

In the Matter of:

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS Local Public Hearing

EA-2018-0202

August 21, 2018



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STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Local Public Hearing
August 21, 2018
Queen City, Missouri
Volume 2

In The Matter Of The Application Of)
Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren)
Missouri For Permission And Approval) File No. EA-2018-0202
And A Certificate Of Public)
Convenience And Necessity Authorizing)
It To Construct A Wind Generation)
Facility)

MORRIS L. WOODRUFF, Presiding
CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

SCOTT T. RUPP
COMMISSIONER

REPORTED BY: Stephanie Prewitt, CCR No. 746

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A P P E A R A N C E S

FOR AMEREN MISSOURI:

Ms. Wendy Tatro, Director and Assistant General Counsel

FOR THE MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION:

Ms. Jennifer Frazier, General Counsel

FOR THE MISSOURI DIVISION OF ENERGY:

Mr. Marc Poston, Senior Counsel

FOR THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC COUNSEL:

Mr. Caleb Hall, Senior Counsel

Mr. Ryan Smith, Senior Public Counsel

FOR THE STAFF OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION:

Mr. Ron Irving, Staff Counsel

1 (On the record at 6:46 p.m.)

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Good evening, everyone. If I
3 could have your attention, please. We're ready to start the
4 second half of this evening's program. My name is Morris
5 Woodruff. I'm the presiding officer for the Commission here
6 tonight, and I want to welcome you to the formal part of the
7 discussion. You had a chance to ask questions, and this is
8 the formal part that I'll ask people to come forward and
9 testify. I'll swear you in to tell the truth, the whole
10 truth, and nothing but the truth, and then we'll take your
11 formal testimony.

12 We have a court reporter here who will be
13 transcribing the hearing so that it will become part of the
14 formal record for the Commission to consider as it makes its
15 decision. I am the Chief Judge for the Commission, but I'm
16 not a Commissioner myself. I do have one Commissioner with me
17 here. This is Commissioner Scott Rupp.

18 I may have some questions for you after you've
19 testified and the Commissioner may have some questions for you
20 and the attorneys for the parties may have some questions for
21 you also, but it's not cross-examination time. It's just a
22 way for if anybody has any clarification that they want to
23 ask.

24 I believe I have nine people here who have signed
25 up to testify, so I'm going to go down the list of the names

1 in the order that they signed up. If you didn't get a chance
2 to sign up on the list, that's fine, too. After I've gone
3 through the list, I'll just ask if there's anybody else that
4 wants to testify.

5 Can everybody hear me okay in the back?

6 All right. I'm getting thumbs up back there, so
7 that's good.

8 Before we actually call the first witness, I need
9 to take care of a little bit of housekeeping here, and that's
10 I need to know which attorneys are here for the parties, so
11 I'm going to ask, is there anyone here from Ameren?

12 MS. TATRO: Wendy Tatro, 1901 Choteau Avenue,
13 St. Louis, Missouri 63103.

14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Is there an attorney here for
15 Staff, the staff of the Commission?

16 MR. IRVING: Good evening. Ron Irving with the
17 staff. The court reporter has my information.

18 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you very much. The Office
19 of Public Counsel?

20 MR. SMITH: Ryan Smith with the Office of Public
21 Counsel. I'm here with Caleb Hall. Thank you.

22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. I believe I saw
23 someone here from the Division of Energy.

24 MR. POSTON: Marc Poston for the Division of
25 Energy.

1 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any other attorneys for any of
2 the parties here? Come on forward.

3 MS. FRAZIER: Jennifer Frazier with the Missouri
4 Department of Conservation.

5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Anyone else?

6 (No response.)

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I'm going to call the first name
8 on the list, which is David Sidwell, if you want to come up to
9 the podium. And you'll need to hold the microphone up so that
10 we can hear you.

11 MR. SIDWELL: Is that okay?

12 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Very good. Please raise your
13 right hand, and I'll swear you in.

14 (The judge administered the oath, to which
15 Mr. Sidwell responded, "Yes, sir.")

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to tell us?

17 MR. SIDWELL: Well, first of all, I want to say
18 that I support the issuing of a permit to the Ameren Missouri
19 company to construct the High Prairie Wind Farm in Schuyler
20 and Adair counties.

21 I do not consider that a wind farm will be a
22 perfect solution to our economic problems, but not having a
23 wind farm will provide no solutions. It has been reported
24 that this project may become a state assessed utility rather
25 than a locally assessed utility, resulting in less property

1 tax revenue perhaps than anticipated. However, no wind farm
2 will result in creating no additional revenue of any kind.

3 I believe there's a need for wind farms in the
4 state of Missouri. The Anheuser-Busch InBev Company located
5 in St. Louis, unfortunately, had to contract wind energy with
6 a wind farm located in Oklahoma and will be sending their
7 Missouri dollars to another state.

8 The Ameren Missouri Company has announced that it
9 would like to own and operate the High Prairie Wind Farm. It
10 would benefit all the citizens of Missouri if Ameren will keep
11 their Missouri energy dollars within the state while improving
12 our air quality.

13 Schuyler County has a poverty rate of almost 20
14 percent. It's considered the second poorest county in the
15 state. The Schuyler County School District has recently made
16 the difficult decision to go to a four-day school week because
17 they lack the funding to operate five days a week.

18 The local farmers have recently witnessed the
19 lowest soybean market in nine years. Tariffs are being
20 considered that may bring harm to their already weak pork and
21 cattle markets. Farmers are also experiencing a serious
22 drought in Schuyler and Adair counties. Our rain has stopped
23 falling, but our wind is still blowing. Our farmers need to
24 diversify with wind turbines.

25 Schuyler and Adair County citizens need the

1 revenues and jobs that a High Prairie Wind Farm will provide.
2 The proposed 175 wind turbines will make annual lease payments
3 to our local farmers totaling \$3,200,000 per year.

4 Wind turbines are a 100 percent voluntary option
5 for landowners. If you do not want a wind turbine on your
6 property, you do not have to sign up for one. It has been
7 reported that at least 160 farmers have signed up 70,000 acres
8 in Adair and Schuyler counties for this voluntary program.

9 I suggest that the Missouri Public Service
10 Commission grant a permit to the Missouri Ameren Company so
11 construction can begin. Thanks for the opportunity to say a
12 few words.

13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Anyone have any questions for
14 Mr. Sidwell? Commissioner?

15 (No response.)

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, Mr. Sidwell.

17 One more thing I forgot to mention is -- and
18 Mr. Sidwell certainly complied with this -- is to try to keep
19 your comments to about five minutes or so just in respect for
20 other people who want to testify tonight.

21 So the next name on the list is Carolyn Chrisman.

22 MS. CHRISMAN: Good evening.

23 (The judge administered the oath, to which
24 Ms. Chrisman responded, "I do.")

25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to tell us?

1 MS. CHRISMAN: Well, my name is Carolyn Chrisman.
2 I'm the Executive Director of the economic development
3 organization that represents Kirksville and Adair County, and
4 our board has -- just simply have some comments that we want
5 to share with you.

6 So, first of all, we do support the building of
7 this wind farm project in Schuyler and Adair counties.
8 Additionally, we also support the purchase of the wind farm by
9 Ameren Missouri upon its completion. Our group has just been
10 very happy with the way the High Prairie Wind Farm project has
11 been done in such a positive manner, that landowners have
12 signed on their land through land lease payment agreements and
13 the obtainment of those leases were not only supported by the
14 landowners, but encouraged by the community.

15 Ameren Missouri has also been a long-time,
16 reliable provider of electric service that have met our local
17 needs for quite some time, and that they've also done a good
18 job in planning for future potential growth in this area, and
19 so we see them as a valued member of our community. We're
20 excited that they want to invest in clean, renewable energy in
21 the form of wind. We appreciate that they are turning our
22 wind power into electricity, and so therefore, we think that
23 makes them a good partner and we support and encourage this
24 endeavor.

25 We are the region's economic development

1 organization and we cannot emphasize enough the value that
2 this project has to our region, and the economic impact can be
3 transformative. As David had spoke to earlier, land lease
4 payments, the short-term job creation through construction,
5 but then some of the long-term impact is wonderful, so we
6 fully support that. And the long-term expectation of jobs and
7 ongoing investment will impact our region for decades, and we
8 ask that you support the project as well.

9 It is our understanding that some questions exist
10 as to the assessment of this wind farm upon completion and we
11 fully support a solution to keep that assessment at the local
12 level throughout the life of the project.

13 So the letter was signed by both myself as
14 executive director and the president of our board, so thank
15 you.

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. Any questions?

17 MR. HALL: Yeah, Office of Public Counsel has one
18 question. Is your board also referred to as K-REDI?

19 MS. CHRISMAN: It is, Kirksville Regional Economic
20 Development Corporation.

21 MR. HALL: Is there an Ameren Missouri executive
22 on that board?

23 MS. CHRISMAN: I'm sorry. Could you repeat that?

24 MR. HALL: Is there an Ameren Missouri employee on
25 your board?

1 MS. CHRISMAN: Yes. Annette Sweet is the
2 secretary of our board, and she is appointed by the City of
3 Kirksville to serve in that position.

4 MR. HALL: Thank you.

5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: The next name on the list is Jim
6 Werner. Jim Werner?

7 MR. WERNER: No comment at this time.

8 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Pardon me?

9 MR. WERNER: No comment at this time.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. Antal Brogan.

11 Good evening. Please raise your right hand.

12 (The judge administered the oath, to which
13 Ms. Brogan responded, "Yes.")

14 MS. BROGAN: I'm Antal Brogan. I'm a resident of
15 Schuyler County, and I'm also a sociologist. I have concerns
16 about the wind project, how it's going to affect us socially.
17 There have been a lot of studies that have indicated some
18 issues healthwise, but more than that, I'm also concerned
19 about how the 85/15 percent issue and how that's going to be
20 settled because I think it will be something that will
21 probably affect energy efficiency projects for years to come.
22 So I would ask that the Commission be cautious in its
23 decision.

24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Can you tell me what you mean by
25 the 85/15 percent?

1 MS. BROGAN: Just the two laws that they're
2 bickering about honestly.

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Anyone have any questions?

4 (No response.)

5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, ma'am.

6 Next name on the list is Ashley Young. Good
7 evening. Please raise your right hand.

8 MR. YOUNG: Good evening.

9 (The judge administered the oath, to which
10 Mr. Young responded, "I do.")

11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. What would you like to
12 tell us?

13 MR. YOUNG: Well, I'm here on behalf of the City
14 of Kirksville, Missouri, and last night during the City
15 Council's monthly council meeting -- which they have actually
16 twice a month. Bi-weekly meeting, I guess I should say, or
17 bi-monthly -- they approved a statement of support for the
18 project, and I would like to enter that as an exhibit for the
19 Commission.

20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: If you'd hand it to me, please.

21 MR. YOUNG: Of course.

22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: These are multiple copies of the
23 same document?

24 MR. YOUNG: That is correct.

25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. I'll go ahead and

1 mark it as Exhibit 1. If any of the parties want to get a
2 copy of it, I'll provide it to you after the hearing.

3 (Exhibit 1 was marked for identification.)

4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: It will be admitted as part of
5 the record.

6 MR. YOUNG: All right. Thank you.

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Anything else you want to tell
8 us?

9 MR. YOUNG: That's all.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Thank you very much.
11 Next name on the list is Kyle Carron. If you would spell your
12 last name for the benefit of the court reporter.

13 MR. CARROLL: C-a-r-r-o-l-l.

14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Carroll. I'm sorry.

15 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, that's okay. I even got both
16 L's on it this time. Sometimes that gets left off.

17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Let me swear you in first.

18 (The judge administered the oath, to which
19 Mr. Carroll responded, "I do.")

20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

21 MR. CARROLL: Well, I appreciate the opportunity
22 to come here and just take a couple minutes this evening and
23 just issue a word of caution.

24 I see the Chamber of Commerces and all the
25 entities that are going to gain economically or think they're

1 going to gain economically are all for this, but having come
2 from DeKalb County -- I've drove over two and a half hours
3 this evening -- we've been through this a couple times. We
4 had the first wind project in the state built there. We had
5 one of the most recent projects built there.

6 It's completely divided our community. Every
7 school in that county has had to pass a bond issue at some
8 point to keep operating. This is not the panacea that you're
9 being told that it is. Not saying that it won't have some
10 benefits, and I appreciate the fact that it's a local
11 decision, so let me say my thing and you guys make your
12 decision.

13 I do just want to issue a couple of words of
14 caution because it's all new here. And the reason that Ameren
15 is here and not in St. Charles County or one of the places
16 close to St. Louis where you wouldn't even have to build a
17 transmission line is that they're not putting this project
18 here because there's a lot of wind. They're going to put it
19 here because there's not much resistance and nobody's been
20 through it before, so you need to really look at this before
21 you say that it's okay.

22 And if you haven't figured out, I'm opposed. I
23 want to be on the record that I'm opposed to this, and really
24 for a couple of reasons. As far as the necessity of the
25 project, I've heard two different things: that we had a peak

1 as far as energy, a peak energy like in 2011 and that we
2 really haven't had an increase in demand for electricity in
3 Missouri during that time, and I also heard that we may have
4 hit a new peak last winter, so I don't know which is true. It
5 really doesn't matter.

6 If we're at a point that we need more energy, that
7 we need to develop another energy source in Missouri, another
8 plant or whatever, you don't want to build a wind project
9 that's an intermittent, expensive source of energy. That's
10 not your solution. So if it's the other end, that we're
11 really not needing more electricity, well, even more so you
12 don't need the intermittent, supplemental, expensive
13 electricity.

14 Now, we heard that this project is going to save
15 Ameren customers money. Maybe. It will be the first time
16 that that ever happens. That escape hatch in that clause is
17 there so that they can recover costs if they need to, and it
18 only looks reasonable on paper because of the tremendous
19 amount of production tax credit, the RECs that are involved.
20 There are all these different things that get dumped into
21 what's so-called green energy. If it had to stand on its own,
22 it couldn't do it. I'm not saying I'm opposed to wind energy
23 or some of that in some form or manner or shape, but this is
24 not it.

25 This is going to cause a lot of problems with your

1 wildlife. It's going to -- you've heard two or three times
2 that this is all being done through the Fish and Wildlife
3 Service and all the wildlife concerns will be taken care of.
4 That's only partially true. That's only if it's an endangered
5 species like a eagle or whooping crane or a brown bat,
6 something like that. The rest of it, there is no referee in
7 Missouri. The Conservation Department can't. They can make
8 suggestions. Ameren can do what they want. You don't have
9 any protection except this commission on your wildlife.

10 And it will have an impact. Whether or not, you
11 know, it's an impact you can live with, that's a local
12 decision, but there's no referee and there's nobody looking
13 out for you. You can't even see their studies. If they have
14 a study and you want to see it, they'll tell you it's
15 proprietary. You can't see what they've looked at. The
16 Conservation Department doesn't even get to see what they've
17 looked at. At least in the case in our case. I guess I
18 should not paint with a real broad brush. But there are a lot
19 of problems that way.

20 I think that's basically what I wanted to say. I
21 appreciate the time and appreciate your allowing me the
22 opportunity.

23 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any questions for Mr. Carroll?

24 (No response.)

25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. The next name on my

1 list is Johnnie Walker. Please raise your right hand, and
2 I'll swear you in.

3 (The judge administered the oath, to which
4 Mr. Walker responded, "Yes, sir.")

5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. What would you like
6 to tell us?

7 MR. WALKER: Yes, my name's Johnnie Walker,
8 Osborn, Missouri. First of all, thank you for the time here.
9 I want to voice my opposition to the wind turbine project by
10 Ameren here in Schuyler County. Let's go over a few issues
11 that wind has here that people need to know about. As a
12 resident of DeKalb County, we have firsthand knowledge of what
13 has happened to our deer community.

14 Wind has many issues. The shadow flicker is one
15 of them that hadn't been mentioned here today. The strobe
16 lights that -- a lot of times these wind turbines are built so
17 close to highways that strobe lights enter the highway, and
18 it's a very big distraction to motorists that drive down the
19 highway, rural and county roads and state roads.

20 Red flashing lights every three seconds at night,
21 noise. If Johnnie Walker wanted to live near the KCI airport,
22 I would, but I chose to live in rural northwest Missouri, and
23 I'm telling you that's going to change if you live close to a
24 wind turbine. We have recorded up to 80 to a hundred decibels
25 of noise at our residence. That has been recorded.

1 Okay. We talked about destruction of wildlife:
2 eagles, hawks, geese, ducks, owls, trumpeter swans.
3 Endangered species have to be protected. And what are the
4 studies? There needs to be an environmental impact study that
5 is public so the people know how this will affect our rural
6 lifestyle.

7 Another big issue, reduction of property values.
8 You don't hear that any at all. In the summer of 2017 in
9 Clinton County, we had experts, over 60 hours of sworn
10 testimony of experts all over the country come in, and one of
11 them was Mr. McCann who is a specialist in property values,
12 and one of his statements was if you have a wind turbine
13 within 3 miles of your property line, you will see a reduction
14 in property values. That's his statement. Of course, the
15 closer they move in, the more reduction in property values you
16 will see.

17 Health issues. I've personally visited people
18 that have headaches, lack of sleep, and dizziness. Did that
19 affect all people? No, it never has, but it affects some
20 people. We're all different.

21 Okay. The other thing is it divides your
22 community. I'm telling you if you respect the rural lifestyle
23 in this great area here, which is known for great hunting and
24 turkey and wildlife and game, wind turbines don't mix. You're
25 talking about destruction of wildlife. The noise and the

1 movement, I mean, wildlife adjust to this.

2 The other thing is wind turbines are not
3 efficient. Wind doesn't blow all the time here. They're not
4 here because of the wind. They're here because of production
5 tax credits. Wind is about 30 to 35 percent efficient, so if
6 we took ten cars here, then three out of ten could make your
7 way home. It is intermittent energy. That's all it is.

8 But remember they're here for production tax
9 credits because the federal government has given boatloads of
10 moneys to these wind industry and utility companies to turn
11 loose here in rural Missouri because there's no referee.
12 There's no referee in here in the State of Missouri.

13 Okay. Let's talk about the cost. Cost for coal
14 now is 2, 3 cents per kilowatt hour, and wind energy is two --
15 about two to three times that. So who wants their utility
16 bills to be doubled or quadrupled?

17 Let's take a little bit of information from this
18 book, Paradise Destroyed by Greg Hubner. He talks about the
19 wind industry since its inception has benefited up to \$5.1
20 trillion in the United States in production tax credits.
21 That's one-fourth of our national debt. I mean, Warren Buffet
22 put it the best, quote, That's the only reason to build them
23 -- he's talking about wind turbines -- They don't make any
24 sense without the tax credit, unquote. Warren Buffett.

25 Okay. To finalize this, let's keep rural Schuyler

1 County rural, and wind turbines are something that this rural
2 lifestyle should be without, and maintain your rural, agrarian
3 community. Thank you very much.

4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, Mr. Walker. Anyone
5 have any questions?

6 (No response.)

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Next name on the list is -- I
8 believe it's Kim Lindell. Did I get that right?

9 MS. TINDEL: Tindel.

10 JUDGE WOOD: Tindel. Okay.

11 MS. TINDEL: T-i-n-d-e-l.

12 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your right hand.

13 (The judge administered the oath, to which
14 Ms. Tindel responded, "Yes, sir.")

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. What would you like
16 to tell us?

17 MS. TINDEL: I highly recommend studies for
18 wildlife, endangered species, migratory waterfowl, and all
19 creatures be conducted before, during, and after, to be
20 continued when and if the project moves forward, and that all
21 studies be available for public viewing at any time and a
22 phone number available for the wildlife concerns.

23 I highly recommend monitoring tower sites if the
24 project moves forward for deceased creatures and keep track of
25 the creatures killed. I recommend the industrial wind towers

1 be shut off during high migratory waterfowl season. The
2 infrasound is devastating.

3 These awesome creatures don't have a voice. We
4 need to be their voice. We need to be the good stewards of
5 the earth where these creatures call home. Thank you.

6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Do you have any questions for
7 Ms. Tindel?

8 (No response.)

9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Ms. Tindel, are you from Schuyler
10 County?

11 MS. TINDEL: Osborn, Missouri.

12 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Osborn. Okay.

13 MS. TINDEL: DeKalb County.

14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I notice that you're the third
15 person from DeKalb County. Anything more you want to tell us
16 about what happened in DeKalb County?

17 MS. TINDEL: It's the Wild West. These have
18 divided our community.

19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Use your microphone.

20 MS. TINDEL: Sorry. It's the Wild West. They've
21 divided our community. A handful of landowners have dictated
22 our way of life.

23 We have probably 12 wind towers around us. We no
24 longer can leave our -- we have to live with our blinds
25 pulled. These towers sound like airplanes hovering. They do

1 create -- I don't know if it's a jet stream, if it's a
2 downdraft. This is a poorly sited project. I can't speak for
3 this one. They crammed 97 into a small area, 21 of them being
4 sited around Pony Express/Buffalo Bill Conservation Area with
5 the Conservation multiple requests for a three-mile stepback
6 and their blatant discard. No studies have been produced.

7 The red blinking lights at night every three to
8 four seconds. The sounds they make going on and off. They
9 make sounds when they are looking for wind. When these towers
10 go off, they don't store their own energy. Up there. I can't
11 speak for here. It takes other form of energy to start them.
12 They're not efficient. We didn't move to the country to live
13 in an industrial nightmare, and it's devastating.

14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: The wind project there in DeKalb
15 County, that's not connected with Ameren; is that correct?

16 MS. TINDEL: No, sir.

17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Anyone else have any questions?

18 (No response.)

19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, ma'am. Last name on
20 my list is Dan Thompson.

21 MR. THOMPSON: Hi.

22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: If you'd please raise your right
23 hand.

24 (The judge administered the oath, to which
25 Mr. Thompson responded, "I do.")

1 MR. THOMPSON: So, yeah, my name's Dan Thompson.
2 I'm with Terra-Gen, the developer of the project, so it seemed
3 appropriate to just say a few words. I appreciate -- first of
4 all, I appreciate everyone coming out. You know, we've been
5 here since the beginning, which for us has been about two and
6 a half years when we came to the county and we've been very
7 welcomed and we appreciate that from the entire community.

8 So just a couple things about my experience. I
9 have been in the power industry for about 30 years, and
10 there's -- in terms of sources of energy, I actually started
11 my career working in a coal plant. Then I spent many years
12 developing natural gas projects, which was very common for a
13 good part of my career. I've been involved in wind for about
14 ten years. And it's really amazing just to see the evolution
15 of the wind -- or the power industry over many years and how
16 economical wind has gotten, which has really driven a lot of
17 expansion in the wind business.

18 In terms of Terra-Gen, the company was formed to
19 develop clean sources of energy. We have developed wind
20 projects as well as solar energy and thermal. In terms of
21 this project, I think one of the things that I'd like to just
22 mention is kind of what -- how it evolved. And there's really
23 four key elements that you need for a wind project, and we
24 think of it as four legs of a stool.

25 One of those key elements is a wind resource, and

1 so there is a proven wind resource here in this part of
2 Missouri, which is not necessarily the case throughout the
3 state. We have been measuring the wind. We have data on site
4 that goes back about ten years that verifies the wind
5 resource.

6 The second leg of the stool is the support of the
7 landowner community. We have -- we've had very supportive
8 landowners, and we appreciate them being open and honest.
9 That's really what we focus on as a company. We like to be
10 straightforward, and I think we've been that from the
11 beginning. We've seen that back from the landowner community
12 and the community as a whole, so we really do appreciate that
13 in both Schuyler and Adair counties.

14 The third leg of the stool is access to
15 transmission. The Mark Twain Line not only gives us access,
16 but the fact that it's coming through allowed us to develop
17 the project to a full 400 megawatts.

18 And then the last leg is having a counter-party, a
19 creditworthy buyer for the project. In this case, that's
20 Ameren. So once we finished that agreement, that was the last
21 leg of the stool that we needed, the four legs for the project
22 to be successful.

23 Just a couple notes about the build-transfer
24 structure. I think in terms of the ownership, it really has
25 been a trend in the business. In states that are similar to

1 Missouri where you have a vertically integrated utilities,
2 we're seeing utilities have the desired home, and so that is a
3 trend we're seeing in our business.

4 Secondly, the build-transfer where Terra-Gen
5 builds the project and Ameren owns it, that takes advantage of
6 the -- that takes advantage of our expertise as developers and
7 constructors and it will take advantage of Ameren's expertise
8 in being a long-term owner-operator.

9 Benefits. I think there's other folks that talked
10 about the economic benefits. I won't go into that. But there
11 are environmental benefits, and really Ameren mentioned that,
12 that as they transition over to cleaner sources of energy,
13 this is a great -- this is a great alternative and at a cost
14 effective price as well.

15 Wildlife. The wind has been around for many
16 years, but we've seen the evolution that turbines have gotten
17 bigger, which originally the turbines that were first built
18 were very small, close to the ground, rotate at a high speed.
19 Now they are much higher, rotate at a much slower speed, and
20 so therefore, friendlier to wildlife.

21 So, those are really the comments I wanted to
22 make. Again, thanks for everyone coming out. I'd just like
23 to thank the community for their support, and I'd like to urge
24 the Public Service Commission to approve the CCN as well.

25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any questions?

1 (No response.)

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir.

3 That was the last name on my list. Is there
4 anyone else who now feels inspired to come forward and speak?

5 All right. Commissioner Rupp?

6 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Hi, my name's Scott. I'm a
7 Commissioner for the Public Service Commission. There's five
8 of us. I was the only one that could be here because we have
9 a lot of public hearings all across the state. My colleagues,
10 they will read the transcript and be able to see everybody's
11 comments.

12 But I just wanted to add one thing is we do travel
13 around the state to a lot of public hearings, and it's very
14 disheartening when you travel and you show up and there's no
15 one in the room. I know that this is an important issue, and
16 it's very heart-warming that you guys took time out of your
17 evening to come here and to learn, to ask questions, to become
18 better educated, and to be able to exercise your right to
19 speak out.

20 So, I am very pleased to see this much community
21 interest, whether it is pro or against. It helps us as
22 regulators to get a feel for what is really going on in the
23 community. When no one shows up and it's just us looking at
24 each other and we get back in our cars and go home, we don't
25 get the information. So thank you for taking the time out of

1 your evening to help us make a better decision.

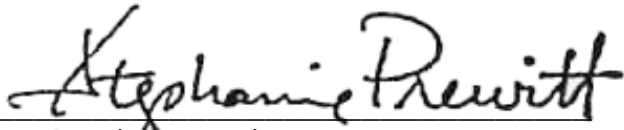
2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Thank you,
3 Commissioner. And with that, we are adjourned. Thank you for
4 coming.

5 (The public hearing was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.)
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I, Stephanie Prewitt, CCR No. 746, within the State of Missouri do hereby certify that I appeared and reported all testimony and statements made on the record at the Local Public Hearing in Queen City, Missouri, on August 21, 2018; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this hearing was taken; and further, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the hearing.


Stephanie Prewitt
Stephanie Prewitt, CCR

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