

Make an informed decision

Posted: Saturday, July 12, 2014 11:45 pm

This letter is to clarify a misconception promoted by some that a new power line from Grain Belt Express will provide a small amount of taxes to their county general revenue. Unfortunately, some county commissioners only look at their slice of the pie, ignoring the whole pie.

In Randolph County, Mo., the projected annual revenue from property taxes from this 21-mile long infrastructure project may exceed \$650,000, with 70 percent of that total going to local school districts. This is more estimated tax revenue from one project than revenue from 470 new houses built (assuming fair market value of \$150,000) or all of the taxes from our county's entire agricultural real estate.

This is an important new source of tax revenue to local schools, fire districts, libraries, county road districts and other tax districts, which could potentially delay new property tax increases to all the taxpayers in our county, or add needed services.

While some opponents may argue this type of project is unnecessary, I seriously doubt the majority of people would remain opposed knowing this may reduce our fossil fuel dependency. I believe the public wants reliable factual information disseminated in order to make an informed decision.

I sincerely believe we should look at the known science involved in these infrastructure projects and not rely only on hearsay when we choose to accept or condemn any project.

Richard Tregnago,

Randolph County assessor,

Huntsville, Mo.

Missouri Public Service Commission

Public Hearing: Moberly, Mo. August 14, 2014 6:00 p.m.
Moberly City Auditorium

Testimony in Favor of Grain Belt Express Transmission Line

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Presented to members of the PSC, State of Missouri

Randolph County may have approximately 21 miles of the high voltage DC line being proposed. Grain Belt Express has indicated to the Missouri State Tax Commission a projected expense of 400 Million Dollars, with ¼ expense to a DC converter station in Ralls County, and, potential expenditures over 200 miles of right-of-way at approximately 300 Million Dollars, or, 1.5 Million Dollars per mile.

If projections are as stated, then Randolph County may have \$31,500,000 of new construction to be assessed locally the first year, then, the project may become State Assessed thereafter. Annual property tax estimates may exceed \$500,000 annually to various districts within the county depending on their individual levies.

The projected assessed value of the transmission line could surpass the total assessed value of all the agricultural land in Randolph County, if an assumption is made that cost may be similar to value of new construction.

Witness Exhibit No. 20
Date 8-14-14 Reporter MSM
File No. EA-2014-0207

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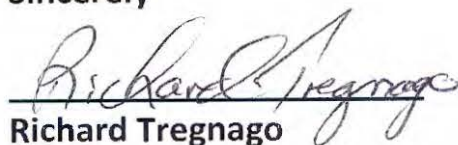
A local concern I have is Randolph County currently has three coal fired electric generating stations known as the Thomas Hill Energy Center. Unit One was online in 1966 and is rated at 180 megawatts. Unit Two was online in 1969 and is rated at 285 megawatts. Unit Three was online 1982 and is rated at 670 megawatts, for a grand total of 1,135 megawatts of electric generating capacity.

The taxes paid by the owners, Associated Electric, exceed \$5,000,000 annually. Throughout the United States, older coal fired plants are closing. If Thomas Hill were to shut down Units One and Two, how would we make up 465 megawatts of power? Also, the erosion of the tax base would occur if 41% of the generating capacity is reduced.

One alternative would be to have alternate sources of electric power at an affordable rate. I believe many persons opposed to this construction are very sincere in their beliefs. I understand the towers and lines may be unsightly. I was raised near a large substation, and, a railroad, and after a period of time, both became somewhat invisible to everyday living. I would assume there are valid arguments with concerns of such high voltage lines emitting electrical magnetic fields. I have not yet been informed of any technical evidence presented by reputable physicists that offer a level of exposure or its' field of exposure at high risk levels. I am not a scientist/physicist or have expertise in those matters.

I am simply presenting a financial potential benefit to various taxing districts should this line be constructed. I also believe it would be better to have one right of way for the high voltage lines along a proposed 200 foot wide corridor, than to have several smaller capacity lines criss crossing the State with multiple avenues.

Sincerely


Richard Tregnago