with
5 that. And he said, there may be a little crop damage
6 now and then, I can live with that. Maybe there will be
7 some property devaluation and I can live with that. And
8 I said, hey, I can live with all these other things.
9 I'm not sure I can live with all that magnetic field
10 that's going to go around that line.

11 I do not want to be put off my property
12 because I can't walk underneath that line. It's going
13 to go, the way we've got right now, right around our
14 house or right by our house, close to it out there.
15 Does that mean I can't go there anymore? I don't know
16 what that's going to be mean because it's taking a
17 chance, I think, with my life.

18 These are child's magnets right here. And I
19 don't know what it's going to do but -- Really? It
20 makes a noise, just these little magnets. How much more
21 powerful do you suppose a magnetic field around that
22 line or lines is going to be than these kids' toys right
23 here?

24 Tell you what. If this project, regardless
25 of how far it goes -- I hear it may go clear to the east

1 coast -- if this project costs one life, one, it isn't
2 worth it. It isn't worth it. But I'll tell you what
3 we're talking about, we're talking about green energy.

4 Thank you very much.

5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Mann, thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you for your
7 testimony.

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Noble Hawkins.

9 NOBLE HAWKINS

10 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. If you would
12 please, state and spell your name for the court reporter
13 and give your testimony.

14 MR. NOBLE HAWKINS: Noble Hawkins.

15 N-o-b-l-e H-a-w-k-i-n-s. Address is Bethel, Missouri.
16 And our box number, 828 Shelby 159, zip code 63434.

17 I'm going to share the information I shared
18 with the affidavit that was turned in to the Public
19 Service Commission, the way I understand. I am the
20 trustee of a good tract of farmland. And my one concern
21 with this affidavit was the extra time, seed and so
22 forth it takes to maneuver around the structures as well
23 as the increased cost of controlling weeds and brush.
24 We are also concerned about the future use of GPS-guided
25 equipment. And in addition to this, there is the health

1 concern for my wife, Evelyn, and a farm employee with
2 our home less than a thousand feet from the proposed
3 right-of-way and both my wife and the farm employee have
4 pacemakers.

5 Also I want to mention, remind you -- it
6 would be my son and grandson -- have bought the farm
7 that we had right adjacent to the proposed power line.
8 And they have that -- a lot more concerns there than I
9 have now. And so we are really concerned over these
10 issues. And I thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER STOLL: And I thank you.

13 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins.

14 Sharla Hawkins.

15 SHARLA HAWKINS

16 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

17 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If you would please, state
18 and spell your name for the court reporter and then you
19 may give your testimony.

20 MS. SHARLA HAWKINS: Sharla Hawkins. That's
21 with S-h-a-r-l-a Hawkins, H-a-w-k-i-n-s. I'm voicing my
22 opposition to the Mark Twain Transmission Project. I've
23 been a -- me and my husband, my son and my father-in-law
24 have all testified tonight and I'm very much behind all
25 of their comments.

1 And did I say my address? 1082 Shel by 161
2 at Bethel , Missouri , 63434. But my unique situation
3 is -- That's where I live and my family lives but the
4 home farm is at 828 Shelby 159. And our unique plight
5 is that this line comes across kind of -- I call it a
6 backyard because the farmers' fields, that's our
7 backyards. And then it goes across the highway out here
8 northeast of Bethel , comes across another property and
9 another property and the home farm and then a rental
10 property. So it's just boom, boom, boom, we are
11 effected.

12 And the unique thing is, we come underneath
13 the line to -- underneath the line to do all our chores
14 and everything and go -- what more widespread than
15 that -- to a radius of all our farm ground that we farm.
16 So we're going to be underneath this line every day, day
17 in and day out, time after time.

18 You've already heard the health issues that
19 have been spoken on my family. I won't go into detail
20 again on that, cancer issues and pacemaker concerns.
21 And neighbors, as well, if they've got children or
22 grandchildren, I've heard them voice concerns for
23 childhood leukemia and just concerns. I don't think
24 much has been said -- My husband reminded me that he
25 didn't comment he's heard from an employee that has

1 worked under the lines, that the hairs go up on your
2 arms like on just a cloudy, foggy, damp day. So we're
3 perhaps being affected.

4 And my final point, which I don't think
5 we've heard very much of, is our compensation. My
6 understanding is we only get a one-time fair market
7 value payment. And I do understand that. We've even
8 attended a meeting out here, I believe it was with
9 Spring Haven, and an attorney out of Columbia, Missouri,
10 and his best encouragement I got out of that meeting, he
11 said, you get the best fair market value you can. Okay.
12 But that's it. That's it.

13 We've heard the farmers talk about how it's
14 affecting their ground farming around the poles, health
15 concerns. Our farm's economic value will be affected
16 far beyond the boundaries of Ameren easements. I
17 believe I voiced my concerns tonight and I appreciate
18 your time. Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

21 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Kay Caskey,
22 please.

23 KAY HEAD CASKEY

24 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

25 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you so much. If you

1 would please, state and spell your name for the court
2 reporter and then give your testimony.

3 MS. KAY HEAD CASKEY: My name is Kay K-a-y,
4 Head H-e-a-d, Caskey C-a-s-k-e-y. My mailing address is
5 P.O. Box 45, Butler, Missouri, 64730.

6 Judge Pri dgi n, Commi ssi oner Col eman,
7 Commi ssi oner Stoll , Representati ve Wal ker. You've heard
8 many tonight tell of their personal loss. My family and
9 I have a personal loss also. The acreage that we own in
10 Knox County has been in our family since the 1920s. But
11 tonight I rise to share with many of our cousins and
12 neighbors who are aptly sharing their concerns tonight.

13 We understand that this is a process. We
14 respect the process. Northeast Missouri is a sparsely
15 populated area. Our opposition to this issue is
16 unanimous. Please listen carefully to our objections.

17 In the legislature, you might pass a piece
18 of legislature which in years could be repealed.
19 There's no repealing the power lines. They'll be here
20 forever.

21 My husband, Senator Harold Caskey, died on
22 October 1st. It was his intent to be here at this
23 meeting tonight. His concern also was the medical
24 issue. He had a DBS, a deep brain stimulus, because of
25 Parkinson's. There would be virtually no way to warn

1 people of every medical issue or concern that there
2 might be. You are the decision-makers. We ask your
3 careful consideration and deliberation and ask you to
4 respectively deny Ameren's request.

5 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you for your
6 testimony.

7 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you for your
8 testimony. Of course, Commissioner Stoll and I both
9 served in the Senate with Senator Caskey and we're
10 deeply sorry to hear of his passing. And you have our
11 deepest sympathy. Thank you.

12 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Commissioner Ms. Coleman,
13 thank you.

14 I apologize on this next name if I get it
15 wrong, if I'm way off base. The only person who signed
16 up in purple ink. So if you remember you used purple,
17 it's you. It's David or Daniel 'Latrell'. Am I
18 anywhere close?

19 DAVID SIDWELL

20 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

21 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If you would please, state
22 and spell your name for the court reporter and then you
23 may give your testimony.

24 MR. DAVID SIDWELL: It's David Sidwell.
25 S-i-d-w-e-l-l.

1 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Can you raise that
2 microphone, please.

3 MR. DAVID SIDWELL: I intend to give
4 testimony on behalf of my parents at the next meeting.
5 Tonight I was asked to read a statement from someone who
6 is out of state. I was told that I could do both. If
7 that's acceptable, I'll proceed.

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay.

9 MR. DAVID SIDWELL: I'm going to read a
10 statement submitted by Robert Parrott, P-a-r-r-o-t-t.

11 To The Commissioners Of The PSC: I object
12 to the proposed Ameren power line, Case Number
13 EA-2015-0146 for the following reasons. Number one, it
14 is not beneficial to my community. The proposed power
15 line dissects several of my terraced fields as well as
16 the non-adjacent ten-acre parcel which I am especially
17 proud. This parcel has never been cultivated. The
18 proposed line cuts this pristine parcel diagonally with
19 the one hundred fifty feet of clearing for the line. It
20 will render this parcel useless. My wife and I have
21 planted a persimmon grove twenty-five years ago and had
22 planned to add organic medicinal herb crops in the
23 future.

24 Ameren, in the beginning, they would read
25 our comments, listen and respond to our concerns and

1 constructive suggestions. There's been no response, no
2 feedback, except in one public meeting we were told
3 emphatically the power line did not impact our land
4 value. That is simply not true.

5 From the onset of this project, at the
6 public meetings Ameren has failed to show any respect to
7 the public starting with armed security guards at each
8 meeting. I certainly agree with that statement.

9 I respectfully ask the PSC commissioners to
10 please advocate for all of us. And the five counties in
11 Northeast Missouri are being subjected to this challenge
12 to our property rights. Ameren's premise for
13 approaching us with this project is flawed.

14 According to the Wall Street Journal and the
15 New York Times, projects such as this are being
16 challenged across the country because companies are
17 using DEPO-mandated Clean Energy Act, MISO in our case,
18 as a tool for access to investment opportunity for
19 building private wealth.

20 The problem is the EPA is a government
21 agency not a governing body and their remaking of the
22 American power sector by Federal instruction to the
23 states to make energy usage changes is without a
24 congressional mandate. Our legislators have not
25 ratified those mandates.

1 Thank you for your consideration for my
2 concerns and I ask you to please deny public utility
3 status to ATXI Ameren Illinois and also to deny the
4 certificate of convenience and necessity.

5 Yours truly, Robert Parrott.

6 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank yo.

7 MR. WILLIAMS: Sir, may I ask you one
8 question? You said the word MISO. How was that
9 spelled?

10 MR. DAVID SIDWELL: Capital M, Cap I, Cap S,
11 Cap O.

12 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Well, when I first
14 came to the Commission I pronounced it like mi so also.
15 I was thinking about the soup. My favorite soup. But
16 anyway, I understand it's supposed to be pronounced
17 MISO. So you and I learned something, okay? It's not
18 good Japanese mi so soup. And I could use some right
19 now.

20 MR. DAVID SIDWELL: Thanks for your time.

21 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you.

22 Debra Leumen. I'm not sure I pronounced
23 that last name correctly.

24 DEBRA LEUMEN

25 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

1 JUDGE PRIDGEN: Thank you so much. If you
2 would please, state your name and spell it for the court
3 reporter and you may give your testimony.

4 MS. DEBRA LEUMEN: Debra, D-e-b-r-a, Leumen,
5 L-e-u-m-e-n. I reside at 19562 Zion Road, Lancaster,
6 Missouri. It's my intent to give personal testimony in
7 Schuyler County as well. I'm here tonight to read a
8 letter from Anita Griffith. Her address is 53722 Mule
9 Road, Novelty, Missouri, 63460.

10 With regard to Case Number EA-2015-0146, I'm
11 opposed to the proposed Ameren ATXI Transmission Project
12 and ask the PSC to deny public utility status and
13 certificate of convenience and necessity. Ameren's plan
14 to diagonally cross my farm south of Novelty in three
15 places, too close to my one-hundred year barn which I
16 renovated at considerable expense and converted to a
17 pottery studio. The proposed line then continues to run
18 very close to the farm residence across and cutting down
19 a mature grove of persimmon trees my father and I
20 planted in 1980 in hopes of producing a crop and which
21 has just begun to bear last year.

22 These persimmons trees, nuts and hardwood
23 species are grown within a Missouri state tree farm and
24 I do not understand how they can take away these trees
25 we have nurtured for a quarter of a century. My husband

1 and I dutifully attended the August and October public
2 meetings in 2014 with Ameren. Encouraged by company
3 staff that our concerns would be taken into account,
4 that it was not too late to make changes in the route as
5 long as we made suggestions of alternates and mentioned
6 those things we cared about most.

7 We have been deceived. The reality is not
8 one concession was made to any of our concerns about
9 what they would damage, destroy or interrupt by the
10 proposed route, not one change. This farm is a century
11 farm, and the afore-mentioned persimmon growth is on a
12 non-adjacent ten-acre tract which has never been tilled
13 and would qualify for an organic farm status. It has
14 been laboriously improved with the tree farm program and
15 Ameren's plan to cut a one hundred and fifty foot swath
16 through the center of this land will render the entire
17 tract valueless to anyone in the future.

18 Very close to this tract is the renovated
19 barn, now a pottery studio, which in my retirement I
20 hoped to use not only for my own buildings but to enrich
21 the community by providing pottery classes to neighbors
22 and their children. People will not want to study or
23 have children in classes with a high intensity
24 transmission line so close because of the
25 electromagnetic field. I mentioned this several times

1 at the public meetings yet Ameren hopes to gain use of
2 my property before I can be there myself.

3 This century farm has been under careful
4 stewardship for three generations to become a wildlife
5 and sustainable fish and waterways project and an
6 actively managed grain farm, with lots of help the USDA
7 Conservation and Missouri Department of Conservation.

8 Ameren has made no consideration of our
9 requests as they move their path to the property line.
10 Instead they are made no change whatsoever to the
11 proposed routing. They will interfere with terraces,
12 farming and GPS practices currently in place and disrupt
13 existing wildlife habitat. A section of this farm has
14 been planted with native species and prairie grasses
15 which also will be disturbed.

16 I still cannot understand how it's possible
17 for a private company to be considered to take our
18 carefully developed land for this proposed project.
19 Ameren told us the source of power is a proposed wind
20 farm in Iowa which will only be built if they're allowed
21 to build a transmission connection through Missouri to
22 sell energy to other states.

23 The wind farm investors are only speculators
24 and Ameren is poised to provide them with access to the
25 grid at the expense of my property being devalued and

1 defaced.

2 I feel that Ameren has arrogantly chosen our
3 land as the path of least resistance thinking we don't
4 have the education or the stamina to fight them. I have
5 signed letters denying them access to my land and also a
6 will-no-sell document. I went with a group to Neighbors
7 United against Ameren to meet with our legislators and
8 experienced the positive support of our representatives
9 Nate Walker and Craig Redmon.

10 I ask the PSC to join us in helping us keep
11 our land the way we have groomed it to be for the use we
12 have chosen. The interference of power lines severely
13 restricts my plans for the future of my farm, my
14 retirement and the way I'd like to use the land.

15 Finally it is unfair that the citizens of
16 Missouri will be paying for this power line and their
17 monthly utility bills when the power is being
18 transported to another state.

19 I thank the commissioners for your kind
20 attention and the hearing of our united and individual
21 voices. I hope that you will uphold the citizens of
22 Missouri. This project is not in the best interest of
23 the people of northeast Missouri.

24 Very truly yours, Anita Griffith. Thank
25 you.

1 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you.
2 I hope I get this next one right. Donna Van
3 Skipe?

4 DONNA VAN SKIPE
5 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If you will, just please
7 state and spell your name for the court reporter and
8 then you can give your testimony.

9 MS. DONNA VAN SKIPE: This project is going
10 to cause problems for all Missourians. I'm concerned
11 about the health risks for my family, friends and
12 myself. Shelby County has a high number of cancer
13 diagnoses. We don't want any more.

14 The poles will impede the farmers' work and
15 make it dangerous. Lines come through within
16 twenty-five feet of the ground making it impossible to
17 get machinery in and out. My mom and dad owned this
18 until their deaths and then I purchased it for my
19 children to hunt and play on. There is walking and
20 motorcycle trails on this land.

21 My dad loved the trees. He took very good
22 care of the trees. He never allowed loggers to harvest
23 a tree unless it was ready. A tree makes a log. If
24 allowed to do this project, there will be a strip a
25 hundred fifty feet wide that a tree will never be

1 allowed to grow on again. How can we ever recoup the
2 loss of hundreds of acres of trees being lost? It is
3 not right for ATXI to be allowed to take our land with
4 eminent domain. I have wetlands where this line is
5 supposed to go. Landowners are not allowed to take out
6 trees or do dozer work here but ATXI thinks they can do
7 whatever they want. We, as landowners, want to keep our
8 land and not have ATXI tell us what they'll do with
9 this.

10 If this project was helping Missouri, it
11 might be different, but it not. My children and
12 grandchildren all love to hunt. I believe the
13 transmission line will disrupt the balance of nature.
14 The lines will cause problems for birds and animals with
15 their habitat and migration. I enjoy the peace and
16 quiet of the country. I don't want to listen to the
17 humming of the power lines and I don't want the lines
18 destroying the beauty of my surroundings. God created a
19 beautiful world and entrusted its care to the people,
20 not money-hungry corporations.

21 So let's protect this land for future
22 generations by denying ATXI permission for this project.
23 We have several great power companies in our area. Our
24 co-op does not purchase power from Ameren. All five
25 county commissioners have signed a resolution in

1 opposition of this project. We hope the PSC will honor
2 their commitment.

3 Thanks to all our commissioners for their
4 support. This project is not in the public interest so
5 please do not -- ATXI has already sued PSC so why would
6 you consider giving ATXI approval. ATXI has cost
7 Missourians enough already so please deny ATXI. Please
8 tell them no. Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you for your
10 testimony, ma'am.

11 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

12 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you.

13 Marian Spring.

14 MARIAN SPRING

15 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If you would, please state
17 and spell your name for the court reporter and then you
18 may give your testimony.

19 MS. MARIAN SPRING: Marian Spring.
20 M-a-r-i-a-n S-p-r-i-n-g.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to address my
22 concerns. If this line goes through our property, it
23 will bisect it. It will hinder me from being able to
24 farm on my own ground.

25 Boston Scientific, the manufacturer of my

1 pacemaker, says that for the general public the lines
2 are relatively safe. Not completely safe, relatively
3 safe. They however, do not recommend spending any
4 amount of time working underneath the lines and do not
5 recommend exposing myself to nuisance shocks which
6 Ameren admits on their website there will be.

7 On a broader note, millions of Americans'
8 acres of farmland are lost each year to urban
9 development and projects like this, while at the same
10 time, world population continues to increase.

11 The Amish community are a perfect example
12 and truth that we can live without electricity. But can
13 we live without food? How many acres of farmland has to
14 be lost before this is going to stop?

15 Please do the right thing. Listen to our
16 commissioners, help us to protect our right to farm and
17 our property rights. We are asking you to please say no
18 to ATXI's application because we are not willing to
19 forfeit our right to farm for corporate gain.

20 Thank you very much.

21 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you, ma'am.

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Nena Myers.

23 NENA MYERS

24 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

25 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If you would please, state

1 and spell your name for the court reporter and then you
2 may give your testimony.

3 MS. NENA MYERS: My name is Nena Myers,
4 N-e-n-a M-y-e-r-s.

5 Thank you for giving me this opportunity
6 tonight to voice my concerns about the proposed Mark
7 Twain Transmission Project. My husband and I are
8 lifelong residents of Shelby County and own a farm
9 that's been in the family for ninety-two years. We grow
10 corn, soybeans, wheat and have hay ground and pasture
11 for our cow-calf operation.

12 The proposed right-of-way for his project
13 will border our farm. Our farming operation also
14 includes the rental of three farms that this project
15 will bisect if allowed to come through.

16 We have a new home where I enjoy the scenic
17 view from our deck and walk-out basement and especially
18 like watching bald eagles in one of our favorite trees
19 in the neighborhood approximately a hundred feet away.
20 If built as proposed, this tree will be cleared. The
21 views I have of the sunrise and sunset will be forever
22 tarnished with the transmission lines and structures.
23 The lines and structures will run as far as I can see
24 from the east to the west from the deck. This
25 definitely was not in the plan when we built our house

1 five years ago.

2 In my opinion, it is wrong for Ameren
3 Transmission of Illinois to be suing the Public Service
4 Commission saying the PSC has no jurisdiction over this
5 project because they do not provide utilities to
6 Missouri, while on the other hand, our win can use
7 eminent domain to require easements. If allowed, this
8 could set a dangerous precedence for our state.

9 In agriculture, there are some things that
10 we have no control over like the weather and market.
11 But we have always, and should continue to have, control
12 over our land. If the use of eminent domain is granted
13 and easements taken for this project, it will limit
14 future land use options to everyone's land that it
15 crosses for many, many years to come, possibly forever.

16 The power line will also decrease property
17 values. Some of the ways the proposed power line will
18 impede our family's farming practices include the
19 structures will impede equipment usage and access, the
20 extra time, seed, fertilizer it takes to maneuver around
21 the structures will cut into income. Loss of soil
22 fertility due to disturbance of topsoil will reduce
23 yields. Loss of income due to lower crop yield in the
24 area of the soil compaction from large equipment
25 including concrete trucks during construction.

1 Due to safety reasons, our aerial applicator
2 will not be able to apply needed applications of
3 chemicals to the whole field. This in turn will likely
4 cut into crop production. There's no guarantee that
5 GPS-guided equipment used by custom applicator or
6 ourselves will work properly for variable rate for
7 precision application. This could greatly reduce crop
8 production. And as previously mentioned, the
9 transmission line will limit future land use options.

10 In the ever-changing business of
11 agriculture, you have to keep as many options open as
12 possible because you never know what agriculture
13 practice you will have or you might have to take to stay
14 profitable.

15 We are here to ask for your help in stopping
16 this unnecessary restriction on Missouri's number one
17 industry, agriculture. It's also important to note that
18 the county commissioners in all five counties, Marion,
19 Shelby, Knox, Adair and Schuyler, have submitted
20 resolutions opposing this project. We are asking for
21 your help in defending our Constitutional property and
22 farming rights.

23 Please deny ATXI's application for
24 certificate of convenience and necessity for the Mark
25 Twain Transmission Project. Thank you again for this

1 opportunity.

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you.

3 Next witness is Jordan Yoder.

4 JORDAN YODER

5 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If you would please, state
7 and spell your name for the court reporter and then you
8 may give your testimony.

9 MR. JORDAN YODER: My legal name is Andrew
10 J. Yoder. That's A-n-d-r-e-w, J middle initial,
11 Y-o-d-e-r. My address is 66502 Mark Twain Avenue,
12 Novelty, Missouri 63460. That is also the location of
13 the property that I own that is affected.

14 I feel very unprepared to testify this
15 evening partially, because as a farmer, this time of
16 year I've been working twelve to sixteen-hour days
17 trying to harvest the crop. Taking the time to try to
18 defend my land from intrusion by corporations seeking
19 their own personal gain is very difficult with my line
20 of work.

21 I purchased this piece of property in the
22 year 2010 with my wife. We had one child on the way at
23 the time. She was born October 6. Her name is Mary.
24 She colored this picture. Here's proof that she exists.
25 She also has twin sisters who are two and a brother who

1 was born in June. The proposed line would cross a
2 sector of my land approximately one-quarter mile wide by
3 one-half mile long diagonally. There's been many
4 studies done showing the connection between increase in
5 current childhood leukemia and EMFs created by high
6 voltage power lines such as the one proposed. This is a
7 high concern to me. The area that would be covered is a
8 place I like to spend, I'd like to take my kids in the
9 future.

10 The proposed line would go within a hundred
11 feet of a pond with fish in it. And it also supplies
12 water for cattle that I run there frequently every
13 winter. I could go on about the detriment to farming
14 and ranching but I concur with everything that's been
15 given to this point to the detriments of such.

16 I would like to focus on a couple of
17 particular aspects of farming at this time. The first
18 one you've heard a few times tonight, about GPS
19 equipment. GPS is a location system that is used by
20 equipment to navigate fields, to control equipment, to
21 improve the efficiency, improve the effects on our
22 environment.

23 I have personal experience with driving such
24 equipment under low voltage power lines, regular service
25 power lines. You stand in there for very long and your

1 signal is knocked out. In my particular case, my
2 planter will not plant without that signal. Imagine the
3 three hundred forty-five thousand volt power line. It
4 will not work.

5 Also between my house and the closest cell
6 phone power, which is my main source of communication,
7 the line will reside and EMFs are known to interfere
8 with all types of radiation. That includes cell phone
9 communications of any type, GPS equipment.

10 This is a safety factor, as my father-in-law
11 likes to go in the woods near where this line will be
12 and hunt. His only source of communication when he goes
13 is a cell phone. He's seventy years-old. If he hurts
14 himself and he can't use his cell phone, he may be
15 seriously injured if not face certain death.

16 I'd like to move on to another topic. That
17 is: Is this necessary? I can't tell you guys how to do
18 your job. But you have to assess the necessity and
19 convenience of this line. It is convenient for ATXI but
20 not for landowners. Is it necessary? It is deemed
21 necessary because bureaucrats in Washington D.C. has
22 started claiming that climate change is caused by carbon
23 dioxide which is vital for plant life which is based on
24 science that is flawed.

25 I know there's nothing that you can do about

1 this particular situation. But a stand against the push
2 to control our energy sector is a stand against tyranny.

3 You never hear about the alternatives to a
4 three hundred and forty-five thousand volt power line.
5 The problem I see, we need to change the way we create
6 power. We need green energy. What's the answer? A
7 giant three hundred and forty-five thousand volt power
8 line going through, as quickly as possible, without
9 regard to the people it's affecting?

10 But there are other alternatives. If you
11 agree that this line is absolutely necessary, which I do
12 not, you could still say, use the existing
13 right-of-ways, instead of crossing personal private
14 property.

15 Another option -- Thank you. Another option
16 is residential power plants like wind turbines, solar
17 panels that would be more reliable. We are under threat
18 from terrorists. One such threat to the EMFs or any
19 storm that might knock out a part of the power grid.
20 With a localized power station like residential wind
21 turbine and solar panels, that would have a lot less
22 effect on making our energy sector more safe.

23 Thank you.

24 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Yoder, thank you.

25 Janice Phillips.

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JANICE PHILLIPS

having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

JUDGE PRIDGIN: If you would please, state and spell your name for the court reporter and then you may give your testimony.

MS. JANICE PHILLIPS: Janice Phillips.
J-a-n-i-c-e- P-h-i-l-l-i-p-s.

JUDGE PRIDGIN: If you can try to speak into the microphone, please. Thank you.

MS. JANICE PHILLIPS: We're a very small farm owner. We only have about a hundred twenty acres but the line is going to go right through our pastureland. We've also got a pond there for entertainment only for our kids, our grandkids, our nieces and nephews. We've all had a lot of fun there. And the line would be very close to that. I wouldn't want my great-grandkids to be in it at all.

We're concerned more with the health issues that will occur with this high voltage not only for my family but the neighbors and friends. We have a small herd of cattle and a couple of horses. And also we live in deer country. There are eagles and turkeys, squirrels, rabbits, cats, dogs. And we've been feeding a lot of raccoons and possums. And if this power line goes through, they will no longer be safe there.

1 This property has been in our family way
2 over a hundred years and we would so hate to give it up
3 to a company that's really not going to help us or
4 needed in Missouri. We are not interested in having to
5 move to someone else's farm. We would like to see it
6 stopped completely. Thank you very much.

7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, ma'am.

8 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

9 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Austin Harless. I believe
10 after Mr. Harless's testimony, it would be a good time
11 to take a break because we've been going over a couple
12 of hours. Then it will give us a chance to stretch our
13 legs and give my court reporter a chance to rest.

14 AUSTIN HARLESS

15 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If you would please, state
17 and spell your name for the court reporter and then you
18 may give your testimony.

19 MR. AUSTIN HARLESS: My name is Austin
20 Harless. It's A-u-s-t-i-n H-a-r-l-e-s-s. I live in
21 LaPlata, Missouri. And so your job, as I'm
22 understanding it, is to decide whether this proposed
23 transmission line is necessary and convenient. And I
24 hope your decision -- I don't know what effect the
25 amount of red in this room means for your decision. But

1 my hope -- and I'm sure that everyone else wearing
2 red -- as I'm sure you have gathered by this point --
3 are those opposed to this transmission line -- is that
4 hopefully the presence of people directly affected by
5 the line means just as much if not more as the expert
6 witnesses that, by the sweat of our brow, will raise
7 money to hopefully put in front of you when that time
8 comes; the voices of the people like myself and others
9 that have spoken so well against this power line.

10 I just hope the turnout that you are seeing
11 tonight -- I've still been waiting for someone to speak
12 for it. I haven't been to too many of these but it just
13 feels powerful and important to me to note that it's
14 just one big red unanimous voice imploring you to make a
15 good decision on behalf of rural Missouri.

16 Yet so much has already been said, I don't
17 want to just repeat everyone and waste our time. I know
18 probably people are ready to stretch their legs. But I
19 might just point out the character and integrity of
20 Ameren. ATXI has definitely been questionable all along
21 the way and I feel like I probably need to tell you that
22 less than anyone since they sued you right off the bat,
23 just saying. They just didn't even need to ask
24 permission of you in the first place.

25 But so many of our friends have had trouble

1 working with them all along the way. And it just seems
2 like a very clear rouse or the way that it's all been
3 crafted. Mark Twain Transmission. Missourians love
4 Mark Twain so we'll name it that. And it's an Illinois
5 company that is not doing anything for Missouri. As far
6 as I understand, Missouri's electricity use has been
7 declining so there is clearly no need in that way.

8 It's also my understanding the transmission
9 line was just going straight through Missouri, because
10 like someone said, it's perhaps the place of least
11 resistance or the cheapest land maybe compared to
12 Illinois. But then later on in the game, there was a
13 station added in Kirksville to perhaps offer the idea
14 that electricity could be offered or dropped if it is
15 needed which it hasn't been needed.

16 And yeah, I guess the one thing I just want
17 to point out, I haven't seen any Amish people here in
18 the room. But I'm sure it's clear that they are people
19 and a culture that has created their livelihood without
20 the need of transmission lines or power lines of any
21 kind.

22 And I just want to speak for myself and
23 small other groups of people here in the room that are
24 living near where this power line is supposed to go.
25 We're craft people. We make baskets. We're builders.

1 And many of us live without electricity ourselves.
2 Light by candles, don't have computers. And even if the
3 power from the transmission line were dropping
4 electricity in Northeast Missouri -- which I don't think
5 it is -- we would be opposed to it anyway because it is
6 not a need and is far from convenient for us.
7 Especially my neighbors who are losing sleep at night
8 worried about this power line running by their house and
9 making their children sick.

10 So I just want to be that voice that this
11 line isn't for us. And I implore you to deny their
12 application. Thank you.

13 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you for coming.

15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Let's take a break. I show
16 by the clock in the back of the gym, it's eight-fifteen.
17 We will be in recess until eight-thirty. Thank you.
18 We're off the record. We'll start again at
19 eight-thirty.

20 (HEARING STOOD IN RECESS FROM 8:15 P.M. TO
21 8:35 P.M.)

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. We are going to
23 go back on the record and resume the testimony. The
24 next witness is Becky O'Brien.

25 BECKY O'BRIEN

1 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: State your name and spell it
3 for the court reporter and then you may give your
4 testimony.

5 MS. BECKY O'BRIEN: I am Becky O'Brien.
6 B-e-c-k-y. O capital B-r-i-e-n. I reside in Palmyra,
7 Missouri, Marion County.

8 Thank you for this opportunity to speak.
9 And I am one of the landowners whose farm will be
10 impacted by this Mark Twain Transmission Project if it's
11 allowed to move forward. My farm, or my husband's
12 farm -- and he has passed -- was in his family and has
13 been in his family for over seventy years.

14 His family took care of this family farm
15 which is something farmers do. Now, my family has taken
16 over and I have two boys and a daughter and I have
17 grandchildren. And I want this farm to be passed down.
18 I just -- In no way it does not seem fair for a company
19 to be able to come in and use eminent domain and take
20 from farmers what we have worked all their lives to
21 preserve.

22 Not only will the land never be the same
23 again due to compaction of the ground, which all you
24 have to do is walk around and you can find this
25 compaction around anywhere those poles are. Also there

1 is loss of value of my farmland and I will never get
2 that back. That is not fair to my family. And this is
3 all going to be allowed if this project is moved --
4 allowed to be moved forward.

5 Right now, as I understand it, we are more a
6 less a corridor for Mark Twain Transmission to use to
7 get out east to take power. There has been no proven
8 benefit that the state of Missouri, in transmitting RDCD
9 energy for the state of Missouri is beneficial. This
10 Mark Twain Transmission Project will affect two hundred
11 fifty farms and approximately fifty-four thousand acres.

12 If more of these lines -- and as we have
13 heard, they are already being planned -- are constructed
14 in the state of Missouri -- and not only Missouri, all
15 across the United States -- there will be less and less
16 farmland. So I ask you: Who is going to feed this
17 country in the years to come?

18 I ask you to please think long and hard
19 before making your final decision that is going to
20 affect so many lives and families and disrupt the farms
21 that we have worked so hard to maintain over the years.
22 Please do not allow the Mark Twain Transmission Project
23 to use eminent domain to come in and take something that
24 does not belong to them. Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you, ma'am.

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. O'Brien, thank you.

3 Kelly O'Brien Lillard.

4 KELLY O'BRIEN LILLARD

5 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you so much. If you
7 would please, state and spell your name for the court
8 reporter and then you may give your testimony.

9 MS. KELLY LILLARD: Kelly O'Brien Lillard.
10 K-e-l-l-y O'Brien, O'Brien, Lillard, L-i-l-l-a-r-d. I
11 live in Palmyra, Missouri next to my mom's family farm
12 who just spoke.

13 My family is being threatened by this land
14 and someone in my family has been a steward of this land
15 for the last seventy-plus years. I live within a half a
16 mile from this piece of property and I have a line out
17 my back door now. It's less than five hundred feet out
18 my back door. I can see it and I can hear it.

19 Just last year my husband's family land was
20 torn up when that line underwent upgrades. Yes, they
21 paid us. But the land was not productive for crops this
22 year and it will not be for many years. Your one-time
23 payment does not pay for a lifetime of work making our
24 farmland productive. Eminent domain abuse has become a
25 growing concern in many communities. The law has gone

1 as far as defining quote public use end quote as quote
2 for the public good end quote. Which is entirely two
3 different things. Under the public good definition, one
4 can claim private property and allow private developers
5 to use it for the sole purpose of profit growth. Ameren
6 will profit from this. Not us and not Missouri.

7 It is fundamentally wrong and contrary to
8 the constitution of the government to take property from
9 one private owner and hand it to over to another private
10 owner just because the government thinks this person or
11 corporation is going to make a more productive use of
12 this land. This line will not serve Missouri. Yet we
13 will pay the price.

14 Who will pay to make our land profitable
15 again after the contractors have trudded it down, torn
16 it up and left it? Our family land will suffer from
17 compaction, loss of value and loss of tillable acreage.
18 There is no price that you can put on years of hard
19 work, time and money put into making this land
20 profitable for feeding America.

21 Since 2003 we have worked hard on our land
22 to attract, populate and sustain the eagle population,
23 land which is going to be directly affected within feet
24 if this line is approved. We literally have now dozens
25 of eagles that are seen regularly in this field.

1 They're practically tame, letting you come within
2 twenty-five yards easily of them to take pictures. They
3 know they are safe and they know it is their home, too.

4 Farmers not only work to feed their families
5 but to feed this country and this world. We work to
6 protect the land and keep it productive and to protect
7 and provide the wildlife in our area.

8 As far as Missouri and my family is
9 concerned, this is not a public utility project. This
10 is Ameren using my land for their profit hundred of
11 miles away from here. Please do not vote to abuse
12 eminent domain. Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

14 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Lillard, thank you.

15 Tim O'Brien.

16 TIM O'BRIEN

17 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

18 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. If you
19 would please, state and spell your name for the court
20 reporter and then you may give your testimony.

21 MR. TIM O'BRIEN: Tim, T-i-m, O'Brien,
22 capital O Capital B-r-i-e-n, Palmyra, Missouri.

23 I'm here on behalf of our family farm is
24 going to be cut right down the middle if this goes
25 through. My mother -- And I'll spare you the repetitive

1 speech of my mother and sister who just spoke. You know
2 the spew so I agree hundred percent of what they say,
3 strongly opposed to this line going through our property
4 and everyone else in the same situation.

5 Some other concerns of mine. I've had a
6 home, a dream home my wife and I built, I want to say
7 eighteen years ago back in the middle of timber, a place
8 where nobody would ever think about putting a house.
9 Now, within five hundred feet of this place, there will
10 be a hundred foot -- a hundred fifty-foot path of timber
11 come out and will be within, give or take Amerenis
12 telling me, five hundred foot of my home. And they're
13 saying, well, it's not -- it's right by your fence, it's
14 not on your property. That's the attitude I get from
15 them. It doesn't matter because it's not my property.
16 But it's close enough it's going to affect my family.

17 Also health concerns of my family and my
18 kids, affects all of us. The wildlife, it's there.
19 It's unbelievable. The stories are all the same. I
20 mean, everybody has the same feelings towards this.

21 Another thing, that abuse of eminent domain.
22 It's nation-wide, it's thrown around everywhere. It's
23 supposedly to have been done by government entities.
24 Now, it's bigger corporations using and abusing it to
25 make their money. It's got to stop. It really does.

1 There's also rumors now the substation west
2 of Palmyra called Maywood of all things. Talk about
3 sneaking one in. Six miles of west of Palmyra with the
4 name of Maywood. So I don't know how that -- Because
5 Maywood is a little town about twelve miles north. Has
6 nothing to do with it. It's a pretty slick trick on
7 their part.

8 I went to the first Ameren meeting in
9 Palmyra one night and I met this Peggy Ladd. And she
10 seemed to be the big PR person there. And I said, how
11 come we did not know about this substation going in?
12 For we did not know about these routes that were going
13 to be -- You know, we get letters in the mail, heard
14 nothing about it. The response I got was, well, in 2013
15 we put it in the St. Louis paper. When it's a small
16 rural community, very few people get the St. Louis
17 paper. So there was nothing said to anybody at all.

18 I would have to say, probably ask half the
19 people in the crowd if they would, if anybody would say
20 there's been a little bit unpoliteness for maybe
21 mislead, would you like to raise your hands? From
22 Ameren people.

23 My last thing is I just like to thank you
24 for your time and thank you for being here. And I would
25 just like you to step in our boots for one moment and

1 just picture, when you left your house this morning what
2 it looked like. Picture it tomorrow morning with a
3 power line. If you live in the woods, being gone,
4 seeing a power line every day for the rest of your life.
5 Just picture what we're going through. Thank you for
6 your time.

7 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you very much.

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. O'Brien, thank you.

9 Mark Bichsel.

10 MARK BICHSEL

11 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

12 JUDGE PRIDGEN: If you would please, state
13 and spell your name for the court reporter and then you
14 may give your testimony.

15 MR. MARK BICHSEL: My name is Mark Bichsel.
16 M-a-r-k B-i-c-h-s-e-l.

17 First of all, when I wrote this, I was kind
18 of directed toward Ameren. So if the Commission could
19 take that into consideration, I would appreciate it.

20 And second of all, I want to apologize to
21 all farmers here that make a living on this land. I'm
22 sitting over here and I'm feeling smaller and smaller
23 when I'm thinking about what I'm going to say and I hear
24 you talking about how this is going to affect your way
25 of life.

1 We don't make a living off this land. You
2 lead a stressful enough life as it is and to have to go
3 through this and, you know, something that's going to
4 affect the way you feed your family and pay your bills,
5 I feel for you.

6 That being said, our family owns a small
7 farm in northern Shelby County. It's a place my
8 great-grandparents, grandparents and mother lived, a
9 place that was farmed for decades and now is a little
10 slice of heaven my folks, brothers and families enjoy
11 visiting and maintaining.

12 Even with the 'marshy' ground, you can make
13 more money farming it now. But we decided we could be
14 better stewards of the ground and more friendly to the
15 wildlife if we stopped tilling and then seed it back to
16 native plants. We also plant food plots and pollinator
17 plants for the bees and butterflies.

18 I wasn't going to speak tonight because I
19 couldn't come up with a unique reason why we don't want
20 a giant swath cut through our property. They're the
21 exact reasons you wouldn't want a giant swath cut
22 through your property. What can I say? Why did we have
23 to write e-mails? Why did we have to give money for
24 attorneys' fees? Why did I have to take time off work
25 tonight and travel here to speak to you about taking our

1 ground? Nobody from your outfit has come to us and
2 spoke about your wishes. Instead we're all told this is
3 what you're going to do and we have to go on the
4 defensive and fight what we already have.

5 This whole process sucks. But that's not
6 the end of it. We've spoken with other property owners
7 who've gone through this. We've spoken with linemen
8 from your company, all told us, the bottom line is you
9 have a ton of money so you're going to get what you
10 want. So even though I'm here jumping through your
11 hoops, deep down I know I'm wasting my time, my energy,
12 my vacation and my money.

13 At least I will know, when I'm sitting in a
14 tree stand walking with my granddaughter staring at your
15 crappy wires and the giant hole you cut through the
16 largest of our small little wood lot, I can at least say
17 I tried. Thank you.

18 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Bichsel, thank you.

19 Mike Patterson.

20 MICHAEL PATTERSON

21 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you, sir.
23 If you would please, state and spell your name for the
24 court reporter and then you may give your testimony.

25 Mr. MICHAEL PATTERSON: My name is Michael

1 Patterson. M-i-ch-a-e-l P-a-t-t-e-r-s-o-n.

2 I guess I just want to apologize for not
3 being more prepared. I've written a speech and didn't
4 even really get a chance to comb my hair or put on clean
5 clothes or anything. So I don't feel like there's a lot
6 more to be said or that hasn't already been said very
7 well by everyone else. So I guess I'll just share
8 whatever comes up. So forgive me if I sound like a
9 stammering fool.

10 But this proposed transmission line would
11 also not be on our land. It would pass within a few
12 hundred feet of the house that my wife and I have been
13 building for the past four years and a house that we
14 don't plan on using electricity in. We don't plan on
15 connecting to the grid. That's pretty much about it as
16 far as that goes.

17 I did have the pleasure of attending all of
18 the open houses hosted by ATXI last year. And it was
19 interesting to observe how people were treated for
20 asking what seemed like very reasonable questions and
21 concerns, many of the same things that have been brought
22 up tonight. And one of the questions that resulted in
23 my father-in-law being escorted out of a meeting was
24 what their plan was to do without having approval from
25 county commissioners. And the effective county, there's

1 apparently a Missouri statute that says whenever things
2 like this get built they need to first get approval from
3 commissioners, and all county-affected commissioners
4 have repeatedly said -- signed resolution and informed
5 that they aren't giving that approval and don't plan on
6 giving it. And it just -- I'm just curious when that
7 will be addressed.

8 Do I have a time check? Yeah. It just
9 seems like there's very different stories being told.
10 One of the points that was repeated at these open houses
11 is that there's issues with reliability and that we're
12 going to be needing more and more electricity so these
13 sorts of transmission lines are necessary and we
14 shouldn't be complaining about our plan being affected
15 because it's sort of for whatever.

16 But I just don't think that story is true.
17 Missouri has been using less energy. There's many other
18 solutions like the smaller community-based, you know,
19 wind and solar that would be much more resilient. It
20 just seems like a project of this scale that's being
21 built on assumptions about potential wind farms when
22 really it's just going to give Ameren a way to buy and
23 sell energy on different parts of the grid. It just
24 seems like a big farce.

25 And having read the documents on-line, from

1 MISSO, it's just very clear it's just a money-making
2 scheme. It's not providing a service. It's not doing
3 any good except for lining Ameren U.E.'s pockets. It's
4 been said by other people. But without knowing a lot,
5 I'm not an expert by any means. But it just -- Missouri
6 is very apparent from a brief reading.

7 So anyway, please deny ATXI to, you know --
8 Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you for your
10 testimony.

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much.
12 Colin O'Brien.

13 COLIN O'BRIEN

14 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. If you
16 would please, state and spell your name for the court
17 reporter and then you may give your testimony.

18 MR. COLIN O'BRIEN: Colin O'Brien.
19 C-o-l-i-n O apostrophe B-r-i-e-n. I come to you tonight
20 from Palmyra. I read this letter from a neighbor to our
21 family farm. And it starts out: As a neighboring farm
22 on our property where Ameren has proposed to build Mark
23 Twain transmission line, I would like to state my
24 opinion on this project. I'm a fourth generation living
25 on her family, raising a fifth generation to live here.

1 She has a similar power line running approximately a
2 hundred fifty yards from her residence which our
3 grandfather agreed to two decades ago. It does
4 negatively affect our television or radio reception as
5 well, and gives off a sound which is sometimes louder
6 depending on the weather.

7 Her father's family purchase the farm in
8 1918. Since the power line was constructed, her
9 great-grandmother and grandfather and grandmother, aunt
10 and father have all died with various types of cancer.
11 All these people lived significant portions of their
12 lives on this farm close to these lines.

13 One of other main concerns of these
14 proceedings is Ameren trying to get the ability to
15 obtain the property easements needed for this through
16 eminent domain. No private for-profit corporation
17 should be allowed to come into my county and my
18 neighborhood and take our land by force.

19 I'm not pleased with the fact that Ameren
20 has purchased land and built a significant portion of a
21 substation for this project before they got any approval
22 for the line. That should be a red flag for PSC.
23 Ameren's website for the project tried to tell us that
24 the project will improve local power availability. I
25 get my power from the local member-owned Missouri Rural

1 Electric Cooperative who gets their power from Northeast
2 Power Cooperative.

3 In my opinion, Ameren is a corporate power
4 giant building lots of power lines in rural areas in an
5 attempt to push out the local rural cooperatives. These
6 local co-ops are the ones that originally brought
7 electrifications to farms like mine generations ago and
8 they were ran by very dedicated employees who do an
9 excellent job with infrastructure, rates and repairs.

10 Ameren's website also states this project
11 will improve the local economy by bringing jobs to this
12 area. I can tell you, as a local resident, the company
13 that I'm seeing building a substation close to me are
14 not local and they're not hiring local people either.

15 I would ask that you not approve this
16 project and do not allow Ameren the ability to use
17 eminent domain to get access to our land, land that has
18 belonged to our families of this neighborhood for
19 generations. Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you for your
21 testimony.

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. O'Brien, thank you.

23 The next witness -- I'm sorry if I get the
24 last name wrong. It's Hermann and the last name starts
25 with an S.

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HERMANN SPILKER

having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. If you would please, state and spell your name for the court reporter and then you can give your testimony.

MR. HERMANN SPILKER: I'm Hermann Spilker. H-e-r-m-a-n-n S-p-i-l-k-e-r. Bethel, Missouri.

I want to thank you for allowing me to speak in opposition to the ATXI project. We produce crops and cattle north of Bethel and -- Well, so many others have given excellent testimony here and I didn't really take much time to prepare. I've been very busy. And anyway, this power line would go right across the middle of an eighty-acre tract that we own and will be paying for over the next twenty years. And also impacted are two landowners that we rent from. One is unable to attend due to a death in the family and the other has work obligations. So I'd like to speak on their behalf as well.

They are adamantly opposed to this project. The proposed line would permanently destruct the whole area. Eminent domain should not be allowed to be applied to this project.

Okay. Anyway, please deny ATXI and any certification they need for this project. Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Spilker, thank you.

3 Jenna Myers.

4 JENNA MYERS

5 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If you would, please state
7 and spell your name for the court reporter and then
8 please give your testimony.

9 MS. JENNA MYERS: Jenna, J-e-n-n-a, Myers,
10 M-y-e-r-s.

11 Our farm is located here in Shelby County
12 and has been in the family for ninety-two years. My
13 parents built a new house five years ago. A year ago,
14 in July, they received from Ameren Transmission Company
15 of Illinois stating their plans to build the Mark Twain
16 Transmission Project in Northeast Missouri.

17 The proposed final route was chosen and my
18 parents' home is approximately a thousand feet from the
19 right-of-way which aligns our neighbors' property. I am
20 concerned about the possible health effects for my
21 neighbors, my parents and the family I hope to have,
22 along with all the other families along those proposed
23 routes.

24 I am against the use of eminent domain
25 especially by a company that does not sell utilities to

1 end users in Missouri. All five county commissioners
2 have resolutions opposing the project which sends a
3 clear message that the project is not wanted in
4 northeast Missouri, not only by the commissioners but by
5 the many people this project would negatively impact
6 forever.

7 Please deny ATXI's application. Thank you.

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Myers, thank you.

9 Nick Perdy.

10 NICK PERDY

11 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

12 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much. If you
13 would please, state and spell your name for the court
14 reporter and then you'll be giving testimony.

15 MR. NICK PERDY: All right. My name is
16 Nick, N-i-c-k, Perdy, P-e-r-d-y.

17 So as you can see from the hoodie that I'm
18 wearing, I'm not from around here. I'm from Nebraska.
19 I'm here -- I'll explain why I'm here in a moment. But
20 my testimony, if you will, is not to speak about
21 anything that I will suffer. But I will pose questions
22 and share information that I have learned over the past
23 few days.

24 And I think it should be said first, in my
25 opinion, I think it's incredibly ironic the name of this

1 power line. Mark Twain is a long-held American icon,
2 famous for his works of fiction and his outlook of
3 quirkiness and light-hearted initiative. When I think
4 of Mark Twain, I think of somebody that I'd love to be
5 friends with but I wouldn't entirely trust him the
6 hundred miles that this power line is supposed to
7 travel.

8 I know it's not my land. I don't have a say
9 on who controls the land. But Mark Twain is not Mark
10 Twain's real name. What I mean by that is, ATXI, you
11 don't own this land so it's important to consider a few
12 things. I will tell you about Samuel Clemens. And
13 while he has his own flavor of deception -- his pen name
14 was Mark Twain -- Samuel Clemens, the real person that
15 he was, sought to teach us lessons that put his deception
16 and trickery aside.

17 For example, in Huckleberry Finn, we learned
18 the lesson to embrace the creative spirit and to open
19 our hearts to everybody. Ameren Transmission
20 Commission -- Transmission Company of Illinois, whatever
21 ATXI stands for, I want to give you an open heart. And
22 I want to help empower these people by listening to
23 their hearts and sharing my own.

24 And in order to give you this open heart, I
25 want to ask you some rhetorical questions which could

1 potentially help you and these people live out certain
2 values.

3 I'm an energy technology student at
4 Creighton University in Omaha and I learn about the
5 power lines that you are putting in place. And this
6 week I'm here for a fall break Service in Justice trip
7 to learn about a way of life in which values are lived
8 and not just spoken of, which is kind of rare to find
9 people who live their values and not just speak of them.

10 So I'm living with -- this week, people who
11 are living in a craft-based lifestyle in which no
12 electricity is being used this whole week. But in this
13 week in Justice these few days I've been here, I've
14 learned the value of love with an open heart, the value
15 of holding your integrity to your word and the value of
16 giving more than you take.

17 And so I have a few questions to ask when --
18 I'm learning about the most sustainable ways of living
19 involving empowering people with education, about
20 alternatives and their rate of consumption of energy. I
21 learned about empowering people with education, about
22 the voices of those who are under-represented. I
23 learned about the importance of empowering people with
24 education about their local technological biosystems.
25 And so with those, and many other things to consider, my

1 question to you is: How can you say with an open heart
2 that this plan is a sustainable and long-reaching
3 decision? I ask when -- I literally heard about this
4 issue a few days ago in a discussion about the power of
5 love. And when I learned about this, I learned that
6 corporate power is once again threatening the livelihood
7 of ordinary people.

8 And so the question is: Can you say with
9 the integrity of your word that those directly affected
10 by the lines that are going to come to pass, will they
11 benefit as much if not more than you? I learn all about
12 these systems which are intertwined with. And the fact
13 that you're not just literally controlling power but
14 you're figuratively gaining power in the lives of other
15 people in our government.

16 And so I have to turn to the board and ask:
17 Which do you value more? Mark Twain and his
18 aforementioned deception or Samuel Clemens and his
19 lessons of inclusion and love. Thank you.

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much.

21 John Bambri ck-Rust.

22 JOHN BAMBRI CK

23 having been sworn by the Judge, testi fies as follows:

24 JUDGE PRIDGEN: Thank you very much, si r.

25 If you would please, state and spell your name for the

1 court reporter and you may then give your testimony.

2 MR. JOHN BAMBRI CK: Yes. J-o-h-n
3 B-a-m-b-r-i -c-k. And I live outside of LaPlata. In
4 2009, I was living in Chicago and I started a community
5 called the White Rose Catholic Worker. People -- I've
6 heard the Pope in recent days talk about Dorothy Day as
7 one of the great Christians in U.S. history. So we
8 started a community that did hospitality of the
9 homeless, we did education for college and high school
10 students and gardening, working for social justice. And
11 years of doing this, we started a farm outside of
12 Chicago.

13 And then two years ago, or a number of years
14 back, we got -- we became friends with the Possibility
15 Alliance community that lives here in LaPlata, outside
16 of LaPlata, and they invited us to move our community
17 next to theirs in rural Missouri. I think they wanted
18 to do more with those in need and we had a lot of
19 friendship and values.

20 So my wife and I moved out here two years
21 ago to move the White Rose community here to rural
22 Missouri. And so we've been doing it now for two years.
23 And we're a not-for-profit farm. We run totally on
24 donations and we try to live off the gospel always.
25 Whatever we do to the least of our brothers and sisters,

1 we do under God or we do under Jesus. So we help people
2 who are in somehow need, sometimes recovering from
3 addiction or mental health or somehow need friendship or
4 community, and we do it in a small loving way that we
5 can.

6 We don't have electricity on our farm, which
7 is a shock to myself that I didn't ever though I was
8 going to live this way when I grew up in suburban
9 Chicago. But I have come to enjoy this way of living.
10 And we have over five hundred visitors a year. And
11 we've only been there two years and we average five
12 hundred visitors come to visit our farm. They want to
13 enjoy nature, a simple life. They enjoy working on the
14 farm and living in community and trying to take the
15 gospel seriously.

16 Creighton University from Omaha, Nebraska,
17 there's five students living with us for a whole week
18 right now. And so they're here tonight as a part of
19 their experience this week.

20 And so some of the questions I have is:
21 Should a community that's intentionally not using
22 electricity or intentionally off the grid, should that
23 community have to bear the burden of the power line?
24 That would include us or could include the Amish
25 community. And it seems unreasonable for someone not

1 using electricity to have the line.

2 But that's not why I'm here. I'm not as
3 concerned about me. That's something I love about
4 Neighbors United is that it's not a not-in-my-backyard
5 group. Consistently at our Neighbors United meetings,
6 people stand up and say, I don't want it in anyone's
7 backyard. We don't want more cancer.

8 Yeah. So I really appreciate our group
9 not -- Peggy Ladd once said, I don't want to talk to
10 you if you're just not-in-my-back-yard. And that's not
11 our group. We don't think this is good for anyone. And
12 here's a couple of reasons why we think it's not good.
13 One, the International Agency For Research On Cancer,
14 they categorized EMFs as a possible carcinogen. In the
15 same category, possible carcinogen, is cigarettes. And
16 EMFs are in the same categorization. Just one more step
17 it is a proven carcinogen. All the research that we've
18 been reading about says there needs to be more research
19 on EMFs because we haven't been able to prove that, you
20 know, someone can get cancer on the line. But how can
21 you prove that it was the power line?

22 So I think one of the things is, there needs
23 to be a lot more research done on EMFs. But a lot of
24 what we've read is there's a lot of scary things saying
25 it does cause childhood leukemia or pacemakers. That's

1 just the human side.

2 And I wonder, would ATXI be willing to
3 certify, or the PSC saying we certify EMFs will not
4 cause any health concerns? And you can't do that. And
5 it doesn't seem like it's goods for Missouri to go
6 forward with something that -- is these known health
7 effects.

8 The other point I'd like to make is, I think
9 ATXI should be able to convince the public that this is
10 a good thing, we need this. And so far, it's been over
11 a year and we've been researching, researching, and
12 researching, talking to experts around the county and it
13 keeps going back to, this doesn't really seem like it's
14 needed.

15 If you came to us and said, we really need
16 this and it's really important, we should be able to
17 look into it and say, yeah, this is. We're willing to
18 sacrifice some of our crop land for local solar and wind
19 energy. We're willing to do that even though -- We're
20 willing to sacrifice that if it's for the good of our
21 community, long-term sustainable energy. But we read
22 here, what we research is this doesn't seem like a good
23 sacrifice for us to go forward as a community.

24 My final point -- or two quick points. One
25 is, I've still been confused why, as the Public Service

1 Commission, why we're even -- why there's even a
2 continued case when all the counties have opposed it.
3 It seems like, well, the counties aren't going to
4 approve this, why are we going forward at this point?
5 So that's a thing that continues to confuse me. I could
6 see it the other way where the county commissioners were
7 saying, yes, okay, and that some people are saying no.
8 But we're saying no, the county commissioners are all
9 saying no. It doesn't make any sense to me why we have
10 to waste all this money and hours to go to it.

11 So I'm asking not just that you deny
12 application in January but immediately say, hey, ATXI,
13 you have one month to get the approval of the county and
14 if not, we're dropping this case, or something to that
15 effect.

16 Lastly, we have no experience that ATXI is
17 trustworthy. Why should we let an untrustworthy
18 corporation into Missouri to provide us service and work
19 with us within the community? They have not proven
20 that. Time and time again, we keep running into people
21 who tell us stories of being kicked out of the open
22 house. I was one wondering if there should be a hearing
23 about ATXI's open house and how many people were kicked
24 out of those meetings and listened to. It was quite
25 unjust. It's not something that, yes, we all really

1 want to work with ATXI. They're trustworthy and they're
2 doing a good thing. It just hasn't been proven to us.
3 So please deny their application. Thank you for
4 listening.

5 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Since you did mention
6 the -- Maybe needing an answer to a couple of questions,
7 you really might talk to the Public Service Commission
8 staff that have the tables set up out there. And they
9 can give you a few answers as to how the process works
10 and the reason for the hearings and so on and so forth.
11 Okay? Thank you.

12 MR. JOHN BAMBRIK: Thanks.

13 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Next witness is Rick Hoenes.

14 RICK HOENES
15 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. And will
17 you please state and spell your name for the court
18 reporter and you may then give your testimony.

19 MR. RICK HOENES: My name is Rick Hoenes,
20 H-o-e-n-e-s. I live in Palmyra, Missouri or outside of
21 Palmyra about eight, nine miles.

22 And I've really got to have a quick question
23 to ask. How did you know how to pronounce that last
24 name.

25 JUDGE PRIDGEN: Lucky guess.

1 MR. RICK HOENES: Who told you?

2 JUDGE PRIDGEN: Lucky guess. First one I
3 got right tonight, I think.

4 MR. RICK HOENES: Good for you. Madam
5 Commissioner, gentlemen, thank you for your time that
6 you have spent here this evening. I know you guys have
7 a busy schedule so we appreciate everybody.

8 I stand here before you in regards to a
9 piece of property that amounts to forty acres and it
10 seems like small peanuts compared to everybody else.
11 But it no less has immense value to the family involved.
12 I am not the owner of this property. My younger brother
13 is the owner. It's been in the family for fifty plus
14 years. My granddad had it and my mom had it and now my
15 younger brother has it.

16 Over this timeframe, I have had exceptional
17 time spent upon this acreage. It is completely woods.
18 There's maybe two acres that my granddad cleared and I
19 now put a little food plot in it. I enjoy my time out
20 there as well as my family members spending time in the
21 woods. We like to hunt. We like just to go out and
22 just sit and enjoy the quiet, if you will. I run a
23 business. It's nice to be able to go out there. It's a
24 nice stress relief. You can get away from everybody.
25 Nobody knows where you are. It's good.

1 The proposed line that goes across the piece
2 of property will go across, in a word that I have
3 used -- heard used a lot tonight -- diagonally. And if
4 it goes across diagonally and you take a hundred and
5 fifty foot swath off of forty acres, you don't have a
6 whole lot left.

7 The plans for this property was, in the
8 future as the trees and the timber got big enough to
9 harvest, we would make a little money off of it. But
10 the main use is, as I said, just strictly recreational.
11 And if you cut this piece in half, and you want to go
12 out there and sit and hunt, enjoy the quiet, that's not
13 there anymore because of the line and the noise created
14 by the line. So that is why our family, my brother
15 especially -- who could not be here because he's in
16 Peoria, Illinois -- is opposed to the transmission line.

17 The one thing that -- I have sat back
18 tonight and listened to everybody give their testimonies
19 and I've tried to call -- just pull up kind of a summary
20 of what everybody has been talking about or what their
21 concerns are. And the one thing that I hear is, like I
22 said, they're going diagonal across our property. You
23 know, it wouldn't be so bad maybe if they went down an
24 edge or something where they wouldn't just cut a field
25 right in half.

1 The other part I hear is accessibility to
2 talk to people who could really give them some answers
3 that they really want to know of. And that makes people
4 nervous. When you can't ask a person face-to-face and
5 get a yes or no or this is the way it's going to be,
6 that's the way it's going to be, people tend to get a
7 little nervous on that part.

8 I have been involved in a dispute, I guess
9 you would say, a controversial project was upon a piece
10 of a property where timber was removed. Erosion was a
11 problem after the completed project. Another concern of
12 our forty acres, it lays with hills and hollows. And if
13 they go across and take the timber off then all of that
14 is going to be exposed to a chance of erosion.

15 The lady -- I forgot which one -- brought it
16 up, well, they're going to leave the stumps. Stumps
17 finally decay and so they're gone and now their
18 protection is gone. So once that happens, you have a
19 ditch. Who do you call to get to come and fix the
20 ditch?

21 I can give you an example right now of a man
22 who makes his living doing dozer work. He has a project
23 to build terraces. He has an Ameren line that he has to
24 go under. We just attended a meeting this spring
25 that -- we had an electrical co-op member there that

1 gave us a talk about, you don't want to do that unless
2 you have somebody come out and tell you that it's okay
3 to construct this terrace because you're going to raise
4 the ground level. You need a safe distance between the
5 line itself and the ground. So this man has called for
6 three days and he's talked to different people and he
7 has yet to get an answer or get anybody out there to
8 tell him what he needs to do, whether he can or cannot
9 proceed with his project.

10 So that makes you a little nervous on that
11 end of it. If I have a problem on my piece of ground,
12 or my brother's piece of ground, that creates erosion or
13 a ditch, what's it going to be like to get you guys back
14 out there to fix this problem?

15 And that being said, I am done and I thank
16 you very much for your time. Bye now.

17 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

18 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much.

19 Next witness is Lauren Gander.

20 LAUREN GANDER

21 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. If you would
23 please, state and spell your name for the court reporter
24 and then you may give your testimony.

25 MS. LAUREN GANDER: Lauren Gander.

1 L-a-u-r-e-n G-a-n-d-e-r.

2 First I'm going to be speaking on behalf of
3 Scott and Betty Van Skipe. Due to the long-term safety
4 and health issues that can occur as a result of the Mark
5 Twain Transmission Project, makes me wonder if you want
6 this to be put in your front yard or your community. I
7 certainly do not want them in our community or near our
8 property. We need to think about our future family's
9 generations. I do not want them to have it to deal
10 with, the ill effects that the MTTP could cause, as I
11 feel you wouldn't want this for your family either. If
12 so, put this on your land.

13 All right now I'll be speaking for myself.
14 I'm a mother. I'm a concerned mother of a two year-old
15 little girl and a six little year-old boy. Can Ameren
16 guarantee me, without a shadow of a doubt, that these
17 power lines won't pose a threat to my children's health
18 and the health of many others living near the power
19 lines? Because I'm not willing to bet their health and
20 lives on their assumptions.

21 For Ameren, I believe these power lines
22 simply mean dollar signs. But for us local landowners,
23 it means the possibility of potential health risks and
24 loss of income leading to the inability to provide for
25 our families.

1 I don't believe anyone in their right minds
2 would be willing to take those kind of risks, especially
3 knowing how it would directly affect themselves and
4 their loved ones. I ask the representatives here for
5 Ameren today: Would you be willing to put you, your
6 children and your other loved ones' lives at stake if
7 you were in our position? I think we all know the
8 answer to that.

9 So unless you can guarantee a hundred
10 percent there is no health risk involved and that our
11 income and livelihood would not be affected, leave our
12 land alone. That's the simple fact of the matter. It's
13 our land. What gives Ameren the right to come in and
14 take it from us against our will? I ask: What would
15 the big wigs at Ameren do or think if we came in and
16 bulldozed their big mansions down with a bulldozer and
17 turned it into farmland? I think we also all know the
18 answer to that. Thank you.

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you.

20 The next witness is Tom Shively.

21 TOM SHIVELY

22 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

23 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much, sir.

24 If you would, please state and spell your name for the
25 court reporter and you may give your testimony.

1 My name is Tom Shively. T-o-m
2 S-h-i-v-e-l-y. I live at Shelbyville, Missouri. For
3 six years I served as a state representative for the
4 County of Shelby, most of Macon and all of Linn
5 Counties. And before that I served as a teacher in this
6 school system for thirty years as a
7 vocational-agriculture instructor.

8 And I think probably one of the most
9 important things when you're a public servant is when
10 you're a teacher, a Public Service commissioner, a
11 highway patrolman or just a good laborer, is that we
12 plan that you be treated fairly and equally. And people
13 deserve that. They should be given it.

14 And to me, that's an important point that we
15 have here tonight is that you have already set some
16 precedence, I think, with past power lines wanting to
17 come across the state of Missouri and I'm sure you're
18 well aware of the state statute that spells out some of
19 the rules that you all must follow. And I guess you've
20 got to follow more of the codes of state regulations
21 which spells out basically some of the same things.

22 As a man pointed out here tonight, we have
23 all the commissioners in this five counties that are
24 opposed to this operation. And to me, I guess you will
25 have the judgement to make if there are any differences

1 between these two cases. Whatever cases -- whatever
2 differences you do find, I hope that you weigh them
3 heavily and listen to the pleas of the people that are
4 here tonight because they do have concerns. And they
5 would not probably sell some of this property for ten
6 times the amount it is appraised at because, like they
7 said, it's been in their family. They don't care if
8 it's four acres, they don't care if it's four thousand
9 acres. It's their ground. And they've got concerns of
10 safety.

11 And I can guarantee you, this GPS, local
12 position system thing, is going to be guaranteed to
13 knock down some towers and probably going to have some
14 crop dusting because we have a lot of crop dusting in
15 this area. So I think I would encourage an alternative
16 route. I know it's not-in-my-back-yard syndrome, shove
17 it off onto somebody else who probably won't like that
18 idea either.

19 But I'd like point out that we at least
20 follow a straight line, we don't go diagonally across
21 to -- Maybe we could come to some sort of compromise,
22 whether or not it's really -- first of all, if it's
23 needed or not.

24 So I encourage you to seriously weigh all
25 the testimony that you hear and I encourage you to vote

1 against it. Thank you.

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Melissa Mettes.

3 CHLOE JACKSON

4 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. If you would,
6 state and spell your name for the court reporter and you
7 may give your testimony.

8 MS. CHLOE JACKSON: Okay. I'm actually not
9 Melissa Mettes. But she had to leave a little earlier
10 so do you want me to spell her name and my name?

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Yes, please.

12 MS. CHLOE JACKSON: My name is Chloe
13 Jackson, C-h-l-o-e J-a-c-k-s-o-n. And Melissa Mettes's
14 name is spelled M-e-l-i-s-s-a M-e-t-t-e-s. And she's
15 from Leonard, Missouri.

16 She writes: My land is not going to be
17 directly affected but I have friends, family and
18 neighbors that will be. My husband works for an
19 agriculture business. This will effect how they apply
20 chemicals and fertilizer along with the GPS that they
21 use to do this.

22 We depend on these farmers, the land and
23 what that land produced, for a living. My sons love
24 hunting and this line would be going across some of the
25 best hunting ground. This line will be going across my

1 mom's land and my uncle's land and will run close to
2 both of their homes and their health risks are very
3 concerning. Heart problems and cancer run in my family
4 and I feel this line would increase this risk. This
5 land was once owned by their grandparents. They love
6 the land and the trees so they're left to take care of
7 it for their kids, grandkids and all future generations
8 to hunt, farm and enjoy. This land will damage all of
9 these things. I feel very -- For something that will be
10 of no benefit for us. Thank you.

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Kathy Stiefel.

12 KATHY STIEFEL

13 Having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

14 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you so much. If you
15 would please, state and spell your name for the court
16 reporter and you may then give your testimony.

17 MS. KATHY STIEFEL: Kathy Stiefel.

18 K-a-t-h-y S-t-i-e-f-el. I'm against the Mark Twain
19 Transmission Project. This quote is from the second
20 paragraph of the Declaration of Independence. We hold
21 these truths to be self-evident, that all men are
22 created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator
23 with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are
24 Life, Liberty and pursuit of Happiness. That to secure
25 these rights, Governments are instituted among Men,

1 deriving their just powers from the consent of the
2 governed.

3 The founders often referred to the writings
4 of John Locke from his 1700's in England. He expressed
5 a radical view that government is morally obliged to
6 serve people namely by protecting life, liberty and
7 property, which is the way Thomas Jefferson originally
8 worded the phrase.

9 Allowing Ameren to build their transmission
10 line protects none of our basic rights. It endangers
11 the lives of those with pacemakers and defibrillators
12 with the possibly of draining the batteries faster and
13 causing major malfunction. It takes away the liberty of
14 those who want to engage in certain farm practices and
15 improvements to their land.

16 It takes away the use of their property by
17 the installation of large posts and bases and keep up
18 the mowing, weed control, tillage, spraying and
19 harvesting of the rich farm land that has been owned by
20 many families for over one hundred years.

21 This power line benefits no one in Missouri.
22 It doesn't bring us electricity. It's like building an
23 interstate highway diagonally across the state with no
24 exit or on-ramps. Joseph Story, considered one of the
25 great legal thinkers of the nineteenth century who later

1 served as an associate Supreme Court Justice, delivered
2 this warning in August 1834 at the American Institute of
3 Instruction: The fundamental objects of all free
4 governments are the protection and preservation of the
5 personal rights to private property and the public
6 liberties of all people. Without accomplishing these
7 ends, the government may indeed be called free but it's
8 a mere mockery and a vain, fantastic shadow. Life,
9 liberty and property stands upon equal ground in the
10 just estimate of freemen. And one becomes almost
11 worthless without the security of the others.

12 Our government is supposed to get its power
13 from the consent of the governed. When the people stand
14 up and oppose projects such as this in order to protect
15 their rights, it should carry much more weight than the
16 financial interest of a large corporation.

17 We the people say no to the Mark Twain
18 Transmission Project.

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. The next witness
20 is Walter Spilker.

21 WALTER SPILKER
22 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

23 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. If you
24 would please, state your name and spell it for the court
25 reporter. And then you may give your testimony.

1 MR. WALTER SPILKER: Walter Spilker.
2 W-a-l-t-e-r S-p-i-l-k-e-r. I live north of Bethel,
3 Missouri. I want to thank you for your time and effort,
4 endurance in these meetings. The proposed line travels
5 through the middle of approximately three hundred and
6 twenty acres of our family farm. That's not adjacent to
7 it, that's not near, it's down the middle of it. And it
8 also goes on the border of another forty acres.

9 The traffic from the installation of the
10 line will destroy years of investment of time and
11 expense through no-till row crops and various other
12 practices that we try to improve out of our soil and its
13 productivity and its sustainability.

14 We have gone to great efforts and expense to
15 invest in GPS-guided grid soil sampling to allow for the
16 fertilizer applications. Radiation from these lines has
17 been reported to signals for my GPS-guided systems.
18 This is not a GPS like in your car perhaps you might use
19 going down the highway. This is a sophisticated
20 instrument that requires signals from multiple
21 locations, multiple satellites. This line will most
22 definitely interfere with that.

23 Our land has custom application done to it.
24 Fertilizer, pesticides, like everybody else has
25 mentioned before. This amounts to great investment not

1 only from us but from the applicators that we use. If
2 we lose this -- the ability to use this technology, it
3 will negatively impact the environment so we won't be
4 able to limit the use of things we don't need to use and
5 won't be able to put things where we need them to be put
6 in a precise manner.

7 The paltry one-time payment for the
8 inconvenience of having this line installed won't even
9 scratch the surface as generations will bear the burden
10 of this being traversing their land. It will hinder it,
11 it may even prohibit the construction of vital
12 conservations structures such as terraces and waterways.

13 And I propose this is an abuse of the state
14 of Missouri, its citizens and its land. It's
15 inconceivable to me that you would allow an Illinois
16 company to route power from a proposed Iowa wind farm
17 through the State of Missouri and not benefit the
18 citizens of Missouri at all. Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. The next
21 witness -- I hope I don't mispronounce the name-- Ala'a
22 Rayyan.

23 ALA'A RAYYAN

24 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

25 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you so much. If you

1 would please, state and spell your name for the court
2 reporter and you may then give your testimony.

3 MS. ALA' A RAYYAN: My name is Ala' a
4 R-a-y-y-a-n. A-l -a apostrophe a. Rayyan, R-a-y-y-a-n.

5 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Would you spell that
6 again, please.

7 MS. ALA' A RAYYAN: Sure. A-l -a apostrophe
8 a. And then Rayyan, R-a-y-y-a-n.

9 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: R-a-y-y-o-n?

10 MS. ALA' A RAYYAN: A-n.

11 I'm originally from Bellevue, Nebraska. And
12 I'd like to thank for you time in allowing me to speak
13 on my opposition against this project.

14 I am a senior at Creighton University in
15 Omaha, Nebraska majoring in sustainable energy science
16 with a minor in math as part of the energy technology
17 program. In this program we learn about different
18 sources of renewable energy and how to correct
19 sustainable designs that would benefit location.

20 We're also taught to analyze past and future
21 projects to evaluate what they offer to the local area.
22 You have stated that this transmission line will provide
23 cheaper sources of energy and job to Missouri. But I
24 have some questions.

25 It is stated that the energy is provided

1 from winds farms outside of Missouri . But is this
2 actually reasonable? Instead of transferring energy
3 between states, and therefore losing the power through
4 this process, it would be more feasible to look for
5 sources of energy locally. Missouri can be a great
6 source of wind and solar energy. So local renewable
7 source would create a clean and cheap source of energy
8 that could actually benefit the environment and
9 communi ty.

10 I just want to propose these questions as
11 part of being an energy technology student at Creighton
12 University. I would actually like to state that public
13 speaking terrifies me. But I wanted to show that people
14 outside the state are concerned about the line and are
15 supporting neighbors for this. Thank you for your time.

16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Leroy Deichman.

17 LEROY DEICHMAN

18 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. Please
20 state and spell your name for the court reporter. And
21 you may give your testimony.

22 MR. LEROY DEICHMAN: Leroy Deichman.

23 L-e-r-o-y D-e-i-c-h-m-a-n.

24 Okay. I would like to give my thanks for
25 you all being here and listening to this group here

1 tonight. I wanted to say something that no one else has
2 said here tonight. That's kind of hard to do because
3 there's been such good testimony, so many viable
4 reasons. It seems inconceivable to me, inconceivable,
5 that the public would allow private land to be taken for
6 the benefit of other private business, private
7 corporations, especially someone that's not in the local
8 community.

9 And I would suspect that most of the people
10 that have spoken here tonight and have land that this is
11 going to be over, know what roots -- know what family
12 roots are and roots to a property are. I doubt if the
13 people in the -- whatever this company is -- This
14 company. I don't want to say what I think about the
15 company -- I doubt if they know what really roots are.

16 Now, I'm very fortunate in that the farm has
17 been in our family for a hundred and twenty-one years
18 and it's farmed by my brother and my nephew and my
19 great-niece. I'm fortunate that our farm isn't near
20 this. But I don't think you can put a price -- I don't
21 think you can put a price on some of that family
22 heritage and family roots that this is going to be
23 affecting. And I hear about the health issues and so
24 many issues here.

25 But one thing I want to bring up is -- One

1 thing that I think maybe hasn't been covered here
2 tonight. That's the one thing I want to say is, if
3 anyone has really been looking at the efficiency of some
4 of these alternative on-site energy that will not need
5 use a -- that will not need a power grid. And the last
6 three or four years have been increased, have been
7 rather phenomenal in that last three or four years, and
8 that's like solar on top of rooftops of these houses.

9 And I don't know what the projection has
10 been since to the people that are investing in this. A
11 lot of the projection is twenty years of use of this
12 needing a wheel to electricity because it might well be
13 that we will not really need this. Do we really need
14 this?

15 But I remember in the late seventies there
16 was a crude technology that was introduced and it was
17 solar panels on roof tops. And there was some progress
18 being made. It was rather primitive technology back
19 then. But it is very clear, if you follow the trend
20 line, by 2000, that would be cheaper than any
21 electricity we can produce.

22 Well, no one -- I don't think there's any
23 one of you -- But three years later, that study was
24 stopped. Solar energy on roof tops, the research and
25 that, was stopped. But fortunately I've seen the same

1 kind of increase, only a much more dramatic increase, on
2 efficiency of that kind of stuff. And I wonder if we
3 really need this kind of transmission lines of
4 electricity in the future. That's a question I wonder
5 if this is a case.

6 Thank you so much for your time. And I can
7 imagine how does it affect the people that are wondering
8 if this is going to go through their property and affect
9 their lives, what that could do? So I appreciate the
10 job you have and the public to -- I sure hope that you
11 would deny this petition. Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you.

13 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Tiffany Griffin. Going
14 once, going twice.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She's right here.

16 TIFFANY GRIFFIN

17 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

18 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much. If you
19 would please, state and spell your name for the court
20 reporter and you may give your testimony.

21 MS. TIFFANY GRIFFIN: Tiffany Griffin.
22 T-i-f-f-a-n-y G-r-i-f-f-i-n.

23 I just wanted to make two statements in my
24 request that you deny access to this transmission line.
25 First is just maybe making a point of, why do we need

1 this? Why doesn't Missouri invest in renewable energy
2 in having -- Why don't we have renewable energy and put
3 a wind turbine where this transmission line would be,
4 you know, put solar panels in schools and our clinics.
5 Why don't we spend that money and instead like create
6 actual revenue for the state -- actual energy for the
7 people who need to use it? That's the first one.

8 The second one is, as a health care
9 provider, I cannot stand by something that is going to
10 bring unimaginable misery and illness and sickness to
11 people I care for. You know, right now, I'm pursuing my
12 doctorate in nurse practitionering and I want to serve my
13 community here in rural Missouri. And I just know if
14 this transmission line goes in, it's going to be people
15 live under it and near it, there's going to be cancer,
16 there's going to be mental health illnesses that come
17 up. And I just can't stand by that and say like I
18 support this.

19 And I guess what I'd like to know, if it
20 does go through, if Ameren could please give me a
21 address where I could send my patients' bills because I
22 don't think the state should have to pay for it through
23 things like Medicaid. So yeah. I ask you to please
24 deny any of Ameren's requests.

25 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Well, thank you. I don't

1 see any more witnesses who have signed up. Is there
2 anyone else who wishes to testify?

3 AUDREY WHITNELL

4 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. If you would
6 please, state and spell your name for the court reporter
7 and you may give your testimony.

8 MS. AUDREY WHITNELL: Audrey Whittnell.
9 A-u-d-r-e-y W-h-i-t-n-e-l-l.

10 Thank you. Thank you for your time. I
11 just -- I have something I want to say and -- I'm sorry.
12 I thought I was going to have it go down the side of my
13 property and it didn't. I have an organic farm that was
14 going down the length of it and it would have put me out
15 of business literally. And I thank God it's not going
16 down my farm. I wept over it and now I weep for you
17 guys.

18 I had a teacher when I was in high school.
19 Her name was Georgina Brown. And when I went through
20 high school she was -- and left, she was still there.
21 She was in her seventies. She taught English, Latin and
22 geometry and logic. And that served me well over the
23 years. If P then Q. If not P then not Q. And so I
24 look at this whole thing and reading an article about
25 MISO which is a consortium of power companies who write

1 their own projects and then vote on their own projects.

2 We have a company that's not a Missouri
3 company. They're an Illinois company. They've been
4 chosen for this project because they have experienced
5 Illinois people and equipment that will come into our
6 state to put this in. Like they claimed, they were
7 going to hire all these local boys coming out of high
8 school. They don't have the experience and they're not
9 going to hire them, okay?

10 And so we have an outside company who is a
11 member of MISO who's written their own project, who's
12 approved their own projects. They're coming in here and
13 suing the Missouri Public Service Commission, which in
14 the logic Mrs. Brown taught me would tell me that from
15 the name, that you were there to serve the public of
16 Missouri. They are coming in here and saying they're
17 not under your jurisdiction because they're not a
18 Missouri company.

19 And they sued. And I read the -- all the
20 paperwork from it and stuff that was their intent. But
21 yet they want to have eminent domain, the benefit of our
22 laws in Missouri to take our land but yet they don't
23 want to be held accountable by regulation by you. And
24 so we're not getting power from this, right? Are we
25 getting power from this? So oh, wait. This is going

1 out to the east coast. So help me with this. I don't
2 see the benefit; I don't see the reasons that we're here
3 with this.

4 It just -- Logic tells me that if a
5 self-regulating company is approving their own projects
6 and is not under the jurisdiction or control of this
7 state that they're going through, but yet has the
8 benefit of taking the property of the people that's in
9 the state that they're going through, and they're going
10 to do this for profit, where is the benefit to the
11 public?

12 Has there ever been a corporation that had
13 that criteria to work with that ever did anything for
14 the public good? And if my logic is off here and
15 anybody can help me with this. Because I lose a little
16 sleep over this because it doesn't make any sense to me.

17 We have families here that are losing their
18 livelihood. I would have lost completely my livelihood.
19 Not only one business but two businesses that was
20 connected to a farm that was in my family for four
21 generations. And I have an organic farm and I can have
22 that because I lived there, my parents lived there, I
23 knew what I had, I can guarantee to my customers.

24 And they could have taken it from me and
25 given me nothing for it. And they hold it over your

1 head as a threat. Well, if you just don't go along,
2 we'll -- we have eminent domain. I'm glad Mrs. Brown
3 isn't here. I really am. I'm glad Mark Twain isn't
4 here either because he'd rolling over in his grave for
5 using his name on this. I'm sorry. Thank you.

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you.

7 Anyone else?

8 MARI JO GABRIEL

9 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

10 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If you would please state
11 and spell your name for the court reporter and you may
12 make your testimony.

13 MS. MARI JO GABRIEL: Hi. My name is Mari Jo
14 Gabriel. M-a-r-i-j-o- space G-a-b-r-i-e-l.

15 Hi. Thank you all for having me. Thank you
16 for your time as well. I study at Creighton University.
17 I study psychology, med anthropology and also justice in
18 society. And from my -- research I have done, a lot of
19 illnesses comes out of stress as I've seen here. But
20 also cause a lot of stress to the families. And also
21 stressing to the disposition of other health illnesses.
22 So that could lead to other problems also.

23 I also try to live organically. And with
24 the fear of pesticides that are -- that will be tried to
25 help prevent on the power lines, that could possibly

1 drift on to people's farms and affect their livelihood.

2 Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

4 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Anyone else?

5 Yes, sir.

6 MERLIN YODER

7 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much. If you
9 would please, state and spell your name for the court
10 reporter and we may take your testimony.

11 MR. MERLIN YODER: Merlin Yoder.

12 M-e-r-l-i-n Y-o-d-e-r. I've got Illinois roots and my
13 dad moved over here in 1953. And it seems like Missouri
14 is the red-headed stepchild. He like to get made fun of
15 by Iowans. But they sure like to come use our Lake of
16 the Ozarks.

17 I'd just encourage you commissioners to
18 stand up for the state of Missouri and protect the
19 landowners and the citizens and not let us be walked on.

20 And I thank you for your time here. And
21 there's been so many good things said. And one thing I
22 want to comment on is the demeanor of the people here.
23 I thought everybody was well-behaved. And I appreciate
24 that. I think that ought to say something for this
25 group. So I just -- I don't relish your position on it.

1 But I will pray for you because I think there's power in
2 prayer. And I just -- My prayer would be that you make
3 wise decisions. And I just want to uplift you in that.
4 Thank you.

5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Anyone else?

6 JACKIE RAMOS
7 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. If you would
9 please, state and spell your name for the court reporter
10 and then you may give your testimony.

11 MS. JACKIE RAMOS: My name is Jackie Ramos,
12 J-a-c-k-i-e R-a-m-o-s. I'm going to say -- going to be
13 quick. But I'm also here with the Creighton University
14 group. And we come from an urban city of Omaha. And I
15 also -- from where I am from originally is an urban
16 suburban place, suburbs outside of an urban city. And I
17 don't get much time to appreciate nature and land and
18 what it can give and provide to people.

19 I mean, I've only been here since Saturday.
20 And Missouri, the northeast part that I've seen driving
21 or just spending time on John's land, is just -- there's
22 so much to appreciate. And this land is so special
23 because of that, this northeast area of Missouri.

24 And the power lines, I don't see how people
25 can support ruining that -- I mean, just so much. And

1 all I've seen so far is a community that stands up for
2 each another and stands up for the land and everything
3 that's important. I can't fathom how a corporation
4 could come in and just knowingly destroy all that.

5 So that's all I have to say. But I support
6 everyone here so --

7 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Anyone else?

9 KIM GAINES

10 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you so much. And if
12 you would please state your name and spell it for the
13 court reporter. And you may give your testimony.

14 MS. KIM GAINES: My name is Kim Gaines.
15 K-i-m G-a-i-n-es.

16 I'm going to speak a little bit as a
17 landowner and a mother and a grandmother and a
18 superintendent of North Shelby School District. And
19 that's the building that you're sitting in right now.

20 First as a future landowner, the farm that
21 this line will be passing through, the fifth generation
22 of my family is residing on that farm right now. That
23 would be my grandsons. Their great-great grandfather
24 started that farm many, years ago and it has been left
25 to us to take care of. It's ours. It's my family's.

1 And I would like to see it stay the way it is.

2 And we've made many improvements to that
3 farm since we started farming it thirty years ago, my
4 husband and I. And I know that will be passed on to my
5 son and I know he has plans to pass that on to his two
6 sons.

7 The health risks -- I am an educated person.
8 I get on the Internet. I read all I can about the
9 latest in the effects of high voltage power lines on
10 people's health. And I'm concerned. You can read the
11 research in either direction. And that's the case with
12 anything. There are always two sides to an issue and
13 then there is the truth somewhere in-between.

14 My family will live about a mile, a mile and
15 a quarter, north of this proposed transmission line.
16 And it concerns me. And I no longer live on the farm.
17 I'm off the farm about ten miles now. But it concerns
18 me. I have two young boys who play outside, they live
19 outside. They'll hunt, they fish. And I want them to
20 be safe.

21 As the superintendent here at North
22 Shelby -- My bookkeeper was here earlier in the evening
23 and she spoke. And she mentioned that there had been
24 talk that, yes, the school district will reap some
25 benefit. That is true. Do not know to what extent.

1 But as a taxpayer in this school direct, I would gladly
2 pay more in local tax to more than offset income that
3 would come in. And I think maybe many of my taxpayers
4 in this room would do the same.

5 This school district has historically been
6 known -- We support this district. The majority of what
7 we run on every year comes from local taxes. And when
8 the pipeline came through, yes, we reaped some benefit
9 from that. But this school year, I learned that when
10 the pipeline came on, it was active, it drove down our
11 tax levee. We can't draw from both pots. And I get
12 that. We can't reap the benefit.

13 But as a taxpayer, I would gladly pay more
14 in taxes just to insure that what's ours stays ours.
15 And that's really all I have to say. And I thought
16 maybe if I could come up tonight maybe we could bring
17 some closure. It's a very hot topic.

18 And I do want to say one thing. I'm so
19 proud. So many of my former students have gotten up
20 here and talked because they've gone off to college or
21 not, and they've come home to farm because that's what
22 they love to do. And I'm just very proud of that and I
23 know they're going to have kids that are coming through
24 our school system. And so I was here to support them as
25 well. And it was kind of nice to see former student

1 come back and speak their mind and try to protect what's
2 theirs. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you. I just
4 wanted to thank you for hosting this event tonight.
5 Very comfortable surroundings for everyone. Thank you.

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Yes, sir.

7 MICHAEL BRANDS

8 having been sworn by the Judge, testifies as follows:

9 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. If you would
10 please, state and spell your name for the court
11 reporter. And then you may give your testimony.

12 MR. MICHAEL BRANDS: My name is Michael
13 Brands. M-i-c-h-e-a-l B-r-a-n-d-s.

14 I've lived in the north Shelby community at
15 Bethel for about five years. I'm the minister of the
16 Christian Church at Bethel. Several of the members who
17 have testified before you this evening are some of the
18 members of the congregation that I serve in Bethel.

19 It grieves me to see the concern on their
20 faces and concern that they express to me about this
21 possibility of a life-changing event taking place in
22 their life if the Ameren Transmission Line goes through.

23 They've heard me preach to them that the
24 greatest commandment is to love the Lord our God with
25 all our hearts and almighty strength. And the second

1 is, love your neighbor as yourself. They've also heard
2 me say and we all know the Golden Rule, to do unto
3 others as you have them do unto us.

4 And it's those things that help to build a
5 community, to help mold men and women into a profitable
6 community that serves each other and tries to help each
7 other in times of need. I've seen numerous times when
8 farmers have helped each other in the fields to get
9 crops harvested and gone to cut wood so people would
10 have heat for their homes and things like that. They
11 put into practice what they've heard myself and others
12 challenge them to do.

13 And I'd just like for Ameren to treat our
14 people the same way. To love your neighbor as yourself.
15 If this is what you'd want in your backyard then -- or
16 if this isn't what you want in your backyard, then don't
17 ask us to put it in our backyard.

18 And if you really believe in doing unto you,
19 don't ask my people to put this in their backyard,
20 across their fields, to harm their families. Show them
21 the respect that you would want to be shown towards you.
22 Thank you.

23 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Anyone else?
24 Seeing no volunteers, Mr. Stoll, closing remarks?

25 COMMISSIONER STOLL: I think we've had a

1 very good local public hearing this evening. I just
2 want to thank everybody for coming out and so many of
3 you sticking around. Thank you.

4 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Commissioner Coleman, any
5 closing remarks?

6 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: I'd like to thank you
7 for the information you provided us tonight. We will
8 certainly look closely at all the testimony. Next week
9 we're in Queen City and Kirksville and we will be paying
10 attention. So thank you all very much.

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I echo what you said. Thank
12 you everyone for coming out this evening. We appreciate
13 your participation. Thank you very much. This hearing
14 is adjourned. We're off the record.

15 (Hearing concluded.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E.

I, Cindy Keast Plowman, Certified Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the proceedings had in the matter set forth in the caption page hereon were reported in shorthand by me, afterwards transcribed, and the foregoing is a true and complete transcript of said shorthand notes.

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