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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING

In the Matter of the Application)
of Ameren Transmission Company)
of Illinois for a Certificate of)
Convenience and Necessity under) File No. EA-2024-0302
Section 393.170.1, RSMo.)
Relating to Transmission)
Investments in Northwest and)
Northeast Missouri)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024
7:11 p.m. - 7:56 p.m.

1109 South Birch
Albany, MO 64402
and WebEx

VOLUME 1
Pages 1 - 35

RILEY FEWELL, Presiding
REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

KAYLA HAHN, Chair,
MAIDA J. COLEMAN,
JASON R. HOLSMAN,
GLEN KOLKMEYER,
JOHN MITCHELL,
COMMISSIONERS

Stenographically Reported By:
Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

1 APPEARANCES:

2 On behalf of Staff of the
3 Public Service Commission:

4 Public Service Commission
5 200 Madison Street, Suite 800
6 PO Box 360
7 Jefferson City, MO 65102

8 BY: TRAVIS PRINGLE, ESQ.
9 Travis.Pringle@psc.mo.gov

10 On behalf of Office of the Public Counsel:

11 Office of the Public Counsel
12 200 Madison Street, Suite 650
13 PO Box 2230
14 Jefferson City, MO 65102

15 BY: ANNA MARTIN, ESQ.
16 Anna.Martin@opc.mo.gov

17 On behalf of Ameren Transmission Company
18 of Illinois:

19 Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois
20 1901 Chouteau Avenue
21 PO Box 66149, MC 1310
22 St. Louis, MO 63166-6149

23 BY: JASON KUMAR, ESQ.
24 jkumar@ameren.com
25

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(The exhibits were marked and retained by Judge Fewell. Exhibits 3 and 4 were not received on the record.)

1 The following proceedings began at 7:11 p.m.:

2 JUDGE FEWELL: I think we can go on the record
3 now. Good evening everyone. Today is December 9, 2024,
4 and the current time is 7:12 p.m.

5 The Missouri Public Service Commission has set
6 this time for a local public hearing to give members of
7 the public a chance to comment about the application in
8 File No. EA-2024-0302, which is captioned as In the
9 Matter of the Application of Ameren Transmission Company
10 of Illinois for a Certificate of Convenience and
11 Necessity under Section 393.170.1, RSMo, Relating to
12 Transmission Investments in Northwest and Northeast
13 Missouri.

14 The Missouri Public Service Commission
15 regulates investor-owned utility companies in Missouri
16 and ensures that rates are just and reasonable. The
17 Commission also regulates the quality of service and
18 safety of the operations of investor-owned utilities.

19 The Commission is made up of five
20 Commissioners: Chair Kayla Hahn and Commissioners Maida
21 Coleman, Jason Holsman, Glen Kolkmeyer and John
22 Mitchell. The Commissioners are appointed by the
23 Governor to fixed terms and then confirmed by the
24 Senate.

25 The Commissioners employ a staff of engineers,

1 accountants, attorneys, financial analysts and other
2 specialists in the field of utility regulation. With me
3 today are Commissioners Kolkmeyer and Mitchell in
4 person, as well as online Chair Hahn and Commissioner
5 Coleman. Commissioners, if you have any questions at
6 any time, feel free to interrupt me and ask them.

7 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Holsman is on as well.

8 JUDGE FEWELL: And Holsman is also appearing
9 virtually. My name is Riley Fewell, and I'm the
10 Regulatory Law Judge presiding over this hearing. This
11 is an official hearing of the Missouri Public Service
12 Commission, and the statements and testimony of
13 witnesses will be recorded by the court reporter who is
14 also virtual, and they must be given under oath or
15 affirmation.

16 The Commission has not made any decisions in
17 this case, and neither the Commissioners nor myself can
18 answer any questions about the issues of the case today
19 because the Commissioners must remain neutral until all
20 the evidence is gathered and presented.

21 As we want to provide all attendees an
22 adequate opportunity to speak tonight, we will limit the
23 time for testimony to only three minutes. If you or
24 someone you know would like to make additional comments,
25 there's a consumer comments tab that can be reached via

1 the Commission's website psc.mo.gov. On the right side
2 of the home page, there's a link titled Submit Comments.
3 Click on that link to submit your comments. Make sure
4 that you are referencing this case number, EA-2024-0302.

5 There will also be another local public
6 hearing tomorrow that is virtual and may be easier to
7 attend or also speak at. It will be held at noon. The
8 court reporter is transcribing this hearing so the
9 Commission may review and read the comments.

10 Commissioners, would you like to make any
11 opening remarks?

12 JUDGE MITCHELL: Yes, thank you, Judge.
13 Welcome. And on behalf of the entire Commission, I
14 would like to thank you for coming out tonight to share
15 your thoughts and opinions about this matter with us.
16 This is the very beginning of the process for the
17 Commission, and it's a very important part of the
18 process, because it's really the only time that we get
19 to hear from you and hear from you in person. And we
20 value your opinions and thoughts on the matter and
21 appreciate you sharing them with us.

22 I know it can be a little bit intimidating to
23 speak in public. So if you're uncomfortable doing that,
24 the Judge has given some instructions and I'm sure we'll
25 repeat those instructions before the end of the evening

1 on how to provide your comments through the website. So
2 at any rate, regardless of how you communicate those
3 comments, it's very important that we hear them and that
4 we hear them from you at this part of the process.

5 Thank you.

6 JUDGE FEWELL: Okay. And Ameren, would you
7 like to make any opening remarks?

8 AMEREN REPRESENTATIVE: Nothing more than what
9 we said earlier. Again, we appreciate the PSC for
10 helping to put this on, the local public hearing.
11 Appreciate all the community and local landowners coming
12 out to provide the feedback. We're happy to again
13 answer questions after the fact, continue to show
14 individual property impacts on our computers out in the
15 hallway after everybody has gotten a chance to read
16 their testimony in.

17 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you. The Commission
18 staff.

19 MR. PRINGLE: Just simply have an entry of
20 appearance when you're ready, Judge.

21 JUDGE FEWELL: Office of the Public Counsel.

22 MS. MARTIN: Hi guys. Again, I said this a
23 little bit earlier. I just want to ensure that all of
24 your comments, questions, concerns are being heard. If
25 you don't feel as though they're being heard, come speak

1 to me and I will make sure to get your information so we
2 can have more of a conversation later. Thank you.

3 JUDGE FEWELL: Sorry. I should have asked for
4 entries of appearance as well. Ameren, if you can enter
5 your appearance.

6 MR. KUMAR: Thank you, Judge. On behalf of
7 Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois, ATXI, Jason
8 Kumar spelled K-u-m-a-r. My business address is 1901
9 Chouteau Avenue, C-h-o-u-t-e-a-u, Avenue, St. Louis,
10 Missouri 63103. Thank you.

11 JUDGE FEWELL: Commission staff.

12 MR. PRINGLE: Thank you, Judge. My name is
13 Travis Pringle. I am an attorney with the staff of the
14 Public Service Commission. My contact information is
15 200 Madison Street, PO Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri
16 65102.

17 JUDGE FEWELL: And the Office of Public
18 Counsel.

19 MS. MARTIN: My name is Anna Martin. I am the
20 Associate Attorney with the Office of the Public
21 Counsel, and I believe that our address and information
22 is on the EFIS website.

23 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you. Are there any
24 intervenors present who would like to make an entry of
25 appearance? Hearing none. For those who would like to

1 provide comments today, I'm going to call the names
2 listed on the sign-up sheet in the order they appear. I
3 apologize if I mispronounce anyone's names. When I call
4 your name, please come down to the microphone. I will
5 then place you under oath and ask you to state and spell
6 your name and then you can offer your comments to the
7 Commission.

8 As I previously stated, we are limiting
9 comments to three minutes today so that everyone has an
10 adequate chance to be heard and we are unable to answer
11 any questions until the case is resolved -- or the
12 evidence is presented.

13 Please remain at the podium after your remarks
14 until you've been excused by the Commission, because we
15 may have questions for you. If the attorneys have any
16 questions, they can let me know at that time as well.
17 Would Steve Massop come to the microphone.

18 Please raise your right hand. Do you solemnly
19 swear or affirm that the comments you're about to give
20 are the truth?

21 MR. MASSOP: Yes.

22 JUDGE FEWELL: Can you please state and spell
23 your name.

24 MR. MASSOP: Steve Massop, M-a-s-s-o-p.

25 JUDGE FEWELL: You may proceed with your

1 comments.

2 MR. MASSOP: We have three pieces of property
3 north of Highway 46 north of Allendale, Missouri. We
4 have one piece of property the transmission line is
5 going to parallel on the neighbor's property within 125
6 feet of that line. And so technically with them the
7 transmission company says that it's okay to be that
8 close.

9 We asked them officially, both sides earlier,
10 what kind of distance. They said 150 feet. Well,
11 that's only 75 feet if that's all the right-of-way you
12 have, correct? Neither side could legally or honestly
13 answer what is safe for our families to be within that
14 property. How close is it? Nobody gave us a definitive
15 exact footage for our property line.

16 Two pieces of property they're going to cross
17 there's a distribution line where they're proposing to
18 put this. We have public water, rural water buried in
19 the same area. When I asked them earlier what kind of
20 distance are we going to be out in the field, couldn't
21 answer that it's going to be in the 150-foot line. Are
22 we going to be 75 feet or 150 feet or 300 feet out into
23 the fields? That will make a huge difference on our
24 farming operation there.

25 One piece of property -- excuse me, two pieces

1 of property are CRP. I've got a contract with the
2 federal government on that already. So if they take 1.5
3 acres off of this, it's not for one year, it's ten
4 years, I go back and pay for the previous part of it and
5 the post part of it. So I was going to lose 15 acres,
6 not 1.5 acres they're going to have to do. I asked them
7 that question. We'll cross that bridge when we get to
8 it was my basic answer I got from them. So we have
9 concerns on what's going on here and how they're going
10 to go about doing this and maintenance and everything
11 else on it. Thank you.

12 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you. Do we have any
13 questions? Okay. You may be seated.

14 MR. MASSOP: Thank you.

15 JUDGE FEWELL: Jim Wochner. Okay. Would you
16 like to offer that exhibit? Are there any objections to
17 this exhibit? They can have one as well. Hold on one
18 second, sir. I'm sorry. Can you raise your right hand.
19 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the comments you're
20 about to give are the truth?

21 MR. WOCHNER: Yes.

22 JUDGE FEWELL: Can you please state and spell
23 your name.

24 MR. WOCHNER: It's William.

25 JUDGE FEWELL: Can you state into the

1 microphone.

2 MR. WOCHNER: William, I go by Jim, Wochner,
3 W-o-c-h-n-e-r.

4 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you. You may proceed.

5 MR. WOCHNER: When I came here, I was kind of
6 upset, because the way the notice has been handled on
7 this. I think it's totally insufficient. The original
8 notice of the meeting, which we just found out tonight,
9 is where you've got the best chance to make changes to
10 this line if you've got some reason for it. I didn't
11 get the notice. I got the notice two days after the
12 meeting. It was sent by certified mail, return receipt
13 requested.

14 They knew that that notice was not received,
15 and there were other people in the same boat. They sent
16 them too late to get to the meeting. Cavalier,
17 hide-the-ball attitude. We got it after the fact.

18 They knew I didn't get it. Did they make any
19 attempt to call me and let me have some input into this?
20 No. That kind of makes me kind of mad. They've got
21 2-1/2 miles of line going on this property that my
22 family owns, and they don't even give you notice of the
23 hearing. That's not right.

24 Then I called up the Public Service Commission
25 and asked them can I be a party to this and I was told

1 no, you can't intervene, the Commission doesn't let
2 individual landowners intervene, which means that I
3 don't get notices, I don't get -- so I could be timely
4 informed, I don't have access to all the testimony,
5 because all this is confidential. Maybe it's
6 confidential but I can't imagine if you're a party you
7 don't get to see it. It makes no sense. I'm totally
8 constrained as to what I can do or how I can protect my
9 interests in this matter.

10 Then they take a look at what they've done and
11 they go over open fields, in the middle of open fields,
12 put these tall towers up where you've got people trying
13 to farm. You've got -- they're going over a 10-acre
14 pond. You just heard they don't know -- I know the
15 testimony on electricity. Nobody knows how close we can
16 get to electric utility line of this size and be safe.
17 There isn't any judgment on that at this time.

18 Some people say it's dangerous. Some people
19 say it's not dangerous. But you wouldn't put your kid
20 under it. I wouldn't put my grandkid under there. I've
21 got this grandkid at home who's sick. He's crying
22 because they're going to take away his pond. He wanted
23 to get well and go up and fish on this pond. They don't
24 even give us notice of it. I can't intervene so I don't
25 get notice. They've taken the pond, they go through the

1 open fields. This area up here is largely agricultural
2 and recreational. If you take that away from it, it
3 really doesn't have much. It's pretty isolated.
4 Isolation is part of it as long as it's agricultural and
5 recreational, but if there's lines through here you
6 really kind of damage that whole atmosphere of this
7 property up here.

8 I just bought this one piece of property. I
9 probably wouldn't have bought it if I had known they
10 were going to put a 145 kilowatt line on it. Did they
11 put -- I didn't get notice on the one property. The one
12 property I didn't get any notice on. The other one was
13 late. So anyhow, I've set out what I'm concerned about
14 in my meeting. I can't remember what I said, because
15 I'm kind of nervous about this.

16 I would say that taking property is a very
17 significant thing. That's why it's put both in the
18 constitutions in the United States and in Missouri. To
19 take property, you've got to provide due process. Where
20 is our due process? Where do landowners get to have
21 meaningful comments related to your complaints? They'll
22 say they'll change this, but most often they don't
23 change it.

24 I don't think they're being honest when they
25 say they're going to change this. I really don't. I

1 think they're going to deny you because it's more
2 efficient, it's cheaper. Now, is that where the
3 Commission comes down? They can put it anyplace they
4 want to no matter how bad it inconveniences the voters
5 and the landowners and taxpayers of this state? Is that
6 what you're saying to me? If it was, I wish you'd write
7 it out for me because I'd like to publish it. I don't
8 think it is.

9 I think somehow there has to be an
10 accommodation. There has to be transparency. I told
11 this lady I hate the word transparency because it's used
12 so much. It's used for everything. It's kind of
13 devalued.

14 JUDGE FEWELL: Mr. Wochner, I hate to cut you
15 off but I think you're past your time.

16 MR. WOCHNER: I'll be fast. This is not
17 transparent. This is opaque.

18 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you, sir. Would any of
19 the parties like to adopt this and present this, the
20 testimony given as well, the handwritten?

21 MR. PRINGLE: Staff has no objection to it,
22 Judge. You're saying is there an approach you'd like
23 for us to take with it?

24 JUDGE FEWELL: Would the Office of Public
25 Counsel like to present it?

1 MS. MARTIN: Well, the Office of the Public
2 Counsel at this time has not taken any position. I
3 think that it is always a positive if an individual
4 wants to bring in his own testimony or her own testimony
5 or their own testimony, I think that the Office of the
6 Public Counsel supports it. It's hard to say because it
7 does present a stance and it's hard for the OPC to be
8 able to take a particular stance at this time.

9 MR. PRINGLE: I would recommend, Judge, if
10 this is something the Commission believes is necessary
11 as far as information, it could be a Commission exhibit.

12 JUDGE FEWELL: Sure, we'll admit it that way.
13 Exhibit 1 is admitted as a Commission exhibit.

14 (EXHIBIT 1 WAS RECEIVED INTO EVIDENCE AND MADE
15 A PART OF THIS RECORD.)

16 JUDGE FEWELL: Would Mark Harding come to be
17 sworn in. If you can come to the microphone. Sorry.
18 Since the court reporter is by WebEx, it's easier for
19 her to hear it through the microphone. If you'd raise
20 your right hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm that
21 the comments you're about to give are the truth?

22 MR. HARDING: I do, yes.

23 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you. Can you please
24 state and spell your name.

25 MR. HARDING: Mark Harding, M-a-r-k

1 H-a-r-d-i-n-g.

2 JUDGE FEWELL: You may proceed.

3 MR. HARDING: I do have an exhibit I'd like to
4 enter. How do I do that? I do have copies.

5 JUDGE FEWELL: If you can give the parties
6 each a copy. If I can have one as well. Thank you.

7 MR. HARDING: My concerns --

8 JUDGE FEWELL: Hold on one second, sir. I'll
9 give the parties a second to go through it. Are there
10 any objections to that being admitted as a Commission
11 exhibit as well?

12 MR. PRINGLE: No objection from staff.

13 MS. MARTIN: No objection from the OPC.

14 MR. KUMAR: None from the company, Your Honor.

15 JUDGE FEWELL: We can admit that as Exhibit 2.

16 (EXHIBIT 2 WAS RECEIVED INTO EVIDENCE AND MADE
17 A PART OF THIS RECORD.)

18 JUDGE FEWELL: Mr. Harding, you may proceed.
19 Sorry.

20 MR. HARDING: I do have more copies of that if
21 there's anybody who would be interested in it. I want
22 to draw your attention to the specific area on this map.
23 This map was used extensively by Ameren on their website
24 for their public house advertisements, and so forth.
25 It's the map that I showed earlier, and that's the map

1 that we relied on to know where this route is going for
2 our own property. I'll draw your attention to the
3 skinny line right here between the two larger
4 rectangles. My property lies in the gap white area. So
5 my property was never in this area. And we monitored
6 this because it's the only thing we had to go by,
7 because Ameren didn't provide a lot of specificity. So
8 we used this and we did some -- What I've handed you is
9 in that specific area and on one of the pages you'll see
10 where my property is outlined. And I want to draw your
11 attention to between the two red hash lines on the front
12 page so it's the top page. And that is an overlay of
13 the geographic area, the reality, versus and overlaid
14 with this map. And then if you proceed through there,
15 you will see how the maps are all consistently showing
16 that area.

17 And so when they rerouted, this is the area
18 that we take issue with of the reroute. The original
19 route was DO 27. It was after 26 previous efforts had
20 been abandoned. They settled on a DO 27. And that's
21 what they held open houses about, and so forth.

22 When they did the reroute, and you can see it
23 but it's a little difficult to see, it's the purple
24 line. The key is on the bottom. You can see the purple
25 line is the reroute that goes outside of the mapped

1 area. That was the shocking part to those of us who
2 weren't included in the original area, therefore saw no
3 need to attend any open houses. Had we have attended,
4 they would have been discussing not that area because it
5 was not developed until after May 1 of this year.

6 So we want fairness. In developing this
7 reroute, there was an oversight or an error. If you'll
8 notice the house, there's a blue dot on that front page.
9 That's a lake. The house right beside it is a new house
10 that was not included in their analysis when they
11 decided to reroute. We take strong exception for the
12 reasons that they gave for the reroute.

13 They gave three reasons. They being
14 Mr. Nichols who gave direct testimony on this project.
15 He gave three reasons, one of them being USDA hog barns.
16 Those hog barns are Smithfield Food's hog barns. They
17 needed to reroute for that reason. There was another
18 house listed on Kent Lane, this is all in the testimony,
19 on Kent Lane. They needed to gain more distance for
20 that particular house, rightfully so. They rerouted and
21 they got the distance to 1,250 feet for that particular
22 house. And they avoided the USDA land. Okay. That
23 brings you up to this point of the bottom red line.

24 At that point, we don't have any problem with
25 the reroute because it's justified. At that point, they

1 break all of their own rules in going diagonally across
2 the countryside dissecting it, they don't follow
3 property lines. They enter into property that wasn't
4 notified. There was one person that was not notified at
5 all. Interestingly because they were using 2020-21 data
6 to notify people, old data. They didn't see this map.
7 They didn't see that house on there. So we have strong
8 exception to that reroute that leaves the study area for
9 obvious reasons, and we propose that a short connection
10 between there joins up with the original DO 27 on that
11 front page again.

12 From that point from the bottom line up to
13 that point is a reasonable place to connect back into
14 the DO 27. And then you've attained 1,250 feet from all
15 residences in the reroute area. And so that's what we
16 want. We want fairness for the house right here. And
17 I've done my own measuring and I've done my own research
18 and there's one place to cross 46 Highway and gain 1,250
19 feet to all residences. And that happens to be where
20 experts had determined was the right place to cross it,
21 and that's on the original DO 27 right here within the
22 study area. We believe that the route should be
23 returned to the DO 27 in this particular area on the
24 front page. Thank you, gentlemen.

25 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you, sir.

1 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Mr. Harding, thank you
2 for your testimony. It's very helpful. My question is
3 do I understand right that your property lies within
4 what was a revised alignment that is DO 28?

5 MR. HARDING: Correct.

6 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: When did you first
7 become aware of the DO 28 realignment, proposed
8 realignment?

9 MR. HARDING: Saturday morning, October 5. I
10 remember it well. Can I tell you how I found out?

11 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Please.

12 MR. HARDING: It wasn't from the notice that I
13 got because it was vague as all get out. I got five
14 letters, obviously form letters, with five maps attached
15 to the back. As other people will testify, no
16 specificity within those maps at all. I couldn't find
17 my farm on there. I dismissed them since I got five of
18 the same thing, and it wasn't even specific to this
19 particular FDIM Project. When you read it closely, that
20 letter that should be in evidence at some point, that
21 letter is the same letter that was sent to the one over
22 by St. Louis and one for the substation. It's one
23 letter that had no specificity, didn't alert anybody
24 that the route had been changed. We gave it no thought,
25 because we knew that there was a line going there and it

1 says there's a line -- your property is along the line.
2 It didn't say your property is now being impacted or
3 anything close to that.

4 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Do you know if you're
5 the only impacted landowner along the revised DO 28?

6 MR. HARDING: I do know and I'm not the only
7 one. There are -- It's me and my wife and she's home
8 with the kids. And my daughter is here also, will
9 testify, it's her new house that was overlooked and not
10 given any consideration in the evaluation or the
11 maintenance of 1,250 feet. Her house is about 600 feet
12 from the proposed line.

13 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Thank you very much.
14 That helps me.

15 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you. Barry McClellan.
16 You can raise your right hand to be sworn in. Do you
17 solemnly swear or affirm that the comments you're about
18 to give are the truth?

19 MR. McCLELLAN: I do.

20 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you. What would you like
21 to tell the Commission?

22 MR. McCLELLAN: Barry McClellan, B-a-r-r-y
23 M-c-C-l-e-l-l-a-n. In regards to Ameren's comments
24 about taking into consideration houses that people live
25 in, I just would like to be put on the record that the

1 proposed route that is there right now runs directly
2 between my house and a neighbor of mine who is a little
3 over a quarter of a mile away. So we're both probably
4 within 400 feet of this existing line that they're
5 wanting to -- the proposed route. I also have built a
6 driveway up there in this general vicinity in hopes some
7 day that maybe one of my kids would come home and I
8 could put a new house up there.

9 If they would consider rerouting it half to
10 three-quarters of a mile east, they wouldn't be around
11 any houses. I would just like for this to be put on the
12 record. I would like to politely ask them if they would
13 consider rerouting it. Thank you.

14 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you. You may be seated.
15 Is there anyone else who would like to offer comments
16 today? You can come to the microphone. Will you raise
17 your right hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm that
18 the comments you're about to give are the truth?

19 MS. MCGINLEY: I do.

20 JUDGE FEWELL: Please state and spell your
21 name.

22 MS. MCGINLEY: It's Rebecca McGinley,
23 M-c-G-i-n-l-e-y.

24 JUDGE FEWELL: What would you like to tell the
25 Commission?

1 MS. MCGINLEY: Well, there's been questions
2 about how close the power line should be or -- should be
3 or should not be to people's homes. I've read
4 guidelines that suggest living at least a thousand feet
5 from high voltage lines to limit EMF exposure. So a
6 thousand feet is the guidelines that I've read. I'm
7 sure you're aware that EMF exposure can cause headaches,
8 fatigue, stress, sleep disturbances and things such as
9 cancer.

10 Studies have suggested that you're more likely
11 to develop cancer if you're within the range of a
12 transmission tower. And these are not just regular
13 transmission towers. As you know, these are high
14 powered transmission lines that they're proposing going
15 through the properties of the people that are here
16 today.

17 My husband and I have two children who are six
18 and eight years old, and we're planning to continue to
19 raise our children on the farm that I was born and
20 raised on. My family has owned this farm that they're
21 proposing to run these lines through since 1970. We're
22 simply asking that they move the line east instead of
23 where they're currently proposing it. This would be a
24 straight shot to Iowa and not the jagged course they're
25 currently proposing that runs through my property and my

1 home place.

2 I've met with Ameren since last summer and
3 shared my concerns with them. I've come to every
4 meeting. I've sent emails. They've never changed any
5 of their proposals. Their lines have always ran. So I
6 didn't bring an exhibit to share with everyone. For
7 demonstrative purposes, I have that I can show you, if I
8 can approach.

9 JUDGE FEWELL: Sure.

10 MS. MCGINLEY: The line that Ameren is
11 proposing follows a track of the current electric lines
12 that go from the Fairport station up to the Darlington
13 station and then from there going to Fairport. This is
14 my home place. We're building a new home right now on
15 our home place. It's less than 400 feet from this line.
16 I've asked them numerous times to move it west away from
17 my home place because, again, we're building a home
18 right here.

19 There's no homes anywhere on this property.
20 This is all farmland. Why can't they go farther west
21 instead of where they're proposing knowing my home is
22 right here. If they have an easement, they can go --
23 they said tonight they're not going to put, I forgot
24 what they called it -- they're not going to do combo
25 lines. That whatever study they've done to save cost,

1 they're not going to do combo lines with the current
2 electric lines that are running through. They're going
3 to do lines adjacent to the current lines so they can
4 even go closer to my home. So my concern is the safety.

5 I've had this home place. It's been in my
6 family since 1970. I'm building a new home. I'm
7 raising my children there. I don't want these high
8 powered transmission lines that close to my home where
9 my children are and my husband and I.

10 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you. Is there anyone
11 else who would like to make comments today?

12 Would you raise your right hand. Do you
13 solemnly swear or affirm that the comments you're about
14 to give are the truth?

15 MR. GILBERT: Yes, I do.

16 JUDGE FEWELL: Please state and spell your
17 name.

18 MR. GILBERT: Brad, B-r-a-d, Gilbert,
19 G-i-l-b-e-r-t.

20 JUDGE FEWELL: You may proceed.

21 MR. GILBERT: I don't really have too much of
22 a statement or anything. I think there's a lot of
23 questions that need to be asked within the Missouri
24 Public Service Commission. You know, we can sound here
25 as a people like a spoiled group. Our home, our future

1 house, you know. To some we could. You look at the
2 people living in the cities, especially in the not so
3 good parts of the cities where they've got bars on the
4 windows. I mean, I grew up 12 miles from any town. But
5 the US Constitution through the Bill of Rights
6 guarantees me the right to own property, to control that
7 property.

8 Now, I know that in some cases eminent domain
9 is needed. Folks, I think it needs to be weighed real
10 hard. Outside of listening to the lobbyists, just what
11 is right. What are the motives. We've all heard of
12 Blackrock, Vanguard. We've heard of the possible
13 conspiracies going on in Kentucky after the big
14 hurricane.

15 What we do know is human nature is a constant.
16 We are sinful. We're self-centered. Is this something
17 that is really needed? Is it necessitated? Thank you.

18 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you. Would anyone else
19 like to speak today? Okay. Ma'am, I saw you first in
20 the back. Would you please raise your right hand. Do
21 you solemnly swear or affirm that the comments you're
22 about to give are the truth?

23 MS. CASS: I do.

24 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you. And would you
25 please state and spell your name.

1 MS. CASS: Sure. My name is Traci Cass,
2 T-r-a-c-i C-a-s-s.

3 JUDGE FEWELL: Okay. You may proceed.

4 MS. CASS: My first comment is a broader
5 comment. I've heard from several here today that they
6 have been unsuccessful in having the line rerouted due
7 to proximity to their residence and specifically in the
8 area of 46 the reasoning for moving in that section was
9 due to proximity to residences. So I'm concerned about
10 why we're rerouting for some landowners in proximity to
11 residences while neglecting the same feedback of other
12 homeowners. So I just want that noted that it seems to
13 be unfair.

14 And then a couple of comments from my
15 situation specifically. I did not receive any notice on
16 this. A neighbor let me know that it was impacting me.
17 I reached out to Ameren directly and let them know of my
18 property and my home. Upon that, they sent me a letter
19 in November, but that's months after the public meeting,
20 months after the opportunity to file as an intervenor,
21 months after it's already submitted as a docket. So I
22 had no opportunity or no notification for my property
23 specifically.

24 When I contacted them, they were unaware that
25 my house even existed. So there was clearly a reroute

1 that occurred based on some landowner feedback and no
2 evaluation or due diligence was done on that reroute.
3 Had there been any due diligence or even review of the
4 situation, they would have seen the home sitting there.
5 So there was negligence when they made their decision to
6 reroute.

7 And then again we moved it away from some and
8 as a result put it much closer in proximity to my
9 residence. So I feel like there's some discrepancy in
10 how we're treating residences across the board. The
11 best path and the communicated path, the advertised path
12 was identified and we're not following that at all.

13 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you for your comments. I
14 think there's one other woman in the far back. Would
15 you raise your right hand.

16 MS. HIATT: I'm a school teacher. So when I
17 say to my students raise your right hand, I use my left.

18 JUDGE FEWELL: Do you solemnly swear or affirm
19 that the comments you're about to give are the truth?

20 MS. HIATT: Yes.

21 JUDGE FEWELL: Will you please state and spell
22 your name.

23 MS. HIATT: Rochelle Hiatt, R-o-c-h-e-l-l-e
24 H-i-a-t-t.

25 JUDGE FEWELL: You may proceed.

1 MS. HIATT: Okay. I own -- My husband and I
2 own the property that is -- that Mr. McClellan referred
3 to where houses are very close together within a quarter
4 of a mile. The line will run very close to our
5 property. We do have a new build planned in that
6 vicinity. We also own the property that would be
7 impacted should the line be moved towards the east. And
8 I don't know how I feel about that. I haven't had an
9 opportunity to speak with my husband about that. But I
10 think wherein lies the problem is tonight might be the
11 most information I've got thus far on this project. So
12 it would be -- It's hard for me at this point to make a
13 decision or make any decisions about how we would feel
14 about having the line moved east of us or having the
15 line actually where it's proposed to be now.

16 We have lots of questions. We have livestock
17 that would run across the east side if the line were
18 moved -- we don't -- you know, I would have questions
19 about ice falling from the lines and towers and what
20 impact that would have. We have timber that we use for
21 recreation on that property. We have ponds that run on
22 the east side of the property as well. And so I think
23 there are a lot of answers we don't have yet that we
24 would like to have regarding that. So I guess my point
25 is we feel like this is going to impact us in a big way.

1 We haven't gotten all of the information. And I
2 therefore don't know how I feel about having the lines
3 moved east of us. I don't like the idea of having
4 multiple lines placed across the road from me where we
5 are planning to do a new build. It would be very close
6 to our property. Thank you.

7 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you. And sir, please
8 raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm
9 that the comments you're about to give are the truth?

10 MR. McCREA: I do.

11 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you. Can you please
12 state and spell your name?

13 MR. McCREA: M.L. McCrea, M-c-C-r-e-a. I
14 think my comments tonight would be that I look at this a
15 little different than just where the line is routed. I
16 did not know much about it until I came tonight. I had
17 received a letter once that said that my property would
18 be impacted by the line. I can remember when there
19 wasn't a Fairport substation.

20 My one question is how does Ameren get to run
21 their power through the Fairport substation that I saw
22 built by REA or NW. I wasn't aware that different power
23 companies can go through the same substation. I would
24 have to say that I've always been favorable to
25 electricity. I can remember my dad telling -- going to

1 share -- sell shares of REA when he was younger and
2 worked all day and couldn't sell a share for \$5. So I
3 know the importance of having electric lines to get
4 electricity through the country. And I can remember
5 when the power line that they're wanting to run by was
6 built, because I can remember the substation at Fairport
7 being built and I remember the transformer coming by my
8 bedroom because they couldn't get the transformer there
9 any other way. So I think that all of this hasn't been
10 conducted in a very mannerly way to tell people what is
11 going on. And we had a proposal a couple of years ago
12 that was to run across a different place. And besides
13 that, we own land by the Fairport substation and now I'm
14 used to lines, yeah, we've got five lines across us
15 within a quarter of a mile. So I don't know where the
16 truth lies in all this and what we ought to be thinking
17 as in the future, because the line that we have on us
18 now has been there 70 years and they've just redone it.

19 So we're looking at a hundred year proposal
20 here. So are we doing the right things? Are we making
21 the right proposals? Are we putting things in the right
22 place? You've got to step back and look at this thing
23 for a very long term benefit for people, because I think
24 that's what the people did in 1952, when they built the
25 Fairport substation started out. But I don't have as

1 friendly a feeling toward private companies as I do REA
2 and NWS that brought power to the country, and the
3 reason the power was brought to the country by REAs was
4 because private companies wouldn't service the rural
5 areas. So are we getting in that situation again? Is
6 private companies the way we want to go? What happened
7 with the co-ops? What happened with the REAs and the
8 NWS? And as far as the maps, the maps like the
9 gentlemen have stated aren't specific and they've never
10 bothered to contact the person or talk to them. I think
11 that would be some of the things that should be thought
12 about. Thank you very much.

13 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you for your comments,
14 sir.

15 MR. MITCHELL: Thank you for your comments,
16 Mr. McCrea. I appreciate it. I appreciate your long
17 term perspective. You mentioned something that caught
18 my ear and it was that, you know, there are five
19 different transmission lines within a quarter mile of
20 one another in this area. Could you elaborate on that
21 just a little bit?

22 MR. McCREA: They come out of the Fairport
23 substation and go west. I suppose they go toward St.
24 Joe. I bought the piece of property probably about ten
25 years ago and they were already there.

1 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Thank you.

2 JUDGE FEWELL: Would anyone else like to give
3 comments today? Sir, you can. Are you raising your
4 hand?

5 I'd like to thank everyone, the participants
6 today for their testimony. If you have additional
7 comments or someone who could not be present but would
8 like to comment, you may make written comments by going
9 to the PSC's web page, by contacting the Office of
10 Public Counsel, or appearing at our other local public
11 hearing tomorrow. This hearing is now adjourned. We
12 are off the record. Thank you.

13 (WHEREUPON, the proceedings concluded at 7:56
14 p.m.)

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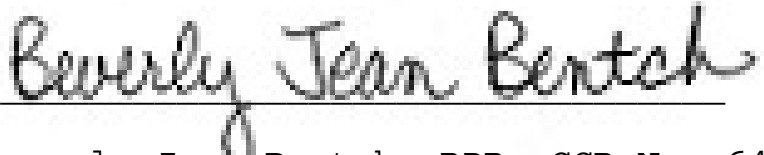
STATE OF MISSOURI)

COUNTY OF COLE)

I, Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing Public Service Commission Local Public Hearing and that the transcript, pages 1 through 34, is a true record of my stenographic notes.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative, employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

Dated this 23rd day of December, 2024.



Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

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