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**MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**FILE NO. EA-2025-0087**

**DIRECT TESTIMONY**

**OF**

**LEAH DETTMERS**

**ON**

**BEHALF OF**

**AMEREN TRANSMISSION COMPANY OF ILLINOIS**

St. Louis, Missouri  
December, 2024

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY**

**OF**

**LEAH DETTMERS**

**FILE NO. EA-2025-0087**

1                                   **I.       INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

2           **Q.       Please state your name and business address.**

3           A.       My name is Leah Dettmers. My business address is 1901 Chouteau Avenue,  
4 St. Louis, Missouri 63103.

5           **Q.       By whom are you employed and in what capacity?**

6           A.       I am employed by Ameren Services Company (Ameren Services) as Manager of  
7 Stakeholder Relations and Training.

8           **Q.       What are your responsibilities as Manager of Stakeholder Relations and**  
9 **Training?**

10          A.       My role is to lead, develop, and execute public outreach strategies for transmission  
11 portfolios and programs on behalf of Ameren Services’ transmission-owning affiliates, including  
12 the Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois (ATXI) transmission project that is the subject of  
13 this proceeding. I also implement those tasks and generate the related materials with the support  
14 of internal subject matter experts and external consultants. My scope of work covers strategies for  
15 and implementation of both new (“greenfield”) transmission projects that may require regulatory  
16 approvals as well as projects concerning maintenance of or upgrades to facilities within existing  
17 (“brownfield”) transmission corridors. In addition, I provide oversight within Ameren Services’  
18 transmission-based team on training for other employees. Regarding my public outreach

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1 responsibilities specifically, I manage project information via written materials and digital  
2 resources. My role includes meeting with the public, agencies, community leaders, and other  
3 stakeholders during open houses, agency review meetings, local government discussions, and  
4 other meetings concerning anticipated transmission projects. During my tenure at Ameren  
5 Services, I have, on behalf of its transmission-owning affiliates, coordinated and managed public  
6 outreach processes for over 1,000 miles of transmission lines in Illinois and Missouri and have  
7 implemented public outreach processes for several greenfield Missouri transmission projects.  
8 These greenfield, Missouri projects include, among others, the Mark Twain Transmission Project  
9 and Limestone Ridge Project.

10 **Q. Please describe your educational and professional background.**

11 A. I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Organizational Development/Public Relations  
12 and a Master of Arts in Organizational Development/Public Relations from Southern Illinois  
13 University Edwardsville. I have been employed by Ameren Services since October 2015. My  
14 initial role at Ameren Services was Stakeholder Relations Coordinator working on public outreach,  
15 media messaging, material development and project support on both greenfield and existing  
16 transmission lines. My current title is Manager of Stakeholder Relations and Training. I assist with  
17 the strategy for stakeholder outreach in developing, training and implementing the required  
18 regulatory processes for Ameren transmission projects as well as best management practices for  
19 outreach processes for all transmission programs. I also oversee the management of our external  
20 engagement consultants, support our other internal ATXI workgroups in routing/siting, provide  
21 public outreach strategy for our transmission business development services, and manage ATXI's  
22 corporate training for all workgroups. During my career, I have been involved in developing and

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1 implementing public process strategy via regulatory requirements and utilities' best management  
2 practices for over 1,000 miles of Ameren's electric transmission projects.

3 **Q. Have you previously testified before the Missouri Public Service Commerce**  
4 **Commission?**

5 A. Yes, I have testified before the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission)  
6 on behalf of Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois (ATXI) for Phase 1 of the Northern  
7 Missouri Grid Transformation Program in File No. EA-2024-0302.

8 **II. PURPOSE OF THE TESTIMONY AND SCHEDULES**

9 **Q. What is the purpose of your direct testimony?**

10 A. I support ATXI's request for a certificate of convenience and necessity (CCN) and  
11 related Commission approvals authorizing ATXI to construct, acquire, and operate certain  
12 transmission assets as part of its Northern Missouri Grid Transformation Program (the Program)  
13 described in the direct testimony of ATXI witness Mr. Shawn Schukar. The facilities included in  
14 this proceeding address the second phase of the overall Program in Missouri (Phase 2), which  
15 consist of one project: the Denny-Zachary-Thomas Hill-Maywood (DZTM) Project.

16 The DZTM Project includes the construction of slightly over 200 miles of new 345 kV  
17 transmission lines across three transmission line segments spanning ten Missouri Counties:  
18 DeKalb, Daviess, Grundy, Sullivan, Adair, Knox, Lewis, Marion, Macon, and Randolph. The first  
19 line segment will run approximately 102 or 107 miles (depending on the configuration option  
20 approved) from ATXI's new Denny Substation in DeKalb County to ATXI's existing Zachary  
21 Substation near Kirksville, Missouri (the DZ Segment). The DZ Segment consists of two  
22 configuration options: a single circuit design option (the DZ Single Circuit Option), which will

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1 mostly be routed along existing or planned Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AECI)  
2 transmission line corridors; or a double circuit design option (the DZ Double Circuit Option),  
3 which will rebuild a section of an existing AECI 161 kV transmission line in a double circuit  
4 configuration and build a greenfield section in a double circuit configuration with a planned AECI  
5 161 kV transmission line, in order to collocate the new 345 kV circuit on a single set of structures  
6 for the vast majority of the DZ Segment. The second line segment will be approximately 60 miles  
7 in length and will connect the existing Zachary Substation to ATXI's existing Maywood Substation  
8 near Palmyra, Missouri (the Z-M Segment), routed along existing ATXI transmission line  
9 corridors. The third line segment consists of a new approximately 44-mile 345 kV transmission  
10 circuit from the Zachary Substation running South to AECI's existing Thomas Hill Substation in  
11 Randolph County (the Z-T Segment), rebuilding an existing Ameren Missouri 161 kV transmission  
12 line to accommodate the new 345 kV circuit, which will almost entirely be co-located on the same  
13 structures with Ameren Missouri facilities.

14 My testimony explains ATXI's compliance with certain public meeting and notice  
15 requirements related to the Phase 2 DZTM Project, including notice of the application to directly  
16 affected landowners. I also explain ATXI's public outreach process for the Phase 2 DZTM Project,  
17 including how that process solicited public input from community representatives and potentially  
18 affected landowners, to help inform the route selection for the Phase 2 DZTM Project and the DZ  
19 Segment design/configuration options. ATXI witness Mr. Schmidt explains the route that ATXI is  
20 proposing for the Phase 2 DZTM Project (the Proposed Route) for its three segments, including  
21 the differences between the DZ Single Circuit Option and the DZ Double Circuit Option for the  
22 DZ Segment. I also describe ATXI's notice coordination activities with regulatory agencies.  
23 ATXI's public outreach process went above the minimum public meeting and notice requirements,

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1 as I understand them, to ensure robust public understanding of the Phase 2 DZTM Project and  
2 active participation by the public in the development of the routes.

3 **Q. Are you sponsoring any schedules with your direct testimony?**

4 A. Yes. I am sponsoring:

- 5 • Schedule LD-D1 – an Engagement Summary that illustrates the integrated outreach  
6 process, including notifications of the public outreach process, support letters, and  
7 county commission feedback; and
- 8 • Schedule LD-D2 – an exemplar copy of the letter that ATXI sent to each affected  
9 landowner as notice of its application.

10 **Q. Are you offering any legal opinions in your direct testimony?**

11 A. No. I am not an attorney and none of my direct testimony is intended to offer any  
12 legal opinions.

13 **III. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND NOTICE REQUIREMENTS**

14 **Q. Please generally explain the public engagement process.**

15 A. Following selection of ATXI’s DZTM Project proposal by the Midcontinent  
16 Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO) in April 2024, ATXI conducted a series of public  
17 information meetings for the Phase 2 DZTM Project.<sup>1</sup> ATXI provided the public with both in-  
18 person, virtual, and other engagement opportunities to learn more about the Phase 2 DZTM Project  
19 and provide input on the Project’s Study Areas<sup>2</sup> and Route Corridors. To ensure robust

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<sup>1</sup> Because of the MISO competitive solicitation process, this was the first opportunity ATXI had to present the Phase 2 DZTM Project to the public and receive their input.

<sup>2</sup> The Study Areas are described in the direct testimony of ATXI witness Mr. Dan Schmidt.

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1 participation, those opportunities included: (1) two in-person open houses, one in the morning and  
2 one in the evening, for the counties affected by the Phase 2 DZTM Project; (2) a website dedicated  
3 to the Program as a whole; (3) a self-paced, self-guided virtual open house with an interactive  
4 mapping tool, parcel maps and county level maps, and a comment feature; and (4) other ways to  
5 learn about and provide feedback on the Project and connect with the Public Engagement Team. I  
6 explain each public engagement opportunity further below.

7 **Q. What were the objectives of the public engagement process?**

8 A. There were several objectives of the first phase of the public engagement process.  
9 The Public Engagement Team sought to introduce the Phase 2 DZTM Project to the public, explain  
10 the need for the DZTM Project and its benefits, explain the routing, and begin to collect public  
11 input on the Phase 2 DZTM Project's Study Areas and Route Corridors. ATXI engaged in public  
12 outreach to potentially affected landowners, community representatives and stakeholders, agency  
13 stakeholders, and the general public in the Study Areas and Route Corridors.

14 **Q. Did ATXI encourage participation in all of the public engagement process**  
15 **opportunities?**

16 A. Yes. The intent of the multi-faceted public outreach approach itself is to provide  
17 ample opportunities for engagement with the broadest and largest group by accommodating  
18 diverse schedules and engagement preferences. ATXI encouraged robust participation by, among  
19 other means, providing early notice of the various engagement opportunities through a variety of  
20 communication channels, including advertisements in local newspapers, direct notices to  
21 stakeholders and landowners within the Study Areas, and posts on the Project website, as I explain  
22 further below.



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1 **A. Community Representative Forums**

2 **Q. Above you mentioned that ATXI engaged with community representatives and**  
3 **stakeholders as part of the public engagement process for the Phase 2 DZTM Project. How**  
4 **did ATXI engage with these representatives and stakeholders?**

5 A. ATXI scheduled five in-person Community Representatives Forums (CRFs) across  
6 the Study Areas for the Phase 2 DZTM Project. Two of the meetings were held in the West region  
7 of the Project Study Area, and three were held in the East region. These meetings occurred from  
8 July 23-25, 2024, as described in Part 1 of Schedule LD-D1, attached to my testimony.

9 **Q. Please explain how ATXI conducted the CRFs.**

10 A. The in-person and virtual meetings described above were conducted with the  
11 purpose of providing an opportunity for local leaders and agency representatives to meet members  
12 of the Project team from ATXI and its partners; learn about the Project's need and benefits; ask  
13 questions; provide data for resources, opportunities and sensitivities within the Study Areas; and  
14 share suggestions for future public engagement opportunities. The in-person CRFs were attended  
15 by 38 stakeholders in total. At these meetings, attendees were presented with a PowerPoint  
16 overview of the project and an explanation of the interactive map feature on the Project website,  
17 followed by a question-and-answer session. Attendees were then randomly divided into smaller  
18 working groups along with a project team facilitator. A large tabletop Study Area map was  
19 provided to each working group to study and offer their insights into identifying any route  
20 sensitivities or opportunities they were aware of within their area. These locations were marked  
21 on the maps with a numbered sticker and a corresponding note in the margin of the maps. The

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1 routing input collected during this exercise was then summarized and shared by each table's  
2 facilitator with the larger group.

3 **Q. How were community representatives identified?**

4 A. Once the Study Areas were identified, ATXI and its partners researched local,  
5 regional, state, and federal agencies and officials by conducting an online search and by placing  
6 phone calls and developed a list of community representatives that needed to be identified by  
7 name. The list of community representatives was compiled into a contact list of over  
8 200 stakeholders and included name, organization, title, mailing address, phone and email, as  
9 available.

10 **Q. Who was identified as community representatives?**

11 A. The community representatives list included local, state and federal agencies; the  
12 county clerk and additional staff in each county in the Study Areas; state and federal elected  
13 officials; county, city and township government leaders; environmental organizations; history-  
14 related organizations; local energy cooperatives; and more. A designated Missouri Public Service  
15 Commission staff member received the invitations as well. A list of community representatives for  
16 the Project Study Areas is included in Part 1 of Schedule LD-D1.

17 **Q. How were community representatives invited to the Community  
18 Representative Forums?**

19 A. A total of 211 community representatives were sent letters to invite them to the  
20 CRFs. These invitation letters were sent July 12, 2024. Emails and e-invitations to the upcoming  
21 CRFs were sent to stakeholders for whom we had email addresses.

1           **Q.    Were there any particular considerations raised by attendees of the**  
2 **Community Representative Forums?**

3           A.    Several questions were asked during the question-and-answer portion of the  
4 workshops. Most questions were general Project- and construction-related questions, including the  
5 regulatory process and inquiries regarding the Single Circuit and Double Circuit design options  
6 for the DZ segment. Other comments included impact on agricultural activities and information  
7 regarding features in the Study Areas, potential location of infrastructure, and the routing process.

8           **Q.    Did the Public Engagement Team request input from community**  
9 **representatives on a particular aspect of the Project?**

10          A.    Yes. The Public Engagement Team also provided a Community Representative  
11 Forum Input Survey, a copy of which can be found in Part 1 of Schedule LD-D1. It included several  
12 general questions related to the Project and asked which counties the respondent represented. The  
13 specific question that we asked was to provide input on their routing preference on the Denny-  
14 Zachary line segment (i.e., single versus double circuit configuration). More specifically, these  
15 survey forms asked participants about routing preference on the Denny-Zachary segment with two  
16 choices: Option A- MISO's Selected Single Circuit Design or Option B- Double Circuit Design.  
17 Regarding the surveys submitted by attendees at the CRFs at or after the meetings, 19 of a total of  
18 22 respondents chose Option B-Double Circuit as the preferred routing design on the Denny-  
19 Zachary. The other 3 respondents to the CRF survey did not respond to this question. The results  
20 of this survey question reflect a 100% preference for Option B for those who responded to this  
21 question, indicating a resounding preference for the Double Circuit Design option by community  
22 leaders and stakeholders.

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1 In addition, participants were asked on the CRF survey form why their selection was made.  
2 Reasons for preferring the Double Circuit design included that it lessened the impact on  
3 landowners and reduced the number of poles in the fields, providing less agricultural impact. These  
4 CRF survey results are presented in Part 2 of Schedule LD-D1, along with results of the public  
5 survey of this same question, which I discuss in the next section of my testimony.

6 **Q. Did the Public Engagement Team interact with other stakeholders and**  
7 **community representatives?**

8 A. Yes. The Public Engagement Team met with electric cooperatives and various  
9 elected officials. These additional interactions included communications with and surveys of  
10 county commissions of each of the affected counties.

11 **Q. What was the purpose of the survey of county commissions you mentioned in**  
12 **the previous question?**

13 A. The purpose of the survey of county commissions was to ask directly each county  
14 commission's preference between the Single Circuit or Double Circuit design options for the  
15 Denny-Zachary segment. Using Microsoft Forms, ATXI posed the question to each of the five  
16 counties directly affected by the Denny-Zachary line segment: Dekalb, Daviess, Grundy, Sullivan,  
17 and Adair Counties. All but Daviess County responded to the survey. Of the four counties that  
18 responded, all four preferred the Double Circuit Option B design. The results of the County  
19 Commission Survey Feedback are posted in Schedule LD-D1, Part 1.

1 **B. In Person Public Engagement: Open Houses**

2 **Q. What public meetings did ATXI host for the Phase 2 DZTM Project?**

3 A. ATXI’s public outreach efforts included multiple opportunities for the public in  
4 each county within the Phase 2 DZTM’s Project’s Study Areas to attend an in-person public open  
5 house meeting. A series of meetings was hosted during August 2024. The meetings were held with  
6 two sessions per meeting: one in the morning / afternoon from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM, and one in the  
7 evening from 5:00 PM-7:00 PM:

<b>County</b>	<b>Date</b>
Dekalb	Tuesday, August 20, 2024
Davies	Tuesday, August 20, 2024
Grundy	Wednesday August 21, 2024
Sullivan	Wednesday, August 21, 2024
Macon	Thursday, August 22, 2024
Randolph	Thursday, August 22, 2024
Lewis	Tuesday, August 27, 2024
Marion	Tuesday, August 27, 2024
Adair	Wednesday, August 28, 2024
Knox	Wednesday, August 28, 2024

8

9 **Q. Who was invited to the August 2024 public meetings?**

10 A. ATXI sought to invite all potentially affected landowners and other stakeholders by  
11 mailing invitation postcards and a map of the Study Area to landowners within the Study Area,  
12 according to tax records. The Public Engagement Team identified potentially affected landowners  
13 via tax parcel information. The Project Team then mailed invitations to nearly 1,300 landowners  
14 and about 200 stakeholders within the Study Areas in August 2024, based on the open houses  
15 schedule. The Engagement Summary attached as Schedule LD-D1, Part 2, includes the total count  
16 of landowners by county who were mailed this invitation as well as an exemplar invitation. Email  
17 invitations were also sent to stakeholders for whom we had email addresses notifying them of the

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1 upcoming in-person open houses and online engagement opportunities. In some cases, the U.S.  
2 Postal Service returned an invitation as undeliverable. When that happened, if possible, ATXI  
3 obtained the correct mailing address, attempted again to send the invitation, and updated the  
4 mailing list for future notifications. Schedule LD-D1, Part 2, contains examples of all these  
5 notifications. Additionally, as I explain below, the Public Engagement Team on behalf of ATXI  
6 launched a website for the Phase 2 DZTM Project on August 21, 2024, at  
7 Ameren.com/NorthernMoGrid.com. The site provided notice of the public open house meetings  
8 and served as yet another means to inform the public of the many opportunities to engage with  
9 ATXI representatives and provide feedback regarding the Phase 2 DZTM Project. The team  
10 included the Program website address in the mailed and newspaper notices of the meetings that I  
11 mentioned.

12 **Q. Did ATXI provide any other notice of the August 2024 public meetings?**

13 A. Yes. ATXI also published general notice within the affected counties of the public  
14 open house meetings in multiple local newspapers prior to each of the meetings. Schedule LD-D1,  
15 Part 2, includes copies of the newspaper advertisement and name of publication in each county.  
16 Additionally, the Public Engagement Team mailed a letter with information regarding the Phase 2  
17 DZTM Project and the various public engagement opportunities available to each affected county's  
18 clerk. In addition, in August 2024, the team sent to about 200 local, state and federal officials as  
19 well as to a designated staff member of the Missouri Public Service Commission, Missouri Farm  
20 Bureau and local cooperatives the same letter notifying those stakeholders of upcoming  
21 engagement opportunities throughout the Phase 2 DZTM Project's Study Areas. The letters

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1 included a DZTM Project overview map. Exemplars of these letters are also included in the Part 2  
2 of Schedule LD-D1.

3 **Q. Were representatives of the Commission invited to the public meetings?**

4 A. Yes. ATXI sent letters to Commission Staff representatives inviting them to the  
5 August 2024 public meetings and providing other general information regarding the DZTM  
6 Project, such as an overview map.

7 **Q. How many people attended the August 2024 public open house meetings?**

8 A. In total, approximately 300 people signed in at the August 2024 public open house  
9 meetings, per sign-in sheets available at each meeting. Schedule LD-D1, Part 2, includes a  
10 breakdown of attendance information at each meeting. As some attendees chose not to sign in, this  
11 estimate of attendance does not include those persons.

12 **Q. What was the format of the public open house meetings?**

13 A. The public was offered many ways to participate at the meetings. Based upon  
14 feedback from local community leaders, a brief 10-15 minute presentation by a project team  
15 member was held at each Phase 2 DZTM Project public open house. Included in Schedule LD-D1,  
16 Part 2, is a copy of that presentation. Attendees also had the opportunity to speak to individual  
17 members of the Public Engagement Team before and after the presentation at various stations,  
18 where information specific to certain DZTM Project-related topics was presented. The stations  
19 included: Welcome/Registration table, About the Program, Program Need, Energy Reliability,  
20 Anticipated Routing Schedule, Civil/Line/Structure Design, Environmental, Vegetation  
21 Management, Real Estate, and Construction. Schedule LD-D1, Part 2, includes exemplars of the

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1 banners and boards that were presented at the public open houses. Attendees also could view their  
2 area of interest along Route Corridors as displayed on large tabletop aerial maps and a large free-  
3 standing county map at the meetings and could provide comments and feedback to the Public  
4 Engagement Team on those maps. Interactive GIS mapping stations were also available to provide  
5 meeting attendees an opportunity to further examine their area of interest along the Phase 2 DZTM  
6 Project's route. And attendees could print and keep personalized maps to provide further comments  
7 via email, website, or the hotline. The Public Engagement Team also actively solicited comments  
8 from meeting attendees. The team collected responses during the meetings or asked that they be  
9 emailed or mailed to the team afterwards, at the attendee's option. The Public Engagement Team  
10 presented the same types of information and opportunities to engage at each public open house  
11 meeting and participants could come and go as they pleased during each meeting's two-hour  
12 window.

13 **Q. What input was received from the public meeting attendees?**

14 A. The Public Engagement Team received over 270 formal comments in total during  
15 and after the August 2024 public open house meetings. We received about 90 comments at the GIS  
16 station and about 10 at the tabletop mapping stations. Over 50 comment survey forms were  
17 completed at the open houses, and over 50 were submitted afterward. Common comment  
18 categories included utility corridors, agricultural impact, future land use, structures, and impacts  
19 to specific property.

20 **Q. Did public input inform the routing process?**

21 A. Yes. The input was used as part of the integrated public outreach and routing  
22 process, as further described in the direct testimony of ATXI witness Mr. Dan Schmidt. Comments



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1 received at the August 2024 meetings and through other communications around that time were  
2 collected, reviewed, and considered to microsite along the proposed route.

3 **Q. Was there a specific topic on which ATXI sought public input?**

4 A. Yes. The comment survey forms distributed at all the public open houses and the  
5 online surveys specifically asked participants to provide input on their routing preference on the  
6 Denny-Zachary line segment. These survey forms asked participants about routing preference on  
7 the Denny-Zachary segment with two choices: Option A- MISO's Selected Parallel (Single Circuit)  
8 Design or Option B- Double Circuit Design. Infographs of each choice in routing were included  
9 on the comment survey form and through the project website. A copy of the survey form can be  
10 found in Schedule LD-D1, Part 2. Based upon this survey- submitted by attendees at the open  
11 houses and those sent through November 1, 2024, a significant majority of survey respondents to  
12 this question, 90%, chose Option B-Double Circuit as the preferred routing design on the Denny-  
13 Zachary. (Nine respondents to the public survey did not respond to this question.) In addition,  
14 participants were asked on the paper survey form why their selection was made. Most of those  
15 respondents who selected Option B- Double Circuit Design as their preference indicated they  
16 preferred it because the Double Circuit option minimized impacts to land use. The table below  
17 contains results from the surveys received at and after the open houses, online and from CRF  
18 attendees. It is also presented in Schedule LD-D1, Part 2.

**Results of Survey of Landowners and Community Representatives  
Regarding MISO Option A and Double Circuit Option B**

<b>Set of Responses</b>	<b>Number of Responses to Question</b>	<b>Percent Favoring MISO Option A</b>	<b>Percent Favoring Double Circuit Option B</b>
<b>CRF Surveys<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Public Surveys<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>114</b>	<b>9.6%</b>	<b>90.4%</b>
<b>CRF &amp; Public Surveys<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>133</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	<b>91.7%</b>

1. Number of responses reflects 22 CRF comment forms completed at Community Representative Forums, less 3 CRF comment forms submitted without a response to this question.  
2. Number of responses reflects 123 responses received via public comment forms submitted at open houses and thereafter and from online responses, less 9 public comment forms submitted without a response to this question.  
3. Number of responses reflects 22 comment forms completed at Community Representative Forums (CRF), plus 123 responses received via public comment forms submitted at open houses and thereafter and from online responses, less 3 CRF and 9 public comment forms submitted without a response to this question.

**Q. What other feedback on the Denny-to-Zachary routing option did ATXI receive from stakeholders?**

A. In addition to receiving input on the Single Circuit vs. Double Circuit design question from community representatives, stakeholders and landowners, AXTI also received letters of support for the Double Circuit Option from four electric cooperatives in the region of the DZTM Project. These electric cooperatives are Grundy Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative; N.W. Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.; and Platte-Clay Electric Cooperative. These letters are presented in Schedule LD-D1, Part 5.

**Q. How should the Commission consider this information regarding public and stakeholder input on the choice of routing design from Denny to Zachary?**

A. ATXI observes for the Commission's consideration that an overwhelming majority of landowners and key stakeholders prefer the Double Circuit routing design. The feedback that

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1 ATXI has received indicates that the Double Circuit design is preferred primarily because it  
2 minimizes impact to agricultural activities and land use. It is my understanding that a Double  
3 Circuit would also reduce vegetation clearing and lessen construction impacts. ATXI is prepared  
4 to construct the Project under either design the Commission approves.

5 **C. Online Public Engagement: Program Website**

6 **Q. You mentioned that ATXI established a website for the Northern Missouri**  
7 **Grid Transformation Program. When did that site go live?**

8 A. The dedicated website for the Program, Ameren.com/NorthernMoGrid.com, went  
9 live on March 22, 2024.

10 **Q. Is the site still active today?**

11 A. Yes. ATXI intends to maintain the website until the construction of the Phase 1  
12 Projects and Phase 2 DZTM Project associated with the Northern Missouri Grid Transformation  
13 Program are complete.

14 **Q. What information was provided on the website during the Phase 2 public**  
15 **engagement process?**

16 A. The Northern Missouri Grid Transformation Program website (“Program website”)  
17 provided general information about the Phase 2 DZTM Project, including maps, graphics,  
18 explanatory text of the public involvement process, and milestones throughout the implementation  
19 of the Program. The Program website also allowed members of the public to submit a direct  
20 comment to the Public Engagement Team, provide their feedback on the transmission line design  
21 survey (Option A vs. Option B) and join the Program email or mailing list through digital

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1 submission forms. Additionally, the website provided the team’s contact information, to provide  
2 community members and landowners the opportunity to discuss the DZTM Project through a  
3 hotline and email correspondence. And, as I’ve explained, it provided notice of the public open  
4 house meetings as well as a link to the self-guided virtual site and interactive mapping tool, which  
5 I explain below. Below are several screenshots illustrating the Program website’s digital comment  
6 submission form page during ATXI’s Phase 2 public engagement process and the types of other  
7 information available on the website:



8

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## Phase 2: DZTM

Visit our online open house (PDF) [here](#).

### Denny-Zachary-Thomas Hill-Maywood Project (DZTM)

The Denny-Zachary-Thomas Hill-Maywood (DZTM) Project includes the construction of over 200 miles of new 345 kV transmission lines with three transmission line segments. The first new line segment of the project will run approximately 100 miles from ATXI's new Denny substation in DeKalb County to ATXI's existing Zachary substation near Kirksville, Missouri. A second new line segment, approximately 60 miles, will connect the existing Zachary substation to ATXI's existing Maywood substation near Palmyra, Missouri. A vast majority of the Zachary-Maywood line segment will be built along an existing corridor. The Project's third line segment consists of 44 miles rebuilt on Ameren's existing transmission corridor from the Zachary substation to AECI's existing Thomas Hill substation in Randolph County. The Project includes upgrades to existing Ameren substations.



#### Phase 2:

- Summer 2024- Project Planning, routing, and stakeholder/public engagement
- Fall 2024- Early 2025- Finalize route and file application with Missouri Public Service Commission (Mo PSC)
- Mid 2025- Receive a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity decision from the Mo PSC; real estate begins; permitting and agency coordination; environmental studies/surveys
- Spring 2027- Construction begins
- Late Fall 2029- Projects in service
- Spring 2030- Restoration complete

### Open House Schedule

Date	Time	County	Venue Address
Tuesday, August 20th	11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 5 - 7 p.m.	DeKalb	DeKalb County Youth Building 107 E. 6 Highway Mayaville, MO 64469
Tuesday, August 20th	11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 5 - 7 p.m.	DeWess	DeWess County Library 306 W. Grand Gallatin, MO 64640
Wednesday, August 21st	11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 5 - 7 p.m.	Grundy	The Christian Book Store 1108 Main Street Trenton, MO 64683
Wednesday, August 21st	11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 5 - 7 p.m.	Sullivan	Sullivan County Community Center 205 N. Market Milan, MO 63556
Thursday, August 22nd	11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 5 - 7 p.m.	Randolph	214 North 4th Moberly, MO 65270
Thursday, August 22nd	11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 5 - 7 p.m.	Macon	Nolanda Catering 3002 Irma Road, Macon, MO 63552
Tuesday, August 27th	11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 5 - 7 p.m.	Marion	Palmyra American Legion 600 Short Street Palmyra, MO 63461
Tuesday, August 27th	11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 5 - 7 p.m.	Lewis	Gather 507 Clark Street Canton, MO 63435
Wednesday, August 28th	11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 5 - 7 p.m.	Adair	White Oaks Barn 2325E State HWY 11 Kirksville, MO 63501
Wednesday, August 28th	11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 5 - 7 p.m.	Knox	Knights of Columbus 709 N. Main St. Edina, MO 63537

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Frequently Asked Questions

General

What is the Northern Missouri Grid Transformation Program?	+
Why is the Program needed?	+
When will construction be complete?	+
Where is the Program located?	+
How do you determine the study area for the program?	+

Public and Stakeholder Involvement

How can I get Involved?	+
What is the purpose of holding public meetings?	+
When do you anticipate filing with the Missouri Public Service Commission?	+
How is the Program team working with the communities within the Program Area?	+
How can I provide comments?	+

Environmental and Agency Coordination

Is the Program coordinating environmental planning with any agencies or organizations?	+
Will the Program impact birds?	+
Will the Program impact threatened or endangered species?	+

Let's talk  
Leave Us a Message  
Hotline: 1.833.799.1633  
Email Us  
[connect@AmerenGridMO.com](mailto:connect@AmerenGridMO.com)

1

2           **Q.     Did ATXI notify the public that the website was available?**

3           A.     Yes. Again, the Program website address was included in all mailings and  
4 newspaper notifications regarding the Phase 2 DZTM Project so that landowners could continue  
5 to, via the website, review the Route Corridors and provide comments at their convenience on a  
6 desktop computer, tablet, or mobile smartphone.

7           **Q.     Did the Public Engagement Team track visits to the Program website?**

8           A.     Yes. From August 21 through November 1, 2024, the site's main "Northern  
9 Missouri Grid Transformation" page had over 1,400 page views from about 1,000 unique visitors.  
10 While our data here includes page views and unique visitors through November 1, 2024, the public

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1 may continue to visit the Program website and communicate to the Public Engagement Team  
2 through the various channels provided.

3 **Q. What engagement via the Program website was observed?**

4 A. As discussed above, engagement via the website was observed as over 1,000 unique  
5 users and page views from the period of August 21 to November 1, 2024. The Program website  
6 experienced an average of 21 pageviews per day, during which visitors spent an average of  
7 44 seconds on the Program website over this period. Interestingly, a spike in visitors occurred on  
8 August 27, the second-to-last day for the in-person open houses for the Phase 2 DZTM Project,  
9 with 109 visits that day. Additionally, the "View Map" button featured on the website was clicked  
10 39 times during this same period. These metrics of online engagement are presented in Schedule  
11 LD-D1, Part 3.

12 **D. Online Public Engagement: Virtual Open House**

13 **Q. What was the self-guided virtual open house and interactive map engagement  
14 opportunity during ATXI's engagement process?**

15 A. The Public Engagement Team offered a self-paced, self-guided, virtual open house  
16 that provided the same information made available at the in-person public open house meetings to  
17 those members of the public who were unable to attend an in-person meeting or who preferred the  
18 convenience of an at-home virtual experience. The Phase 2 virtual open house became available  
19 via a link on the Program website as of August 21, 2024, and remains present on the website today.  
20 Metrics of virtual open house engagement, screenshots of the website, and the presentation  
21 available through the virtual open house are provided in Schedule LD-D1, Part 3.

1           **Q.     Why did ATXI offer a virtual engagement opportunity in addition to in-person**  
2 **meetings?**

3           A.     Our experience engaging the public regarding transmission projects during the  
4 pandemic taught us that virtual engagement opportunities were not only possible, but also  
5 preferred by some landowners because of the convenience of having a GIS-based interactive  
6 mapping tool through their digital devices. Virtual engagement also allows community members  
7 to effectively go through the open house information on their own schedule, and to backtrack or  
8 fast forward through the information as they wish. Thus, virtual engagement opportunities for the  
9 Phase 2 Projects offered ATXI yet another channel to solicit and receive public input regarding the  
10 Phase 2 Projects and ensure even more robust public participation, which only further enhanced  
11 the Projects' routing analysis.

12           **Q.     When was the virtual open house launched?**

13           A.     The self-paced, virtual open house for the Phase 2 DZTM Project launched on  
14 August 21, 2024. We collected data regarding public interactions via the virtual open house  
15 through November 1, 2024.

16           **Q.     How did the virtual open house function during the public comment period,**  
17 **from August 21 to November 1, 2024?**

18           A.     The virtual open house provided visitors the opportunity to step through a series of  
19 informational sections. Those sections included an overview of the Phase 2 DZTM Project with a  
20 link to a video about the Project, a Study Area map, information regarding reliability and the need  
21 for the Project, an anticipated regulatory approval and construction schedule, information  
22 regarding structure designs, and information regarding the anticipated construction and routing







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Close

## Northern Missouri Grid TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM

 **MJMEUC** 

**Thank you for your interest in the Northern Missouri Grid Transformation Program.**

We value your input during this routing process. Please explore the interactive map to learn more.

Please submit questions or comments through the general comment form on this webpage. You can also sign up for the project newsletter to stay up to date on the latest developments. To speak to a representative, call the dedicated project hotline: 1.833.799.1633. If you leave a message, our team will return your call. You can also send us an email at [connect@AmerenGridMO.com](mailto:connect@AmerenGridMO.com).

[Explore the Map](#)

DISCLAIMER: The information provided on this map is for discussion purposes only. Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois (ATXI), Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission (MJMEUC) and Ameren Missouri are not bound in any way to the representations reflected on this map. This map does not represent a final determination by ATXI, MJMEUC and Ameren Missouri as to route selection, and Ameren ATXI, MJMEUC and Ameren Missouri are not

1

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**Northern Missouri Grid**  
TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM

Design Survey Submit Comment Join Mailing List

Nebraska Iowa Illinois Indiana Kentucky  
Lincoln Des Moines Chicago Springfield Indianapolis  
Topeka Kansas City Jefferson City St. Louis Louisville  
Wichita Missouri

200 km  
100 mi

< 1 of 10 >

**Adair**

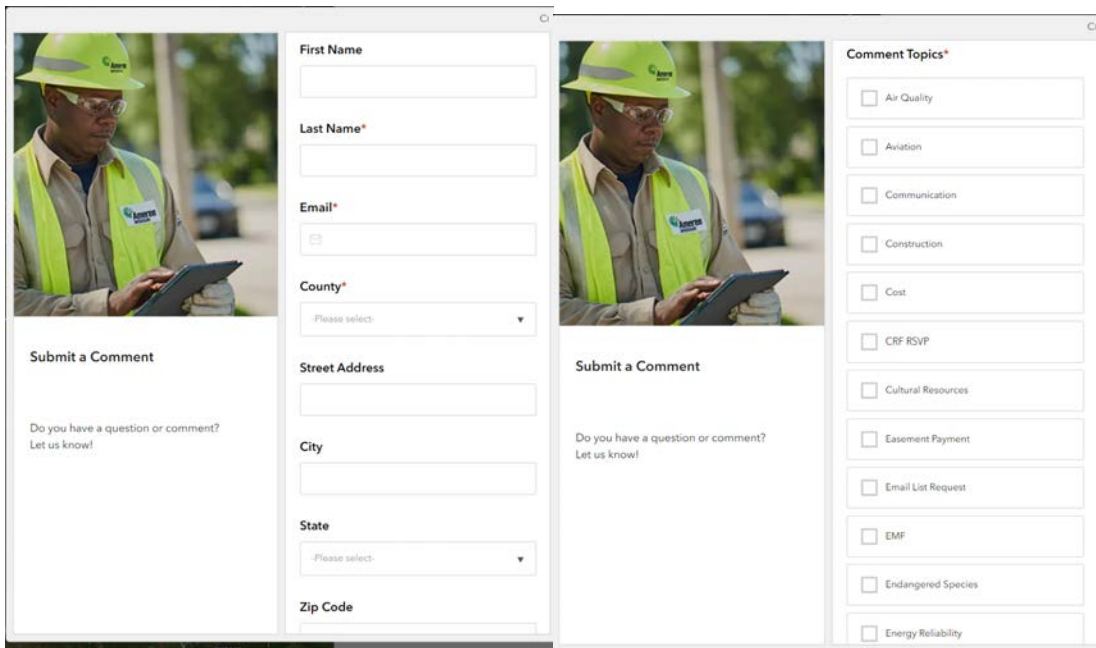
**Overview**

The Denny-Zachary-Thomas Hill-Maywood (DZTM) Project includes the construction of over 200 miles of new 345kV transmission lines with three transmission line segments.

Fill out design survey

Transmission Line Design Survey

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1

2           **Q.     Did the Public Engagement Team notify the public that the virtual open house**  
3 **was available?**

4           A.     Yes. Again, the Program website address was included in all mailings and  
5 newspaper notifications regarding the Phase 2 DZTM Project, and the virtual open house was  
6 available via a link on the Program website and remains available today. In addition, community  
7 members were encouraged at the open houses to use the site at their convenience to provide  
8 comments during the comment period.

9           **Q.     Did the Public Engagement Team track virtual open house users during the**  
10 **public engagement process?**

11          A.     Yes. According to the Public Engagement Team’s online engagement statistics  
12 report, there were over 1,100 users on the virtual site from August 21, 2024 to November 1, 2024.  
13 Additionally, the PDF for the virtual open house presentation remains available at the Program  
14 website and has been clicked on 1,165 times during this time period.

1           **Q. Did the Public Engagement Team track virtual open house comments during**  
2 **that period?**

3           A. Yes. ATXI received 16 responses to the survey question on whether to choose MISO  
4 circuiting Option A and Double Circuit Option B. These responses are included in the survey  
5 results I discussed earlier in my testimony.

6           **Q. What sorts of comments were received via the virtual open house?**

7           A. The comments were related to minimizing the impacts to landowner's property for  
8 various reasons such as fewer poles, narrower easement needed, and fewer trees impacted.

9           **Q. Did those comments inform the routing process?**

10          A. Yes. Again, they were considered as part of the public engagement and routing  
11 processes that I described above. The route selection process is further described in the direct  
12 testimony of ATXI witness Mr. Dan Schmidt. Online public feedback indicated a strong preference  
13 for Double Circuit design option from Denny to Zachary. Additionally, it is worth noting that most  
14 of the Project will be constructed along existing corridors to attempt to minimize impact overall to  
15 the Project Area.

16 **E. Other Public Engagement Opportunities**

17          **Q. What other engagement opportunities did ATXI offer the public during its**  
18 **public engagement process?**

19          A. There were several. In addition to the engagement opportunities that I described  
20 above, alternative means of public participation were encouraged. For example, ATXI invited the  
21 public to provide input on the Projects by calling a dedicated hotline, 1.833.799.1633, emailing

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1 the Public Engagement Team at connect @AmerenGridMO.com, or mailing the team at  
2 555 Washington Avenue, Suite 310, St. Louis, MO 63101.

3 **Q. What measures of public engagement did ATXI receive from these channels?**

4 A. The Public Engagement Team received 27 hotline calls, 23 emails, and 54 public  
5 comment forms (included in the public survey results presented above) during the public  
6 engagement process. These data are presented in Schedule LD-D1, Parts 2 and 3. While the data  
7 provided in my testimony is limited to that received through November 1, 2024, the Program  
8 website remains available, and the public may continue to provide comment through these  
9 channels that we regularly monitor.

10 **Q. What sorts of comments were received via these channels?**

11 A. Along with general information inquiries, common comment categories during the  
12 public engagement included land use, preference of the transmission line design, agricultural  
13 impact of structures and location of infrastructure.

14 **Q. Did those comments help inform the routing process?**

15 A. Yes. Again, they were considered as part of the public engagement and routing  
16 processes that I described above.

1 **F. Notice to Affected Landowners**

2 **Q. Will any landowners be directly affected by the Phase 2 DZTM Project?**

3 A. Yes, based on the Proposed Route, including the separate route options for the DZ  
4 Segment identified as the DZ Single Circuit Option and the DZ Double Circuit Option, the Phase  
5 2 DZTM Project will directly affect landowners as I understand that term.<sup>3</sup>

6 **Q. Has ATXI provided notice of its application to these landowners?**

7 A. Yes. ATXI has provided notice of its application to directly affected landowners as  
8 required by the Commission's Rules, and also provided that notice to additional landowners, as  
9 follows:

- 10 • For the DZ Segment, including for the DZ Double Circuit Option and the DZ Single  
11 Circuit Option, landowners who received notice of the application include all owners  
12 of land along the Proposed Route, as stated in the records of the county assessors'  
13 offices on a date or dates not more than sixty (60) days prior to the date notice of the  
14 Application in this proceeding was sent to such owners, for which a permanent  
15 easement or other permanent property interest would be obtained over all or any portion  
16 of the land, and for which the land would be within at least three hundred (300) feet of  
17 the centerline of the electric transmission line for the Proposed Route (or a 600-foot  
18 wide minimum notification corridor), as reflected by the Notification Corridor for the  
19 Proposed Route shown in Appendix E to the Application.

---

<sup>3</sup> It is my understanding that, under Commission Rule 4240-20.045(6)(K)(1), "land is directly affected if a permanent easement or other permanent property interest would be obtained over all or any portion of the land or if the land contains a habitable structure that would be within three hundred (300) feet of the centerline of an electric transmission line."

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- 1           • For Sections D and F of the DZ Segment with the DZ Double Circuit Option, as  
2           described later in my testimony, landowners who received notice of the application  
3           include all owners of land along the Proposed Route, as stated in the records of the  
4           county assessors' offices on a date or dates not more than sixty (60) days prior to the  
5           date notice of the Application in this proceeding was sent to such owners, for which the  
6           land would be within at least five hundred (500) feet of the centerline of the electric  
7           transmission line for the Proposed Route (or a 1,000-foot wide minimum notification  
8           corridor), as well as land in certain areas for those sections more than five hundred  
9           (500) feet from the centerline of the electric transmission line for the Proposed Route  
10          (or more than a 1,000-foot wide notification corridor), as reflected by the Notification  
11          Corridor for the Proposed Route shown in Appendix E to the Application.
- 12          • For the ZM Segment and the ZT Segment, landowners who received notice of the  
13          application include all owners of land along the Proposed Route, as stated in the records  
14          of the county assessors' offices on a date or dates not more than sixty (60) days prior  
15          to the date notice of the Application in this proceeding was sent to such owners, for  
16          which a permanent easement or other permanent property interest would be obtained  
17          over all or any portion of the land, and for which the land would be within at least three  
18          hundred (300) feet of the centerline of the electric transmission line for the Proposed  
19          Route (or a 600-foot wide minimum notification corridor), as reflected by the  
20          Notification Corridor for the Proposed Route shown in Appendix F and Appendix G to  
21          the Application.

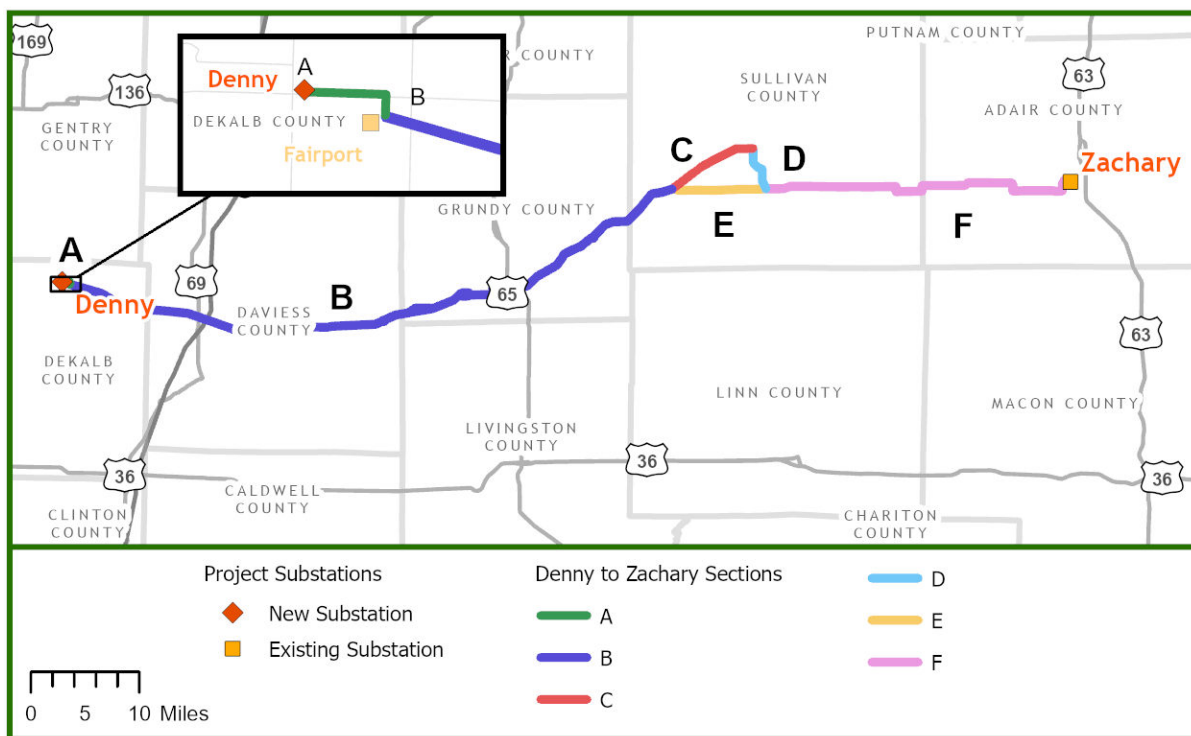


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1 The lists of the landowners receiving notice are provided in Application Appendix D  
2 (**Confidential**). ATXI sent notice to a total of 850 landowners, who own a total of 1,316 distinct  
3 parcels.

4 **Q. Why did ATXI identify a wider corridor of affected landowners from AECI's**  
5 **Locust Creek substation to ATXI's Zachary substation?**

6 A. The DZ Segment is depicted in the overview map below, which is broken out into  
7 Sections labeled A through F to more precisely identify the differences in the route and scope of  
8 work for the DZ Single Circuit Option and the DZ Double Circuit Option.



9  
10 Under the DZ Single Circuit Option, Section F of the DZ Segment will be routed next to a planned  
11 AECI 161kV transmission line corridor. Under the DZ Double Circuit Option, Sections D and F  
12 of the DZ Segment will consist of new greenfield construction in a double circuit configuration

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1 with a planned AECI 161 kV transmission line. Accordingly, ATXI's Proposed Route for Sections  
2 D and F of the DZ Segment is based on AECI's current proposed route for its planned line, and  
3 either follows or overlaps AECI's current proposed route for its planned line. It is my understanding  
4 that AECI is subject to different regulatory requirements than ATXI and, as a result, has already  
5 started negotiating easements with landowners along Sections D and F of the DZ Segment for its  
6 proposed line but has not finalized its proposed route. AECI has advised ATXI that any changes to  
7 its current proposed route resulting from its ongoing negotiations with landowners are likely to  
8 remain within five hundred (500) feet on either side of its current proposed centerline. The wider  
9 corridor of affected landowners for Sections D and F of the DZ Segment is intended to  
10 accommodate any changes to ATXI's Proposed Route that may be needed to account for changes,  
11 if any, to AECI's proposed route.

12 **Q. When did ATXI provide notice to these landowners regarding the Phase 2 DZTM**  
13 **Project of ATXI's application in this proceeding?**

14 A. Landowners affected by the ZT Segment (140) and the ZM Segment (243) were  
15 sent notice of the Application in this proceeding on December 4, 2024. The landowners (467) that  
16 could be affected by either design option under consideration for the DZ Segment were sent notice  
17 on December 9, 2024. ATXI's verification of landowner notice of the application required by  
18 Commission Rule 4240-20.045(6)(K)(1) is included as Appendix D to its Application, including a  
19 confidential list of affected landowners. A copy of the form of the letter that ATXI sent to each  
20 directly affected landowner as notice of its application is provided as Schedule LD-D2 to my  
21 testimony.

1                                   **IV.    REGULATORY AGENCY COORDINATION**

2           **Q.    Please summarize the ATXI’s regulatory approval and agency coordination**  
3 **efforts.**

4           A.    Agency coordination meetings were offered on July 30 and July 31, 2024, to  
5 maximize agency participation and input. Agency representatives were also invited to attend the  
6 August in-person public open house meetings DATE meeting. Eleven of 38 invited agency  
7 representatives attended the July 30 virtual meeting. The July 31 meeting was attended by 5 agency  
8 representatives. ATXI Schedule LD-D1, Part 4, includes an exemplar copy of the meeting  
9 invitations and presentation slides. The July 2024 meetings included routing information for the  
10 benefit of Missouri and federal agency representatives. ATXI Schedule LD-D1 also includes a list  
11 of agency representatives invited to those meetings and number of attendees for each agency at  
12 each meeting. ATXI Schedule LD-D1, Part 2, includes a copy of the invitations sent to agency  
13 representatives to the in-person public open house meetings and online engagement opportunities.

14           **Q.    Is further coordination required?**

15           A.    Yes. ATXI will continue coordination with the Missouri Department of Natural  
16 Resources (MoDNR), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
17 (USACE), State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Missouri Department of Transportation  
18 (MoDOT), and other agencies if and to the extent required.

19           **Q.    Will ATXI need to obtain permits or approvals from any additional regulatory**  
20 **agencies to construct the Projects?**

21           A.    Yes. The location of the Commission approved route for the Phase 2 DZTM  
22 Project’s transmission lines will determine whether other regulatory permits or approvals are

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1 required. ATXI will obtain all other necessary permits or approvals as required. It is anticipated  
2 that at a minimum, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit will be  
3 required and obtained from MoDNR. In compliance with the NPDES permit, ATXI will develop  
4 an erosion and sediment control plan to protect water features crossed by or adjacent to the  
5 Commission approved route for the DZTM Project. This permitting effort will also require project  
6 effects concurrences from the MoDNR and SHPO. As part of the NPDES permit, ATXI will also  
7 consult the MoDNR to determine potential effects to state listed species. They will also consult  
8 with the SHPO to confirm the presence or likely absence of cultural and/or historic resources along  
9 the Commission approved route and potential effects to such resources. Further, after the  
10 Commission approved route is identified and access locations are known, ATXI will perform  
11 ground-level environmental surveys and assess possible Project impacts to potential waters of the  
12 U.S. to determine the need to submit a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit pre-construction  
13 notification for permit verification and approval by the USACE. Such permitting will require  
14 coordination with MoDNR Office of Water Resources, USFWS, SHPO, and potentially applicable  
15 tribal historic preservation offices. ATXI will also coordinate with county commissions to obtain  
16 local assents, permits and approvals as necessary.

17 **V. CONCLUSION**

18 **Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?**

19 **A. Yes.**

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Application of Ameren     )  
Transmission Company of Illinois for a     )  
Certificate of Convenience and Necessity     ) File No. EA-2025-0087  
under Section 393.170.1, RSMo. relating to     )  
Transmission Investments in North Central     )  
Missouri.     )

**AFFIDAVIT**

1. My name is Leah Dettmers. I am Manager of Stakeholder Relations and Training for Ameren Services Company, which is a subsidiary of Ameren Corporation and an affiliate of Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois, the Applicant in the above-captioned proceeding.

2. I have read the above and foregoing Direct Testimony and the statements contained therein are true and correct to the best of my information, knowledge, and belief.

3. I am authorized to make this statement on behalf of Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois.

4. Under penalty of perjury, I declare that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

*/s/ Leah Dettmers*

Leah Dettmers  
Manager of Stakeholder Relations and  
Training for Ameren Services Company

On behalf of Ameren Transmission  
Company of Illinois

Date: December 11, 2024