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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.  
Section 393.170.1, RSMo. ) EA-2024-0302  
Relating to Transmission )  
Investments in Northwest and )  
Northeast Missouri )

January 16, 2025  
12:21 p.m. - 12:35 p.m.

WebEx

Volume 3

RILEY FEWELL, Presiding  
REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

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

Reported by: Colin Wallis

Lexitas Legal, St. Louis, Missouri 63101

\* \* \* \* \*

(Starting time of the hearing: 12:21 p.m.)

REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: We can go on the record. Good afternoon, everyone. It is January 16th, 2025, and the current time is 12:22 p.m. The Missouri Public Service Commission has set this time for a local public hearing to give members of the public a chance to comment about the application in file number: EA-2024-0302, which is captioned as: 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. relating to Transmission Investments in Northwest and Northeast Missouri.

The Missouri Public Service Commission regulates investor-owned utility companies in Missouri and ensures that rates are just and reasonable. The Commission also regulates the quality of service and safety of the operations of investor-owned utilities. The Commission is made up of five commissioners, and that's our chair, Kayla Hahn, and commissioners: Maida Coleman, Jason Holszman, Glen Kolkmeyer and

1 John Mitchell.

2 The commissioners are appointed by the  
3 governor to fixed terms and confirmed by the  
4 Senate. The commissioners employ a staff of  
5 engineers, accountants, attorneys, financial  
6 analysts and other specialists in the field of  
7 utility regulation.

8 With me today are -- online are Chair  
9 Hahn, Commissioner Coleman, Commissioner  
10 Holsman, and Commissioner Kolkmeyer and  
11 Commissioner Mitchell may appear if they  
12 haven't logged in yet.

13 If you have -- Commissioners, if you have  
14 any questions at any time, feel free to  
15 interrupt and ask them. Interrupt me and ask  
16 them. My name is Riley Fewell, and I'm the  
17 Regulatory Law Judge presiding over this  
18 hearing. There is -- this is an official  
19 hearing of the Missouri Public Service  
20 Commission, and the statements and testimony of  
21 the witnesses will be recorded by the court  
22 reporter and must be given under oath or  
23 affirmation.

24 The Commission has not made any decision  
25 in this case, and neither the commissioners nor

1 myself can answer any questions about the  
2 issues of the case today because the Commission  
3 must remain impartial until all evidence is  
4 presented.

5 As we want to provide all attendees an  
6 adequate opportunity to speak today, we'll  
7 limit the time for testimony to only three  
8 minutes. I would ask that everyone remain  
9 muted unless you are directed to speak so that  
10 everyone can be heard and understood for the  
11 court reporter. And in order to unmute  
12 yourself, that is star 6 if you are appearing  
13 by phone, or there's a mute button if you are  
14 appearing online.

15 The court reporter is transcribing this  
16 hearing, so that the Commission may review and  
17 read the comments as well. Commissioners,  
18 Chair Hahn, would you like to make any opening  
19 remarks?

20 COMMISSIONER HAHN: Yes, thank you, Judge.  
21 I appreciate it. I just want to thank the  
22 participants that have come today and this  
23 afternoon to share their thoughts and comments  
24 with us. While we can't offer our opinions, we  
25 certainly want your thoughts and feedback so

1 that we can have a better decision-making  
2 process. So, with that, look forward to  
3 hearing from everyone today. Thanks so much.

4 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you.  
5 Would the parties make their entry of  
6 appearance beginning with Ameren?

7 MR. FOSCO: Thank you, your Honor. On  
8 behalf of Ameren Transmission Company of  
9 Illinois, Carmen Fosco, with the Law Firm of  
10 Whitt Sturtevant, LLP, 180 N. LaSalle Street,  
11 Suite 2030, Chicago, Illinois 60601. And also  
12 appearing on behalf of Ameren is Jason Kumar,  
13 K-u-m-a-r, with Ameren Services Company, 1901  
14 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63166.  
15 Thank you.

16 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you.  
17 And for the Commission staff?

18 MR. PRINGLE: Thank you, Judge. Travis  
19 Pringle here. Also, Eric Vandergriff is also  
20 on the line for Staff Counsel. Our contact  
21 information is 200 Madison Street, PO Box 360,  
22 and telephone is 573-751-5700.

23 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you.  
24 For the Office of Public Counsel?

25 MS. MARTIN: This is Anna Martin for the

1 Office of the Public Counsel, and I do believe  
2 our contact information is on file in this  
3 case.

4 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you.  
5 Now, are there any intervenors present who  
6 would like to make an entry of appearance?  
7 Hearing none, for those who would like to  
8 provide comments today, I'm going to ask that  
9 you raise your hand, and let me know that you  
10 would like to speak. When I call your name,  
11 you can unmute yourself. Again, that is star 6  
12 for the phones -- phone numbers calling again.  
13 You can probably speak out. I don't know that  
14 you can raise your hand from the phone. And  
15 then I will place you -- place you under oath  
16 and ask you to state and spell your name for  
17 the record. And then you can offer your  
18 comments to the Commission.

19 As I stated, we are limiting comments to  
20 three minutes today so that everyone present  
21 has an adequate chance to be heard; and please  
22 remain available after your remarks until  
23 you've been excused because the Commission may  
24 have some questions for you; and the attorneys,  
25 if they have any questions, can ask at that

1 time as well. Is there anyone who would like  
2 to speak to the Commission today?

3 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Judge, for the  
4 record, Commissioner Mitchell is present.

5 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you,  
6 Commissioner. And for anyone appearing by  
7 phone, it is star 6 to unmute yourself. If you  
8 could let us know if you'd like to speak today.  
9 Commissioner Kolkmeyer just let us know he is  
10 present. Well, we'd like to thank everyone for  
11 appearing. Would any of the commissioners --  
12 sorry, what was that?

13 MR. PIERCE: I'd like to make a statement.

14 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Sure. Can  
15 you raise your right hand?

16 MR. PIERCE: Yep.

17 (Brent Pierce sworn.)

18 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you.  
19 Can you please state and spell your name for  
20 the record?

21 MR. PIERCE: Brent Pierce, B-r-e-n-t,  
22 P-i-e-r-c-e.

23 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: What would  
24 you like to tell the Commission?

25 MR. PIERCE: I'm a little concerned about

1 the minimum requirements on some of these  
2 transmission lines. With them only -- at the  
3 last meeting we were at, it was stated that it  
4 was a 20-foot minimum from any piece of ground  
5 that these transmission lines had to be, and  
6 finding out that, you know, there's probably an  
7 arc -- safety arc distance that any piece of  
8 equipment has to be away from these  
9 transmission lines, and in an active farmed  
10 field, you know, a 20-foot minimum, a lot of  
11 the equipment is 16 feet tall, especially a  
12 combine fully unfolded. And I asked a question  
13 before about a minimum arc distance, and I'm  
14 gathering it's around 10 feet, which it puts,  
15 you know, well below that minimum, especially  
16 in, you know, heavily active fields. So, I'd  
17 like to know who is responsible to ensure the  
18 safety of the people operating, you know,  
19 around these lines. Sorry.

20 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Is there  
21 anything else you'd like to tell us?

22 MR. PIERCE: And, then, none of us -- or I  
23 can't anyway, activate this interactive map to  
24 see if any changes have even been made from the  
25 first meeting; and I've talked to a few people



1 there at the last meeting about changes we  
2 would like to our ground; and I'm just  
3 wondering if there's -- if there's no way to  
4 stop this now or if everything is pretty well  
5 set or the criteria for any changes. But I  
6 suppose that's about everything I have to say.

7 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Okay. Well,  
8 I want to thank you for your comments. We  
9 can't provide guidance on that, but the  
10 evidentiary period is still open.

11 MR. PIERCE: Yep.

12 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: We're still  
13 gathering evidence, I can confirm that. And I  
14 was corrected, that there is a way for you to  
15 raise your hand if you're appearing by phone.  
16 That is star 3. It may be easier for anyone  
17 appearing by cell phone that would like to make  
18 comments as well. Is there anyone who would  
19 like to make a comment? Anyone else? Okay,  
20 Caller Number 3, can you raise your right hand?

21 MR. HARDING: Yes.

22 (Mark Harding sworn.)

23 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you.  
24 And can you please state and spell your name?

25 MR. HARDING: My name is Mark Harding,

1 M-a-r-k, H-a-r-d-i-n-g.

2 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Okay.

3 Before you proceed, anyone who has spoken at  
4 another hearing, any comments that have already  
5 been made, they are already part of the record,  
6 but we do want to hear any additional comments.  
7 I just want to say that. Mr. Harding, you may  
8 proceed, though.

9 MR. HARDING: Okay, yeah, I guess mine  
10 would be more of a question, and I realize the  
11 commissioners are probably not there to answer  
12 questions today; but because both routes --  
13 this meeting was held, as I understand it,  
14 because it was to give accommodation to the  
15 people from the original DO-27, because the  
16 people on the DO-28 were given that opportunity  
17 earlier. I just wanted to have on the record  
18 in some way that both lines are still a  
19 possibility; that the DO-27 and the DO-28 are  
20 both being considered, given that we're having  
21 a question and answer and a meeting today,  
22 because the DO-27 people were not offered that  
23 earlier. That's the only comment I wanted to  
24 make.

25 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you,

1 Mr. Harding. Is there anyone else who would  
2 like to make a comment? Again, it is star 3 to  
3 raise your hand and star 6 to unmute yourself.

4 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Judge, this is  
5 Commissioner Kolkmeier, can you hear me?

6 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Yes, we can.

7 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: I had trouble  
8 getting in, but I am -- I am in attendance now.

9 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: I appreciate  
10 that. And there is also still an ability to  
11 comment online. If you go to the Commission's  
12 website, there is a way to submit comments, and  
13 you would do that at psc.mo.gov. So,  
14 psc.mo.gov, and you would reference this case  
15 number: EA-2024-0302. Would any commissioners  
16 like to make a closing remark?

17 COMMISSIONER HAHN: Thank you, Judge.  
18 Chair Hahn. Just want to say thank you to the  
19 participants that we had today. It is really  
20 important to get your feedback, especially  
21 Mr. Harding mentioning this hearing is  
22 happening, because those were -- certain folks  
23 weren't included in the last notification, so  
24 really appreciate that. And thank you, Judge,  
25 and to staff and the parties for taking time

1 out of your afternoon to have the hearing. So,  
2 thank you, everyone, really appreciate it.

3 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE FEWELL: Thank you,  
4 again, everyone, for appearing. And, again, I  
5 want to reiterate, that there -- you still can  
6 provide online comments as well. And I think  
7 in the chat there are some comments on how to  
8 do that. Again, it is psc.mo.gov. You would  
9 reference this case number: EA-2024-0302. But  
10 that said, I think this hearing is now  
11 adjourned. We are off the record.

12 (Ending time of the hearing: 12:35 p.m.)

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1 I, Colin Wallis, in and for the State of  
2 Missouri do hereby certify that the witness  
3 whose testimony appears in the foregoing  
4 Examination Under Oath was duly sworn by me;  
5 that the testimony of the said witness was  
6 taken by me to the best of my ability and  
7 thereafter reduced to typewriting under my  
8 direction; that I am neither counsel for,  
9 related to, nor employed by any of the parties  
10 to the action in which this examination was  
11 taken, and further that I am not relative or  
12 employee of any attorney or counsel employed by  
13 the parties thereto, nor financially or  
14 otherwise interested in the outcome of the  
15 action.

Colin Wallis

17 within and for the State of Missouri  
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