

Before the Public Service Commission

State of Missouri

Transcript of Proceedings

Local Public Hearing

In the Matter of the Application File No.
of Ameren Transmission Company of EA-2025-0087
Illinois of a Certificate of
Convenience and Necessity under
Section 393.170.1, RSMo, Relating
to Transmission Investments in
North Central Missouri

Moderated by John Clark
Tuesday, April 22, 2025
7:25 p.m.

Milan Community Center
205 North Market Street
Milan, MO 63556

Reported by: Kimberly Bartlett
JOB NO: 7334516

A P P E A R A N C E S

List of Attendees:

John Mitchell, Presider/Commissioner

John Clark, Regulatory Law Judge

Nathan Williams, Chief Deputy Public Counsel

Travis Pringle, Chief Deputy Counsel

Andrea Hansen, Missouri Public Service Commission

Jason Kumar, Ameren Counsel

Carmen Fosco, Ameren Counsel

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. CLARK: We'll go on the record now.
3 Good evening. It's April 22nd of 2025, and the
4 current time is 7:25 p.m.

5 Now, the question-and-answer portion of
6 this public hearing just ended. If you had questions
7 about this transmission case, I hope you were able to
8 get those answered.

9 The Missouri Public Service Commission
10 has set aside this time today for a local public
11 hearing in file number ER-2025-0087 [sic], which is
12 captioned as in the matter of the application of
13 Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois for a
14 certificate of convenience and necessity under section
15 393.170.1 of the revised statutes of Missouri relating
16 to transmission investments in North Central Missouri.

17 And while I believe they covered this
18 in the Q and A -- but I don't know, so I wasn't
19 here -- a certificate of convenience and necessity is
20 a grant of authority from the commission and for
21 certain kinds of projects where utilities want to buy
22 something, build something, manage, or operate
23 something, they have to get a certificate from the
24 commission to do so.

25 My name's John Clark. I'm the

1 regulatory law judge presiding over this hearing this
2 evening. The Missouri Public Service Commission
3 regulates the rates -- pardon me -- regulates the
4 rates of investor-owned utilities companies in
5 Missouri to ensure that those rates are just and
6 reasonable.

7 The commission also regulates the
8 quality of service and the safety of operations of
9 investor-owned utilities. Now, the commission is made
10 up of five commissioners: the chair of the commission,
11 Kayla Hahn; and Commissioners Maida Coleman, Glen
12 Kolkmeier, and John Mitchell. And one commission seat
13 is vacant right now.

14 The commissioners are appointed by the
15 governor to a fixed term to be confirmed by the
16 Senate. The commissioners employ a staff of
17 engineers, accountants, attorneys, financial analysts,
18 and other specialists in the fields of utility
19 regulation.

20 With me today, to my left, is
21 Commissioner Mitchell and the other commissioners are
22 listening online.

23 Commissioner, would you like to make an
24 opening remark?

25 MR. MITCHELL: I would. And thank you,

1 Judge.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can't hear
3 you.

4 MR. MITCHELL: Is that better?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

6 MR. MITCHELL: No? Better?

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Better.

8 MR. MITCHELL: Good evening. My name
9 is John Mitchell. I am a commissioner with the
10 Missouri Public Service Commission. And on behalf of
11 Chairwoman Hahn, Commissioner Coleman, and
12 Commissioner Kolkmeyer, we would like to thank you for
13 coming out tonight and sharing your opinions and
14 thoughts on this matter.

15 We -- we recognize that this is a very
16 important topic to you. It's also a very important
17 topic to us. And tonight's proceeding is important
18 because this is the only time that the commission
19 really gets a chance to hear directly from you.

20 So your thoughts and your feelings on
21 this matter are important to us. And before we get
22 started, I -- I want to assure you that your comments
23 and thoughts are taken seriously. They'll become part
24 of the public record and each of the commissioners
25 will study that record before making any decision on

1 this matter.

2 So again, I thank you for being here
3 and look forward to hearing your comments.

4 MR. CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner
5 Mitchell.

6 Now, as you can see in front of me,
7 there's a court reporter here. The court reporter is
8 transcribing everything that's said in this portion of
9 the hearing so that it can be reviewed later as
10 necessary and so that we have a record.

11 So because everything's being taken
12 down, when you come up to offer your comments at the
13 mic, please when I ask you to state your name, please
14 state your name slowly and spell it slowly so it
15 doesn't get lost. And if you talk too quickly, it may
16 not transcribe well.

17 So I may stop you and slow you down if
18 you're talking too fast. I've seen people try to cram
19 in an awful lot in a few minutes. I'm going to start
20 by asking Counsel for the parties to enter their
21 appearance for the record, starting with Ameren
22 Transmission Company of Illinois.

23 MR. FOSCO: Thank you, Your Honor.
24 Appearing on behalf of Ameren Transmission Company of
25 Illinois, Carmen Fosco with Whitt Sturtevant LLP, and

1 Jason Kumar with Ameren Services Company. Our contact
2 information is of record on EFIS.

3 MR. CLARK: Thank you. On behalf of
4 the commission staff?

5 MS. HANSEN: Andrea Hansen, attorney
6 with staff counsel's office, also Travis Pringle with
7 staff counsel's office. We also have provided the
8 court reporter with our work address.

9 MR. CLARK: Thank you. On behalf of
10 the office of public counsel?

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Nathan Williams
12 appearing on behalf of the office of public counsel
13 and the Public. I provided my information to the
14 court reporter.

15 MR. CLARK: Thank you. Are there any
16 interveners present with counsel or intervening
17 counsel present? I see none.

18 Now, I have three sheets of paper. An
19 awful lot of people signed up to speak tonight. For
20 those who would like to provide comments today, I'm
21 going to call the names in the order they're on the
22 sheet.

23 At that time, when I call your name,
24 please come down to the podium or microphone, stand
25 there, I'll place you under oath and ask you to state

1 and spell your name, and then you can offer your
2 comments to the commission.

3 If your comments -- because we have a
4 lot of people here and a lot of people want to speak
5 and the commission wants to take as many different
6 kinds of comments as possible, if your concerns or
7 your comments are the same as somebody who has
8 previously spoke, if you just want to let me know
9 that, that might leave more room for more people to
10 testify within the allotted timeframe.

11 As I said, because there are all lot of
12 people and the commission wants to hear public
13 comments from everyone who would like to address the
14 commission, I'm going to limit comments to three
15 minutes.

16 And the way we'll do that is, I will
17 let you know when you have about a minute left. And
18 at that point, if you can finish your thoughts up, I
19 would appreciate it. And then I'll let you know at
20 three minutes that your time to speak is over.

21 Also, please remain at the podium for a
22 brief second after you've given your remarks because
23 there's a possibility that one of the commissioners or
24 myself may have a question for you. The attorneys for
25 the various parties may also have questions for you.

1 Commissioners, if you have a question,
2 feel free to just go ahead and ask it at any time. If
3 any of the attorneys for the parties would like to ask
4 a question, please get my attention, and I will
5 recognize you and allow you to ask your question;
6 okay?

7 Now, the commission is not going to be
8 able to answer your questions tonight. That's what
9 the question-and-answer portion of the hearing was
10 for, was to answer your questions. And that's because
11 the commission has to remain impartial.

12 This is a pending case before the
13 commission, and they have to remain impartial until
14 evidence is presented at the evidentiary hearing. If
15 you still have questions, please speak to
16 representatives of the company, the commission staff,
17 or the office of the public counsel.

18 Also, I would ask that everybody please
19 be polite and courteous to everyone speaking tonight.
20 I know that emotions can run high at these things. I
21 would ask that you treat each other as you would like
22 to be treated.

23 And with that in mind, I'll call the
24 first name. If I butcher your name, please let me
25 know. If I have a hard time reading it, I will let

1 you know. Michael and Tanda Abernathy?

2 We'll get that lowered. And,
3 Ms. Abernathy, would you state and spell your name for
4 the record?

5 MS. ABERNATHY: My name is Tanda
6 Abernathy, T-A-N-D-A, A-B-E-R-N-A-T-H-Y. And I'm from
7 Sullivan County and my statement is, I don't think
8 it's in our best --

9 MR. CLARK: Hold on just a second. Can
10 I place you under oath?

11 MS. ABERNATHY: Oh, sure.

12 MR. CLARK: Do you solemnly swear or
13 affirm that the comments that you're about to offer to
14 the commission are the truth?

15 MS. ABERNATHY: Yes, I do.

16 MR. CLARK: Please go ahead.

17 MS. ABERNATHY: I believe -- my husband
18 and I believe that this is not in our best interest
19 for it to come through our county and our community,
20 and we would like to see it squashed. And that's all
21 I have to say.

22 MR. CLARK: Okay. Ms. Abernathy, thank
23 you for your comments.

24 And likewise, if you've changed your
25 mind and decided you don't want to speak, just let me

1 know when I call your name.

2 Steven Pierson? Mr. Pierson, good
3 evening.

4 MR. PIERSON: Good evening. This is
5 Steven Pierson.

6 MR. CLARK: Would you please state and
7 spell your name for the record?

8 MR. PIERSON: It's Steven with a V-E-N,
9 Pierson, P-I-E-R-S-O-N.

10 MR. CLARK: And do you solemnly swear
11 or affirm that the comments you're about to offer to
12 the commission are the truth?

13 MR. PIERSON: I do.

14 MR. CLARK: Please go ahead.

15 MR. PIERSON: Yes. This power line
16 will be going through our property, and it's a
17 fourth-generation farm where my grandchildren enjoy
18 playing, and we enjoy seeing the nice rolling hills of
19 northern Missouri. And I'm concerned with the health
20 issues.

21 I know in the US we have a little bit
22 different standards with our health, but in
23 Europe -- European Union, there is a thousand-foot
24 standoff, and this will not be a thousand feet. It'll
25 be more like about 450 feet. So it's half the

1 standoff as the European Union sees it as safe.

2 So also, I don't understand the routing
3 and why just less than a quarter of a mile away
4 there's a -- a county -- nice county gravel road and
5 it could easily be -- go down that and take a jog on
6 another county road and be easier to maintain than
7 running over a bunch of rough land. And that's my
8 comments.

9 MR. CLARK: Okay. Thank you,
10 Mr. Pierson.

11 MR. PIERSON: Thank you.

12 MR. CLARK: I appreciate your comments.
13 Ryan Sadler? Mr. Sadler, would you
14 state and spell your name for the record?

15 MR. SADLER: Ryan Sadler, R-Y-A-N,
16 S-A-D-L-E-R.

17 MR. CLARK: And do you solemnly swear
18 or affirm that the comments you're about to offer to
19 the commission are the truth?

20 MR. SADLER: I do.

21 MR. CLARK: Please go ahead.

22 MR. SADLER: My -- my biggest concern
23 is in the case of my property -- I can't speak on
24 behalf of anyone else, but in the case of my property
25 on the proposed route, I guess, I -- I currently have

1 a -- a power line going through that has an easement
2 on it of course. And they're going to expand that
3 easement.

4 And if it were to expand that might --
5 that easement, it would get into areas of my property
6 that would be -- you know, if any type of dirt work or
7 anything were to be done, it would impact greatly the
8 value of my property.

9 So if there was a little flexibility to
10 move it to a -- a little bit of a different direction,
11 it would benefit me greatly. So the value of my
12 property is what my primary concern.

13 MR. CLARK: Okay. And I have to ask
14 you, so is this going to -- are these power lines
15 going to cross or are they running parallel or do you
16 know?

17 MR. SADLER: They -- they currently
18 cross the property and if you were to make the -- the
19 easement wider and -- and in order to do whatever was
20 needed to be done, the construction phase could go
21 ahead and you know, cause some lasting damage on my
22 property.

23 MR. CLARK: Okay. Thank you. Thank
24 you very much for your comments.

25 MR. WILLIAMS: May I ask one question?

1 MR. SADLER: Yes.

2 MR. WILLIAMS: Which county are you in?

3 MR. SADLER: I'm in Daviess. Who's
4 asking that?

5 MR. CLARK: That would be Nathan
6 Williams, who's with the office of public counsel.

7 MR. SADLER: You -- okay. Daviess.

8 MR. CLARK: Mr. Williams, would you
9 like me to have people say what county they're in when
10 they come out?

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Not necessarily.

12 MR. CLARK: Okay. Thank you for your
13 comments.

14 MR. SADLER: Okay.

15 MR. CLARK: Rick Owen? Rick Owen?

16 Maria Osborn? Ms. Osborn, would you
17 state and spell your name for the record?

18 MS. OSBORN: Maria Osborne, M-A-R-I-A,
19 O-S-B-O-R-N.

20 MR. CLARK: And do you solemnly swear
21 or affirm that the comments you are about to offer to
22 the commission are the truth?

23 MS. OSBORN: Yes.

24 MR. CLARK: Please go ahead.

25 MS. OSBORN: My biggest concern is we

1 do have an existing line behind our house. It's going
2 to come further south, which is going to come closer
3 to our house. We do only own three acres. We do have
4 a small pond. We have a lagoon that's further back
5 from our house.

6 Where that pole is going to go
7 is -- well, it's -- from the maps that they showed me,
8 it's going to be in our pond. So then they're saying
9 that they're going to have to adjust it. That's going
10 to bring it closer to our house. We have -- this is
11 our first home that we bought.

12 We had plans to fence in our three
13 acres. We have a small hobby farm, Highland cows,
14 that we will raise. We had plans of putting up a
15 fence. Our pole -- our perimeter poles have already
16 been pulled out and we had plans of digging out our
17 pond.

18 And I feel like that's going to affect
19 us and I feel like it's too close to the house.

20 MR. CLARK: Thank you very much.

21 MS. OSBORN: Okay.

22 MR. CLARK: Jack Thomas?

23 MR. THOMAS: Jack Thomas, J-A-C-K,
24 T-H-O-M-A-S.

25 MR. CLARK: And do you solemnly swear

1 or affirm that the comments you're about to offer to
2 the commission are the truth?

3 MR. THOMAS: I do.

4 MR. CLARK: And what would you like to
5 tell the commission this evening?

6 MR. THOMAS: We -- I have a comment on
7 construction. The -- this line goes through
8 agricultural farmland. The original proposition was
9 to set the poles directly apart 50 feet. We plant
10 with 24-row equipment, so therefore, we use 60-foot
11 equipment.

12 If through there they could put a
13 slight stagger in the -- in the settings so that it
14 would leave us at least 65 feet between the poles
15 where it went across the agricultural farmland, it
16 would just mean a minor adjustment on that.

17 And it would greatly -- that way we
18 would be able to plant between the poles instead of
19 leaving it vacant.

20 MR. CLARK: So if it were just adjusted
21 to give more room for the equipment?

22 MR. THOMAS: Yes.

23 MR. CLARK: And you said 65 feet?

24 MR. THOMAS: Yeah, 65 feet would do it.

25 MR. MITCHELL: Judge, I've got a

1 question.

2 MR. CLARK: I believe Commissioner
3 Mitchell has a question for you if you'll hold on just
4 a moment.

5 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah. Thank you for
6 your testimony, Mr. Thomas. I am -- I'm curious if
7 you've had the opportunity to have discussions with
8 the company about your needs for equipment spacing and
9 if so, how -- how did that go?

10 MR. THOMAS: I haven't really discussed
11 it with any. But there are a lot of individuals in
12 our area, we're in a agricultural farming area, that
13 have large equipment and that is a consideration.

14 Anything that's 24 feet, 24-row
15 equipment is 60 feet and a little bit better than
16 that. It wouldn't -- I don't think it'd be a major
17 problem just to stagger back a little or ahead, you
18 know, on the settings.

19 And I just thought it needed to be
20 brought up so that we could farm between the poles.
21 And I don't guess I need to comment anymore on it.

22 MR. MITCHELL: Thank you for bringing
23 it up. I -- I think that's an important
24 consideration.

25 MR. THOMAS: I appreciate it. Thank

1 you very much.

2 MR. FOSCO: Your Honor, if I could ask
3 a clarifying question?

4 MR. CLARK: Please go ahead.

5 MR. FOSCO: Good evening. My name's
6 Carmen Fosco. I'm an attorney representing the
7 company. Just to clarify, are you addressing the
8 single circuit option where the company will install a
9 second line next to the --

10 MR. THOMAS: Yes. Yes. We have a --
11 actually have a mile through us and it's all farmland.

12 MR. FOSCO: Okay.

13 MR. THOMAS: I mean it's crop land.

14 MR. FOSCO: And do you prefer the
15 double circuit option with just one set of poles?

16 MR. THOMAS: You guys are going to put
17 whatever you decide that you need and -- and I'm very
18 well aware. But we do -- we did -- we're on the Adair
19 County and -- and we are on the eastern part of it,
20 Palmira Line.

21 MR. FOSCO: Okay.

22 MR. THOMAS: And so they went through
23 with the new lines here a few years ago and we -- we
24 have no problems with buildings or anything like that.
25 It's just the fact of being able to farm through that.

1 MR. FOSCO: Thank you very much.

2 MR. CLARK: Thank you for your
3 comments, sir.

4 And I apologize if I'm having a hard
5 time reading this. Randy Dune; is that correct?

6 MR. DOSS: Randy Doss, R-A-N-D-Y,
7 D-O-S-S, Knox County.

8 MR. CLARK: I apologize for butchering
9 your name. Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the
10 comments you're about to offer to the commission are
11 the truth?

12 MR. DOSS: Yes, I do.

13 MR. CLARK: And what would you like to
14 tell the commission this evening?

15 MR. DOSS: Yes. I'm opposed to all
16 this. They went through six tracks when they put the
17 single pole up here a couple years ago, and they did
18 nothing that they said they was going to do.

19 Everything they said, they did not do.
20 So I'm totally opposed to this, and they never fixed
21 nothing -- everything they did.

22 MR. CLARK: Can you just briefly tell
23 me a few of those things so that I'm aware of them?

24 MR. DOSS: Fences, the land. We've got
25 water holes where we've never had water holes. They

1 never come back to fix it. They always -- "there's a
2 crew coming to fix it." Just everything that was done
3 was not done right. And they never even come back on
4 some of it. They just -- they never did. That's all
5 I have.

6 MR. CLARK: Okay. Thank you for your
7 comments.

8 MR. DOSS: Yep.

9 MR. CLARK: Jenny Poor? It looks like
10 it begins with a P-O -- oh, I believe I've really
11 butchered this one.

12 MR. POOR: Jerry Poor, J-E-R-R-Y,
13 P-O-O-R, Knox County.

14 MR. CLARK: I apologize for
15 mispronouncing your name. Sir, would you raise your
16 right hand to be sworn? Do you solemnly swear or
17 affirm that the comments you're about to offer to the
18 commission are the truth?

19 MR. POOR: Yes, sir.

20 MR. CLARK: Please go ahead.

21 MR. POOR: I'm opposed to this line.
22 I'm opposed to the more right of way, especially the
23 extra poles you're wanting to put in, that gets in the
24 way of haying, mowing around them, and everything like
25 that.

1 MR. CLARK: When you say more poles,
2 were you referring to what Mr. Thomas was referring to
3 about the poles being too close, or are you talking
4 about something different?

5 MR. POOR: I didn't understand you,
6 sir. I'm sorry.

7 MR. CLARK: I believe Mr. Thomas had
8 indicated that his concern with one of the setups that
9 Ameren Transmission would be doing would be that the
10 poles wouldn't be far enough apart to drive equipment
11 between or to farm between the poles.

12 When you said too many poles, were you
13 talking about that or were you talking about something
14 else or were you just talking about too many poles on
15 the property?

16 MR. POOR: Too many poles in between
17 the poles they've got now.

18 MR. CLARK: Okay.

19 MR. POOR: They're talking about three
20 poles where they've got -- they've got one here and
21 one here and they're talking about three in between
22 the line they've got now.

23 MR. CLARK: Okay. Thank you. I follow
24 you. Did you have further comments or was that --

25 MR. POOR: Well, want more right of

1 way, that interferes with --

2 MR. CLARK: And I'm having a hard time
3 hearing. Can you move just a little closer to the
4 microphone, please?

5 MR. POOR: Pardon?

6 MR. CLARK: Could you move a little
7 closer to the microphone, please? I'm having a hard
8 time hearing you.

9 MR. POOR: I said they want more right
10 of way, and I object to that. They should have set
11 their pole over to the side that they already set to
12 the side, and then with that they want more right way,
13 takes up more property.

14 MR. CLARK: Thank you. Thank you for
15 your comments.

16 Doug Perigo [ph]?

17 MR. PERIGO: My question's already been
18 addressed.

19 MR. CLARK: Thank you very much. Is
20 there Mr. Ludwig? Ludwig? Looks like possibly Arnold
21 or Gerald Ludwig?

22 Roger Brown?

23 MR. BROWN: Roger Brown, R-O-G-E-R,
24 B-R-O-W-N, Adair County.

25 MR. CLARK: Okay. And do you solemnly

1 swear or affirm that the comments you're about to
2 offer to the commission are the truth?

3 MR. BROWN: I do.

4 MR. CLARK: Please go ahead, sir.

5 MR. BROWN: Yeah, I'm third generation.
6 I became part of that place in 1952. My father built
7 a house in 1965, which I still have on that place.
8 They have three houses. I have a lady who has rented
9 that house for 45 years. She is in her 90s.

10 A move would be devastating to her, and
11 they're talking about running -- taking another 120
12 feet easement adjacent to the 150 feet they took five
13 years ago. And if they do, that house will have to be
14 razed because it would fall within the easement and it
15 would -- like I said, it would be devastating to her
16 to have to move from that house.

17 And when I became part of that place in
18 1952, that was my forever place where I was going to
19 pass away. And you know, I'm 78. Every day that goes
20 by is -- makes it more difficult to move at my age.
21 So just any consideration that you all could give us
22 in this area about routes or whatever would be greatly
23 appreciated.

24 And just a sidebar, I've called your
25 office, and I really thank you all for the courtesy

1 and the respect that you give us when we call in. And
2 you all do a great job.

3 MR. CLARK: Thank you very much. I
4 appreciate that. And thank you for your comments.

5 Bruce? Is there a Bruce? I'm not
6 going to try and butcher the last name. And, Bruce,
7 would you state and spell your -- or state your first
8 and last name and spell your name for us?

9 MR. EMBERTON: Bruce Emberton,
10 B-R-U-C-E, E-M-B-E-R-T-O-N.

11 MR. CLARK: And do you solemnly swear
12 or affirm that the comments you're about to offer to
13 the commission are the truth?

14 MR. EMBERTON: I do.

15 MR. CLARK: And what would you like to
16 tell the commission this evening?

17 MR. EMBERTON: As a landowner, I
18 understand there's likely nothing that we can do to
19 stop this project. I'd like to request that this
20 project take the smallest footprint possible. As a
21 landowner, I don't want to give up any more land than
22 I already have.

23 We've got one of the big 161 lines
24 already built in 1993, if I remember right, maybe '92.
25 I think it was '93. There's an alternate route that

1 is proposed. We've already got four tracks of land
2 impacted by the line that's there.

3 If the alternate line goes in, it will
4 alter the path goes in, it will be across more of our
5 ground, which just means that it's taken more of our
6 ground.

7 And the other thing that I'd like to
8 say is, concerning the smallest footprint possible, I
9 would like to have the one pole and one -- one project
10 on one side of the line and the other project on the
11 other side of the line.

12 MR. CLARK: Okay. So and correct me if
13 I'm wrong, because if I'm hearing this wrong,
14 obviously, you've mentioned the smallest footprint.
15 When you mention an alternative route, it sounds like
16 you're saying -- if I'm incorrect, correct me.

17 It sounds like you're saying that if
18 the planned route is followed, that's not going to be
19 a problem for you, but the alternative route is going
20 to create extra footprints on your land. Was that
21 correct?

22 MR. EMBERTON: Actually, let me clarify
23 that a little bit. There's -- the existing route
24 that's there could potentially run both projects side
25 by side on the same pole or run on two separate sets

1 of poles. And I'm absolutely against that.

2 I -- I'd prefer it to be on one pole,
3 all of the lines on one pole. What they've told us is
4 there is an alternate route where the 161 line will
5 remain and the 345 will go across south of our farm,
6 the south side of our farm, which will impact more of
7 our property. It'll be about three miles away.

8 MR. CLARK: So if they do the alternate
9 line, there'll be two lines across your property?

10 MR. EMBERTON: Yes, three miles apart.
11 And it's just losing -- just giving up too much
12 ground.

13 MR. CLARK: Thank you very much. Thank
14 you for telling us that.

15 Brian Peterson?

16 MR. PETERSON: Brian Peterson,
17 B-R-I-A-N, P-E-T-E-R-S-O-N.

18 MR. CLARK: And, Mr. Peterson, do you
19 solemnly swear or affirm that the comment you're about
20 to offer to the commission are the truth?

21 MR. PETERSON: I do.

22 MR. CLARK: Please go ahead.

23 MR. PETERSON: Very similar to the
24 gentleman before me, as small a footprint as possible.
25 We've had -- we got ten poles, 161 KB line currently

1 and if they could run them with those, that would
2 be -- that would be the best.

3 The -- the opposition I have is that
4 that 161 KB line has been -- since the early 90s, was
5 built for a purpose that benefited the community to
6 the processing plant here at Milan.

7 And it was a dedicated line at that
8 time for that. This line, currently, I was very
9 curious to know -- I thought that it was -- had
10 dedicated generation, which it does not.

11 So it -- the benefit locally would be
12 to a few, probably those that -- neighbors that
13 they -- that -- talked to of mine, for solar, no wind
14 that I know of but solar, which I think is a -- and
15 I -- I do drive through some wind farms and I think
16 it's just -- I would hate to say an eyesore, but it's
17 not pleasing.

18 And so I just have difficulty
19 with -- with accepting that the -- the philosophy of
20 the benefit of the community I think is too -- too few
21 for what it's going to do. I'm not -- I'm pretty
22 opposed to it, but I just -- I just can't believe that
23 this much money is being spent when there's not a
24 dedicated generator to a dedicated facility.

25 I just think it's -- I'm adamantly

1 opposed to it.

2 MR. CLARK: Okay. Thank you.

3 MR. PETERSON: Thank you.

4 MR. CLARK: Thank you for your
5 comments.

6 Dawn McLaughlin? Thank you.

7 MS. MCLAUGHLIN: Dawn McLaughlin,
8 D-A-W-N, M-C-L-A-U-G-H-L-I-N, Grundy County.

9 MR. CLARK: Thank you. And do you
10 solemnly swear or affirm that the comments you're
11 about to offer to the commission are the truth?

12 MS. MCLAUGHLIN: I do.

13 MR. CLARK: Please go ahead.

14 MS. MCLAUGHLIN: As a smaller landowner
15 with a healthy distrust of mega corporations, I am
16 concerned that we will become a victim with a blight
17 of solar or wind farms in our backyard with the
18 construction of this new transmission lot.

19 Ameren has an option of around 4,000
20 acres already signed up for a future solar farm in the
21 Humphrey's area. Various companies involved in this
22 project promise that consumers will save money with
23 lower costs among other things.

24 They need to prove these statements
25 upfront, as history shows these are oft empty

1 promises. Words are cheap where land is involved and
2 someone wants to take it away from you.

3 The 345 KB transmission line has
4 negative EMF influences for up to 1400 feet. These
5 EMFs are proven to cause health issues for humans and
6 animals alike. This line is going to pass very close
7 to our little 20-acre ranch.

8 So we definitely want to see the double
9 circuit line used to keep it as far away from our home
10 and our animals as possible. While it may not
11 directly cross our land, the construction will affect
12 us. We live two miles down a gravel road that will
13 not withstand heavy construction equipment.

14 This concerns me as we travel our road
15 every day, as do many local farmers. The small map
16 enclosed in a recent Ameren communication was kind of
17 a joke. We need a website with an interactive map
18 that actually works and is current so we can actually
19 see just where this new transmission line's being
20 routed.

21 I realize we can't stop this project,
22 but Ameren and all the other companies involved have a
23 duty to be completely transparent with anyone who may
24 be impacted by it. This project is directly affecting
25 many folks livelihoods and daily lives, and we're

1 watching. Thanks.

2 MR. CLARK: And just to clarify for the
3 record, when you say "EMF," you mean electromagnetic
4 field?

5 MS. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes.

6 MR. CLARK: Okay. Thank you.

7 MS. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you.

8 MR. CLARK: Thank you for your comment.
9 Leon Troyer?

10 MR. TROYER: Leon Troyer, L-E-O-N,
11 T-R-O-Y-E-R.

12 MR. CLARK: And do you solemnly swear
13 or affirm --

14 MR. TROYER: Yes.

15 MR. CLARK: -- that the comments you're
16 about to give to the commission are the truth?

17 MR. TROYER: Yes.

18 MR. CLARK: Thank you. Please go
19 ahead.

20 MR. TROYER: I -- if you have to go
21 through there, I would prefer -- I'm a landowner. I'd
22 prefer one poll. Thank you.

23 MR. CLARK: Thank you for your comments
24 and for letting us know your preference.

25 Michael Toney? Toney? Evening.

1 MR. TONEY: Michael Toney,
2 M-I-C-H-A-E-L -- A-E-L, T-O-N-E-Y.

3 MR. CLARK: Okay.

4 MR. TONEY: I think that -- and go
5 ahead.

6 MR. CLARK: You do solemnly swear or
7 affirm that the comments you're about to offer to the
8 commission are the truth?

9 MR. TONEY: I do.

10 MR. CLARK: Please go ahead.

11 MR. TONEY: My biggest concern is -- is
12 how it's going to impact the property value from here
13 on out. I guess I wanted to say one line would be
14 better than two. That's about it.

15 You know, wildlife, I guess, you know,
16 and the view, that's going to kill it. We're -- our
17 farm's up on a hill where you can see down and look at
18 Lake Viking, so you got a killer view. But I guess
19 that's it. Thanks.

20 MR. CLARK: Thank you. Doug Burris?

21 MR. BURRIS: Doug Burris, D-O-U-G,
22 B-U-R-R-I-S.

23 MR. CLARK: Do you solemnly swear or
24 affirm that the comments you're about to offer to the
25 commission are the truth?

1 MR. BURRIS: I do.

2 MR. CLARK: And what would you like to
3 tell the commission?

4 MR. BURRIS: I was just -- sorry. Just
5 going to give my opinion to the Ameren gentleman that
6 asked earlier about the single pole versus double
7 circuit pole and definitely have the double circuit
8 poll where they take the old ones out.

9 I also -- also have a concern of how
10 close it's going to come to an existing home on mine.
11 I don't know the laws on that exactly, but it'd be
12 within probably 50 feet.

13 MR. MITCHELL: I'm sorry. Would you
14 repeat that? Fifty feet?

15 MR. BURRIS: If they put -- if the
16 proposed plan that they have now goes south of
17 existing lines, they would come probably within about
18 50 feet of my house.

19 MR. MITCHELL: Thank you.

20 MR. CLARK: Thank you. Lloyd Cleaver?

21 MR. CLEAVER: Lloyd Cleaver, L-L-O-Y-D,
22 C-L-E-A-V-E-R. I'm a resident of Adair County.

23 MR. CLARK: And do you solemnly swear
24 or affirm that the comments you're about to offer to
25 the commission are the truth?

1 MR. CLEAVER: I do.

2 MR. CLARK: Please go ahead.

3 MR. CLEAVER: I'm opposed to this. It
4 appears that this has little benefit for our local
5 communities, yet it has a -- a great deal of effect on
6 it.

7 I'm a retired Navy captain. I spent
8 over 20 years defending this country for the freedoms
9 that we have. And one of those freedoms is -- are
10 being usurped in the seizure of our property.

11 And -- and I'm strongly opposed to
12 that. I'm doubly affected by this. I have land that
13 goes north and south on the Zachary-Thomas-Hill Line
14 and then the new proposed Denny-Zachary Line cuts
15 right through my property. So it destroys my
16 property, which I've worked for 40 years to put
17 together.

18 I have a -- a grass runway right in the
19 middle of where they want to put this and a proposed
20 home site for one of my sons. You know, I'm a
21 physician, and I've looked at the data for this and
22 there's no data that says this is safe.

23 One of my neighbors who lived the
24 closest to the 161 line developed major health effects
25 when he moved there. He blamed it all on the power

1 line. And -- and I can't divulge some of this stuff
2 'cause it's a HIPAA violation, but he had many health
3 problems.

4 He moved to Columbia to take care of
5 those and eventually, had to go to a nursing home and
6 passed away. He blames all those on the power line.
7 He was very close to the power line.

8 We ended up buying that home on the
9 right of refusal and we destroyed the house 'cause we
10 didn't want anybody living in it. You know, I think
11 the health issue -- I've got a family. I've got
12 grandchildren. I -- I have neighbors that have
13 children and grandchildren.

14 This thing is not proven safe. And as
15 you increase the voltage of this, nobody knows -- this
16 is unknown territory. You know, we thought dioxin was
17 good when we used it in Vietnam. And we -- look at
18 the problems there. You know, this voltage change,
19 and -- and even at the 161, it's -- it's not a safe
20 situation.

21 The MISO situation is also very
22 concerning to me. This is a private corporation
23 making decisions that affect all the -- all of us
24 lives in here for effects that aren't clearly defined.
25 We're not bringing it from Thomas Hill Power

1 generation station to Zachary.

2 This is just kind of a line out there.
3 And I think if you look at their website, they've made
4 lots of money and this is one of their projects that
5 generates more funds for them. I -- I think this is a
6 terrible situation to take people's property.

7 It's going to destroy mine with this
8 crisscross of two major power lines. What's the
9 effect on wildlife? What's the effect on the ecology?
10 I'm very strongly opposed to this.

11 MR. CLARK: Now, when you're talking
12 about the health effects, are you also talking about
13 the EMFs? Is that --

14 MR. CLEAVER: Absolutely. There's a
15 whole laundry list of things that are -- are negative
16 health effects. There are not many positive -- well,
17 there are no positive effects. I've looked at the
18 literature. I -- I've scanned the literature and it's
19 in -- it's very luminous.

20 None of that says this is a safe
21 process. And I -- I think, you know, to expose our
22 children, to expose us to this kind of risk is
23 unacceptable.

24 MR. CLARK: Mr. Cleaver, can you hold
25 on just a second? And you had mentioned your other

1 concern, was it just kind of a line out there and that
2 is -- are you talking about the same similar concern
3 that there's a line but no dedicated generation
4 source?

5 MR. CLEAVER: Yes.

6 MR. CLARK: Okay. Thank you very much.

7 MR. WILLIAMS: May I?

8 MR. CLARK: Yes. Mr. Williams, go
9 ahead.

10 MR. WILLIAMS: You said, I believe,
11 you're a retired physician?

12 MR. CLEAVER: Yes. Well, I'm not a
13 retired physician. I'm a retired Navy captain.

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. What's the nature
15 of the medical practice you engaged in or do?

16 MR. CLEAVER: Dermatologist.

17 MR. WILLIAMS: Rheumatologist?

18 MR. CLEAVER: Dermatologist.

19 MR. WILLIAMS: Dermatologist.

20 MR. CLEAVER: In the Navy, I was a
21 dermatologist, but I also did emergency medicine. I
22 was also a fleet surgeon. I'm also a commanding
23 officer of a 500-bed combat zone hospital. I've been
24 there, done that.

25 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

1 MR. CLARK: Thank you. And thank you
2 for your service.

3 Tina Ebeck?

4 MS. ESBECK: Tina Esbeck, T-I-N-A,
5 E-S-B-E-C-K, from Daviess County.

6 MR. CLARK: And, Ms. Esbeck, do you
7 solemnly swear or affirm that the comments you're
8 about to offer to the commission are the truth?

9 MS. ESBECK: Yes, I do.

10 MR. CLARK: And what would you like to
11 tell the commission?

12 MS. ESBECK: Well, I'd like to back up
13 the last gentleman. It's kind of funny. We can do an
14 environmental study on bats, but we don't have
15 anything on humans or their safety. He was asked if
16 there was any health records or any statements and he
17 said no.

18 Well, this physician that just talked,
19 he says there is. We have double pole lines go
20 through our property 380 some feet from our front
21 door. They're wanting to come in and put another set
22 of double poles through. Where are they going to put
23 them?

24 We've got a pond that my husband built.
25 We've got six grandkids and that's what they do when

1 they come to grandma's and papa's. We fish. They're
2 all big fishermen and that -- it's -- the poles now
3 are less than 150 feet from our pond. And I mean it's
4 a good-sized pond, a three-acre pond.

5 Where are they going to put this other
6 one? In our front yard? I'm -- I'm opposed, not only
7 for the health reasons, for our family. It's a family
8 farm. I -- I'm opposed to it. Unless they can show
9 us that it is safe.

10 And I have definitely opposed of
11 another set of poles going through our property.
12 We've got four sets now. I don't want four more sets.
13 That's our hayfield; that's our pastures; that's our
14 livelihood. We're farmers. Thank you.

15 MR. CLARK: Thank you. Thank you for
16 your comments.

17 Delmond Lowe?

18 MR. LOWE: Name, Delmond Lowe,
19 D-E-L-M-O-N-D, L-O-W-E. And I am --

20 MR. CLARK: Do you solemnly swear or
21 affirm that the comments you're about to offer to the
22 commission are the truth?

23 MR. LOWE: I do. I am highly opposed
24 to this. I live just down the road from Tina Esbeck
25 and the poles will be running in my front yard and I

1 don't want it, don't need it. I got plenty of
2 electricity.

3 MR. CLARK: So under the current plan,
4 the poles would be in your front yard?

5 MR. LOWE: Well, according to your map.

6 MR. CLARK: If you had some leeway in
7 the siting, would that make a difference to you?

8 MR. LOWE: Probably not.

9 MR. CLARK: All right. Thank you.

10 MR. LOWE: Thank you. Thank you.

11 MR. CLARK: Thank you for your
12 comments.

13 Scott Coleman?

14 MR. COLEMAN: Scott Coleman, S-C-O-T-T,
15 C-O-L-E-M-A-N. And I just want to --

16 MR. CLARK: Mr. Coleman, do you
17 solemnly swear or affirm that the comments you're
18 about to offer to the commission are the truth?

19 MR. COLEMAN: I do.

20 MR. CLARK: Please go ahead. I'm sorry
21 for interrupting.

22 MR. COLEMAN: I just want to echo
23 everyone else's thoughts that if -- if this does go
24 through, I -- I would encourage the commission to push
25 for the single pole, double circuit option. My

1 reasoning being twofold.

2 Number 1, I live along the Thomas Hill
3 portion of the line and in my recent memory that line
4 has been on the ground twice due to storm damage. And
5 so if they had two separate lines going through there,
6 I think that would be really tough for them to put
7 back up and -- and rebuild.

8 And secondly, we have irrigation pivots
9 in fields that -- will swing in the way of a second
10 line. So a smaller footprint would -- would probably,
11 as long as the poles are sited correctly, would not
12 interfere.

13 But if we had two separate lines going
14 through the field, it could potentially lose about 200
15 acres of irrigated land or you know, irrigated
16 potential. So that's all for me.

17 MR. CLARK: Thank you. Joseph Kurtz?

18 MR. KURTZ: Joseph Kurtz, J-O-S-E-P-H,
19 K-U-R-T-Z.

20 MR. CLARK: And, Mr. Kurtz, do you
21 solemnly swear or affirm that the comments you're
22 about to offer to the commission are the truth?

23 MR. KURTZ: Yes, I do.

24 MR. CLARK: Please go ahead.

25 MR. KURTZ: Yeah. Just I think

1 everybody here has a valid concern. It's kind of hard
2 to see the -- the benefit for our community, I guess.
3 I live in Daviess County, the Denny Line. I would
4 really like to see the single pole, double circuit
5 line. Several reasons: farming benefits, our
6 neighbors.

7 There's quite a few families' homes
8 where the line goes through. If it goes -- and I
9 don't know which side. If they go with the single
10 circuit, adding the second line which would add 150
11 feet to the right of way, it would go through some
12 people's homes fairly close.

13 If they go with the single line, it
14 would definitely help that, with the single pole, yes.

15 MR. CLARK: Okay. Thank you.

16 Brad Selby?

17 MR. SELBY: Brad Selby, B-R-A-D,
18 S-E-L-B-Y, Adair County.

19 MR. CLARK: And do you solemnly swear
20 or affirm that the comments you're about to offer to
21 the commission are the truth?

22 MR. SELBY: I do. I -- the northeast
23 power co-op line went through my farm in 1969 when I
24 was still in high school.

25 A few years ago, when Ameren was

1 looking at putting the new line out through a bunch of
2 virgin farm ground or running it through this existing
3 line that goes to the Zachary Field, I spoke at the
4 public hearing in Kirksville in favor of putting this
5 line where it is today.

6 And I got a lot of heat from that. I
7 still think it was the right decision. It was the
8 right place to go. But now if you are looking at
9 putting a -- a parallel set of poles that's going to
10 go through there and take another 150 feet of right of
11 way, if that's on the south side of the existing line,
12 it may get in my shop.

13 I know it's going to take my evergreen
14 windbreak out. It'd be around 120 feet from my front
15 porch. In 1995 I planted 1800 walnut trees, and it's
16 going to take a bunch of them out. They're about 30,
17 35 feet right now, some of them, plus some big timber,
18 which I don't want to get rid of.

19 But it'd go right through the corner of
20 a 40-acre big timber patch. I'm adamantly opposed to
21 that other line. You can add the wires to the
22 existing line if you want 'cause one side's the 161 KB
23 and the other one's 345. So make them both 345 or if
24 you can add more. I don't care.

25 But I'm adamantly opposed to adding

1 another -- another line. If that line comes that
2 close to my house, a new one, I know it's going to
3 reduce my property value. So would I expect Ameren to
4 come and give me a check for what my property value is
5 going to go down?

6 My house is about 12 years old and it
7 drops a hundred thousand, are they going give me a
8 check? Let me answer that for you. You know darn
9 well, there ain't nobody going to give money for a
10 reduction in value of my property. Ain't going to
11 happen. We're all just going to suck it up if it
12 happens.

13 Another complaint I've got, when they
14 first came through to put this line in to replace
15 the -- the double pole 161 line, I had my -- I got
16 three poles on there now. I had it in hay ground and
17 they said, "Well, we were going to pay you a lot more
18 money if it was in crop, but it's not."

19 I said, "Hay's a crop." "No, no."
20 That -- that's a lot of money. Big difference. \$800
21 an acre or a thousand something like that. I don't
22 remember. But no, this is hay ground. I said, "But I
23 have it in crops sometimes." It'd been in hay for six
24 or seven years.

25 Three years ago, it was in beans,

1 beans-corn last year, and it's in wheat right now.
2 But they would not listen. "No, this ain't crop
3 ground. This is just hay ground, so you're going to
4 get less money, a bunch of it."

5 They need to listen to people. Because
6 I'd advise any of these farmers here, if you got any
7 hill ground that's got a bunch of head stumps or
8 thorny locust sprouts to plow it all up and get 15
9 bushels an acre corn out of it because that way you
10 know you're going to get more money if it comes
11 through your property. Thank you.

12 MR. CLARK: Thank you for your
13 comments.

14 And I must say in all the public
15 hearings I've been to, that's the first time I've
16 heard that.

17 Wesley Taylor? Evening, Mr. Taylor.

18 MR. TAYLOR: Evening.

19 MR. CLARK: Would you please state and
20 spell your name for the record?

21 MR. TAYLOR: Wesley Taylor,
22 W-E-S-L-E-Y, T-A-Y-L-O-R.

23 MR. CLARK: And do you solemnly swear
24 or affirm that the comments you're about to offer to
25 the commission are the truth?

1 MR. TAYLOR: Yes, I do.

2 MR. CLARK: And what would you like to
3 tell the commission this evening?

4 MR. TAYLOR: I'm another one that's got
5 property. If you take the shortcut and go through,
6 I'm going to have two sets of lines. If you go up to
7 Milan and come down through, you're just going to have
8 one set of poles. And I'd rather -- if you're going
9 to go through there, I'd rather have one set than two
10 sets.

11 MR. CLARK: And you're talking about
12 the single pole --

13 MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

14 MR. CLARK: -- double circuit option?

15 MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

16 MR. CLARK: Okay.

17 MR. TAYLOR: And I've had a couple sets
18 of poles go through some other properties and they've
19 been really good to work with because they've come out
20 and asked me which way they want to go or where we
21 want the poles, and they did everything they've said
22 so I have no problem with them. So thank you very
23 much.

24 MR. CLARK: Thank you. Thank you for
25 your comments.

1 Is there a Vernon? Is there -- oh,
2 there you go. I'm sorry, sir. I was having some
3 difficulty reading your last name.

4 MR. SCHROCK: Schrock.

5 MR. CLARK: And would you spell that
6 for the record?

7 MR. SCHROCK: V-E-R-N-O-N,
8 S-C-H-R-O-C-K.

9 MR. CLARK: And do you solemnly swear
10 or affirm that the comments you're about to give to
11 the commission are the truth?

12 MR. SCHROCK: I affirm.

13 MR. CLARK: Please go ahead, sir.

14 MR. SCHROCK: I would plead for the
15 single pole, double circuit.

16 MR. CLARK: Thank you. John Lepen?

17 MR. TROYER: John Troyer, J -- J-O-H-N,
18 T-R-O-Y-E-R.

19 MR. CLARK: I apologize. And do you
20 solemnly swear or affirm that the comments you're
21 about to offer to the commission are the truth?

22 MR. TROYER: I affirm.

23 MR. CLARK: Please go ahead.

24 MR. TROYER: I would definitely prefer
25 the double circuit option. Thank you.

1 MR. CLARK: Thank you. Daniel Miller?

2 MR. MILLER: Daniel Miller,
3 D-A-N-I-E-L, M-I-L-L-E-R.

4 MR. CLARK: And do you affirm that the
5 comments you're about to give to the commission are
6 the truth?

7 MR. MILLER: I do.

8 MR. CLARK: Please go ahead.

9 MR. MILLER: I just would prefer to
10 have the single pole, double circuit line going
11 through and not the second set of poles. Thank you.

12 MR. CLARK: Thank you. Those are all
13 the people that I had signed up to speak tonight. Is
14 there anybody who, having heard everyone else speak,
15 realizes that they would like to offer some commission
16 and was unable to sign up? I see one person over
17 there.

18 Would you please come up to the
19 microphone, please? And what's your name, miss?

20 MS. STUVNISKI: My name is Katie
21 Stuvniski, S-T-U-V-N-I-S-K-I.

22 MR. CLARK: And do you solemnly swear
23 or affirm --

24 MS. STUVNISKI: I do.

25 MR. CLARK: -- that the comments you're

1 about to offer to the commission are the truth?

2 MS. STUVNISKI: Yes. Okay.

3 MR. CLARK: Please go ahead.

4 MS. STUVNISKI: So I just wanted to say
5 coming here tonight was very confusing with the
6 representatives, and some of the comments made back
7 were about property value loss, were that there wasn't
8 any -- any proof, I guess, is what -- that's not
9 exactly what he said.

10 But the thing is, is with a quick look
11 up online, you can see that poles going through
12 definitely can cause a property value loss. And
13 then -- sorry. With the power to and coming from and
14 going so it doesn't hit the community, that was also
15 something that was very vague.

16 There was not a very good
17 representation on that. So I feel like it's
18 pretty -- well, I -- I think that there was more
19 questions after that whole hour that we had, not
20 anything clarified, and then that's basically what I
21 have. So there was lots of an -- lots of confusion,
22 even more so, so.

23 MR. CLARK: So you found that the Q and
24 A did not provide the answers you are looking for but
25 actually presented --

1 MS. STUVNISKI: Correct. For people to
2 have time to prepare, yep.

3 MR. CLARK: Okay.

4 MS. STUVNISKI: So.

5 MR. CLARK: All right. Thank you.
6 Sir?

7 MR. WRIGHT: I'd like to speak too.

8 MR. CLARK: Please come on up. And
9 would you please state and spell your name for the
10 record?

11 MR. WRIGHT: Daniel J. Wright,
12 D-A-N-I-E-L, J, W-R-I-G-H-T.

13 MR. CLARK: And do you solemnly swear
14 or affirm that the comments you're about to offer the
15 commission are the truth?

16 MR. WRIGHT: Yes.

17 MR. CLARK: Please go ahead, sir.

18 MR. WRIGHT: I would like the -- one of
19 the gentlemen spoke about his hayfield not getting the
20 top dollar. When they come about purchasing an
21 easement from me -- which my land is all timber -- he
22 said I can get you a lot more money for this because I
23 can list it as agricultural.

24 This land has not been farming over 50
25 years. That's very confusing after I heard what he

1 said tonight too. And I'm strongly opposed to this.
2 I do not see how it benefits any of the community up
3 in this area. I'm also -- where I live and I just --
4 I just -- I don't see a future in it.

5 And a lot of -- like the lady just said
6 too, a lot of the questions were not really answered
7 tonight with -- you know, you said that we did not
8 have information for that. I don't know -- was
9 totally prepared to answer some of the questions.

10 And like the same thing on the bats,
11 how do you do a study on bats and not humans, deer,
12 turkey, squirrels, et cetera? Fishponds? Sounds like
13 a lot of ponds and waterways are going to be destroyed
14 and I just do not see this as a good thing for our
15 communities. Thank you.

16 MR. CLARK: Thank you for your
17 comments. Is there anybody else that would like to
18 offer comments to the commissioners?

19 Please come up.

20 MS. BRONK: Hello. My name's Penny
21 Bronk, P-E-N-N-Y, B-R-O-N-K.

22 MR. CLARK: And do you solemnly swear
23 or affirm that the comments you're about to offer to
24 the commission are the truth?

25 MS. BRONK: Yes.

1 MR. CLARK: Please go ahead.

2 MS. BRONK: I've been sitting and I'm
3 listening to all of the questions and everything and I
4 have property that does go through this is affected
5 but not nearly like what these other people are.

6 So my concern is for them. I mean,
7 I -- I know I have property other places and if
8 that -- if something wanted to do -- come through
9 mine, I would be upset too. And I think the single
10 pole thing is the best option.

11 'Cause obviously this is going to go
12 through, so at least it takes up less property from
13 the people and it's not dividing their property any
14 more than it already has been by the previous lines
15 that are going through. And I mean, if you look
16 around, this is an agricultural community.

17 So our lives depend on farming, row
18 crop. Hay, that's agriculture. Cattle, that's
19 agriculture. Timber, that's all part of agriculture.
20 And so it should be treated fairly for that way
21 in -- in response to compensation.

22 But your -- some of your lines are
23 going to destroy a row crop field. These people have
24 bought these properties, worked these properties,
25 raised their families here, hope to pass this on to

1 their future generations.

2 And now by doing this, you're cutting
3 the value of it and you're cutting their -- that
4 future generation's stability to have and be proud of
5 that property that their families have worked hard for
6 them to be able to have because you keep cutting
7 through and divided it up, and the value is going to
8 go down.

9 If I'm looking to buy a piece of
10 property and there's some lines going through it, I
11 ain't looking at that property at all. I'm moving on.
12 So it's -- you're in -- you know, you're hitting them
13 financially, environmentally. I mean, people have a
14 lot of the farm, you know, leases for hunting.

15 What's that going to do to the hunting
16 ability when all these animals are all disturbed and
17 run off to other places that don't have all this
18 activity and buildup of the -- the lines and the
19 construction? That -- that -- now you're cutting that
20 income down.

21 And I think they commented, you know,
22 you researched the bat but not your humans. Aren't we
23 more valuable in -- in the long run? Aren't your
24 human, people considerations more important than that?

25 I mean, so it -- it just -- I am upset

1 for the people that I've listened to, to talk about
2 what it's done to their property and what it
3 potentially can do to their property.

4 And I look at -- I'm like, "Oh, my
5 gosh." You know, if that was being done to me, I'd be
6 so upset for my children, for the legacy that my
7 husband and I had built for them to be able to have,
8 to pass on to them, for their future and their
9 children's future. And I -- it just upsets me. So
10 thank you for your time.

11 MR. CLARK: Thank you for your
12 comments.

13 Is there anyone else who wanted to
14 offer comments to the commission this evening? Okay.
15 Sorry.

16 Come on up, sir.

17 MR. OWEN: Joe Owen, J-O-E, O-W-E-N.

18 MR. CLARK: And do you solemnly swear
19 or affirm that the comments you're about to offer to
20 the commission are the truth?

21 MR. OWEN: I do.

22 MR. CLARK: Please go ahead.

23 MR. OWEN: I've had a little bit of
24 trouble getting information about what they're really
25 going to do. That's one of the things. I got a -- a

1 letter and it was actually -- I'm an -- I'm
2 representing a -- my mother's estate, so it's not
3 really my property yet, if I ever get it.

4 MR. CLARK: But you're a member of the
5 public and you have an interest, you're entitled to
6 comment, certainly.

7 MR. OWEN: Yes. Thank you. The
8 information I've been getting, I got a letter, and
9 it -- it was actually mailed to just the -- one of the
10 names. My -- my -- both of the people, my mother and
11 her husband, are both dead and the estate has been
12 going on forever.

13 So I got a letter, and it says it's
14 his, William Hartman, and I'm not sure if I can open
15 that or not. I get another one, and it says --
16 come -- I'm guessing it's coming from the -- a letter
17 from an attorney, a group, and it is the address for
18 my -- for my mother's estate, and it's -- Drew
19 Hartman.

20 And I opened it up and then I finally
21 got some internet and I read a little bit of it and I
22 found out about this meeting. So that -- I'm having
23 good -- not good information about where it is. Is
24 the power line going from, like, high -- Milan and
25 goes down to Kansas City?

1 'Cause, like, there's a high-power line
2 just about maybe a mile, half a mile from the house
3 that I'm living in. And I'm guessing this -- this
4 other one is -- going to go, oh, maybe 400 feet from
5 the house that I live in, which means what? I'm not
6 going to be able to keep the house?

7 I can't tell. It's a quandary because
8 I can't really tell where they're going to do --
9 I'm -- I'd be opposed to having another -- any
10 high-power line going through my property. Again,
11 it's an estate and it may not evaporate and thus
12 what -- I -- tight spot.

13 And other than that, I don't have a lot
14 to say. Thank you.

15 MR. CLARK: Thank you. So for a
16 second, so you have an existing line a half mile from
17 your house; is that correct?

18 MR. OWEN: I think so. It's --

19 MR. CLARK: Okay. And you believe that
20 this one will be about 400 feet from your house;
21 correct?

22 MR. OWEN: Something like that, yeah.

23 MR. CLARK: And so at this point,
24 you're uncertain as to how this will affect whether or
25 not something needs to happen to the house is that --

1 MR. OWEN: Oh, my house, if it was me,
2 I'm going to be able to stay there for -- till the day
3 I die. I -- that'd be great, but I'm not sure if that
4 would be a -- a good idea. The -- with the health
5 issues, I don't want the -- I wouldn't want it by me
6 anyway.

7 And that you're going to steal the
8 money any -- the -- the land anyway. You -- you're
9 not going to be able to use it for anything. You're
10 still going to have to pay the taxes and all that.
11 But you -- the property, if it was -- I'm renting the
12 property.

13 It's agricultural and the estate gets
14 money from it every year. You get \$1.95 from the
15 power company and then they own it. You -- you don't
16 get any more than that. And so I don't think it's a
17 good deal for anybody because you're not getting much
18 in return for your property.

19 You know, I almost did not show up here
20 because I don't believe it's going to matter. You're
21 just going to do it anyway, just take people's money
22 and/or land and take it anyway. So I don't believe
23 it's good for me. Thank you.

24 MR. CLARK: Thank you for your
25 comments.

1 Is there anyone else who would like to
2 offer a comment this evening?

3 I see no hands. I appreciate all of
4 your comments, the commission does. There's been a
5 lot of similar themes, including the single pole,
6 double circuit. That has come up quite a bit as well
7 as a number of people who are opposed to the project.

8 Commissioner Mitchell, would you like
9 to make any closing remarks?

10 MR. MITCHELL: I would. The
11 commissioner would like to thank you for being here
12 tonight. I -- I want to assure you that your comments
13 and your input are greatly appreciated and are taken
14 very seriously.

15 I think we appreciate the robust
16 turnout and the robust discussion. It -- it will help
17 us as commissioners make the best decision that we
18 can. And so again, we thank you for being here.

19 MR. CLARK: Thank you. If you have
20 additional comments or if you knew someone who was
21 unable to attend tonight and they would like to offer
22 comments, written comments can be made at the email
23 address psc -- that's public service commission --
24 pscinfo -- I-N-F-O -- @psc.mo.gov or by contacting the
25 office of the public counsel, Mr. Williams over there.

1 They've been very gracious about seeing
2 the comments get to us or by going to the public
3 service commission's webpage. If you go to the web
4 page, we always have several cases running at once.
5 So you're going to want to be sure that you're looking
6 at the right case when you do that.

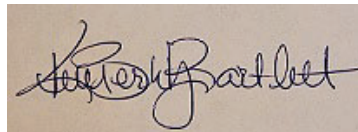
7 So compare the case number to the link
8 to leave a comment. And with that, I'd like to thank
9 everyone for their attendance, and I will adjourn this
10 hearing, and we'll go off the record. Everyone have a
11 safe trip home.

12 (Whereupon, at 8:39 p.m., the meeting
13 was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

I, KIMBERLY BARTLETT, the officer before whom the foregoing proceedings were taken, do hereby certify that any witness(es) in the foregoing proceedings, prior to testifying, were duly sworn; that the proceedings were recorded by me and thereafter reduced to typewriting by a qualified transcriptionist; that said digital audio recording of said proceedings are a true and accurate record to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.



KIMBERLY BARTLETT

Notary Public in and for the
State of Missouri

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, MEGAN RUSSELL, do hereby certify that this transcript was prepared from the digital audio recording of the foregoing proceeding, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.



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