

Exhibit No. 1

William Wochner – Exhibit 1
Pierce Wochner Farms, LLC & Jo Ellen
Wochner Spousal Trust Statement
Local Public Hearing Exhibit
File No. EA-2024-0302

**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)
under Section 393.170.1,)
RSMo and Approval to)
Transfer an Interest in)
Transmission Assets Under)
393.190.1, RSMo relating to)
Transmission Investments in)
Northwest and Northeast)
Missouri.)

No. EA-2024-0302

STATEMENT

My name is William Wochner, I have been authorized to appear and make a statement on behalf of Pierce Wochner Farms, LLC and the Jo Ellen Wochner Spousal Trust.

Pierce Wochner Farms, LLC and the Jo Ellen Wochner Spousal Trust ask this Commission to thoroughly review the application and submissions in the above-captioned proceeding to ensure the impact on landowners' property affected by the route is minimized and not arbitrary or capricious.

The land affected by this application is owned by Missouri taxpayers and U.S. voters who are guaranteed due process, by both the US Constitution and the Missouri Constitution, when they are deprived of rights in their property.

I have been involved in administrative law for over forty years and it appears the process as applied in this proceeding may well fail to meet the minimum requirements both procedurally and substantively.

The initial notice we received from Ameren was for a meeting of landowners and was sent certified mail return receipt requested. The notice was not delivered until after the meeting had taken place. Ameren had the addresses of the individuals and entities involved. Ameren chose the method of delivery. Ameren knew from the dates on the receipts that the notice was not received in a timely manner and Ameren failed to follow-up.

When I contacted the ombudsman's office, as directed in the Ameren notice, I was told the Commission did not allow for landowners to intervene and become parties to this type of proceeding. I was told a complaint should be submitted to the Public Service Commission, to be included in the official

record, which was done. Subsequently, the ombudsman's office provided instruction on how to intervene, however, based on the prior advice from the Ombudsman's office, an application for intervention was not filed. If landowners are not permitted to intervene, how are the rights of landowners protected from arbitrary and capricious actions, which damage the landowner without any benefit to the public. Without access to discovery and testimony and timely notices, there is no meaningful participation by the landowners. Specifically, it is necessary for a landowner to have access, in a timely manner, to all filings, including the testimony of Ameren's representatives and testimony as to how the route was selected, and all notices. Landowner participation is further limited because almost all of the documents in testimony are not redacted, but marked confidential in their entirety. Due to the lack of information allowed landowners in a timely manner, it is imperative the PSC examine the routes proposed and determine there is a rational basis for the selection of the route and efforts made to minimize damage to the property owners' rights.

Under the circumstances involved here, the only opportunity to protect any landowners' rights rests with the Commissions review of the proposed route to avoid such

unnecessary damage. Where possible, the line should not cross through the middle of actively farmed land. It should also be routed away from areas of active crop production to minimize the damage caused by loss of crop and disruption in planting and application of chemicals. Similarly, bisecting a field with a line like the one proposed makes certain practices, such as aerial application of seeds and chemicals, more difficult and expensive. The foregoing are in addition to the destruction of terraces and other structural improvements related to the agricultural use of the land.

Another example of unnecessary damage in this case is a 10-acre lake on the Jo Ellen Wochner Spousal Trust property, which will be cut in half by the proposed transmission line. If the route were shifted 100 feet to the East when it crosses the Jo Ellen Wochner Trust Property, it would not destroy the recreational value of the 10-acre lake. Somehow, I cannot see my grandchildren fishing under 145 KV electric line.

The importance of all of these issues is magnified because the area impacted in this application is one of the poorer areas of Missouri, and the value of the land is largely limited to agricultural and recreational uses. Hopefully, the PSC will carefully study the proposed route mitigate the

damage to landowners' property and to the agricultural and recreational assets proposed to be affected by the application.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pierce Wochner Farms, LLC

Jo Ellen Wochner Spousal Trust

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William Wochner", with a stylized flourish at the end.

By William Wochner