

**STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service Commission held by telephone and internet audio conference on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2020.

In the Matter of the Application of Ameren )  
Transmission Company of Illinois for a )  
Certificate of Public Convenience and )  
Necessity to Construct, Install, Own, Operate )  
Maintain, and Otherwise Control and Manage )  
A 138 kV Transmission Line and Associated )  
Facilities in Perry and Cape Girardeau )  
Counties, Missouri )

**File No. EA-2021-0087**

**ORDER GRANTING WAIVER OF IN-PERSON MEETING  
REQUIREMENT**

Issue Date: December 30, 2020

Effective Date: January 9, 2021

Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois ("ATXI") filed a notice of intended case filing on September 25, 2020, indicating its intent to file an application for authority to construct and operate a new 138 kV transmission line and related switching station in Perry and Cape Girardeau Counties, Missouri. ATXI has not yet filed its application, but on December 9, 2020, it filed a Motion asking the Commission to waive a provision of its rules that would require ATXI to conduct an in-person public meeting before filing its application.

ATXI's motion explains that Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-20.045(6)(K) would require ATXI to file, along with its application, an affidavit or other certification verifying that it has complied with a rule requiring notice be given to landowners directly affected by the transmission line routes and substation locations. If a county contains 25 or more people entitled to notice of the transmission project, paragraph 20 CSR 4240-20.045(6)(K)3 of that regulation would further require ATXI to hold a public meeting

“in a building open to the public and sufficient in size to accommodate the number of persons in the county entitled to receive notice of the application”. Perry and Cape Girardeau Counties both contain more than 25 people entitled to receive notice of the transmission project. Due to public health concerns related to the COVID 19 pandemic, ATXI proposes that it be allowed to conduct the required public meetings virtually.

ATXI has already hosted several interactive public webinars regarding the transmission project and plans to host additional Virtual Public Meetings by webinar on January 21, 2021 at 12:00 P.M. and at 7:00 p.m. ATXI indicates it will provide notice of the meetings to the affected members of the public as it is required to do by the regulation.

At the direction of the Commission, the Commission’s Staff (Staff) filed a recommendation regarding the motion on December 29, 2020. Staff recommends the Commission grant the requested waiver. Several public comments have been submitted to the Commission contending that an in-person hearing is necessary because many affected residents would not be able to participate in a virtual hearing because they do not have reliable access to the internet. Staff notes that waiving the requirement for an in-person meeting will not limit the ability of members of the public to receive information and to make their voices heard. The proposed waiver of the rule requirement does not change ATXI’s obligation to inform the public of when and how they may participate in the meetings. Further, anyone with a telephone, even if they do not have access to the internet, will be able to participate in the planned meetings.

The Commission concludes that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the risk associated with having an in-person public meeting at this time, ATXI should not be required to conduct an in-person public meeting to satisfy the public meeting requirement

imposed by 20 CSR 4240-20.045(6)(K)3. As it is permitted to do by Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-20.045(7), the Commission finds that good cause has been shown to waive the in-person meeting requirements of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-20.045(6)(K)3. All notice and other requirements of that rule are not waived and remain in effect.

Because ATXI plans to conduct a virtual public meeting and tele-town hall on January 21, 2021, this order will be made effective in less than 30 days.

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. ATXI is granted a waiver of in-person public meeting requirements of Commission Rule 4240-20.045(6)(K)3.
2. This order shall be effective January 9, 2021.



**BY THE COMMISSION**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff".

Morris L. Woodruff  
Secretary

Silvey, Chm., Kenney, Rupp, Coleman, and  
Holsman CC., concur.

Woodruff, Chief Regulatory Law Judge