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MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FILE NO. EA-2025-0222

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

LEAH DETTMERS

ON

BEHALF OF

AMEREN TRANSMISSION COMPANY OF ILLINOIS

St. Louis, Missouri
May 2025

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DIRECT TESTIMONY

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I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Q. Please state your name and business address.

A. My name is Leah Dettmers. My business address is 1901 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63103.

Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?

A. I am employed by Ameren Services Company ("Ameren Services") as Manager of Stakeholder Relations and Training.

Q. What are your responsibilities as Manager of Stakeholder Relations and Training?

A. My role is to lead, develop, and execute public outreach strategies for transmission portfolios and programs on behalf of Ameren Services' transmission-owning affiliates, including the Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois ("ATXI") transmission project that is the subject of this proceeding. I also implement those tasks and generate the related materials with the support of internal subject matter experts and external consultants. My scope of work covers strategies for and implementation of both new ("greenfield") transmission projects that may require regulatory approvals as well as projects concerning maintenance of or upgrades to facilities within existing ("brownfield") transmission corridors. In addition, I provide oversight within Ameren Services' transmission-based team on training for other employees. Regarding my public outreach responsibilities specifically, I manage project information via written materials and digital

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1 resources. My role includes meeting with the public, agencies, community leaders, and other
2 stakeholders during open houses, agency review meetings, local government discussions, and
3 other meetings concerning anticipated transmission projects. During my tenure at Ameren
4 Services, I have, on behalf of its transmission-owning affiliates, coordinated and managed public
5 outreach processes for over 1,800 miles of transmission lines in Illinois and Missouri and have
6 implemented public outreach processes for several greenfield Missouri transmission projects.
7 These greenfield Missouri projects include, among others, the Northern Missouri Grid
8 Transformation Program Phases 1 and 2 projects, the Mark Twain Transmission Project and the
9 Limestone Ridge Project.

10 **Q. Please describe your educational and professional background.**

11 A. I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Organizational Development/Public Relations
12 and a Master of Arts in Organizational Development/Public Relations from Southern Illinois
13 University Edwardsville. I have been employed by Ameren Services since October 2015. My
14 initial role at Ameren Services was Stakeholder Relations Coordinator working on public outreach,
15 media messaging, material development and project support on both greenfield and existing
16 transmission lines.

17 My current title is Manager of Stakeholder Relations and Training. I develop the strategy
18 for stakeholder outreach in developing, training and implementing the required regulatory
19 processes for Ameren transmission projects as well as best management practices for outreach
20 processes for all transmission programs. I also oversee the management of our external
21 engagement consultants, support our other internal ATXI workgroups in routing/siting, provide
22 public outreach strategy for our transmission business development services, and manage ATXI's
23 corporate training for all workgroups. During my career, I have been involved in developing and

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1 implementing public process strategy via regulatory requirements and utilities' best management
2 practices for over 2,000 miles of Ameren's electric transmission projects.

3 **Q. Have you previously testified before the Missouri Public Service Commerce**
4 **Commission?**

5 A. Yes, I have testified before the Missouri Public Service Commission
6 ("Commission") on behalf of ATXI for Phase 1 Projects of the Northern Missouri Grid
7 Transformation Program in File No. EA-2024-0302 and for Phase 2 Project of the Northern
8 Missouri Grid Transformation Program in File No. EA-2025-0087. In these proceedings, ATXI
9 sought Commission approval of certificates of convenience and necessity to construct transmission
10 lines that ATXI has been assigned or chosen by competitive bid to build via the Long-Range
11 Transmission Planning ("LRTP") Tranche 1 process at Midcontinent Independent System Operator
12 ("MISO").

13 **II. PURPOSE OF THE TESTIMONY AND SCHEDULES**

14 **Q. What is the purpose of your direct testimony?**

15 A. The purpose of my testimony is to support ATXI's request for a certificate of
16 convenience and necessity ("CCN") and related Commission approvals authorizing ATXI to
17 construct, acquire, and operate certain transmission assets under the Grand Tower Crossing
18 Project, described in the direct testimony of ATXI witness Mr. Eric Paulek. The Project is being
19 constructed in collaboration with Ameren Illinois Company d/b/a Ameren Illinois ("AIC") and
20 Citizens Electric Corporation ("Citizens Electric") to improve energy reliability for local
21 communities. The Project includes the construction of a new, approximately 4-mile, 138 kV
22 transmission line to connect Citizens Electric's existing Wittenberg substation in Perry County,
23 Missouri, across the Mississippi River to a new Jenkins substation near Ameren Illinois' existing

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1 Grand Tower substation in Jackson County, Illinois. Approximately 2.5 miles of this new line will
2 be located in Perry County, Missouri. To complete the Project, Ameren Illinois will retire the
3 existing Grand Tower substation. The goal is to have this new line in-service and provide benefits
4 to the local community by the end of 2028.

5 My testimony explains ATXI's compliance with certain public meeting and notice
6 requirements related to the Grand Tower Project in Missouri, including notice of the application
7 to directly affected landowners. I also explain ATXI's public outreach process for the Project,
8 including how that process solicited public input from community representatives and potentially
9 affected landowners, to help inform the route selection for the Project. ATXI witness Mr. Dan
10 Schmidt explains the route for the Project (the Final Proposed Route). I also describe ATXI's
11 notice coordination activities with regulatory agencies. ATXI's public outreach process was
12 designed to meet public meeting and notice requirements, as I understand them, and to ensure
13 robust public understanding of the Project and active participation by the public in the development
14 of the route. Those efforts are described in this testimony.

15 **Q. Are you sponsoring any schedules with your direct testimony?**

16 A. Yes. I am sponsoring:

- 17 • **Schedule LD-01, Parts 1-5** – an Engagement Summary which illustrates and
18 memorializes the integrated outreach process undertaken by ATXI for this project,
19 including notifications to stakeholders and landowners and open houses which were
20 held; and
- 21 • **Schedule LD-02** – an exemplar copy of the letter that ATXI sent to each affected
22 landowner as notice of its application.

1 **Q. Are you offering any legal opinions in your direct testimony?**

2 A. No. I am not an attorney, and none of my direct testimony is intended to offer any
3 legal opinions.

4 **III. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND NOTICE REQUIREMENTS**

5 **Q. Please generally explain the public engagement process.**

6 A. In January 2025, ATXI conducted a series of public information meetings for the
7 Grand Tower Crossing Project (or "the Project"). ATXI provided the public with both in-person,
8 virtual, and other engagement opportunities to learn more about the Project and provide input on
9 the Project's Study Area and Route Corridors. To ensure robust participation, those opportunities
10 included: (1) an in-person meeting with community representatives in Perry County, Missouri; (2)
11 two phases of in-person open houses in Perry County, Missouri; (3) a website dedicated to the
12 Project; (4) a self-paced, self-guided virtual open house with an interactive mapping tool, county
13 level maps, and a comment feature; and (5) other ways to learn about and provide feedback on the
14 Project and connect with the Public Engagement Team. I explain each public engagement
15 opportunity further below.

16 **Q. What were the objectives of the public engagement process?**

17 A. There were several objectives of the public engagement process. The Public
18 Engagement Team sought to introduce the Grand Tower Crossing Project to the public, explain the
19 need for the Project and its benefits, explain the routing, and begin to collect public input on
20 Project's Study Area and Route Corridor. ATXI engaged in public outreach to potentially affected
21 landowners, community representatives and stakeholders, agency stakeholders, and the general
22 public in the Study Area and Route Corridor.

1 **Q. Did ATXI encourage public participation in all of the engagement process**
2 **opportunities?**

3 A. Yes. The intent of the multi-faceted public outreach approach itself is to provide
4 ample opportunities for engagement with the broadest and largest group by accommodating
5 diverse schedules and engagement preferences. ATXI encouraged robust participation by, among
6 other means, providing early notice of the various engagement opportunities through a variety of
7 communication channels, including advertisements in local newspapers, direct notices to
8 stakeholders and landowners within the Study Area, and updates on the Project website, as I
9 explain further below. Also, as the Project crosses the Mississippi River into Jackson County,
10 Illinois, community stakeholders and potentially affected landowners located in Jackson County,
11 Illinois, were invited to the community representative and open house meetings that took place in
12 Perry County, Missouri. My testimony and **Schedule LD-01** document these activities with a
13 focus on participation by stakeholders and landowners in Missouri.

14 A. **Community Representative Forums**

15 **Q. Above you mentioned that ATXI engaged with community representatives and**
16 **stakeholders from Missouri and Illinois as part of the public engagement process for the**
17 **Project. How did ATXI engage with these representatives and stakeholders?**

18 A. ATXI held on January 16, 2025, from 8:00 am to 9:30 am, a Community
19 Representatives Forum ("CRF"). Participants met in-person in Perryville, Missouri, and virtually
20 via Microsoft Teams to discuss the Project. The invitations to and attendance at these meetings by
21 community representatives as well as the presentation used in the CRF are provided in **Schedule**
22 **LD-01, Part 1**, and attached to my testimony.

1 **Q. Please explain how ATXI conducted the CRF.**

2 A. The meeting described above was conducted with the purpose of providing an
3 opportunity for local leaders and agency representatives to meet members of the Project team from
4 ATXI and its partners; learn about the Project's need and benefits; ask questions; provide data for
5 resources, opportunities and sensitivities within the Study Area; and share suggestions for future
6 public engagement opportunities. In total, 14 community representatives, including 8 from
7 Missouri, attended the meeting either virtually or in-person. Missouri community representatives
8 who attended the meeting included Ms. Claire Eubanks of the Missouri PSC as well.

9 At this meeting, attendees were presented with a PowerPoint overview of the Project and
10 an explanation of the interactive map feature on the Project website, followed by a question-and-
11 answer session. In-person attendees alongside Project team facilitators, were given the opportunity
12 to offer their insights into identifying on large tabletop maps any route sensitivities or opportunities
13 they were aware of within their area. Maps that were presented include the Study area, the
14 Missouri portion of the Project, and the Illinois portion of the Project. The routing input collected
15 during this exercise was then summarized and shared by each table's facilitator with the larger
16 group.

17 **Q. How were community representatives identified?**

18 A. Once the Study Area was identified, ATXI and its consultant, HDR, Inc., researched
19 online and made phone calls to develop a list of local, regional, state, and federal agencies and
20 officials who would have interest in the Project. The list of community representatives was
21 compiled into a 50-person contact list that included 24 Perry County and Missouri-related
22 stakeholders with their organizations, titles, phone numbers, email and mailing addresses, as
23 available.

1 **Q. Who was identified as community representatives?**

2 A. The community representatives list included local, state and federal agencies from
3 both Missouri and Illinois; the county clerk in Perry County, Missouri, and Jackson County,
4 Illinois; state and federal elected officials; county, city and township government leaders;
5 environmental organizations; history-related organizations; local energy cooperatives; and more.
6 A designated Missouri Public Service Commission staff member, Ms. Claire Eubanks, was sent
7 the invitation as well. A list of invited community representatives -is included in **Schedule LD-**
8 **01, Part 1.**

9 **Q. How were community representatives invited to the Community**
10 **Representative Forums?**

11 A. The 50 community representatives identified from both Missouri and Illinois were
12 sent invitation letters to the meeting, with 24 of these representatives related to Perry County,
13 Missouri, and Missouri interests. These invitation letters were sent December 23, 2024.

14 **Q. Were there any specific considerations raised by attendees of the Community**
15 **Representative Forums?**

16 A. Yes. Several questions were asked during the question-and-answer portion of the
17 workshops. Most questions were general Project- and construction-related questions, including the
18 regulatory process. One person submitted a comment form. At this meeting ATXI's public
19 engagement team learned that the Frogtown area in Perry County routinely experiences flooding,
20 and most landowners have moved from this area. The team was advised that this flood-prone area
21 was better suited for routing the new transmission line, as fewer landowners would be affected,
22 fewer trees would need to be cleared, and there is perceived to be less impact on the community
23 and the environment. The team was also advised that an open house should take place in the

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1 Altenburg/East Perry area near the recommended area for the Project. The team took this
2 information into consideration for routing the Project and also scheduled a second set of open
3 houses in Altenburg as I discuss later in my testimony.

4 **Q. Did the Public Engagement Team interact with other stakeholders and**
5 **community representatives outside of the Community Representative Forum?**

6 A. Yes. As discussed further below, the public engagement team virtually met with
7 various federal, Missouri and Illinois agencies in advance of the Community Representative
8 Forum. Those meetings are discussed further below in Part IV. Regulatory Agency Coordination.
9 Further, as Mr. Paulek discusses in his testimony, he and Ms. Jennifer Spurlock of the Project team
10 were invited by local officials in Jackson County, Illinois, to present information about the Project
11 in the regular public meetings of the Jackson/Union County Port Authority and the Jackson County
12 Board.

13 **B. In-Person Public Engagement: Phase 1 Perryville Open Houses**

14 **Q. What public meetings did ATXI host for the Grand Tower Crossing Project?**

15 A. ATXI's public outreach efforts included multiple opportunities for the public
16 located within the Project's Study Area to attend an in-person public open house meeting. ATXI
17 held two phases of open houses in Perry County, Missouri, to engage with landowners and other
18 stakeholders as ATXI plans the project and to meet public meeting obligations. The first phase of
19 open houses was hosted on January 16, 2025, at the Perryville Knights of Columbus in Perryville,
20 Missouri. The open house meetings were scheduled as follows: one around midday from 11:00
21 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and one in the evening from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 pm. The second phase of open
22 houses was held on February 25, 2025, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Altenburg, Missouri, with
23 the times of the meetings being the same as for the Perryville open houses.

1 **Q. Who was invited to the Perryville open houses?**

2 A. ATXI sought to invite all potentially affected landowners and other stakeholders by
3 mailing invitation postcards that showed the Study Area map to landowners within the Study Area,
4 as determined by tax records. The Public Engagement Team identified potentially affected
5 landowners via tax parcel information. The Project Team mailed these postcards to a total of about
6 151 landowners and stakeholders in the Project Study area, including about 80 landowners and 24
7 stakeholders within the Missouri portion of the Project Study Area, on December 30, 2024. The
8 Engagement Summary attached as **Schedule LD-01, Part 2**, includes the total number of
9 landowners and stakeholders and the number of Missouri landowners and stakeholders who were
10 mailed this postcard as well as an exemplar postcard. Email invitations were also sent to
11 stakeholders for whom we had email addresses notifying them of the upcoming in-person open
12 houses and online engagement opportunities. **Schedule LD-01, Part 2**, contains examples of all
13 these notifications. In some cases, the U.S. Postal Service returned an invitation as undeliverable.
14 When that happened, if possible, ATXI obtained the correct mailing address, attempted again to
15 send the invitation, and updated the mailing list for future notifications.

16 Additionally, as I explain below, the Public Engagement Team on behalf of ATXI launched
17 a website for the Project on December 20, 2024, at [www.ameren.com/company/ameren-](http://www.ameren.com/company/ameren-transmission/grand-tower-crossing)
18 [transmission/grand-tower-crossing](http://www.ameren.com/company/ameren-transmission/grand-tower-crossing). The site provided notice of the public open house meetings
19 and still today serves as yet another means to inform the public of the many opportunities to engage
20 with ATXI representatives and provide feedback regarding the Project. The team included the
21 Project website address in the mail and newspaper notices of the meetings that were held.

1 **Q. Did ATXI provide any other notice of the Perryville public meetings?**

2 A. Yes. ATXI also published general notice of the public open house meetings in the
3 *Southeast Missourian* and the *Republican Monitor* in Perry County, as well as in the *Southern*
4 *Illinoisian* covering Jackson County, Illinois, for three weeks prior to the meetings. **Schedule LD-**
5 **01, Part 2**, includes copies of the newspaper advertisement, names and dates of publication.
6 Additionally, the Public Engagement Team mailed a letter with information regarding the Project
7 and the various public engagement opportunities available to the county clerks in Perry County,
8 Missouri, and Jackson County, Illinois, as well as to designated staff members of the Missouri
9 Public Service Commission and Illinois Commerce Commission. The letters included a Project
10 overview map. Exemplars of these letters are also included in **Schedule LD-01, Part 2**. Other
11 stakeholders received the postcard notice, but not the letter notice.

12 **Q. Were representatives of the Commission invited to the public meetings?**

13 A. Yes. ATXI sent letters to Commission Staff representatives inviting them to the
14 Perryville public meetings and providing other general information regarding the Project, such as
15 an overview map.

16 **Q. How many people attended the Perryville public open house meetings?**

17 A. A total of about 10 people attended the Perryville open houses, and about 8
18 attendees were from Missouri, according to the sign-in sheets available at each meeting. **Schedule**
19 **LD-01, Part 2**, includes attendance information at each meeting. As attendees were not required
20 to sign in, these estimates of attendance do not include those who chose not to do so.

21 **Q. What was the format of the public open house meetings?**

22 A. The public was offered many ways to participate at the meetings. Attendees also
23 had the opportunity to speak to individual members of the Project Team at various stations, where

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1 information specific to certain Project-related topics was presented. The stations included:
2 Welcome/Registration table, About the Project, Project Need, Energy Reliability, Anticipated
3 Routing Schedule, Project Visualization, Environmental and Agency Coordination, Vegetation
4 Management, Real Estate, and Construction. **Schedule LD-01, Part 2**, includes exemplars of the
5 boards that were presented at the public open houses. Attendees also could view their area of
6 interest along the Route Corridor board as well as on large tabletop aerial maps at the meetings
7 and could provide comments and feedback to the Project Team on those maps. An interactive GIS
8 mapping station was also available to provide meeting attendees an opportunity to further examine
9 their area of interest along the Project route and provide further comments on the Route Corridors
10 and Study Area. The Public Engagement Team presented the same types of information and
11 opportunities to engage at each public open-house meeting and participants could come and go as
12 they pleased during each meeting's two-hour window.

13 **C. In-Person Public Engagement: Phase 2 Altenburg Open Houses**

14 **Q. Above, you stated that a second phase of open houses was held in Altenburg,**
15 **Missouri. Why did ATXI decide to hold a second phase of open houses in Altenburg?**

16 **A.** Based upon feedback from the Project's Community Representative Forum, ATXI
17 determined to hold a second phase of open houses to provide an additional in-person engagement
18 opportunity to the stakeholders and landowners in the Altenburg area of Perry County, Missouri,
19 where the Project was most likely to be routed. The community representatives provided input
20 that the East Perry County Community, where Altenburg is located, has poor digital connectivity,
21 strong community ties in the Project area, and greater accessibility to local residents. Community
22 representatives also indicated that there could be a greater amount of feedback if a second open
23 house were held in East Perry County. The community representatives also offered suggestions of

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1 open house venues to the Project team and venues to place flyers and hard copies of information
2 packets accessible to the public. Further, ATXI updated the Study Area corridors where the Project
3 might be built and wanted to share that with stakeholders and these most likely affected
4 landowners. The second set of open houses was held on February 25, 2025, at Trinity Lutheran
5 Church in Altenburg, Missouri; the two open houses that day were held from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00
6 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

7 **Q. What were the Project objectives of the second phase of public engagement?**

8 **A.** The primary objective was to solicit additional public information to determine an
9 optimal route for the Project. Toward that end, after receiving feedback from stakeholders and
10 landowners on Route Segments during the first phase of the public engagement process, the Project
11 Team used that information to further develop potential segment routes that best minimized
12 impacts on sensitivities and otherwise satisfied the routing criteria (the Preliminary Route
13 Alternatives). The Preliminary Route Alternatives were then put forth for public consideration and
14 feedback during further public outreach.

15 **Q. Who was invited to the Altenburg open houses?**

16 **A.** On February 13, 2025, ATXI invited all potentially affected landowners and
17 stakeholders within the Project Study Area in Missouri and Illinois to the Altenburg open houses.
18 About 133 postcard invitations were sent to landowners and many stakeholders. Approximately
19 82 Missouri landowners and stakeholders within the Study Area were sent the postcards. The
20 Engagement Summary, attached as **Schedule LD-01, Part 2**, includes the total count of
21 landowners and stakeholders, and the number of those in Missouri, who were mailed the postcard
22 invitation, and an exemplar invitation. About 61 stakeholders were sent a letter invitation for the
23 upcoming open house. The Public Engagement Team also mailed a notification letter to the county

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1 clerks in Perry County, Missouri, and Jackson County, Illinois and to designated Staff members of
2 the Missouri Public Service Commission (Ms. Claire Eubanks and Mr. Jim Busch) and Illinois
3 Commerce Commission. The letters included an updated Project overview map. Exemplars of
4 these letters are also included in **Schedule LD-01, Part 3**.

5 Email invitations were also sent to stakeholders for whom we had email addresses
6 notifying them of the upcoming in-person open houses and online engagement opportunities.
7 Missouri Public Service Commission Staff members and the Office of Public Council, through its
8 general email and the email address of Mr. Nathan Williams, were included in our email
9 distribution as well. **Schedule LD-01, Part 3**, contains exemplars of all these notifications. The
10 February open house information was posted on the Project website prior to the meetings, and the
11 interactive map was updated on February 24, 2025, for phase two engagement at
12 www.ameren.com/company/ameren-transmission/grand-tower-crossing. The site still today serves
13 as yet another means to inform the public of the many opportunities to engage with ATXI
14 representatives and provide feedback regarding the Project. The team included the Project website
15 address in the mailed and newspaper notices of the phase 2 meetings.

16 **Q. Did ATXI provide any other notice of the February Altenburg public meeting?**

17 A. Yes. ATXI also published a general notice of the public open house meetings in the
18 *Southeast Missourian* and the *Republican Monitor* in Perry County, Missouri, as well as the
19 *Southern Illinoisan* covering Jackson County, Illinois, prior to the meetings. **Schedule LD-01,**
20 **Part 3**, includes copies of the newspaper advertisement and names and dates of publication. Also,
21 given the lack of reliable broadband and wireless networks in the area, ATXI arranged for physical
22 flyers to be posted at several locations in and around Altenburg. These locations are John's
23 Pharmacy, Old Bank Coffee Shop, Lutheran Heritage Center and Museum, Peoples Bank of

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1 Altenburg, River Hill Grocery & Deli, and Gas-A-Mat. A copy of the flyer is included in **Schedule**
2 **LD-01, Part 3**.

3 **Q. How many people attended the Altenburg public open house meetings?**

4 A. In total, approximately 21 individuals attended the two Altenburg open house
5 meetings, according to the sign-in sheets available at each meeting. About 20 of them were
6 landowners or stakeholders in Missouri, including PSC Staff member Donald Fontana. **Schedule**
7 **LD-01, Part 3**, includes attendance figures for each meeting. Because some attendees chose not
8 to sign in, these estimates of attendance are conservative.

9 **Q. What was the format of the Altenburg public open house meetings?**

10 A. The public open house meetings in Altenburg generally followed the same format
11 as the Perryville open house meetings in January. The public was offered many ways to participate
12 at the meetings. Attendees also had the opportunity to speak to individual members of the Public
13 Engagement Team at various stations, where information specific to certain Project-related topics
14 was presented. The team used the same boards in Perryville and Altenburg with one exception
15 that is posted in **Schedule LD-01, Part 3**. Attendees also could view their area of interest along
16 Route Corridor as displayed on a board as well as on large tabletop aerial maps and could provide
17 comments and feedback to the Project Team on those maps. An interactive GIS mapping station
18 was also available to provide meeting attendees an opportunity to further examine their area of
19 interest along the Project route. The Public Engagement Team presented the same types of
20 information and opportunities to engage at each of the two public open house meetings, and
21 participants could come and go as they pleased during each meeting's two-hour window.

22 **Q. What input was received from the Perryville and Altenburg public meeting**
23 **attendees?**

1 A. The Public Engagement Team received 3 completed comment forms and 15
2 tabletop map comments from attendees at the Perryville and Altenburg open houses. Common
3 topics of open house public comments included routing feedback, such as identifying flood-prone
4 areas, karsts, and ash groves.

5 **Q. Did public input inform the routing process?**

6 A. Yes. The input was used as part of the integrated public outreach and routing
7 process, as further described in the direct testimony of ATXI witness Mr. Dan Schmidt. Comments
8 from landowners and stakeholders received at the Perryville and Altenburg meetings and through
9 other communications around that time were collected, reviewed, and are taken into consideration
10 in developing the proposed route.

11 **D. Online Public Engagement: Program Website**

12 **Q. You mentioned that ATXI established a website for the Grand Tower Crossing**
13 **Project. When did that site go live?**

14 A. The dedicated website for the Project went live on December 20, 2024. The web
15 address is www.ameren.com/company/ameren-transmission/grand-tower-crossing.

16 **Q. Is the site still active today?**

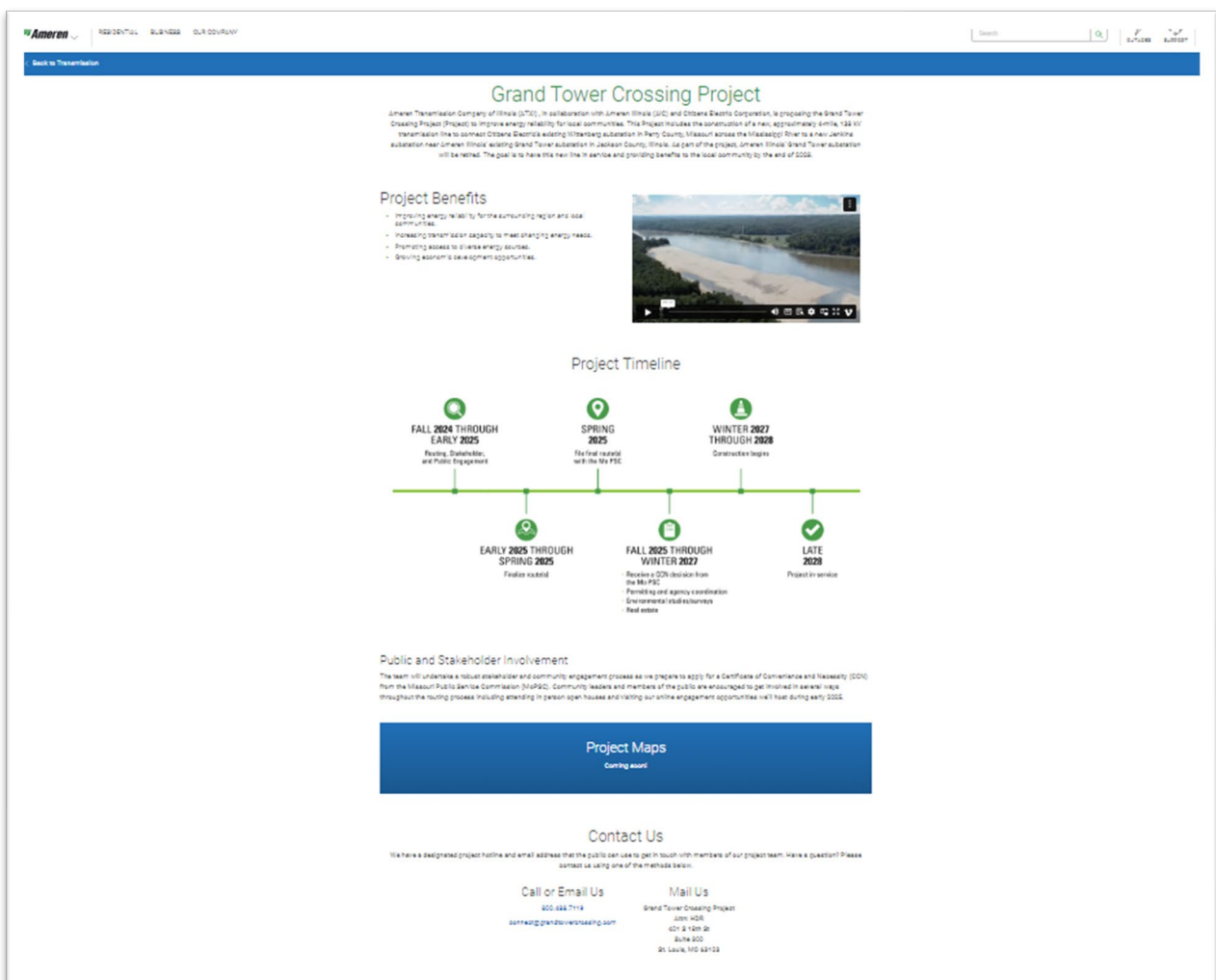
17 A. Yes. ATXI intends to maintain the website until construction of the Project is
18 complete, which is estimated to be late 2028.

19 **Q. What information was available on the website during the public engagement**
20 **process?**

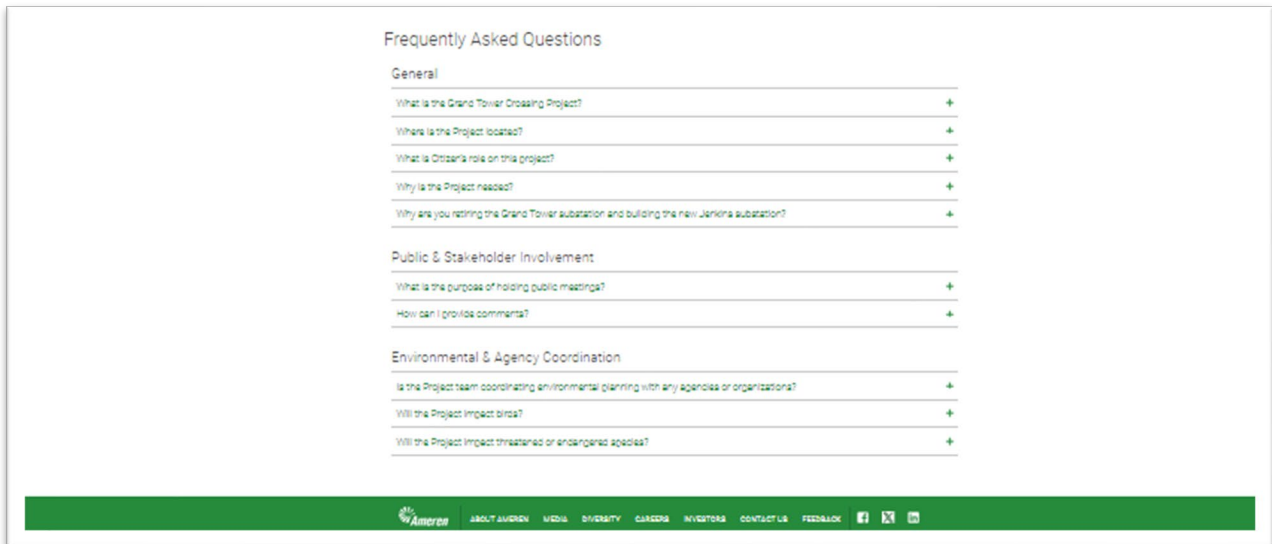
21 A. The Project website provided general information about the Project, including
22 maps, graphics, explanatory text of the public involvement process, and milestones throughout the
23 implementation of the Project. The Project website includes a computer-generated visual

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simulation of the river crossing as we recognize that the river is a high-view shed area and want the public to have an idea of what it could look like. The website allows members of the public to submit a direct comment to the Public Engagement Team and join the Project email or mailing list through digital submission forms. Additionally, the website provides the team's contact information, to provide community members and landowners the opportunity to discuss the Project through a hotline and email correspondence. And, as I've explained, it provided notice of both sets of public open house meetings as well as a link to the self-guided virtual site and interactive mapping tool, which I explain below. Below are screenshots of the Project website:



1



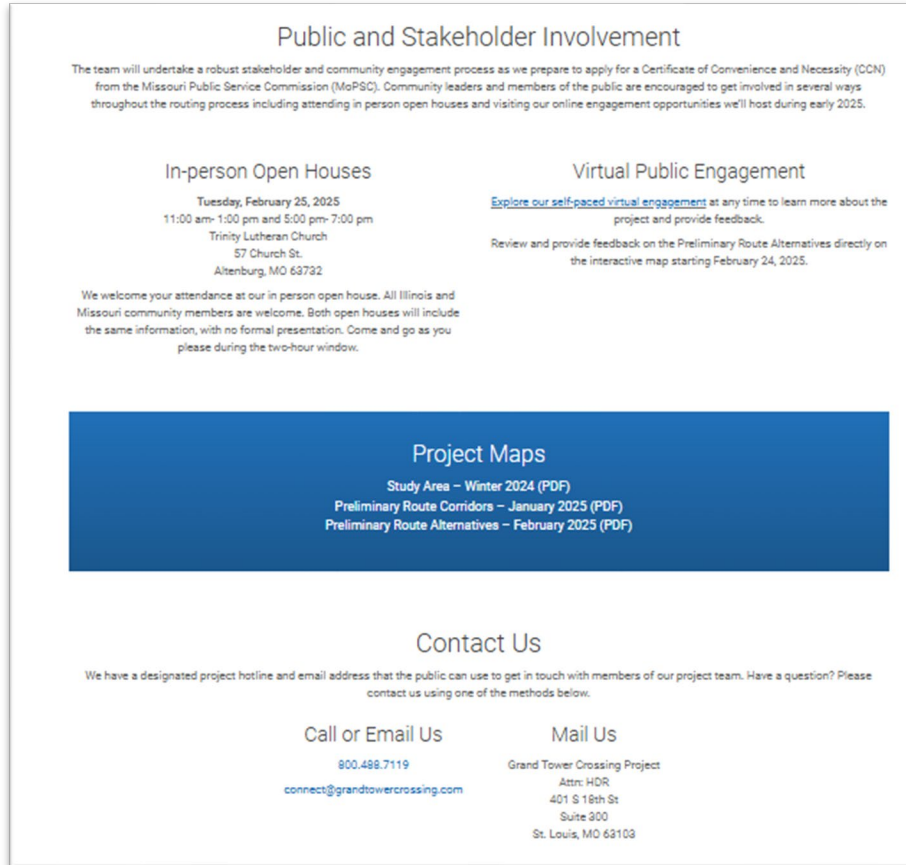
2

3

4 **Q. Were there any updates to the Project website as the Public Engagement Team**
5 **prepared for the phase 2 set of open houses in Altenburg?**

6 **A.** Yes. The Project website was updated in advance to provide information for the
7 Altenburg open houses that took place on February 25, 2025. Further, on February 24, 2025, to
8 coincide with the second phase of open houses in Altenburg, an updated map of the refined Route
9 Corridor was posted for the public to consider. The updated map incorporated feedback from the
10 first phase of public engagement including the open houses in Perryville and other sources.
11 Screenshots of the updated webpage and Project maps are below:

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The flyer is titled "Public and Stakeholder Involvement" and is divided into several sections. At the top, it states that the team will undertake a robust stakeholder and community engagement process as they prepare to apply for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) from the Missouri Public Service Commission (MoPSC). It encourages community leaders and members of the public to get involved in several ways throughout the routing process, including attending in-person open houses and visiting online engagement opportunities. The flyer is organized into two main columns. The left column is titled "In-person Open Houses" and provides details for a Tuesday, February 25, 2025, event from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, 57 Church St., Altenburg, MO 63732. It also includes a welcoming message for all Illinois and Missouri community members. The right column is titled "Virtual Public Engagement" and includes a link to explore self-paced virtual engagement and a request for feedback on Preliminary Route Alternatives starting February 24, 2025. Below these columns is a blue box titled "Project Maps" which lists three PDFs: "Study Area - Winter 2024 (PDF)", "Preliminary Route Corridors - January 2025 (PDF)", and "Preliminary Route Alternatives - February 2025 (PDF)". At the bottom, a "Contact Us" section provides a designated project hotline and email address, along with contact information for the Grand Tower Crossing Project, including the address: 401 S 18th St, Suite 300, St. Louis, MO 63103.

Public and Stakeholder Involvement

The team will undertake a robust stakeholder and community engagement process as we prepare to apply for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) from the Missouri Public Service Commission (MoPSC). Community leaders and members of the public are encouraged to get involved in several ways throughout the routing process including attending in person open houses and visiting our online engagement opportunities we'll host during early 2025.

In-person Open Houses

Tuesday, February 25, 2025
11:00 am- 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm- 7:00 pm
Trinity Lutheran Church
57 Church St.
Altenburg, MO 63732

We welcome your attendance at our in person open house. All Illinois and Missouri community members are welcome. Both open houses will include the same information, with no formal presentation. Come and go as you please during the two-hour window.

Virtual Public Engagement

[Explore our self-paced virtual engagement](#) at any time to learn more about the project and provide feedback.

Review and provide feedback on the Preliminary Route Alternatives directly on the interactive map starting February 24, 2025.

Project Maps

Study Area - Winter 2024 (PDF)
Preliminary Route Corridors - January 2025 (PDF)
Preliminary Route Alternatives - February 2025 (PDF)

Contact Us

We have a designated project hotline and email address that the public can use to get in touch with members of our project team. Have a question? Please contact us using one of the methods below.

Call or Email Us

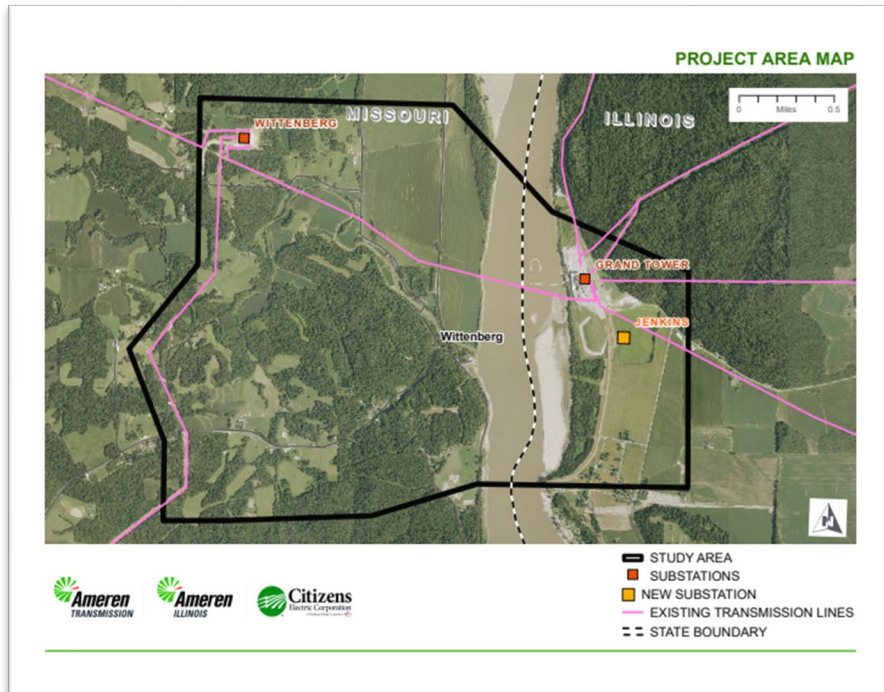
900.488.7119
connect@grandtowercrossing.com

Mail Us

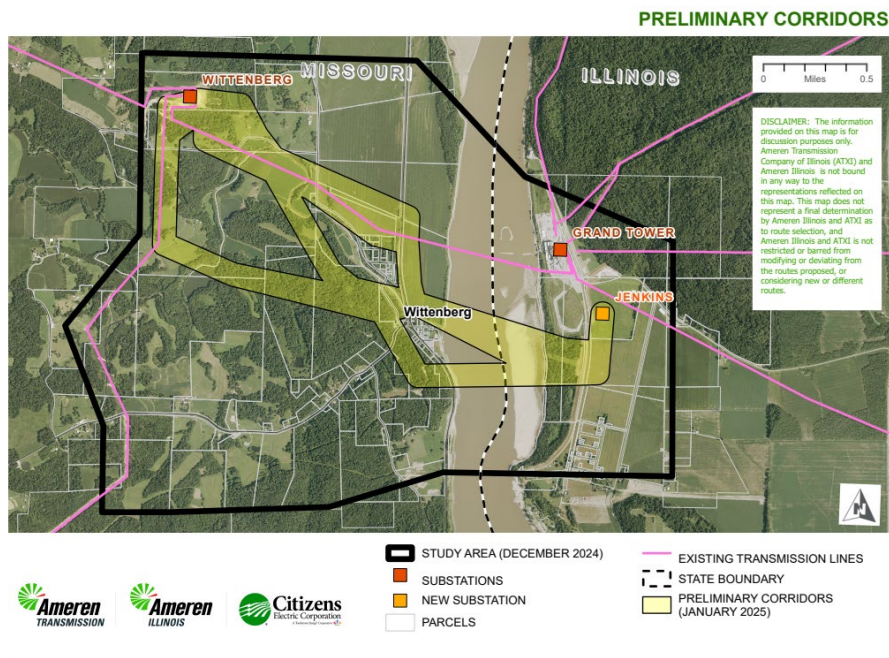
Grand Tower Crossing Project
Attn: HDR
401 S 18th St
Suite 300
St. Louis, MO 63103

- 1
- 2 The Project area maps posted for phase 2 public engagement are shown below. These maps
- 3 utilize satellite imagery and include (1) a map of the Study Area, (2) a map of Preliminary Route
- 4 Corridors, and (3) a map of Preliminary Route Alternatives.

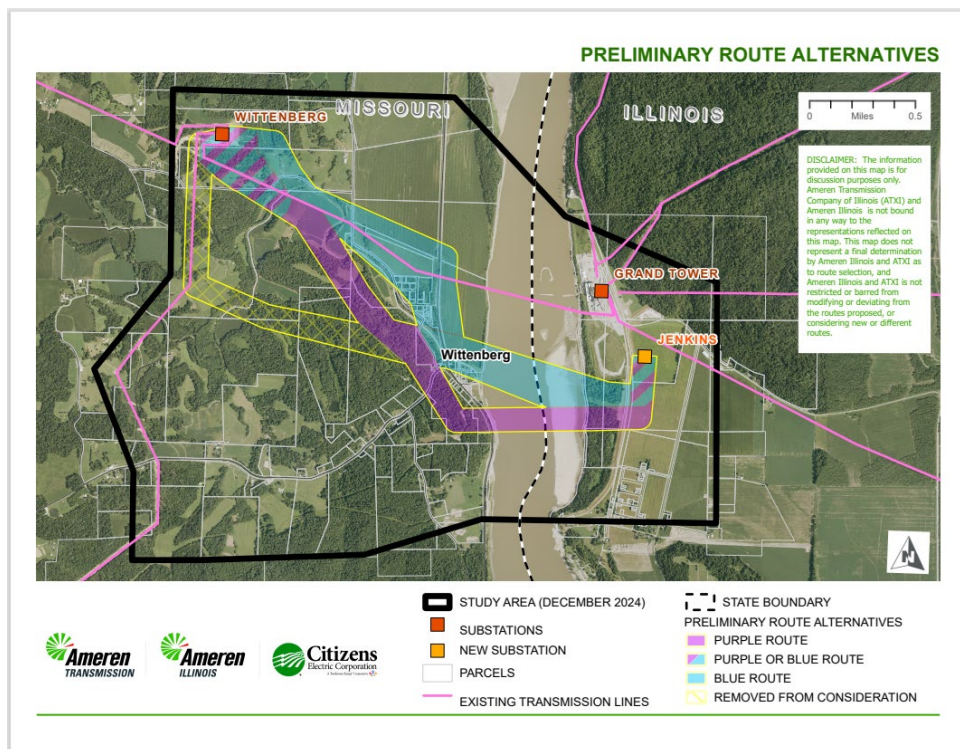
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1



2



1
2 **Q. Did ATXI notify the public that the website was available?**

3 A. Yes. As discussed above, the Project website address was included in all mailings
4 and newspaper notifications regarding the Project so that landowners could continue to, via the
5 website, review the preliminary route alternatives and provide comments at their convenience on
6 a desktop computer, tablet, or mobile smartphone. The Project maps on the website shown above
7 use satellite imagery to depict the preliminary route alternatives and identifies the route corridor
8 that was removed from consideration after Phase 1 feedback.

9 **Q. Did the Public Engagement Team track visits to the Project website?**

10 A. Yes. The site's main page visits were tracked during phase 1 public engagement
11 (December 20, 2024, to February 23, 2025) and phase 2 (February 24, 2025, to April 11, 2025)
12 public engagement periods. During phase 1, the website had over 560 page views from about 337
13 unique visitors. During phase 2, the website had over 170 page views from about 107 unique

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1 visitors. While our data here includes page views and unique visitors through April 11, 2025, the
2 public may continue to visit the Project website, including the interactive map, as discussed above,
3 and communicate to the Public Engagement Team through the various channels provided.

4 **Q. What engagement via the Program website was observed?**

5 A. In addition to the unique users and page views cited above, the Project website
6 experienced fewer than 10 page views per day in phase 1, with the exception of 2 spikes in traffic.
7 Around January 13, 2025, when the virtual open house also launched and just before the first in-
8 person open houses, visits spiked to nearly 70 visits. The web site experienced a similar spike of
9 about 70 visits around February 20, 2025, just before the phase 2 in person open houses.

10 Early in the phase 2 public engagement period, around February 24, just before the phase
11 2 in-person open houses, the Project website experienced nearly 20 visitors. After the phase 2
12 Altenburg open houses, the website experienced fewer than 10 visits per day. Metrics of online
13 engagement are presented in **Schedule LD-01, Part 4.**

14 **E. Online Public Engagement: Virtual Open House**

15 **Q. What was the self-guided virtual open house and interactive map engagement**
16 **opportunity during ATXI's engagement process?**

17 A. The Public Engagement Team offered a self-paced, self-guided, virtual open house
18 that provided the same information made available at the in-person public open house meetings to
19 those members of the public who were unable to attend an in-person meeting or who preferred the
20 convenience of an at-home virtual experience. The virtual open house became available via a link
21 on the Project website as of January 13, 2025, and remains active today. The virtual open house
22 was updated on February 24, 2025, to reflect newly refined Route Corridors and Preliminary Route
23 Alternatives for the Project and to coincide with the phase 2 open houses in Altenburg. Metrics of

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1 virtual open house engagement, and screenshots of the website and the interactive map with its
2 feedback mechanisms are provided in **Schedule LD-01, Part 4**. The public may continue to use
3 the interactive map feature and provide feedback to the Project Team.

4 **Q. Why did ATXI offer a virtual engagement opportunity in addition to in-person**
5 **meetings?**

6 A. Our experience engaging the public regarding transmission projects during the
7 pandemic taught us that virtual engagement opportunities were not only possible but also preferred
8 by some landowners because of the convenience of having a GIS-based interactive mapping tool
9 through their digital devices. Virtual engagement also allows community members to effectively
10 go through the open house information on their own schedule, and to backtrack or move forward
11 through the information as they wish. Thus, virtual engagement opportunities for the Project
12 offered ATXI yet another channel to solicit and receive public input regarding the Project and
13 ensure even more robust public participation, which only further enhanced the Projects' routing
14 analysis.

15 **Q. When was the virtual open house launched?**

16 A. The self-paced, virtual open house for the Grand Tower Crossing Project launched
17 on January 13, 2025. We collected data regarding public interactions via the virtual open house
18 through April 11, 2025, for purposes of this filing.

19 **Q. How did the virtual open house function during the phase 1 (January 13, 2025,**
20 **to February 23, 2025) and phase 2 (February 24, 2025, to April 11, 2025) public comment**
21 **periods?**

22 A. The virtual open house provided visitors the opportunity to step through a series of
23 informational sections. Those sections included a Project Overview, Benefits and Schedule,

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1 Energy Reliability, Anticipated Structure Information and Project Visualization, Environmental
2 and Agency Coordination, Vegetation Management, Real Estate, and Construction. The interactive
3 map also provided visitors the additional ability to leave detailed comments, with pins on a map,
4 concerning perceived opportunities and sensitivities along the Project's Route Corridor
5 screenshots that illustrate the interactive GIS map and comment feature that were available through
6 the virtual open house are posted in **Schedule LD-01, Part 4**.

7 **Q. Did the Public Engagement Team notify the public that the virtual open house**
8 **was available?**

9 A. Yes. Again, the Project website address was included in all mailings and newspaper
10 notifications regarding the Project. The virtual open house was available via a link on the Project
11 website and remains available today. In addition, community members were encouraged at the
12 open houses to use the site at their convenience to provide comments during the comment period.

13 **Q. Did the Public Engagement Team track virtual open house users during the**
14 **public engagement process?**

15 A. Yes. According to the Public Engagement Team's online engagement statistics
16 report, there were about 205 users on the virtual site during phase 1 engagement (January 13, 2025,
17 to February 23, 2025) and 86 users during phase 2 engagement (February 24, 2025, to April 11,
18 2025). Interestingly, on the launch date, there were about 35 users. Daily visits were generally
19 low, below 20 per day, throughout most of the phase 1 public engagement period, until just before
20 the February 24 open houses, when visits spiked to nearly 100 visitors. Thereafter, daily visits
21 dropped and only a few times exceeded 5 visits per day.

1 **Q. Did the Public Engagement Team track virtual open house comments during**
2 **that period?**

3 A. Yes. ATXI received 7 comments during phase 1 public engagement and 1 comment
4 during phase 2 public engagement from the virtual open house comment option.

5 **Q. How would you describe the comments received via the virtual open house?**

6 A. The comments received via the virtual open house were related to identifying
7 floodplains, minimizing impact on forest habitats, and minimizing potential erosion.

8 **Q. Did those comments inform the routing process?**

9 A. Yes. Again, they were considered as part of the public engagement and routing
10 processes that I described above. The route selection process is further described in the direct
11 testimony of ATXI witness Mr. Dan Schmidt.

12 **F. Other Public Engagement Opportunities**

13 **Q. What other engagement opportunities did ATXI offer the public during its**
14 **public engagement process?**

15 A. There were several. In addition to the engagement opportunities that I described
16 above, alternative means of public participation were encouraged. For example, ATXI invited the
17 public to provide input on the Projects by calling a dedicated hotline, 1.800.488.7119, emailing
18 the Public Engagement Team at connect@grandtowercrossing.com, or mailing the team at Grand
19 Tower Crossing Project, Attn: HDR, 401 S 18th St, Suite 300, St. Louis, MO 63103. The team
20 also left information packets about the Project at locations in Perry County such as the Lutheran
21 Heritage Museum and Citizens Electric Cooperative offices for interested community members to
22 pick up and examine.

1 **Q. What measures of public engagement did ATXI receive from these channels?**

2 A. The Public Engagement Team received one hotline call, four emails, and no mailed-
3 in public comments during phase 1 of the public engagement process. During phase 2 of public
4 engagement, the Team received no hotline calls, one email, and no mailed-in public comments.
5 These data are presented in **Schedule LD-01, Part 4**. While the data provided in my testimony is
6 limited to that received through April 11, 2025, the Project website remains available, and the
7 public may continue to provide comments through these channels that we regularly monitor.

8 **Q. What sorts of comments were received via these channels?**

9 A. Along with general information inquiries, common comment categories during the
10 public engagement included energy reliability and routing concerns such as forested areas and
11 floodplains.

12 **Q. Did those comments help inform the routing process?**

13 A. Yes. Again, they were considered as part of the public engagement and routing
14 processes that I described above.

15 **G. Notice to Affected Landowners in Missouri**

16 **Q. Will any landowners in Missouri be directly affected by the Grand Tower**
17 **Project?**

18 A. Based on the Final Proposed Route, ATXI has identified the landowners in Missouri
19 (as well as those in Illinois) who will be directly affected by the Project, as I understand that term.¹

¹ It is my understanding that, under Commission Rule 4240-20.045(6)(K)(1), “land is directly affected if a permanent easement or other permanent property interest would be obtained over all or any portion of the land or if the land contains a habitable structure that would be within three hundred (300) feet of the centerline of an electric transmission line.”

1 **Q. Has ATXI provided notice of its application to these Missouri landowners?**

2 A. Yes. ATXI has provided notice of its application to directly affected Missouri
3 landowners as required by the Commission's Rules as follows: landowners who received notice of
4 the application include all owners of land along the Final Proposed Route, as determined by the
5 records of the county assessors' office in Perry County as of April 22, 2025, who were owners of
6 land within at least 600 feet of the centerline of the electric transmission line for the Proposed
7 Route, as reflected by the Notification Corridor for the Proposed Route shown in **Appendix E** to
8 the Application. ATXI confirmed landowner information (e.g., parcel identification, landowner
9 name, and mailing data) through communications with and data obtained from the Perry County
10 Assessors' Office during April 2025. The testimony of ATXI witness Jennifer Spurlock also
11 contains information regarding ATXI's efforts in providing notice to these landowners.

12 The list of the directly affected Missouri landowners receiving the notice letter are
13 identified in **Schedule JS-03 (Confidential)**, an attachment to the direct testimony of ATXI
14 witness Jennifer Spurlock.² ATXI sent a notice letter, attached to my testimony as **Schedule LD-**
15 **02**, this notice to a total of 12 landowners, who own a total of 20 distinct parcels in Missouri.
16 Additionally, after filing this Application, ATXI will send to all landowners and stakeholders in
17 the Study Area a postcard notification of the filing depicting the Preferred Route.

18 **Q. In File No. EA-2024-0302, Commission Staff, ATXI, and the other parties**
19 **negotiated recommendations for public engagement efforts that would apply to future**
20 **transmission line projects in Missouri. What were those recommendations?**

² The list is also attached to the Application as **Appendix E (Confidential)**.

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1 A. According to Appendix A of the Joint Status Report filed by ATXI on behalf of
2 itself, Staff, and other parties to that docket on March 7, 2025, the public engagement requirements
3 for all future transmission projects in Missouri for which ATXI requests a CCN must address the
4 following condition:

5 Condition 14: "ATXI shall, for all future transmission line projects in Missouri
6 which require a CCN and also require a public meeting pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-
7 20.045(K)(3), develop and maintain, using best efforts, route maps on its website(s)
8 showing preferred and alternative routes that are known at that time and still under
9 active consideration by the ATXI, as well as any related study areas. These maps
10 shall include satellite imagery in sufficient detail for affected landowners to locate
11 their property. These maps shall be maintained from at least the date of any public
12 meeting(s) held, when required, and shall display preferred and known alternative
13 routes proposed in its application or discussed in its written testimony from the date
14 an application is filed through the effective date of the Commission's Report and
15 Order ruling on the subject CCN application (CCN Order) or the date ATXI
16 discontinues development of the project, whichever occurs first. If public meetings
17 are not required to be held, ATXI shall post maps beginning on the date it provides
18 notice of the application to affected landowners. This condition shall be applied to
19 all ATXI applications for a CCN filed after the Commission grants a CCN in this
20 proceeding, should be considered independently, and any deficiencies related to this
21 condition should not, on its own, affect the validity of a CCN granted in this
22 proceeding.

23
24 **Q. Has ATXI complied with this recommendation for this Project?**

25 A. Yes. For this Project, the ATXI website displays a map of the Study Area
26 outlined and shaded areas of the corridor under consideration for the Project. The corridor
27 under consideration narrowed after the feedback from the Perryville open houses, and the
28 refined corridor for the Project was posted on the website for the Altenburg open houses.
29 As of the filing date of this Application, the website reflects the final proposed route for
30 which ATXI is seeking a certificate. The satellite image maps which reflect the Study Area,
31 Preliminary Route Corridors, and Preliminary Route Alternatives also remain posted at the

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1 website. The interactive map remains posted as well, with the routes no longer under
2 consideration visually dimmed.

3 **Q. Were there other conditions that ATXI must meet?**

4 A. Yes. There are two additional conditions:

5 Condition 15: ATXI shall, for all projects referenced in Condition 14, include
6 instructions for accessing the website and maps referenced in Condition 14 on all
7 required notifications sent to affected landowners. This condition shall be applied
8 to all ATXI applications for a CCN filed after the Commission grants a CCN in this
9 proceeding, should be considered independently, and any deficiencies related to this
10 condition should not, on its own, affect the validity of a CCN granted in this
11 proceeding.
12

13 Condition 16: ATXI shall, for all projects referenced in Conditions 14 and 15,
14 refresh its data used to comply with 20 CSR 4240-20.045(6)(K)1 that identifies the
15 owners of land directly affected by the requested certificate, including the preferred
16 route and any known alternative route, and entitled to receive notice of its
17 application. The refresh of the data shall be conducted within 90 days after filing
18 an application for a CCN to confirm the identified parcels and owners of land
19 directly affected by the requested certificate as of the date notice of the application
20 was issued pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-20.045(6)(K)(1) and (2). If such refresh
21 identifies a person entitled to receive notice of the application to whom ATXI did
22 not send such notice, ATXI shall provide a notice to such person(s) in accordance
23 with 20 CSR 4240-20.045(6)(K)(4). This condition shall be applied to all ATXI
24 applications for a CCN filed after the Commission grants a CCN in this proceeding,
25 should be considered independently, and any deficiencies related to this condition
26 should not, on its own, affect the validity of a CCN granted in this proceeding.
27

28 **Q. Has ATXI complied with these conditions for this Project?**

29 A. Yes. Regarding Condition 15, all notifications regarding the Grand Tower Crossing
30 Project contain information regarding the website and maps posted at the website, as well as the
31 virtual open house and interactive map, as required by this condition. To comply with Condition
32 16, ATXI has obtained up to date landowner information as of April 22, 2025, to provide notice of
33 filing, as discussed above. ATXI will refresh this information within 90 days of this filing to ensure
34 accuracy of landowner information for landowners affected by this Project. In accordance with

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1 Condition 16, ATXI will provide notice to any landowner who was inadvertently omitted from the
2 notice because of inaccurate or outdated ownership information should that occur.

3 **Q. Each of these conditions explicitly state that they will apply to all ATXI**
4 **applications for a CCN filed after the Commission grants a CCN in File No. EA-2024-0302.**
5 **Has the Commission granted a CCN in that matter?**

6 A. No. That CCN application is still pending before the Commission. ATXI has
7 adopted the practices for this CCN application to voluntarily comply with both the spirit and the
8 letter of the recommendations.

9
10 **IV. REGULATORY AGENCY COORDINATION**

11 **Q. Please summarize the ATXI's regulatory approval and agency coordination**
12 **efforts.**

13 A. Virtual agency coordination meetings were offered on January 7 and 8, 2025, to
14 maximize agency participation and input. Missouri-related agency representatives were also
15 invited to attend the February in-person public open house meetings in Altenburg. Six of 30 invited
16 agency representatives attended the January 7th virtual meeting. The January 8 virtual meeting
17 was also attended by six agency representatives. **Schedule LD-01, Part 5**, includes an exemplar
18 copy of the meeting invitations and presentation slides. The January 7 and 8, 2025, meetings
19 included routing information for the benefit of state and federal agency representatives. As the
20 Project crosses the Mississippi River and terminates in Jackson County, Illinois, representatives of
21 relevant Illinois agencies were included in these meetings as well. **Schedule LD-01, Part 5**
22 includes a list of agency representatives invited to those meetings and the number of attendees for
23 each agency at each meeting. Early in the Project's planning, on September 6, 2024, the Project

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1 team held a foundational meeting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to discuss the logistics
2 and permits required for the Mississippi River Crossing.

3 **Q. Is further coordination required?**

4 A. Yes. ATXI will continue coordination with the Missouri Department of Natural
5 Resources ("MoDNR"), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("USFWS"), U.S. Army Corps of
6 Engineers ("USACE"), State Historic Preservation Office ("SHPO"), Missouri Department of
7 Transportation ("MoDOT"), and other agencies if and to the extent required.

8 **V. CONCLUSION**

9 **Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?**

10 A. Yes.