

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)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024
12:55 p.m. - 1:26 p.m.

WebEx

Volume 2
Pages 1 - 24

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

Job No. 178423

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I N D E X

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1 The following proceedings began at 12:55 p.m.:

2 JUDGE FEWELL: We can go on the record. Good
3 afternoon. It is December 10, 2024, and the current
4 time is 12:55 p.m. The Missouri Public Service
5 Commission has set this time for a local public hearing
6 to give members of the public a chance to comment about
7 the application in File No. EA-2024-0302, which is
8 captioned as In the Matter of the Application of Ameren
9 Transmission Company of Illinois for a Certificate of
10 Convenience and Necessity under Section 393.170.1, RSMo.
11 relating to Transmission Investments in Northwest and
12 Northeast Missouri.

13 The Missouri Public Service Commission
14 regulates investor-owned utility companies in Missouri
15 and ensures that rates are just and reasonable. The
16 Commission also regulates the quality of service and the
17 safety of the operations of investor-owned utilities.
18 The Commission is made up of five Commissioners: Chair
19 Kayla Hahn and Commissioners Maida Coleman, Jason
20 Holsman, Glen Kolkmeyer and John Mitchell.

21 Hello. Can you mute your microphone until
22 addressed. Thank you.

23 The Commissioners are appointed by the
24 Governor to fixed terms and confirmed by the Senate.
25 The Commission employ a staff of engineers, accountants,

1 attorneys, financial analysts and other specialists in
2 the field of utility regulation. With me today are
3 Chair Hahn, Commissioner Coleman, Commissioner Holsman
4 and Commissioner Mitchell all on line with us.

5 Commissioners, if you have any questions at any time,
6 feel free to interrupt me and ask them.

7 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Judge, this is
8 Commissioner Kolkmeier. I'm here as well.

9 JUDGE FEWELL: Commissioner Kolkmeier is also
10 here. So all five of them are here today. My name is
11 Riley Fewell, and I'm the Regulatory Law Judge presiding
12 over this hearing. This is an official hearing of the
13 Public Service Commission, and the statements and
14 testimony of witnesses will be recorded by the court
15 reporter and must be given under oath or affirmation.

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

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

1 Commission's website psc.mo.gov and on the right side of
2 the home page there's a link titled submit comments.
3 Click on that link to submit your comments, and make
4 sure that you reference this Case No. EA-2024-0302.

5 The court reporter is transcribing this
6 hearing so the Commission may review and read the
7 comments. Commissioners, would you like to make any
8 opening remarks?

9 CHAIR HAHN: Happy to. Thank you, Judge.
10 Thank you all for being here today. Really appreciate
11 your attendance over this lunch hour. We are continuing
12 our hearing from last night with this virtual WebEx.
13 Some of you may have also participated in the hearing
14 from last evening and may have additional comments that
15 you would feel more comfortable offering in this format.
16 So we look forward to hearing from you.

17 If you've never done a WebEx hearing before,
18 just raise your hand virtually or say that you would
19 like to participate. And even if you wouldn't like to
20 participate necessarily in this hearing, you can always
21 submit written comments. And those are really important
22 especially in cases like this. So we look forward to
23 hearing from you and thank you so much for your time.

24 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you. And to unmute
25 yourselves, if you're not aware, it is star 6. We also

1 have a chat that you can type in if you'd like to make a
2 comment as well. I'll try to keep in order as best I
3 can.

4 Would the parties like to make an entry of
5 appearance beginning with Ameren?

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

11 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you. For the Commission
12 staff.

13 MR. VANDERGRIFF: Good morning. I'm Eric
14 Vandergriff, and our address is 200 Madison Street,
15 Jefferson City 65102, representing staff.

16 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you. And the Office of
17 Public Counsel.

18 MS. MARTIN: My name is Anna Martin. I am an
19 associate attorney with the Office of the Public
20 Counsel, and I do believe that our address is on record.

21 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you. And are there any
22 intervenors present who would like to make an entry of
23 appearance? I think Clean Grid Alliance is here.

24 MS. PIONTEK: This is Emily Piontek with Clean
25 Grid Alliance, but I'm not an attorney. I'm just

1 listening.

2 JUDGE FEWELL: For those who would like to
3 provide comments today, I'm going to call the names. I
4 don't have a sign-up sheet, but if you can raise your
5 hand or write into the chat that you'd like to speak.
6 I'll also be watching if anyone has their video on and
7 raises their hand physically. I think there's a raised
8 hand tab/button that you can click on as well and let me
9 know. And when I call your name, please unmute
10 yourself. I will then place you under oath and ask you
11 to state and spell your name for the court reporter.
12 Then you can offer your comments to the Commission.

13 As I previously stated, we are limiting
14 comments to three minutes so that everyone has an
15 adequate chance to be heard. Please remain after your
16 remarks until you've been excused, because the
17 Commission may have questions for you and the attorneys
18 may as well.

19 Is there anyone who would like to make a
20 comment? I don't have a list it doesn't look like.
21 Actually think, Mr. Mark Harding, I want to say that you
22 had reached out to us about making a comment.

23 MR. HARDING: Okay. I'm here.

24 JUDGE FEWELL: Can you state and spell your
25 name for the record?

1 MR. HARDING: Yeah. Mark, M-a-r-k, Harding,
2 H-a-r-d-i-n-g.

3 JUDGE FEWELL: Will you raise your right hand.
4 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the comments you're
5 about to give are the truth?

6 MR. HARDING: I do.

7 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you. You may proceed.

8 MR. HARDING: Good afternoon, Commissioners.
9 It's a nice opportunity to have you all here. My
10 concerns lie in the rerouting of what was called the
11 original DO 27 when it got rerouted. How it was
12 rerouted, why it was rerouted is the concerns. So
13 that's an overview.

14 I want to draw your attention I submitted a
15 couple of documents. So if you would look at the
16 exhibit that I presented, Schedule JND1, page 25 or page
17 29 of 54, if you have that. Should I proceed?

18 JUDGE FEWELL: Yes.

19 MR. HARDING: It lists in the testimony three
20 bullet points reasons for the reroute. And then drawing
21 your attention to page 21 in the direct testimony, which
22 I provided for you also as an exhibit, in that
23 particular place Mr. Nichols uses two reasons.

24 I'd like to go through those a little bit and
25 make you aware of some things. If you look at the only

1 place that the -- the place where there's mention three,
2 which is in this JND1 schedule, page 25, the third one,
3 the third bullet point where it says proximity to newly
4 constructed residences north of 46 Highway identified by
5 landowners at the public meeting. And then drawing your
6 attention to the third exhibit which is the photo on
7 page 47 of 54. It's a photo of Google Earth with newly
8 constructed residences labeled there. If you see that.

9 That is the picture in the testimony of the
10 ones mentioned north of 46 Highway. I just want to make
11 sure that everybody is clearly aware that those two
12 houses that drew attention in the testimony had at the
13 time of the DO 27 route, they had 1,250 feet of
14 clearance to each of them. That's important to note
15 because in the reroute it impacts other houses at about
16 half of that distance a little bit less. So I wanted to
17 make you -- make sure that all Commissioners are aware
18 of that fact.

19 JUDGE FEWELL: I apologize. I was kicked out
20 for a moment of the WebEx. Can you repeat what you said
21 the last couple of minutes. I know you're probably
22 going from memory or just discussion. I'm sorry. It
23 kicked me out. It's a technology thing.

24 MR. HARDING: Okay. I'm not sure where I
25 lost. I'll just start from the top --

1 JUDGE FEWELL: You had just picked up the map.
2 I apologize about that.

3 MR. HARDING: I was talking about the three
4 bullet points that are mentioned in one location and the
5 two bullet points that are mentioned in another and then
6 for documentation of the third bullet point where it
7 says proximity to newly constructed residences north of
8 46 identified by landowners. Then there's the map
9 associated with the entries that I made, and that
10 clearly shows the residences that are in question.

11 I wanted to make sure it was clear to all the
12 Commissioners that those residences at the time had
13 1,250 feet of clearance from the line and the reroute
14 provided about half that distance to another residence
15 depending on which line you go with, maybe more than
16 one, but the reroute imposes on people much more than
17 that.

18 So then I want to go back to the other two
19 reasons that were given to justify the reroute, because
20 my whole idea is why did there need to be such a drastic
21 reroute. It became apparent to me that if you look at
22 bullet point number one on both of the documents, it
23 lists the USDA regulated hog farm. I wanted to give you
24 some background and some information about who and what
25 that is and whether or not that is property that needs

1 to be avoided because it does not need to be avoided.
2 There are power lines on it. You can access that.
3 Ameren needs to know that they can use that property to
4 put power lines on. They weren't in close proximity to
5 buildings, which is what confused me from the beginning.
6 It was just that the D0 27 was along the road of
7 property that is owned by them and who is them, the USDA
8 pig barn is Smithfield Foods. That is a Chinese owned
9 large company. It happens to be the Chinese company
10 that owns some 80 percent of all US ag land that is
11 owned by Chinese in this country. So they're a very
12 large conglomerate.

13 That's who that property is. It's a little
14 bit insulting to some landowners here whenever you read
15 that oh, we need to avoid this particular property when
16 you know it's Smithfield Foods and you're wondering why
17 they're getting such prejudicial treatment. So I sought
18 out to find out more about that and I contacted
19 Smithfield Foods. Who did I talk to? I talked to the
20 person who's in charge of environmental there. He had
21 no knowledge of the line.

22 I wanted to find out who provided the feedback
23 that allowed them to use it as a good reason to reroute
24 because it didn't make sense to me. He assured me that
25 he didn't know anybody. He checked up the chain.

1 Bottom line is I can't find anybody that provided any
2 information to Ameren, and I've asked Ameren themselves.
3 I've asked them who provided you this information, are
4 you getting good information, because I know they're not
5 getting good information in other areas. So they won't
6 tell me who it is, if you're interested. I just wanted
7 you to know who that is when they're using that as a
8 reason.

9 To me, we've already disqualified the
10 residences north of 46 Highway as a reason to reroute
11 because they already had the 1,250 feet. Then we've
12 eliminated USDA pig barns, because it's just not true.
13 You can go on there. It is a minor inconvenience, I'm
14 told, but it's not a place you can't go for a line.

15 Then you look at the actual legitimate reason,
16 the third one, a residence located near this location
17 known as on Kent Lane. If you see that third one there,
18 that is a legitimate concern because the highline was
19 too close to that property. They did reroute for that.
20 That would be a simple fix compared to a major reroute
21 to accommodate these three points or two points, however
22 you want to look at it.

23 I'm trying to figure out why the necessity to
24 make such a major reroute and left the planned mapped
25 area and imposed on, who happens to be my daughter's

1 family's house so closely when it wasn't justified to
2 begin with. I just wanted to make you aware of those
3 things.

4 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you for your comments,
5 sir.

6 MR. HARDING: Thank you.

7 JUDGE FEWELL: Is there anyone else who would
8 like to make a comment today? I don't see any raised
9 hands. Okay. Is that Dane?

10 MR. JUSTICE: I'm sorry. No. I'm kind of
11 just -- I'm pondering on my own over here. I have
12 things that I would like to say. I'm not sure if
13 they're eloquent enough to be put on record as of right
14 now.

15 JUDGE FEWELL: Okay. I appreciate that. We
16 have, again, the written comment section. I'll
17 re-reiterate the path to get to that as well. And then
18 I think Mr. Kleinschmit, I saw that you had raised your
19 hand as well.

20 MR. KLEINSCHMIT: More along the lines of what
21 Dane said.

22 JUDGE FEWELL: Okay.

23 MR. KLEINSCHMIT: I mean, there's some
24 disgruntlements with Ameren. It is more along the lines
25 of what Dane said.

1 JUDGE FEWELL: Okay. Again, I appreciate your
2 candor in that, the both of you. Again, feel free
3 especially to write out your thoughts especially if you
4 think you can do it more eloquently with more time to
5 consider what you'd like to say. Regardless, we
6 appreciate your presence today as well. Caller user
7 number 9, do you have a comment to make as well?

8 MR. JUSTICE: Sir, I have a question real
9 quick. Will we be able to add to this hearing at the
10 end?

11 JUDGE FEWELL: I can come back to you if you
12 want to take some time. If other people have comments,
13 yeah, I can come back to you and ask if you'd like to
14 make verbal comments. Otherwise, it would need to be --
15 we won't have another local public hearing. It would
16 need to be through the comment.

17 MR. JUSTICE: I understand. I'm just trying
18 to force my words to come together.

19 JUDGE FEWELL: Sure. Again, it may be better
20 to write them down. That may be an easier method then.
21 It looks like there are no additional comments. Would
22 any Commissioners like to make any closing remarks?

23 MR. TURNER: Can you take comments from the
24 phone?

25 JUDGE FEWELL: Yes, sorry. Caller number 9,

1 yes, we can. I'll take your word for it. Can you raise
2 your right hand so I can swear you in?

3 MR. TURNER: I'm raising my right hand.

4 JUDGE FEWELL: All right. Do you solemnly
5 swear or affirm the comments you are about to give are
6 the truth?

7 MR. TURNER: Yes.

8 JUDGE FEWELL: Can you please state and spell
9 your name for the record.

10 MR. TURNER: Randall Turner. That's
11 R-a-n-d-a-l-l T-u-r-n-e-r.

12 JUDGE FEWELL: What would you like to tell the
13 Commission?

14 MR. TURNER: Well, first of all, I find that I
15 don't even know where this is going. I've received two
16 letters. And I'm participating in this call with the
17 hope of finding out where you're planning on this going.
18 I went on the website and I see what appears to be at
19 least a five-mile wide block is the only thing showing
20 where it might go near my farm. So seems like there's a
21 lack of communication.

22 Also, putting 345 kV lines over property has
23 negative influences up to 1,400 feet wide if you try to
24 get below .5 milligals, which is the recognized EMF
25 limit. I don't know that any of that's been discussed.

1 The last item is I think I read that it's 25
2 feet high to the low point of the line with a 14-foot
3 high combine and a 10-foot safety margin, which is
4 safety margin for high voltage lines. I find that to be
5 awfully close.

6 JUDGE FEWELL: I appreciate your comments and
7 I understand, sorry for the frustrations that you're
8 having with that with confusion and things.

9 Mr. Kleinschmit, have you raised your hand
10 again? Are you wanting to make a comment now?

11 MR. KLEINSCHMIT: Yes, I have. Something else
12 I thought of, if you're calling on me.

13 JUDGE FEWELL: Will you raise your right hand.

14 MR. KLEINSCHMIT: Yep.

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

17 MR. KLEINSCHMIT: Yes, I do.

18 JUDGE FEWELL: Can you please state and spell
19 your name for the record.

20 MR. KLEINSCHMIT: Joshua Kleinschmit,
21 J-o-s-h-u-a K-l-e-i-n-s-c-h-m-i-t.

22 JUDGE FEWELL: You may proceed.

23 MR. KLEINSCHMIT: My concerns tie to
24 Mr. Turner's. Ameren only contacted us to purchase our
25 land. They never contacted us to ask us how this would

1 affect us. To go also on Mr. Turner's comments with the
2 map, it's very vague. It is not detailed at all. There
3 might be a few words in there. But the picture is vague
4 and it's blown up. It's not detailed on where it's
5 going to go on which way the transmission lines are
6 going to go. And then my concern is also for the
7 25-foot height and health problems for us being out
8 there, because we're actively out there multiple times
9 throughout the course of the year. What if in the
10 future somebody wants to build on there, you know. Then
11 that takes everything out of it, because my land is very
12 closely related to the substation and it looks like they
13 want to put multiple lines coming out when there's
14 already multiple lines coming out of the existing
15 substation as it is. Those are my concerns.

16 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you for your comments.
17 Dane, I think you've raised your hand again as well.

18 MR. JUSTICE: Yes, I have.

19 JUDGE FEWELL: Can you raise your right hand
20 and I can swear you in?

21 MR. JUSTICE: Yes, sir.

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

24 MR. JUSTICE: I do.

25 JUDGE FEWELL: Can you please state and spell

1 your name?

2 MR. JUSTICE: D-a-n-e, Dane, last name
3 Justice, J-u-s-t-i-c-e.

4 JUDGE FEWELL: You may proceed.

5 MR. JUSTICE: Yes, sir. So my comments are
6 not of a landowner for this specific area, this region.
7 I'm speaking on behalf of my family that cares very
8 deeply. Our family owns a lot of these plots and it's
9 affecting some of them heavily. I've witnessed it first
10 hand. We are talking about it every day, every night
11 hours on end because it's affecting us in ways that you
12 would not imagine.

13 Particularly I couldn't imagine that people
14 from a government-appointed for-profit company would
15 ever care to actually consider. This meeting, these
16 meetings have all been happening to kind of quell the
17 emotions of people in this area. They're doing their
18 best to make you believe that this is a land sale. This
19 is not a land sale. This is a civil asset 4 feature,
20 and you're supposed to believe that a one-time
21 compensation is fair. It's not fair. It's your entire
22 livelihoods that have been made off of this land. We're
23 not just talking about profitability. We're talking
24 about your ability to sell your crops to rent your land
25 to other farmers, CRP. We're talking about your ability

1 to rent that property to hunters. There's a lot of ways
2 that we use this. This isn't just podunk farmland that,
3 you know, city officials would otherwise like you to
4 believe, maybe not city officials but maybe companies
5 that are acting in special interest of government
6 entities.

7 What I would like to state very clearly is
8 that I don't believe a one-time payment for the asset 4
9 feature that's about to take place if it's so far down
10 the road already, which by the way is also on purpose.
11 Every single person that's spoken today has voiced that
12 they believe most of this has been swept through very
13 quickly under the table in ways that make it very hard
14 to adequately piece together every moving bit of this.
15 Do you know what I mean? It's hard to -- It's hard to
16 formulate true opinions about it when it moves so
17 quickly.

18 It feels like a specialized task force almost
19 in the way that this is being pushed and we're supposed
20 to lie down and take it. I don't believe that a single
21 solitary person here that has a vested interest in these
22 parcels should do so. I believe that every single
23 person here should be considering a required
24 compensation that's much longer than a one-time
25 purchase. It needs to be a compensation. If this has

1 to happen for any given reason, if this has to happen,
2 this needs to be a compensation that lasts long term.
3 We're talking the average profitability per each of
4 these parcels, if you need to have some kind of
5 numerical value to this. You can't just force people
6 off of their annual incomes. 50, 60 years, 100 years of
7 corn, of rent of all of this. This needs to be
8 accounted for. It can't just be Ameren doing their best
9 to get you to get off your land for their smallest
10 dollar. That needs amended if this has to go forward.
11 That's the only way that any of this is just is annual
12 payments for lost income.

13 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you for your comments,
14 sir. I want to reiterate that this is kind of a fact
15 finding medium too in this. We are listening to the
16 comments of each of you that all of it will be
17 considered in the Commission's ultimate decision.

18 Is there anyone else who would like to make a
19 comment today? I don't see any hands. Would any --
20 Keith Beggs raised his hand.

21 MR. BEGGS: Yeah. Can you hear me?

22 JUDGE FEWELL: Yes, I can. Will you raise
23 your right hand.

24 MR. BEGGS: Yes.

25 JUDGE FEWELL: Do you solemnly swear or affirm

1 that the comments you're about to give are the truth?

2 MR. BEGGS: Yes.

3 JUDGE FEWELL: Can you please state and spell
4 your name?

5 MR. BEGGS: Keith Beggs, K-e-i-t-h B-e-g-g-s.

6 JUDGE FEWELL: What would you like to tell the
7 Commission?

8 MR. BEGGS: Well, I'd like to kind of dovetail
9 off that annual payment deal. I got a transmission line
10 easement already on my property and it sounds like
11 they're wanting to get another one. It was in 1951. I
12 was paid a total of \$48 for a lifetime of headache of
13 farming around. And the idea of another one-time
14 payment just is going to leave my kids farming for me
15 getting a little bit of money now and then having a
16 lifetime of headache of them coming in and restringing
17 line, smashing everything down, causing erosion. And so
18 I just wanted to put that on the record I guess.

19 JUDGE FEWELL: Appreciate your comments.
20 Would anyone else like to make a comment today? As a
21 reminder, if you're on your phone, star 6 to unmute
22 yourself. Okay. Would any of the Commissioners like to
23 make a closing remark?

24 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Thank you, Judge. This
25 is Commissioner Holsman. I will.

1 JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you, Commissioner.

2 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: All right. On behalf
3 of Chairwoman Kayla Hahn and the entire Commission, we
4 just want to take a minute to thank everybody for coming
5 out and sharing their opinions. No decisions have been
6 made in this case. This is a fact finding part of the
7 process where we do get to hear from the community and
8 the public. You could do a lot of things today through
9 your lunch hour, but you chose to spend it with us and
10 share your thoughts. We do appreciate it. They do
11 matter. We do take them into consideration as we move
12 forward with this process. I wish everybody to have a
13 good day, and thank you again for coming.

14 JUDGE FEWELL: I'd also like to thank all of
15 our participants today for their testimony. If you have
16 any additional comments or if someone could not be
17 present that you're aware of and they would like to
18 comment, there's a consumer comments tab that can be
19 reached via the Commission's website. That is
20 psc.mo.gov and on the right side of the home page
21 there's a link titled submit comments. When you click
22 on that to submit your comments, make sure that you
23 reference this case number. It is EA-2024-0302. This
24 hearing is now adjourned and we're off the record.

25 (WHEREUPON, the proceedings concluded at 1:26 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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 23, 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 27th day of December, 2024.

Beverly Jean Bentch
Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

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