

Before the Public Service Commission of the State of Missouri, Missouri Public Service Commission

Docket File No. EA-2024-0302

**In the Matter of the Application of Ameren Transmission Company
of Illinois for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity**

**20 CSR 4240-2.075 Individual Application/Motion to Intervene As a
New Member**

(A) F. Neil Mathews

**(B) 1369 North Port Washington Road -- Unit 107
Grafton, WI 53024**

(C) neilmathews426@gmail.com

**(D) Applicant is an individual with a farm in Worth County Missouri in the
direct path of the current proposed ATXI 345 Volt Transmission Line Route
(Docket Sheet EA-2024-0302).**

(E and F) Please see attached statement below:

**Reference: Mathews 1885 Farm in Worth County Missouri in the
Path of the Proposed ATXI Transmission Line Route (Docket Sheet
EA-2024-0302)**

I am a 5th generation landowner of a Missouri Century Farm certified by the University of Missouri Century Farm Project which has been in our family's ownership for 140 years. I do not support the ATXI Transmission Line route as currently planned and presented by the Routing Team. After further study and review of your website for a proposed 345 KV transmission line to cross our family's farm, I am convinced that Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois is ignoring an alternative route such as that listed in Table 2 (Schedule JN-D1) and identified as DO-27. It states that there "is a western route, following the existing NW Electric Power Cooperative transmission line until Grant Substation". This western (DO-27) route would bypass my Missouri Century Farm so that the project can proceed without opposition from me. This route is the best solution given an already existing power grid.

I have multiple concerns and issues associated with your current proposed transmission towers and lines crossing the west 40 acres of the Mathews 1885 farm. Many research studies have identified health hazards, decreased property values, and the difficulties and restrictions associated with any building activities such as expansion of ponds and possible buildings that I have planned in the future for the current proposed routing of the 345 KV transmission lines and towers across the farm. Furthermore, I plan on protecting this valuable farm with an application for a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). This Program protects the land for future generations and limits nonagricultural uses.

In addition, this historic farmland is enrolled in the US Department of Agriculture National Grasslands Program which has various restrictions on its use. Importantly, the USDA CRP Grasslands Program has protections in place for green firebreaks and wooded areas including the

protection of the already existing native prairie grasses and many species of wildlife. These restrictions and protections are critical to the farm's wooded areas, ponds, wetlands, etc. that are in the direct pathway of the proposed 345 KV transmission lines and towers which also are a visual degradation of the landscape.

I will defend our family's farm physical integrity for many reasons. I will not ever agree to a right-away easement with ATXI to cross this Missouri Century Farm with proposed towers and 345 KV transmission lines.

I highly recommend that the Routing Team revisit using the DO-27 routing proposal which will not impact this sacred family farm that involves two more future generations of Mathews children and grandchildren who will have ownership rights once my spouse and I pass. Their footsteps will continue to walk this land where my ancestors' ashes are spread. Again, I encourage the ATXI FDIM Routing Team to find a workaround for this project that will not impact my family farm on Route M outside of Denver, Missouri.

I will use all legal means to stop Phase 1 of the ATXI Fairport-Denny-Iowa/Missouri Project (FDIM) from going through the Mathews 1885 Family Century Farm in Worth County, Missouri given the viable alternatives.

Thank you for your consideration,

/s/ F. Neil Mathews



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Nancy Dippell, Secretary
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