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3 Public Service Commission:

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1 The following proceedings began at 9:30 a.m.:

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Good morning. We are on the
3 record. This is the evidentiary hearing in Case No.
4 EC-2025-0136, Cheri Meadows vs. Grain Belt Express. I'm
5 Ron Pridgin. I'm the Regulatory Law Judge assigned to
6 preside over this hearing that's being held August 20,
7 2025, in the Governor Office Building in Jefferson City,
8 Missouri. The time is 9:30 a.m.

9 I would like to get entries of appearance from
10 the parties. Ms. Meadows, I don't want you to give out
11 any personal information such as your address. If you
12 could please just give us your name. That's all we need
13 from you. If you'd turn your microphone on and just
14 give us your name, please.

15 MS. MEADOWS: My name is Cheri Meadows.

16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Meadows, thank you. Entry
17 of appearance from Grain Belt Express, please.

18 MS. CALLENBACH: Good morning, Judge. Good
19 morning, Commissioners. Anne Callenbach of the law firm
20 Polsinelli PC. Also Andrew Schulte of the same law
21 firm, 900 West 48th Place, Kansas City, Missouri 64112.

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Callenbach, thank you.
23 Any entry on behalf of the staff of the Commission?

24 MS. HANSEN: Good morning, Judge, yes. We
25 have me, Andrea Hansen, and Tracy Johnson representing

1 Commission staff.

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Hansen, thank you. An
3 entry on behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel.

4 MR. POSTON: Thank you. Good morning. Marc
5 Poston for the Office of the Public Counsel.

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Poston, thank you. Did I
7 overlook anyone?

8 All right. A little housekeeping. We will
9 need to break about 10:45 so the Commission can hold its
10 11:00 a.m. agenda meeting that's being held right here,
11 and so I will look for a natural break around 10:45. But
12 if I can't find one, I may have to just almost stop
13 somebody in the middle of a sentence or something so we
14 can have agenda.

15 My thought right now is we would get back on
16 the record at roughly 11:30 and then maybe shoot for a
17 lunch break around 12:30 if we need one.

18 Anything from the bench or from the parties
19 before we proceed to opening statements?

20 MS. HANSEN: Yes, Judge. As a preliminary
21 matter, as staff we filed our Staff Report and our
22 Supplemental Staff Report as public and confidential
23 versions. It's our understanding that there is a
24 Commission rule that requires that these filings are
25 only confidential. And so because of that, we were

1 wondering, you know, if we wanted to talk about the
2 Staff Report and the Supplemental Staff Report, which we
3 anticipate being questioned on, if we will need to go in
4 camera to talk about those things.

5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I appreciate the heads-up,
6 counsel. I guess before we get to that, hopefully you
7 can discuss this during the break, if there's anything
8 in those reports that you think needs to be protected, I
9 mean, the rule notwithstanding, if everyone agrees that
10 the information you're going to discuss is going to be
11 public anyway and counsel can agree, then we probably
12 wouldn't need to go in camera, but I'll leave that to
13 the parties to try to figure out hopefully during the
14 break. I want to obviously minimize any time that we
15 spend in camera and keep this as public as we can.

16 MS. HANSEN: Thank you very much.

17 JUDGE PRIDGIN: You're very welcome. Anything
18 further before opening statements?

19 MS. CALLENBACH: Yes, Judge. Thank you.
20 Grain Belt Express had asked -- Actually rather on our
21 exhibit list there are a number of items that we would
22 like the Commission to take administrative notice of
23 from a previous file. Would you like me to read those
24 items into the record or shall I just submit this to the
25 court reporter? What would be your preference?

1 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Do the parties have a
2 preference?

3 MS. HANSEN: We have no preference.

4 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I guess in the matter of
5 trying to speed things up, if you just wanted to just
6 submit that to the court reporter we can do it that way.

7 MS. CALLENBACH: Thank you. And of those
8 items since -- Do I need to make a motion for
9 administrative notice? We may be referring to several
10 of these. I want to make sure that they're available to
11 refer to.

12 JUDGE PRIDGIN: That would probably be
13 cleaner, and you can do that now or later, whichever you
14 prefer.

15 MS. CALLENBACH: Okay. Yeah, I'll just do it
16 now. I probably should then read these in so we know
17 what we're referring to.

18 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay.

19 MS. CALLENBACH: Okay. Thank you, sir.

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Sure.

21 MS. CALLENBACH: Yes, Grain Belt Express would
22 request administrative notice of certain items filed in
23 File No. EA-2023-0017 and the first being the October
24 12, 2023 Report and Order, the December 7, 2023 Order
25 Denying Application for Rehearing, the February 8, 2023

1 Order Setting Local Public Hearings and Directing
2 Notice, the direct testimony and schedules of Aaron
3 White on behalf of Invenergy Grain Belt Express, the
4 surrebuttal testimony and schedules of Aaron White, the
5 direct testimony and schedules of Andrew Burke from WSP
6 on behalf of Invenergy Grain Belt Express, the
7 surrebuttal testimony and schedules of Andrew Burke, the
8 direct testimony and schedules of Kevin Chandler on
9 behalf of Invenergy Grain Belt Express, the surrebuttal
10 testimony and schedules of Kevin Chandler, and the
11 August 24, 2022 Grain Belt Express's Application to
12 Amend the CCN.

13 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Callenbach, thank you.
14 Any objection to the Commission taking administrative
15 notice of those items? Hearing none. The Commission
16 will take administrative notice of that. Thank you.

17 Anything further from counsel before opening
18 statements?

19 All right. Ms. Meadows, if you would like,
20 you may give an opening statement. This would be your
21 opportunity not to testify yet but to tell the
22 Commission what you think the evidence will eventually
23 show. You don't have to make an opening statement, but
24 you can if you'd like. If you want to, if you'll come
25 to the podium and address the Commission. Again, it's

1 entirely up to you.

2 MS. MEADOWS: Yeah, I'd like to make a
3 statement. Should I turn my mike off?

4 JUDGE PRIDGIN: That doesn't matter. Just
5 come up to the podium. Thank you. Just try to speak up
6 a little bit. Whenever you're ready, ma'am.

7 MS. MEADOWS: Good morning, Commissioners,
8 Judge. My name is Cheri Meadows. I'm here today
9 because my property was targeted for the Tiger
10 Connector. And when I say "targeted," I mean there are
11 risks of serious harm from this line going across my
12 property. And for the past three years, I have brought
13 this to the attention of Grain Belt Invenenergy
14 representatives my concerns and recommendations for what
15 we can do to alleviate that.

16 I've been ignored. I've basically been
17 brushed off or put off. And I guess the most
18 frustrating part is I trusted the Grain Belt rep that I
19 was talking to to be forthright and honest with me about
20 things, because I'm just a residential citizen. I'm not
21 an attorney. I don't have any friends or family who are
22 attorneys. I don't understand how any of this. I don't
23 think anybody does. Maybe this room but that's it.

24 So I didn't understand the PSC process in full
25 and I kind of relied on them to be honest with me and

1 explain to me what they could or couldn't do. And they
2 took advantage of that. And here we are so long after
3 you guys approved the route with me having to come here
4 and basically beg you to not let them harm me or my
5 property with this line. Thank you.

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Meadows, thank you. Any
7 bench questions by chance?

8 Opening statement from Grain Belt. Mr.
9 Schulte, when you're ready.

10 MR. SCHULTE: Thank you. I did have a power
11 point that I think will go up on the screen. It's
12 really just a summary of what will be in the transcript
13 anyway.

14 Good morning. My name is Andrew Schulte with
15 the Polsinelli Law Firm on behalf of Grain Belt Express.
16 I would like to begin my opening statement with a
17 discussion of the legal standards that are applicable to
18 this case.

19 The Commission's authority, including its
20 authority to hear complaints, is derived from the
21 General Assembly and defined by statute. The relevant
22 statute for complaints is Section 386.390, RSMo, and it
23 provides that the Commission has authority to hear
24 complaints "setting forth any act or thing done or
25 omitted to be done" by a public utility "in violation,

1 or claimed to be in violation, of any provision of law
2 subject to the Commission's authority, of any rule
3 promulgated by the Commission, or of any utility tariff,
4 or of any order or decision of the Commission."

5 Accordingly, it is required that Ms. Meadows
6 identify the specific act or thing done or omitted to be
7 done by Grain Belt Express in her initial formal
8 complaint. Failure to do so violates the due process
9 rights of Grain Belt Express by failing to provide
10 notice and an opportunity to respond.

11 What is not allowed and what cannot be
12 entertained by this Commission is a roving general
13 investigation by a complainant on the basis of mere
14 suspicion. Unfortunately, this proceeding has often
15 veered into that territory.

16 After the act or thing done or omitted to be
17 done is identified, the burden is on the complainant,
18 even a pro se complainant, to present evidence that
19 shows by a preponderance of substantial competent
20 evidence that a violation has occurred.

21 In this case, Ms. Meadows has produced a long
22 and amorphous list of theories and concerns and
23 allegations. But despite months of discovery, she has
24 failed to produce any substantial competent evidence to
25 support her allegations. Therefore, she has failed to

1 satisfy her burden of proof and the complaint must be
2 denied.

3 The basis for the complaint has been
4 identified by the Commission in previous orders in this
5 proceeding. First, in the initial complaint filed on
6 October 15, 2024, Ms. Meadows alleged that, first, the
7 project is not designed to have a minimal impact to land
8 and, two, the routing team did not try to avoid built-up
9 areas and residences. Both of these allegations are
10 incomplete and paraphrased portions of two Findings of
11 Fact from the Commission's Order in Case No.
12 EA-2023-0017 whereby the Commission granted Grain Belt
13 Express a request for an amended CCN. For convenience,
14 we'll refer to that case as the CCN case. My co-counsel
15 recently requested the administrative notice of several
16 documents from that case.

17 Five months after the initial complaint was
18 filed by Ms. Meadows and in response to a Motion for
19 Reconsideration of the Commission's Denial of Grain Belt
20 Express's Motion to Dismiss, Ms. Meadows raised a
21 completely new allegation. Those allegations raised in
22 March of this year are that Grain Belt Express prevented
23 Ms. Meadows from contacting the Commission regarding the
24 route for the Tiger Connector and/or Grain Belt Express
25 deliberately omitted and withheld information regarding

1 the Commission's route approval process. The Commission
2 allowed Ms. Meadows to amend her complaint to include
3 those additional allegations.

4 First I'll address the original allegations
5 from the formal complaint. These allegations do not
6 implicate a provision of law, rule or tariff. Rather
7 the complainant has identified two Findings of Fact in
8 the Commission's Report and Order in the CCN case. For
9 ease of reference, I'll refer to this Report and Order
10 as the CCN Order.

11 The CCN Order, like most of the Commission's
12 report and orders, is divided into five sections. The
13 first is the procedural history, second is the Findings
14 of Fact and each Finding of Fact cites to substantial
15 competent evidence in the record of that case. Third,
16 the Commission presents conclusions of law which address
17 the Commission's legal authority and the applicable
18 standards of law. Fourth, the Commission presents its
19 decision where it applies the facts from the Findings of
20 Fact to the legal standards and determines whether those
21 legal standards have been met. Fifth, the Commission
22 provided a summary, which is a very brief recap of the
23 Commission's decision. And finally, after the summary,
24 the Commission sets forth its ordering paragraphs.

25 The CCN Order contains 16 ordering paragraphs.

1 12 of the 16 ordering paragraphs describe conditions
2 that Grain Belt Express must abide by. These conditions
3 include, among other things, financing requirements,
4 landowner protocols and reporting requirements.

5 The ordering paragraphs that require Grain
6 Belt Express to abide by conditions cite to additional
7 documents such as the landowner protocols, code of
8 conduct, agricultural impact, mitigation protocols.
9 There's also an attachment that summarizes or sets forth
10 all of the conditions that were agreed to between staff
11 and Grain Belt Express.

12 The initial formal complaint in this case did
13 not allege a violation of any of those conditions.
14 Instead, the complainant alleged a violation of two
15 Findings of Fact which appear under Section 2 of the CCN
16 Order. Section 2 of the CCN Order contains 156 numbered
17 Findings of Fact. Each of those is supported by
18 footnotes with references to the evidence in the record
19 of the case.

20 The Findings of Fact, plus the Conclusions of
21 Law, form the basis for the Commission's Decision in its
22 ordering paragraphs. However, the Findings of Facts are
23 not themselves directives to the company or conditions
24 upon which the company must operate. Rather, the
25 Findings of Fact are simply a restatement of the

1 evidence that was already presented in the case.
2 Accordingly, a Finding of Fact cannot be violated and it
3 does not form the basis for a complaint pursuant to
4 Section 386.390, RSMo.

5 For these reasons, Grain Belt Express moved to
6 dismiss the formal complaint as filed. The motion was
7 denied. So we won't reargue it here. However, what we
8 are left with are two Findings of Fact that were true
9 when the Commission issued the CCN Order on October 12,
10 2023, and they remain true to this day.

11 Grain Belt Express already supported the two
12 Findings of Fact with extensive evidence in the CCN case
13 and the Commission found that evidence persuasive and
14 convincing. Now we are being asked to support those
15 Findings of Fact once again. However, the evidence
16 hasn't changed. Accordingly, much of what you will hear
17 today from the Grain Belt Express witnesses is a
18 recitation of their prior previous testimony in support
19 of the Findings of Fact that are implicated by Ms.
20 Meadows' complaint.

21 It is important to note as well that Ms.
22 Meadows' formal complaint presented an incomplete and
23 misleading version of the Findings of Fact. The
24 complete Findings of Fact are shown on the screen. The
25 first is No. 138 and it reads the project is designed to

1 have a minimal impact to land. In Phase I for the HVDC
2 Main Line approximately 9 acres will be taken out of
3 agricultural production. For Phase I Tiger Connector
4 approximately 0.2 acres will be taken out of
5 agricultural production. And for the Phase II HVDC Main
6 Line, approximately 7 acres will be taken out of
7 agricultural production.

8 The support for this Finding of Fact is found
9 in Aaron White's surrebuttal testimony in the CCN case
10 as indicated by the footnotes in the CCN Order. When
11 reading this Finding of Fact No. 138 in its entirety, it
12 becomes clear that it's focused on the impact on
13 agricultural property specifically.

14 The Tiger Connector does not take any of Ms.
15 Meadows' property out of agricultural production. In
16 fact, there are no plans for a structure on Ms. Meadows'
17 property. It is merely spanned. So this Finding of
18 Fact is not even applicable.

19 Finding of Fact No. 140 reads the routing team
20 for the project also tried to avoid built-up areas,
21 residences, wetlands, forested areas, center pivot
22 irrigation, and where practical, to follow existing
23 developed corridors such as roads and existing
24 transmission and distribution lines. The support for
25 this Finding of Fact can be found in Andrew Burke's

1 direct testimony in the CCN case. When this Finding of
2 Fact is read in its entirety, it becomes clear that
3 Grain Belt Express appropriately balanced many competing
4 interests when developing its route.

5 Although residences were a very important
6 factor in the routing process, they were not the only
7 factor. In the Commission's order denying Grain Belt's
8 motion to dismiss, it stated the Commission has
9 generally heard small complaint cases where complainants
10 have clearly articulated what might amount to a
11 violation without being able to cite to the particular
12 law, rule, tariff, or Commission order provision that
13 was violated.

14 The Commission went on to say that this
15 complaint is not a small complaint case and the
16 Commission does not intend for this complaint to turn
17 into an impermissible collateral attack on the
18 Commission's order granting Grain Belt a certificate of
19 convenience and necessity. It is not clear to us,
20 however, how we can relitigate findings of fact in the
21 CCN Order without being subject to a collateral attack
22 on the CCN Order, which is why we filed a request for
23 reconsideration of the Commission's denial of the motion
24 to dismiss. That request for reconsideration is still
25 pending. The Commission has not ruled on it. But we

1 believe that motion for reconsideration should be
2 granted.

3 In any event, our witnesses today are
4 nevertheless prepared to address how the routing process
5 unfolded and why the Commission correctly and
6 appropriately reached the conclusions that it did in the
7 CCN Order. While Ms. Meadows has articulated many
8 concerns and fears regarding the transmission line,
9 those concerns and fears are her own. She has not shown
10 that those fears and concerns are based on substantial
11 competent evidence. Rather the Commission has
12 previously found many times that Grain Belt Express and
13 Invenergy have the qualifications to develop, construct
14 and operate the project citing to Invenergy's extensive
15 experience and impressive record in developing and
16 constructing energy projects.

17 Invenergy has developed and constructed over
18 4,000 miles of transmission and distribution voltage
19 lines across the United States and internationally
20 traversing diverse geographical regions such as the
21 Nevada desert, the mountainous terrain of Idaho, the
22 wetlands of Texas, farmland in Illinois, and swamps in
23 Georgia and more.

24 Grain Belt is required to design and engineer
25 and construct the Tiger Connector in accordance with

1 strict engineering and safety and reliability concerns
2 as promulgated by the North American Electric
3 Reliability Corporation, NERC, the National Electric
4 Safety Code, NESC, and the Commission's own regulation
5 which is found at 20 CSR 4240-18.010, which is the
6 safety standards for electric corporations,
7 telecommunication companies, and rural electric
8 cooperatives.

9 It is Grain Belt Express's practice to
10 establish design performance above the minimum
11 requirements of NESC by incorporating design performance
12 criteria and recommendations from other industry
13 standards and good practice. The substantial competent
14 evidence in this case and prior cases shows that Grain
15 Belt Express has the experience required to build
16 transmission lines that are safe and reliable and Ms.
17 Meadows just like every other landowner along the Tiger
18 Connector and the Grain Belt Express project as a whole
19 will benefit from Grain Belt Express's obligation to
20 maintain and operate the line in a safe and reliable
21 manner.

22 Moving now to Ms. Meadow's additional
23 allegations which are that Grain Belt Express prevented
24 Ms. Meadows from contacting the Commission regarding the
25 route for the Tiger Connector and that Grain Belt

1 Express deliberately omitted and withheld information
2 regarding the Commission's route approval process.

3 Frankly, it is hard to fathom how Ms. Meadows
4 believes those allegations to be true. The record in
5 the CCN case contains extensive documentation of the
6 public outreach conducted by the Grain Belt Express
7 team. Kevin Chandler, who testified in the CCN case and
8 sponsored the public outreach testimony on behalf of
9 Grain Belt Express, is here to testify again regarding
10 those public outreach efforts. Ms. Meadows has made
11 many allegations about her perceived shortcomings of the
12 Commission's communications, but those perceptions are
13 her own.

14 As a product of this case, we have developed a
15 comprehensive timeline of communications between Ms.
16 Meadows and the company and annotated that timeline with
17 copies of poster boards, handouts, notice letters and
18 Ms. Meadow's own notes all of which demonstrate the
19 company has always been transparent about the routing
20 process and went above and beyond to communicate that
21 process with Ms. Meadows and other landowners.

22 This is the exhibit with the timeline and the
23 annotated timeline with every communication between Ms.
24 Meadows and the company. And we will submit this
25 timeline and its attachments into the record of this

1 case. And if Ms. Meadows is to prove her allegations,
2 she must point to something in this record that shows
3 that the company prevented her from contacting the
4 Commission or deliberately omitted and withheld
5 information about the Commission's role in approving the
6 Tiger Connector. But this she cannot do because it
7 doesn't exist. Rather the timeline demonstrates that
8 the company directly informed Ms. Meadows of the
9 Commission's process no less than six times.

10 First, on July 12, 2022, Grain Belt Express
11 mailed notice letters for public meetings in Audrain and
12 Callaway Counties that reference the application process
13 at the Commission.

14 At the public meetings, there were poster
15 boards displayed that included a timeline of the
16 anticipated timing of the application at the Commission
17 and the Commission's decision. Attendees of the public
18 meetings were also provided a handout that included the
19 same timeline. On August 18, 2022, Grain Belt Express
20 mailed notice letters indicating that it would be filing
21 its application at the Commission providing the file
22 number for the application and providing contact
23 information for the Commission and the Office of Public
24 Counsel.

25 On March 20, 2023, while the application was

1 still pending at the Commission, Grain Belt Express sent
2 voluntary easement offer letters again referencing the
3 Commission process.

4 On June 5 through 8, 2023, the Commission held
5 an evidentiary hearing in the CCN case. Ms. Meadows
6 watched the livestream of the Commission's hearing in
7 the CCN case in realtime. It is inconceivable how Ms.
8 Meadows can claim that she didn't know about the
9 Commission process when she watched the process happen
10 in realtime.

11 Finally, on August 4, 2023, before the
12 Commission issued its decision in the CCN case, there
13 was a phone between Jason Brown and Ms. Meadows in which
14 they discussed the timing of the Commission's decision
15 and Ms. Meadows took down a note that reads Jason Brown
16 from GBE called. They're waiting on PSC decision before
17 figuring out about moving the line off or less on me.
18 So the reality is Ms. Meadows was informed of the
19 Commission's process and she could have intervened and
20 participated when the route was still subject to
21 evaluation by the Commission. In fact, numerous
22 individual landowners did intervene and participate in
23 the CCN case.

24 Additionally, two landowner associations
25 intervened and participated in the CCN case, as did the

1 Farm Bureau. Ms. Meadows could have contacted any of
2 these groups for more information or to represent her
3 concerns during the CCN proceeding even without herself
4 intervening.

5 The participation by these individual
6 landowners and landowner groups demonstrate there was no
7 effort by Grain Belt Express to prevent landowners from
8 contacting the Commission or participating in the route
9 approval process. But rather than intervene and
10 participate at the appropriate point in time, Ms.
11 Meadows filed an untimely collateral attack on the CCN
12 Order which has led us to where we are today.

13 This complaint process began over a year ago
14 when Ms. Meadows submitted an informal complaint. That
15 was in July of 2024. Three months later she filed her
16 formal complaint. Since that time, many hundreds, if
17 not thousands of hours, have been spent addressing
18 dozens of pleadings. There's 85 docket entries in this
19 case. Responding to dozens of data requests and
20 preparing for this hearing.

21 We maintain that Ms. Meadows failed to meet
22 the threshold requirements of the Commission's complaint
23 statute and despite the Commission's commitment that
24 this proceeding would not turn into a collateral attack
25 on the CCN Order a collateral attack is exactly what we

1 have.

2 It's an unfortunate use of resources that
3 could have been spent on permitting easement
4 acquisition, final engineering and indeed communication
5 with other landowners. These are all important develop
6 activities that have been delayed. Avoiding this
7 inefficient use of resources going forward is important
8 not only for Grain Belt Express but for all
9 infrastructure projects in the state.

10 If the Commission's CCN Orders cannot be
11 relied upon as final, the time and cost to construct
12 critical infrastructure in this state will materially
13 increase and the public interest will suffer as a
14 result.

15 In summary, Ms. Meadows has not satisfied her
16 burden to present any evidence in support of her
17 original or her additional allegations.

18 The Commission staff has filed two reports in
19 this case both concluding that Grain Belt Express has
20 not violated any tariff, rule, statute or Commission
21 order. Staff's position statement filed at the end of
22 last week states based on staff's review of information
23 provided by Grain Belt and Cheri Meadows, staff did not
24 identify any violations by Grain Belt of any applicable
25 statutes, Commission rules, regulations, Commission

1 orders or Commission decisions arising from the
2 allegations in this complaint.

3 Staff's position statement also stated because
4 staff found no violations, staff is of the opinion that
5 no relief is appropriate in this case. The Office of
6 Public Counsel has also not alleged any violations or
7 proposed any relief. Because Ms. Meadows as the
8 complainant has the burden to present substantial
9 competent evidence and she has not done so, Grain Belt
10 Express is under no legal obligation to present its own
11 evidence.

12 Nevertheless, we are prepared to present three
13 witnesses in this case. So I will just read them out
14 loud. Aaron White, Senior Director of Transmission
15 Engineering, who will address transmission line design
16 and safety as I referenced in my opening statement.
17 Jason Brown, Director of Local and Community Affairs,
18 who will address his communications with Ms. Meadows.
19 And Kevin Chandler, Senior Director of Transmission
20 Public Affairs, who will address the routing process and
21 public outreach.

22 Grain Belt Express's participation in this
23 case and presentation of witnesses is further
24 demonstration of the company's transparency and good
25 faith effort to provide information to landowners and

1 the Commission consistent with its practice before,
2 during and after the CCN proceeding and throughout the
3 easement acquisition process. That concludes my opening
4 statement. I'm happy to stand for any questions.

5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Schulte, thank you. Let
6 me see if we have any bench questions. Anything from
7 the bench? Hearing nothing. Mr. Schulte, could I
8 trouble you to give the Commission both hard copies of
9 your opening statement and also if you can file that
10 into EFIS, you know, when it's reasonably practicable
11 for you.

12 MR. SCHULTE: Of the presentation itself?

13 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Correct.

14 MR. SCHULTE: Yes.

15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you.

16 MR. SCHULTE: Thank you, Judge. Thank you,
17 Commissioners.

18 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much. Any
19 opening statement from staff? Ms. Hansen, when you're
20 ready.

21 MS. HANSEN: Yes, thank you. Good morning and
22 may it please the Commission. My name is Andrea Hansen,
23 and I'm representing Commission staff. Staff's function
24 in this case is not to relitigate, to relitigate the
25 facts of previous CCN cases involving Grain Belt and the

1 Tiger Connector, nor is staff's function to take sides
2 with the other parties to this case.

3 Staff's function in this case is to conduct an
4 investigation based upon Ms. Meadows' complaint and
5 determine whether or not Grain Belt violated any
6 applicable statutes, tariffs, Commission rules,
7 regulations, Commission orders or Commission decisions
8 that arise from Ms. Meadows' allegations. In conducting
9 its investigation, staff considered all of the
10 information provided by Ms. Meadows, as well as Grain
11 Belt, and analyzed this information in light of the
12 conditions and protocols in the report and order that
13 was issued in the Tiger Connector case, the Tiger
14 Connector CCN case, which is EA-2023-0017 which Mr.
15 Schulte referred to in his opening statement.

16 This approach that we used was in line with
17 staff's role at the PSC. In conducting its thorough
18 investigation, staff not only reviewed information
19 provided by both parties, it also submitted data
20 requests, attended a deposition and reviewed applicable
21 rules and laws. Staff's investigation, its analysis and
22 its findings are memorialized in the Staff Report and
23 the Supplemental Staff Report. These were filed in EFIS
24 on January 17, 2025 and June 12, 2025, respectively.

25 In both the Staff Report and the Supplemental

1 Staff Report, staff concluded that Grain Belt has not
2 committed any violations. Staff's position remains that
3 there have not been any violations on the part of Grain
4 Belt. Because staff has found no violation by Grain
5 Belt, staff does not believe that relief is appropriate
6 in this case.

7 Staff is here today to provide explanations
8 and clarity regarding its Report and Supplemental
9 Report. Both the Staff Report and the Supplemental
10 Staff Report will be offered into evidence by staff.

11 Mr. Alan Bax, Associate Engineer with staff,
12 contributed to the safety portion of the Staff Report
13 and he is here today to testify on that issue. He will
14 testify that staff did not find a safety violation on
15 the part of Grain Belt. Mr. Coty King, Senior
16 Compliance Analyst, conducted the majority of the
17 investigation and wrote the majority of the
18 above-mentioned reports. Mr. King is here to testify on
19 the remaining issues covered in the Staff Report and the
20 Supplemental Staff Report. He will testify that he also
21 found no violations.

22 I am happy to answer any questions that you
23 may have or to direct you to the individual that can
24 answer those questions. Thank you.

25 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Hansen, thank you. Any

1 bench questions for staff? Hearing none. Thank you,
2 Ms. Hansen.

3 Any opening from public counsel? Mr. Poston,
4 when you're ready.

5 MR. POSTON: If it please the Commission.
6 Good morning. Marc Poston, Public Counsel, here on
7 behalf of the public. You may ask what interest does
8 the public have in a complaint filed by one landowner
9 trying to reroute a transmission line to avoid her
10 property. We have not taken a position on the issue of
11 whether Grain Belt violated a statute, rule, tariff or
12 order. We may take a position once the record is
13 established following this hearing.

14 But mostly I'm here for the process to help
15 the Commission recognize it has the authority to find in
16 favor of either Ms. Meadows or Grain Belt. And perhaps
17 you already recognize that you have that authority or we
18 wouldn't be here today hearing this case.

19 I don't believe the public generally will be
20 impacted one way or another if this line is built over
21 Ms. Meadows' property or moved slightly to the south as
22 she's requested. But I believe the public will be
23 impacted if you conclude you don't have the authority to
24 order Grain Belt to do something different than what it
25 currently plans to do.

1 My intention is to make clear in my
2 post-hearing brief the authority that you do have in
3 this complaint case. If the facts brought out during
4 this hearing support a conclusion that Grain Belt did
5 not follow the CCN conditions involving avoiding
6 residences or minimizing land impacts, you have the
7 authority to order them to follow those conditions as
8 you interpret them. Even if you conclude the CCN Order
9 was not violated, you still have the statutory authority
10 to determine it would be unreasonable for Grain Belt to
11 not do better to avoid Ms. Meadows' property.

12 If you've read Ms. Meadows' filings in this
13 case, you're probably as impressed as I am with her
14 ability to write legal pleadings that read like they
15 were written by a seasoned attorney. Don't be fooled.
16 She's not an attorney and all of this is new to her.

17 The company has every advantage over her in
18 terms of legal experience, ability to hire a big team of
19 attorneys, a knowledge of this process, knowledge of the
20 CCN process, and they're the only entity that knows why
21 they routed it the way they did and all the reasons why
22 they didn't avoid her property. And if you followed Ms.
23 Meadows' discovery battles in this case, you've seen her
24 just trying to understand the company's rationale in
25 routing over her property as opposed to the open land to

1 the south that is away from residences.

2 To the south of her small strip of land is a
3 large open cow pasture where she has argued it would
4 make more sense to route the line to avoid residences
5 and impacts to land. Last month I visited the property
6 and Ms. Meadows showed me where the line is routed to
7 cross her property. She's done an amazing job building
8 her home. It looks like a well-groomed park. Clearly
9 she appreciates and cherishes her land and has done so
10 for a long time.

11 So I only ask that you listen to what she has
12 to say and put yourselves in her shoes as you consider
13 what to do with this complaint. If you do agree with
14 her that it would be better to avoid residences and land
15 impact to reroute the line to her south, I ask that
16 before you order Grain Belt to do so that you order them
17 or your staff to contact the landowner to the south and
18 give them an opportunity to address this. They may have
19 equally good reasons to avoid their property or they may
20 welcome the payments that they would receive for having
21 the line cross their property.

22 The point is that landowner should be apprised
23 of any changes that would impact their property and they
24 should be given an opportunity to either oppose or
25 support that before an ultimate decision is made.

1 Thank you.

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Poston, thank you. Bench
3 questions?

4 CHAIR HAHN: Yeah, procedural.

5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Chair Hahn.

6 CHAIR HAHN: On your recommendation, clearly
7 we'll go through the hearing today and figure out what's
8 best, but help me understand if the Commission
9 potentially at the end of the hearing did think that the
10 line should be potentially rerouted that may impact
11 another landowner, procedurally how would that work with
12 the new impacted landowner's due process in deciding
13 this case? What's the procedure on that?

14 MR. POSTON: I don't think there is an
15 established procedure for that kind of thing, but I
16 think you could put a decision on hold until that
17 landowner has been brought in and given an opportunity
18 to weigh in on this. That's what I would propose be
19 done.

20 CHAIR HAHN: Thank you.

21 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Any further questions?
22 Commissioner Coleman.

23 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you. Mr. Poston,
24 Chair Hahn hit on part of my question. My second part
25 would be you don't deny that if there was the scenario

1 that landowners further south were impacted by this that
2 we could have this scenario created over and over and
3 over again with those landowners coming before us with
4 requests for their land that's being possibly impacted
5 to come before us and say hey, hold up, we'd like to
6 debate this question also. Couldn't this be a catch 22?

7 MR. POSTON: If they were to oppose it and the
8 Commission would then want to keep moving the line
9 further and further, yeah, I could see that. But I
10 mean, it could be that that landowner does not oppose
11 it; that they would welcome the payments that they would
12 get from it.

13 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Okay. Thank you.

14 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Commissioner, thank you. Any
15 further bench questions for Mr. Poston? Mr. Poston,
16 thank you.

17 Anything further before we proceed to
18 evidence? Ms. Meadows.

19 MS. MEADOWS: I apologize. I didn't know I
20 was supposed to ask if anyone had any questions of me up
21 there. Did anyone have any questions? Do I have to go
22 back up there and ask?

23 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I think you're fine. Thank
24 you. I appreciate it. Commissioner, certainly.

25 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Ms. Meadows,

1 Mr. Schulte stated that you've had ample opportunity to
2 be aware of the process and of the meetings. Were you
3 in attendance at that first public meeting where he
4 stated that poster boards and handouts were provided to
5 those in attendance? Were you at that first meeting?

6 MS. MEADOWS: Is that the July 2022 meeting
7 he's talking about?

8 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: I do believe it was in
9 2022.

10 MS. MEADOWS: If that was the first public, I
11 wasn't aware of several of them. So that's the only one
12 that I went to that I was aware of. I know you guys
13 went to Mexico and I don't know if you had any more.
14 But that was the only one I was aware of so I went.
15 Every time that I knew there was a meeting or something
16 I was there because my stance on this from the very
17 first time I learned this thing was going across my land
18 was no, no, no, no and I have not waived. So if I've
19 ever been given an opportunity to go and complain or ask
20 what, why, I've taken it. So if you are referring to
21 the July 22 one, I did go. I just looked at the maps on
22 the table because I didn't know where on my property it
23 was actually going to be. So I was just interested in,
24 you know, I'm a 400 wide at the widest point piece of
25 property on a half mile stretch of road with no other

1 houses, no other anything. So I was baffled as to how
2 they couldn't avoid my land.

3 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: So whether it was the
4 first meeting or not, you have seen this information,
5 you did receive or --

6 MS. MEADOWS: I don't believe I saw that.

7 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: And that hasn't been
8 introduced really yet so I'm not sure what that is. So
9 we'll get to that at some time.

10 MS. MEADOWS: I just saw maps of the county,
11 yeah, the county of the line going through. I don't
12 believe it was that.

13 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you. Thank you,
14 Judge.

15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Certainly. Any further
16 questions before we proceed to evidence? Ms. Meadows,
17 you wish to testify today; is that correct?

18 MS. MEADOWS: I absolutely do.

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'll ask you to raise your
20 right hand to be sworn, please. Do you swear the
21 evidence you're about to give will be the truth, the
22 whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

23 MS. MEADOWS: I do.

24 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Very good. Thank you. Ms.
25 Meadows, this is your opportunity to testify before the

1 Commission. Since you're representing yourself, I will
2 leave it to you if you'd rather take the witness stand
3 here or stay where you are. Either way is fine as long
4 as you're speaking into a microphone. And this is your
5 opportunity to tell the Commission what you want them to
6 hear.

7 CHERI MEADOWS,
8 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

9 MS. MEADOWS: Okay. I think I'm just going to
10 start with a picture is worth a thousand words. I think
11 I'm going to start with the exhibit. It's Exhibit 26.
12 How do I distribute these? Do I just stand up and start
13 handing?

14 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Yes, ma'am. If you have
15 copies, if you'll please start giving those out. Thank
16 you.

17 MS. CALLENBACH: Judge, excuse me. May I ask
18 a question?

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Certainly.

20 MS. CALLENBACH: When we received Ms. Meadows'
21 exhibit lists, there are 25 exhibits on this list. Can
22 Ms. Meadows please explain what 26 is?

23 MS. MEADOWS: I can't do two things at once.
24 Can you give me just a second? So I'll give the
25 Commissioners a chance just to look at that. What that

1 basically is is I have a drone because I'm an animal
2 rescuer. People think they can just drive out in the
3 country and dump their animals out. I take them in. I
4 currently have nine. And sometimes when I bring them in
5 off the road where they've been dumped, they get
6 confused because they were just dumped and so they do
7 make it back to the road. So I have a drone so that I
8 can -- I'm a quarter of a mile back off the road. So I
9 can't see the road from my house. I have a drone that I
10 can go and make sure they're not on the road or they're
11 not anywhere around chasing cattle or whatever.

12 So that's the picture that I shot of what it
13 looks like around my property. Now, if Brian would be
14 so kind to play the video that I shot of my house.

15 That's on the -- should I address them first?
16 Sorry.

17 JUDGE PRIDGIN: That's quite all right. I
18 believe --

19 MS. MEADOWS: Wait just a second.

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I believe Grain Belt asked
21 what Exhibit 26 was, and I think that Ms. Meadows tried
22 to explain what Exhibit 26 was.

23 MS. MEADOWS: Yeah, yeah. It was an
24 afterthought. It's the southerly part of land. And I
25 think I put it on the -- I tried to do the best I could

1 here. Can you rewind, Brian? We were missing that.

2 So this is standing where my yard actually
3 begins. That tall tree right there was struck by
4 lightning. My home is an earth contact home. The
5 previous house you see the mangled tree there. That's
6 still burnt from the house that was there years ago that
7 was struck by lightning and burned.

8 Here I am just walking down my drive showing
9 you how I have to mow this drive, I have to go down and
10 keep all the stuff trimmed off. I spend a lot of time
11 out on my drive. It's a quarter of a mile long and
12 here's the stake, the first stake that's the north deal
13 easement end. Those are all the trees between me and
14 the road that will be taken out. That's me showing it.

15 All the trees that will have to be bulldozed
16 that I've let intentionally grow up for the wildlife and
17 for privacy. That's the center line mark. That's my
18 existing electrical line overhead. There's the southern
19 easement. That's a 200-foot wide swath that they want
20 to take out. I measured it. It's 200 feet. All those
21 trees are going to be destroyed.

22 There's the opening through my property to the
23 empty pasture where no one lives and not a single tree
24 would have to come down. Back to the center line and
25 all the trees that are in the way. That giant one right

1 there that I just panned on is probably at least 55 foot
2 tall back at the center line. And back at the north
3 edge of the road.

4 All of those trees will be gone on both sides.
5 So as you can see, this isn't some minor little problem
6 I have with this line. If you can't tell by this video,
7 that is my only entry and exit out of my property.
8 There's no other way I'm coming or getting off my
9 property except that drive. If their line should ever
10 fall, and they do. I've found 14 cases of them, of
11 lines falling. If that line should ever fall, I'll
12 probably die. It will take my other electric line down.

13 I called my county electric cooperative and I
14 asked them what would happen if their high powered line
15 fell on my line coming to my house. He said well, we
16 don't really know. Nothing could happen or your house
17 could burn down.

18 MS. CALLENBACH: Judge, we're going to object
19 to that. That's all hearsay. That gentleman is not
20 here to be cross-examined on that statement. That is
21 simply Ms. Meadows' recollection of that statement and
22 we'd object as to hearsay.

23 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Objection is
24 overruled. Ms. Meadows, you can continue.

25 MS. MEADOWS: I actually -- They have a copy

1 of the note I wrote on my notepad and I can share that
2 with anyone. But in any case, and I was like well, that
3 doesn't really work out well for me because I live in an
4 earth contact home. And what that means is if you saw
5 at the beginning, my house sits really low. It's
6 basically built into the ground. So three sides are
7 concrete and the front has cedar siding on it, which
8 it's actual cedar siding wood which burns very hot and
9 quick. And everything I own is in that house. I don't
10 have a shed. So I have my car, my lawn mower, my four
11 wheeler, all my tools. Everything I own plus my animals
12 are in that house. I'm a 100 percent electric on a well
13 residence.

14 So if I don't have electricity, I don't have
15 water. If that line should fall and God forbid start a
16 fire, I would have no water to put it out and nobody
17 could come down my drive and help me put it out. And I
18 would probably die trying to save my animals or my car
19 or something. And I don't think that that is asking too
20 much that I not be put in a position where I could die
21 because they don't want to move this line a few hundred
22 feet south where there's no risk, no risk of fire to
23 anybody or death or anything. For some reason, they're
24 convinced that it's too much trouble or something. I
25 don't know. I've actually requested several ways of

1 trying to get the information to figure out why they
2 chose my land.

3 They said they tried to avoid residences,
4 which that was in my formal complaint. I'm like how
5 could you try. How could you even say that when I'm the
6 only house on a one-mile stretch of road and you
7 couldn't avoid me. My property is not 1,000 acres.
8 It's 20 acres and it's 400 foot wide at the widest
9 point. And then where my house sits it's like 275. So
10 it's a very long strip of land and it's blocked by a
11 crop field you saw at the beginning, soybean field on
12 one side and pasture and fence on the other side.

13 So there's no driving out of there. You can't
14 even walk through a crop field when it's wet. I don't
15 know if you've ever tried. I don't recommend it but you
16 can't. And you definitely can't drive. And the way the
17 line is coming across, even if I could get out without
18 hitting something, I would be concerned that I would get
19 stuck out there and then my situation would only be
20 worse if anyone did make it to my house. I haven't been
21 able to find out how long it would even take to get the
22 line repaired. So at least my local cooperative, if
23 anything should go wrong, my local cooperative, they're
24 local, they'll be here in an hour or two and they'll
25 have me back up and running.

1 In this case they wouldn't be able to do
2 anything until Grain Belt gets their stuff taken care
3 of, and Grain Belt hasn't been able to tell me -- the
4 way I understand it from what I read, they don't even
5 have to tell, they don't have to tell you how long it
6 will take until right before they flip the switch to
7 turn it on. If I'm incorrect, someone can correct me on
8 that. That's not very comforting when I'm sitting there
9 wondering if my house could burn down for the next 40 to
10 50 years because that is how long I plan on living at
11 that place. This is my long-term home and they're
12 coming in and they're ruining it and they don't need to.
13 All they have to do is move this line south of me.

14 And from the day one I've tried to find out.
15 I asked repeatedly why did you guys target my land. I
16 don't know. That was always the answer. I don't know.
17 And so I've continued to work with them thinking I'll
18 bring them out to my house. By the way, all of you
19 Commissioners are invited to my house. If you think
20 that I am bending, weaving, wobbling any of this
21 information to make myself look better or worse or
22 sadder or whatever, you can come see for yourself.

23 I tried to put it in a video and pictures; but
24 if you want to see yourself, the door is open. I have
25 nothing to hide in any of this. I'm not playing any

1 games or whatever. I genuinely believed that you guys
2 approved the route but they could move the line a little
3 bit because it seems odd to me that they're 100 miles,
4 or however many miles it is, 40 miles and then the 800
5 miles when they don't have any leeway when they run
6 across circumstances like this.

7 Another thing I'd like to point out is I asked
8 -- they claimed, they claimed, that they did wind shield
9 surveys and recon trips. They literally drove around
10 and looked at this property. I have trouble believing
11 that they drove down my road and were like empty
12 pasture, crops, nothing, lots of woods with a house,
13 that's it, that's what we need to do, because nobody
14 would drive down there and think that that was a better
15 idea to put a high powered transmission line through the
16 only house on that whole stretch of road. But they did
17 it. But they can't tell me why.

18 I have my assumptions. I'm not going to get
19 into those. I did notice that during the opening
20 testimony there Andrew made the comment about ag land.
21 So it seems to be like I'm a collateral damage because I
22 don't farm or have livestock or something on my land.
23 And that's not fair.

24 And I feel like all this is eminent domain
25 abuse because they can literally take my land. I can

1 sit here and say but your line could fall and it could
2 kill me. It could prevent me from getting out or rescue
3 services from getting in and we don't even know how
4 long. That should count. That should mean something to
5 somebody. The people building the line, don't they have
6 a breach of duty to make sure their line doesn't
7 jeopardize someone's health and life and property. I
8 mean, I could see nobody around me wants the line, but I
9 don't know that anyone else is dealing with a situation
10 like mine where it could literally kill them.

11 This isn't me oh, I don't want to look at it.
12 I'm not even sure if I can see it from my house. I
13 don't even care. I even told them if you must run it on
14 me, run it north of my house. There's no drive.
15 There's no power lines. There's nothing. So I won't
16 have to spend the next 40 or 50 years worrying about
17 this line ever falling or an ice storm or tornado or
18 anything.

19 That actually leads me to some of my
20 additional exhibits. On Easter of this year, this is
21 22. So what this is is over Easter there were two
22 tornados within about 20 miles of my house. One to the
23 north and one to the south. And the one was an E2.
24 When I was at the public house meeting, I brought up my
25 concern about this line being across my property. And I

1 was told well, it will take an E5 tornado to bring it
2 down. Maybe. I don't know. Do I trust that? No,
3 because when I looked up power lines falling, I found
4 sometimes they fall for no reason other than just wear
5 and tear or they don't even know. So these lines do
6 fall from just wear and tear.

7 And one of the reasons that -- One of the
8 things that can cause lines to fall is ice, tornados,
9 storms, lightning, wind. And if you look at that first
10 picture that I gave you of the drone pic, you see it's
11 wide open there. The winds in Missouri are the average
12 wind speed in my area is around 18 miles an hour and
13 they're southerly winds. So what that means is the wind
14 is blowing basically down my driveway because it's like
15 a corridor. The wind is blowing down my drive. It is
16 blowing along my current electric line. They're
17 proposing putting theirs, it's going to be a crosswind
18 and I'm going to have Brian play the short video, Brian.

19 MS. CALLENBACH: Judge, while Brian is pulling
20 that up, we're going to object to this also as to
21 relevance and hearsay, and Ms. Meadows is not an expert
22 in meteorology or wind speeds.

23 MS. MEADOWS: I have the printout. I just
24 didn't make enough copies for everyone, but I can email
25 it.

1 MS. CALLENBACH: A printout of what?

2 MS. MEADOWS: Of the wind speeds. I think
3 it's Missouri Ag.

4 MS. CALLENBACH: Right. We would object to
5 that as hearsay as well. That's internet research.

6 MS. MEADOWS: It's from the MU Extension
7 Office.

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Objection is
9 overruled. Ms. Meadows, you can continue.

10 MS. MEADOWS: So I have a video that if Brian
11 could play. It just shows -- It's basically just a
12 typical walk down my drive. If you can pay attention,
13 this was in, I believe this was in May. That's the wind
14 and see how it's whipping the top of the trees and also
15 my line. It's coming from -- this line is coming --
16 this wind is coming from the south and it's moving my
17 lines around. I can't imagine what those lines would
18 look like on Grain Belt's towers or whatever it's going
19 to be with wind coming across them vertically.

20 And I think the volume is off but it's very
21 loud. And that was another issue I had is it's already
22 pretty rough walking down that drive. I walk my animals
23 every single day down that drive. I have to mow my yard
24 and drive about once a week and then three or four times
25 during the summer I have to go in and I have to trim

1 everything back. I spend a considerable amount of time
2 on that driveway.

3 It has to be graded, weed eaten, mowed, I have
4 to bring in rock. This isn't just a part of my land
5 that I never use. This is a vital part of my land that
6 I use every single day. If I want to get to my mailbox,
7 I have to walk under this line.

8 And so I'm concerned with them opening up 200
9 feet. It's going to be southeast to northwest. And in
10 the winter, that's the direction the wind normally comes
11 out of and I would be protected. If I have 200 foot of
12 my 400 foot wide land taken out of that, it's going to
13 be so windy I may not even be able to use my land any
14 more because it's cold, it's windy, it's horrible. It's
15 bad enough the way it is, but they're going to make it
16 worse.

17 And then that constant wind across the line,
18 that concerns me. That's wear and tear. And how long
19 -- I mean, Grain Belt is building this for a profit. So
20 obviously they want to make money. Are they going to
21 skimp on the maintenance? Are they going to really
22 care? I don't know. I don't want to gamble. I don't
23 want to gamble my life with that. I spend a lot of time
24 on this drive. Again, I'm not someone who's just
25 sitting looking out the back window at the line in the

1 distance mad and ready to fight. I literally am going
2 to have to be underneath this line bare. That didn't
3 sound right. I'm just not going to be in like a car or
4 a tractor or something. It's just going to be me
5 getting all the magnetics and all the stuff while
6 holding metal equipment or riding a lawn mower or
7 whatever. And I understand, I've never been around one,
8 I understand they're noisy. They have corona noise. So
9 that means my peaceful, quiet little sanctuary out there
10 is suddenly going to have a buzzing line over it which
11 will be difficult if I have a lost animal that I'm
12 trying to locate and it's anywhere near that and I don't
13 even know if I'll able to fly my drone around it. Will
14 my driveway alarms work? I know my cell phone coverage
15 is already very low which I have that. I was told by
16 Grain Belt that basically you guys wouldn't care because
17 it wasn't your jurisdiction, but I did want to show you
18 how poor my cell reception is at my house and also
19 exactly where this line is going to be.

20 I mean, it's just a rural area. You can't
21 tell in any of the videos but how my land lays is you
22 come in off the road, you go down, you come up. It
23 levels out. When you get to my house part, it goes back
24 in a valley. So basically my house is back in a valley
25 underground.

1 So any cell coverage I had to work to find the
2 one that did. Any cell coverage doesn't even work that
3 great there. And I was just curious what it works on,
4 where the line is. Normally I don't take my phone with
5 me because I want my animals and myself to have a break
6 from any electromatic stuff. So I generally don't take
7 my phone. On this particular day I did take my phone.
8 And I tested to see what the reception was.

9 Now, why this matter is because I was coming
10 home one day and there was a truck coming down my drive
11 and I have my drive posted no outlet, private property,
12 no trespassing, no soliciting, no. And this truck was
13 -- SUV was coming out. I saw him. I pulled kind of off
14 to the side because the drive is too narrow for more
15 than one person to get through. So I kind of pulled
16 over so he could stop and tell me why he was down my
17 drive. And I pulled over and I rolled my window down.
18 He like gunned it and left. And I was like whoa, that's
19 bad, I hope he didn't just steal something or hurt
20 something at my house or whatever. I raced down to my
21 house and checked. Thank goodness nothing was harmed.
22 It was scary.

23 Anyway, so I've decided the next time I'm
24 coming down my drive and someone else is coming from my
25 house I'm going to leave my car parked right in the

1 middle of the drive and I'm going to call the sheriff
2 and we'll sort it out that way. I'm not going to try to
3 be nice like I was then. But I have to have cell
4 reception for that. And this is Exhibit No. 2 of my
5 cell phone in my house and also out on the line. And
6 for your all's information --

7 MS. CALLENBACH: Judge, we're going to renew
8 our objection to this as to relevance, hearsay. I'm
9 talking about Exhibit 22 before she passes out another
10 exhibit. Object as to relevance, hearsay, lack of
11 foundation. Ms. Meadows is not an engineer, not a
12 meteorologist. We object to both the document and her
13 opinion testimony regarding the document.

14 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Objection is
15 overruled.

16 MS. MEADOWS: Okay. So these are my cell
17 ratings on my phone from --

18 MS. CALLENBACH: Can we get a copy of that,
19 please?

20 MS. MEADOWS: Well, I'm going to hand it out
21 in a second. I'm explaining it first. Anyway, it tells
22 you what it is and then there's two charts and I
23 intentionally put two charts on here so you guys didn't
24 think that I just picked the one that looked worse.

25 MS. CALLENBACH: Judge, can we please ask for

1 a copy of this so we can follow along with Ms. Meadows'
2 explanation.

3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: That will be fine. Thank you.

4 MS. CALLENBACH: Thank you. Can we just
5 clarify did you say this is Exhibit No. 2?

6 MS. MEADOWS: Yes.

7 MS. CALLENBACH: Okay. Thank you.

8 MS. MEADOWS: So as you can see, I've tried to
9 label everything the best. I have poor cell phone
10 signal. Maybe another carrier could help me out but why
11 do I have to go through all that trouble and hope there
12 is another carrier out there that can give me cell
13 coverage if their line causes me to not have cell
14 coverage. I don't have a whole lot of options.

15 Just another quick story. I was walking up
16 the drive last week to get my mail and there was a car
17 parked at the end of the drive. I walked by the guy and
18 got it and came back by. He apologized profusely. He's
19 like I'm sorry, I just was finally getting cell phone
20 coverage. I didn't ask him anything. I was like fine,
21 because it makes sense. It's kind of a tough area.

22 That's another thing that I have brought up is
23 a concern. I'm a single woman and I'm not comfortable
24 being out there with no other means of communication
25 except a cell phone. And I assume maybe if the line

1 went down it would start working but if it didn't I
2 wouldn't really want to chance it.

3 MS. CALLENBACH: Judge, we're going to object
4 to Exhibit 2 as to relevance and also as to her opinion
5 testimony regarding her cell phone coverage.

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. That objection is
7 overruled. You may continue. Thank you.

8 MS. MEADOWS: Another issue I have is during
9 one of the data requests, which I'll get to that in a
10 minute, staff asked about why they couldn't reroute the
11 line and one of their reasons or excuses or whatever was
12 that it would put it too near a pond. Now, I assume the
13 reason they don't to be too near a pond is because pond
14 and electricity don't mix, but yet they seem to have no
15 problem putting it on my land where I have water sitting
16 in the ditches regularly and I also have a giant culvert
17 at the end of my drive where this line is going to be
18 crossing that holds water. So I don't quite understand
19 how that's not a problem when a little maybe one acre
20 pond is, but I also have proof of that and this is
21 Exhibit No. 1.

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: And I think this is the
23 closest I'm going to get to a natural break. The time
24 is almost 10:45. The Commission needs to hold its
25 weekly agenda meeting in this room at 11:00. So we're

1 going to need to take a recess and I will talk to the
2 Commissioners here briefly and give you an idea when we
3 will resume. Is there anything else anybody needs to
4 take up on the record before we go off the record? Ms.
5 Meadows.

6 MS. MEADOWS: Can I just, while we're all
7 still on this, can I just say in the top left-hand
8 corner it's kind of hard to see but basically at 12:00,
9 that is the center line stake of where this line is
10 going to be that's above where the water is sitting in
11 the ditch.

12 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you.

13 MS. MEADOWS: It's hard to tell but it is
14 there.

15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Anything else we need to take
16 up before we go off the record? All right. We will
17 resume the hearing later today. I'll give you an idea
18 when here in just a few moments but we are off the
19 record.

20 (Off the record.)

21 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Good morning. We are back on
22 the record in Case No. EC-2025-0136. Just a little bit
23 of housekeeping before Ms. Meadows continues her
24 testimony. We will take a lunch break around noon for
25 about an hour and then resume this afternoon. I believe

1 this is only set for today and so as the afternoon
2 progresses we'll see how far we get along. If we need
3 to stay late or go another day or whatever, we will
4 worry about that this afternoon. Just planting a
5 thought in your head to plan one way or another to get
6 this hearing done.

7 Anything from anyone before Ms. Meadows
8 resumes her testimony? Ms. Meadows, I'll remind you
9 you're still under oath and you may continue when you're
10 ready.

11 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you. Okay. So continuing
12 on with this line and the concerns, I did want to print
13 out -- hand out, sorry, Exhibit 7, the potential risks
14 to my property. So I guess I needed to get closer. Is
15 that okay?

16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If you just could try to speak
17 up a little bit into the microphone, that will be great.
18 Thank you.

19 MS. MEADOWS: Okay. So basically if you read
20 this, No. 7, you can see I go over all the high voltage
21 power lines that have fallen and where it's found.
22 Honestly I didn't want to print out any more than I had
23 in all this because it's ironic I'm trying to save my
24 trees and I printed out approximately 1,000 pieces of
25 paper here. Hopefully that's okay with the

1 Commissioners that you can look in the previous, because
2 I think it's referenced in some of the other stuff on
3 some of the stuff that I'm going over. Not necessarily
4 this but in some of the other stuff that I didn't print.

5 And I have other stuff that's going to go
6 along with this as far as the falling. I have some
7 stuff on the EMF that I'll hand out in a minute. The
8 chemical thing. I don't put any chemicals on my animals
9 of any kind. They're healthy. So they don't have
10 fleas, they barely get ticks. I mow my drive so that
11 it's short. We don't have a problem. And I'm not
12 subjecting my animals to toxic chemicals. So I use
13 salt.

14 Obviously I don't use it down my drive because
15 it's costly, but I mow it instead. I am concerned that
16 they're going to have to spray, I don't know what they
17 spray, something toxic I'm sure, on that 200-foot wide
18 portion on my land to keep it from growing up. Now,
19 back and forth during the replies, and that's kind of
20 what I'm referring to here, they were going back and
21 forth that they would only spray organic stuff. Then
22 they said well, if you sign an easement, we won't spray
23 anything or something to that effect. It was basically
24 like if you sign an easement, then we won't poison you
25 or your pets. And so I don't know that I trust anybody

1 whether it's Grain Belt or if they were to ever sell it
2 to Ameren or someone else to not spray something on
3 that.

4 I know my own electric company does it, but
5 they only have to do it's hardly nothing and this is
6 going to be a 200-foot wide portion. When my animals
7 walk down the drive, they tend to stay with me. But if
8 they see a wide open area, they're liable to go out
9 there. I've already shown the exhibit with the water
10 standing. They do drink out of the ditches with the
11 water in it and all that. That concerns me. I don't
12 want to be exposed to it. I don't want them exposed to
13 it. That's such a large portion of my land.

14 It also takes it back if you look at that
15 original picture that I sent you of the southerly view,
16 that's grass. They won't have to spray anything over
17 there. They'll have free vegetation control. And
18 that's another reason why I don't understand why they
19 don't move. I can only assume it has something to do
20 with cost. I would think the money they're going to
21 save in not having to spray anything, not having to
22 bulldoze anything, and even what they would have to pay
23 that resident, which I assume we all get paid the same,
24 but whatever they pay them I don't see if they're going
25 to come back and it's a cost reason they're doing all

1 this. I see plenty of advantages for them not being on
2 me as far as saving money and having to treat
3 vegetation, having to bulldoze, all that.

4 It seems to me like it would maybe be easier
5 to access the line over there than it would be on me.
6 And I don't even know if they would need to maintain the
7 line since the towers are on each side of my property.
8 So I don't even know how that works if they have to do
9 anything to just the line itself. Maybe they can cover
10 that.

11 But also on this that I've already covered
12 with the cell phone, my wireless driveway alarm. It's
13 always nice to know before someone pulls up in front of
14 your house when you're at the end of the house in your
15 towel and you have windows all across the front that
16 someone is coming. My current dog is polite and doesn't
17 bark at people.

18 So I don't want my driveway alarm to not be
19 working from this. It will be a serious or a
20 potentially serious issue if I don't have an alert that
21 someone is coming to my house or is parked down there
22 doing something.

23 One of the reasons I wanted a wireless alarm
24 is because on several occasions people have used my
25 drive as just a place to come park, eat their fast food

1 or whatever and then throw their trash out and leave.
2 Then my dogs find the chicken bones or whatever on our
3 walks. And they get to them before me and they get into
4 them and eat them. I don't know if you guys know but
5 cooked chicken bones are very hazardous to dogs. So
6 having the driveway alarm let me know if someone is
7 messing around down there, I can go stop them or call
8 the police and get them arrested for trespassing or just
9 give them a good what for. But in any case, that's why
10 that is on this list of why it is important. It's not
11 just some reason I'm making up. I have legitimate
12 concerns about all this.

13 The big one is it will block my driveway. I
14 don't want my driveway blocked. If I want to stay home
15 and not leave for two weeks, fine, but I don't want some
16 line that could kill me across my drive that prevents me
17 from ever leaving. Especially because I'll tell you
18 right now if anything ever happened to someone in my
19 household and we needed emergency care, I would drive
20 over any line that's between me and a hospital to get
21 them care. That's the truth. And hopefully we don't
22 ever have to test that. I will. I'm not going to sit
23 there and let someone in my family or friend or one of
24 my animals die because of a stupid line on the ground
25 that shouldn't have never been there to begin with. If

1 I do die, then I'll come back as a really mad ghost, and
2 also there probably would be a substantial lawsuit.

3 Another thing on the topic of my pets is I
4 don't want my pets subjected to this EMF. I know in one
5 of their statements they said well, we had a guy from
6 2016 say it's perfectly fine. Well, I have a story here
7 that I'm going to hand out in just a minute that's from
8 2023, that says otherwise that it does damage your cells
9 in your body. It's stuff that you can't even see to
10 know -- it's not like a sunburn that you can see that
11 it's happening. These are little tiny animals that are
12 innocent. And they think we're just going for a walk
13 and I don't want to be subjecting them to cancer and I
14 don't want to be subjected to it because it's bad
15 enough. I don't know if any of you folks have ever
16 dealt with it or have a family member. I personally am
17 doing everything in my power to be healthy. That
18 includes not have cancer or having dementia or any other
19 sort of health issue, because the matter of the fact is
20 if you don't have your health you don't have anything.
21 And I want to maintain mine. There's no one that can
22 tell me definitively absolutely it's been proven that
23 this line will not harm you or your animals in any way.
24 And again it takes me back, am I just supposed to stop
25 utilizing the part of my land that I have for the past

1 25 years. No. How about you just move the line across
2 the road where nobody will be impacted. Maybe cows
3 occasionally but hopefully I'm precedent over cows.

4 This is Exhibit No. 4.

5 MS. CALLENBACH: Judge, before we move on to
6 another exhibit, Grain Belt Express objects to Exhibit
7 No. 7 on relevance, hearsay, lack of foundation grounds.

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. That objection is
9 overruled.

10 MS. CALLENBACH: Thank you, Judge.

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Meadows.

12 MS. CALLENBACH: Judge, and also all of her
13 opinion testimony regarding Exhibit 7.

14 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you.

15 MS. MEADOWS: This was also one of those
16 articles that was -- I think it was like 30 some pages
17 long. So if anyone wants to look up the full thing, I
18 believe the information is on there up under the heading
19 or whatever.

20 Then also because I told you I'm completely
21 transparent in all of this, Exhibit No. 11 is actually
22 me walking down, pictures of me walking down the drive
23 with my animals over the years.

24 MS. CALLENBACH: Judge, we're going to object
25 to Exhibit 4 also on the basis of relevance, hearsay,

1 lack of foundation.

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Objection is
3 overruled.

4 MS. CALLENBACH: Thank you.

5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Meadows.

6 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you. I touched on the
7 fire hazard and the fact that I wouldn't have water, and
8 also we only have volunteer fire departments out where I
9 live. So basically when you call the fire department,
10 you get people who have full-time jobs and they just
11 come try to help. I mean, maybe some people would be
12 okay with that. If my house is on fire, I want someone
13 who doesn't do this part time, if I don't have water.
14 And that's basically how it would be because like I said
15 before, I have attached garage. It's oversize. So
16 everything I own is in that car -- in that house. So if
17 I didn't have electricity, I couldn't get the garage
18 door open. I'd have to run around trying to figure out
19 do I want to save my animals, do I want to save my
20 personal items that I won't ever be able to replace, my
21 car so I'm not homeless and carless. What do I do? I
22 mean, it would just be -- I can't even describe how
23 chaotic the scene would be if something were ever to
24 happen with a line and it caused a fire in my house.
25 Because you can't just go to the Motel 6 with nine cats

1 and dogs. And there's no way I would ever leave them in
2 a burned out house. I'd be camping out there in the
3 yard probably with nothing because everything would
4 probably burn up. But I would not leave them.

5 And maybe that would never happen, but there's
6 a risk that it could. And a risk is a risk is a risk,
7 guys. And I don't know why I even have to say that, but
8 there is a risk. Nobody can tell you 100 percent this
9 line will be fine, it will never fall, you'll never have
10 a fire, it will be great. Nobody can tell me that.

11 But you know what you can tell me. If the
12 line is across the road, I won't have to worry about a
13 single thing on this list. My land is extremely weird
14 shaped. It's long and narrow. Like I said, it's 400
15 foot wide with 275 foot above that. So it's not really
16 good for much. There's no fences. I can't rent it out
17 for grazing or anything.

18 The only way I could possibly make money off
19 of this land is if I subdivided it down near the road
20 where they would be -- whoever bought it would be far
21 enough away from me. I would still have my privacy.
22 And if you look at the overhead picture that I showed
23 you basically where that is is just to the side of those
24 trees which would be north of those trees, because
25 that's like -- it's hard to tell, but it's like the

1 least grown area in the land or on the land. So if I
2 ever got into a situation, I don't have kids, I'm never
3 going to have kids, I'm never going to be married. It's
4 just going to be me. And if I ever have medical bills
5 or need to hire a nurse or something, need the money,
6 that may be my only option is just to sell a couple
7 acres of my land. And Grain Belt is going to take that
8 away in addition to everything else on this list. And I
9 think if you look at this list compared to what everyone
10 else has to give up on the Tiger Connector, I think I
11 stand more to lose than anybody. I know they keep
12 seeing it's a collateral attack and it's this and that,
13 but my response is why did you even put it on me to
14 begin with.

15 I know you guys approved the line. I doubt
16 you guys were in the wind shield survey cars driving
17 around doing this. But I have a feeling that if you
18 drove down my road and saw this or if you even came to
19 my house and saw this, you would think it was insane
20 also. As a matter of fact, when Jason Brown came out
21 with the guy from CLS and the girl from Invenergy, he
22 told me when he got out of the car, the first thing I
23 said was how did you guys not avoid this place. He told
24 me that to my face. I said exactly. That's what I want
25 to know. Of course, no one has ever told me but it's so

1 obvious. Marc could probably tell you. Marc came and
2 saw my house. He can appreciate how much time I take to
3 make it this perfect little place for us.

4 I was not happy to recently learn that the
5 easement I thought was 150 foot that they had marked off
6 the survey stakes, and those were the ones you guys saw
7 in the video. Actually apparently Grain Belt wants 200
8 foot of my property instead of the 150 foot. So I don't
9 know. I guess I'll find out during testimony if that is
10 an accident or what that was or just a sneaky way of
11 them to get more of my land. But I also wanted to
12 mention that as well. So that's on the record.

13 I mentioned the wind break that it's going to
14 take out and the privacy. Right now I have privacy from
15 the gravel road. So if someone I don't want to know or
16 want to know that I'm out walking my animals drives by,
17 they only have a slight window when they go by my drive
18 to see if I'm out there. If that line is open, it's
19 going to open me up to people being able to see me or
20 stalk me or whatever. So that's a safety issue on my
21 part that I'm not happy to have to endure.

22 In their articles or their notes about routing
23 the study, they talked about there's bald eagles in the
24 area. Well, I have bald eagles on my property too.
25 I've had two parked on my property. I possibly had

1 more, but I've just seen two. And they said they moved
2 the line because someone had brought up at that July
3 2022 meeting that there were eagles in the area.

4 So I have eagles. I have owls. I have blue
5 herons. I have hawks. I have a number of large birds
6 that could hit these lines or be killed or something.
7 So I don't understand why they moved the line because
8 someone mentioned that back then and I mentioned it and
9 nobody cared. And I have mentioned it. I think I've
10 covered everything else there about all the risks.
11 There was so many I had to write them all down. It
12 wasn't just one or two.

13 And at this time I would like to hand out
14 Exhibit No. 20. And what this is is this is the map
15 that Grain Belt printed out of their line, and it also
16 goes to what I've been pointing out is that there's land
17 south of me that's perfectly wide open and where they're
18 running their line is -- from here from this map you
19 look at it, you're like it's not that bad, it just looks
20 like grass, but I showed you in the video it's super
21 grown up and I have intentionally let it grow up that
22 way for the animals.

23 I don't allow hunting. I don't personally
24 hunt. All this is open and I want the animals to have
25 coverage, a place to have their young. I have a turkey

1 that comes through my yard and goes up into those woods
2 and nests every single year. I have pictures of her in
3 my yard and my chickens have chased her away. I have so
4 much of this wildlife on my land that I want to
5 preserve. It's not open grass. It's not crops. It's
6 not anything that could be replaced or whatever. It's
7 living, breathing. It's plants. It's wildlife need it
8 to survive. It's what gives us oxygen, guys. So when
9 you see this map, this is from Grain Belt and how they
10 think this line is best run. Again, that was No. 20.

11 Now, if I could point out, I don't have the
12 number written on this one. I actually don't have this
13 down. How do I proceed with that as an exhibit?

14 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If I recall correctly, you had
15 offered an Exhibit 26. If you want to offer another
16 exhibit, it would be No. 27.

17 MS. MEADOWS: Actually this will have to be --
18 this will have to be -- so I'm sorry. I don't
19 understand the process. If I didn't bring enough copies
20 for everyone but I have one copy, can I email that to
21 everyone? I have it. I just don't have copies of it.
22 Is that permitted or how does that work?

23 JUDGE PRIDGIN: The court reporter will
24 eventually get all the exhibits and they will be
25 submitted into our filing system, our electronic filing

1 system, so that everybody can see them from there.

2 MS. MEADOWS: Like I have a letter here from
3 my local county commissioner that I wanted to present
4 and I don't know why I didn't print out copies but
5 apparently I didn't. But that's important that I want
6 to bring up. So we'll just make this one Exhibit 30.

7 What this is is this is Grain Belt's response
8 to staff's question about the line. And I'll just hand
9 it out and everyone can read what the question was and
10 what Grain Belt's response was. So if everyone has a
11 chance to see this, they wanted to know basically why
12 they couldn't route this away from me. And if you look
13 at that map that I gave you previously, it just says MTC
14 route. It was Exhibit No. 20. If you look at that map
15 and then I can read to you while you're looking at the
16 map if you want, but it says the routing team was
17 constrained by the properties to the west and south of
18 Ms. Meadows. Immediately to the west of Ms. Meadows are
19 multiple residences and agricultural buildings on the
20 east side of County Road 232.

21 Now, when they say "immediately," I think of
22 50 feet next door. What they mean is a half a mile down
23 the road. These people's houses all face west to the
24 gravel road. So the worst they would have by that line
25 is if they looked out their back window over their cow

1 pasture, the line would be a little bit closer to them.
2 This is going to go on the record. I would take looking
3 out my window at a transmission line in my cow pasture
4 however many feet away over being over my drive and
5 potentially killing me any day of the week. If you ask
6 my neighbors how they felt about that, the line could
7 maybe be moved a little bit closer to them so that it
8 doesn't burn Cheri Meadows' house down and kill her, I'm
9 pretty sure I've been a good enough neighbor over the
10 years putting their cows back in for them when they get
11 out or whatever, I'm pretty sure they would probably be
12 okay with that line being just a little bit closer to
13 them if it meant it wasn't going to harm me.

14 And then they also said, the last line, it
15 would potentially put the line closer than it's
16 preferred to a pond on that landowner's property. If
17 you look at the pond they're talking about and I showed
18 it in that drone footage, it's a teeny tiny little pond.
19 The pond right there by my house is half an acre.
20 Theirs is maybe twice as big as mine. There's is about
21 an acre or so. So it concerns me that Grain Belt is
22 concerned about moving the line because of a little
23 pond. That's scarier to them or that's a bigger fear of
24 moving this line than possibly destroying my property,
25 burning my house down, poisoning me and my animals with

1 the EMF and chemicals and destroying a huge chunk of my
2 land.

3 So I don't know if they don't have their
4 priorities right or what, but I've also showed that I
5 have water on my land too and they've had no problem
6 with it. So maybe that's a sign if they can't go around
7 a little pond, maybe their robust routing survey wasn't
8 as robust as they claim.

9 That leads me to my last exhibit, No. 3. What
10 this is is this is the routing map that I've made the
11 poster board of, because I really wanted everyone to
12 see. Now I'll need to stand up there and talk so you
13 guys can see it because obviously this map is tiny. How
14 would you prefer I do that?

15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: You can use that podium
16 microphone. Thank you.

17 MS. MEADOWS: Okay. So if everyone has a
18 chance to look at their maps, I am going to point on
19 this map right here where my property is in relation to
20 that map and the line. Okay. You guys or they chose
21 route, Schedule Route B here. So I'm the first house
22 when they come up on that outer line to the right -- you
23 guys can't see. When you come up that route and it
24 makes that right, that's my property right there. You
25 can see the line is literally right beside it.

1 And then you go on up and you look and you see
2 all these little ins and outs and arounds and little
3 hiccupy things and all kinds of things. So it seems to
4 me if they really wanted to, if they really were
5 responsible and conscientious and cared about my safety
6 and all this, they could make a little loopy-loo thing
7 like they've done other places on this may and just get
8 the line away from me. I'm not asking them to reroute
9 it to the moon or reroute the whole thing. Just please
10 don't destroy my land and possibly kill me. That's all
11 I want.

12 But like I said, when you guys approved this
13 line, I'm sure you didn't ride around with them and see
14 what they were doing and see how close they were coming
15 to anyone's houses and the magnitude of impact they
16 would have. I would venture to say there are very,
17 very, very few, if any, other houses that are going to
18 be so impacted like me. And I know you guys were
19 concerned about this setting a precedent of everyone
20 complaining; but if it's a safety thing where this line
21 could kill someone or could block their only entrance
22 and exits to their property, and this isn't a little
23 jaunt that I could just walk around the line and get to
24 the road and the ambulance could come and pick me up or
25 they could run the hose, no, it's a quarter of a mile.

1 Guys, some day I might get old and I'm not going to be
2 able to walk through weeds and trees or whatever else is
3 out there if I ever need to get to another house or
4 someone for help. This line supposedly is going to last
5 40 or 50 years and that's going to make it quite a ways
6 for me.

7 So once again, I don't want to live those next
8 40 to 50 years worrying about what's going to happen
9 with this line, it's going to sag. And the guy who
10 delivers the rock to me, I asked him how tall is your
11 dump truck when the bed is up because he has to -- I
12 don't have a skid steer so he just tilts his bed up and
13 dumps it down the drive for me. He said it's 18 feet.
14 I was like wow, you're not supposed to be within like 20
15 feet or something of high powered lines. 10 or 20 feet
16 is like the standard. I was like well, my property is
17 in between two poles where he could possibly hit it.
18 Well, surely Grain Belt has done their research. Surely
19 they checked all these weather phenoms and different
20 things.

21 We've got the New Madrid fault and I grew up
22 in school the teachers telling us how bad it was going
23 to be if it ever went off. And of course, you can't
24 prove any of that and what that would do. That's in the
25 back of my mind that what if we have an earthquake. Are

1 these poles designed for that. What if they're not. It
2 takes us back to it will be blocking my drive. I won't
3 be able to get out. I'll be sitting. I have no water,
4 no anything. I'll be sitting in the dark thirsty
5 basically for weeks until they come. I won't be able to
6 cook, I won't have a stove, I won't have heat, nothing.
7 So all of that to me seems like it should have been
8 considerations that Grain Belt should have taken. This
9 isn't just a cookie cutter situation that it's going
10 across my cow pasture, it's going across my crops or
11 whatever. It's literally going across my property and
12 doing so in such a way that it is not bringing me a
13 single benefit at all.

14 And I stand here under oath and I tell you
15 they could put two or three zeroes behind what they have
16 offered me to do this to my property and I would tell
17 them no, because my safety and my health are more
18 important than money. It may not be to them, but it is
19 to me. Thank you.

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Ms. Meadows, thank
21 you. Does that conclude your testimony?

22 MS. MEADOWS: Yes.

23 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. This looks to be a
24 pretty good natural break for lunch since we're
25 approaching noon. If we could get back on the record at

1 one o'clock and then we'll resume with any
2 cross-examination. Ms. Meadows, anything from the bench
3 or from the parties before we take a lunch recess?
4 Hearing nothing, we stand in recess until one o'clock.
5 Thank you.

6 (The noon recess was taken.)

7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: We are back on the record in
8 Case No. EC-2025-0136. I believe when we adjourned for
9 lunch we were about to begin cross-examination of Ms.
10 Meadows. Anything further from the bench or from the
11 parties before we proceed?

12 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: I do have one
13 question, Judge.

14 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Commissioner.

15 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Just a question for
16 Ms. Meadows. I'm looking at Exhibit 20 and Exhibit 30,
17 Exhibit 30 being a data request and response. In the
18 response there is a reference to County Road 232 and on
19 Exhibit 20 I don't see where County Road 232 is. I see
20 a 231 and a 260. Can you tell me where 232 is?

21 MS. MEADOWS: It might be a typo.

22 MR. SCHULTE: Commissioner, I can confirm that
23 the DR response is a typo and we'll have Kevin Chandler
24 testifying later who sponsored that response to the DR
25 and he can verify that he intended to refer to road 231

1 instead of 232.

2 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Thank you.

3 MR. SCHULTE: Sure.

4 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Anything further
5 before cross? All right. Any cross-examination, Public
6 Counsel.

7 MR. POSTON: No questions. Thank you.

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Any cross from
9 staff?

10 MS. HANSEN: No, thank you, Judge.

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Hansen, thank you. Grain
12 Belt.

13 MS. CALLENBACH: Yes, Judge. Thank you.
14 Judge, would it be easier, should I stand at the podium
15 so I can see Ms. Meadows?

16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: You certainly may. However
17 you're comfortable.

18 MS. CALLENBACH: Ms. Meadows, are you
19 comfortable if I stay seated?

20 MS. MEADOWS: Whatever works for you.

21 MS. CALLENBACH: Thank you.

22 CROSS-EXAMINATION

23 BY MS. CALLENBACH:

24 Q. Good afternoon. Ms. Meadows, could you please
25 summarize your educational background for us, please?

1 A. I have a college degree.

2 Q. What is that degree in?

3 A. It's a bachelor of arts with double majors in
4 business administration and computer information
5 science.

6 Q. So you don't have any specific education,
7 knowledge or experience or training in transmission
8 engineering?

9 A. Not beyond what I have researched for this,
10 no.

11 Q. And you're not a meteorologist?

12 A. That's not what my degree is in, no.

13 Q. And you've represented to the Commission and
14 to the parties that you are not represented by counsel;
15 is that correct?

16 A. Just me.

17 Q. Are you familiar with an attorney named Brent
18 Haden?

19 A. Uh-huh.

20 Q. How do you know Mr. Haden?

21 A. He was at the 2023-0017 hearing. I believe he
22 sat here actually. And he's also an attorney. I
23 believe he's in Columbia.

24 Q. Okay. Did you ever seek any legal advice from
25 Mr. Haden related to your complaint?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Are you familiar with an attorney named Paul
3 Agathen?

4 A. Yes. He was part of the 2023-0017.

5 Q. The CCN proceeding?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Did you ever seek any legal advice from
8 Mr. Agathen relating to your complaint?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Did you ever seek legal advice from any
11 attorney relating to your complaint?

12 A. I don't know any attorneys.

13 Q. Apart from the two you've mentioned?

14 A. I don't know them. I just know their names.
15 But no, I don't have any. I haven't contacted any
16 attorneys to discuss my case.

17 Q. All right. Ms. Meadows, I've handed you what
18 has been previously marked as Grain Belt Exhibit 101.
19 Have you seen this document before?

20 A. My data request. Yeah, I think I objected to
21 it because it didn't have anything to do with my case.

22 Q. Right. But this is your response to Grain
23 Belt Express data request CM-8; is that correct?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. And is that your electronic signature on the

1 back page under verification of response?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And one of your claims in this proceeding is
4 that you did not contact the Commission earlier about
5 the route because you didn't know the Commission was in
6 charge of approving the route; is that correct?

7 A. I knew that they were -- See, it's a slippery
8 slope on route versus line. I knew that they approved
9 the route being built, but I didn't know they also
10 approved the specific line route. Does that make sense?

11 Like I knew they said okay, Grain Belt, you
12 guys can build this Tiger Connector. I did not know
13 that they said you can only build it to these
14 specifications. You can't vary or whatever.

15 Q. Ms. Meadows, turning your attention to this
16 Exhibit 101, on the second page there is a heading
17 titled objection. And understanding that first sentence
18 where you say you object, could you please read the next
19 sentence, please?

20 A. I did watch the MPSC Grain Belt Express CCN
21 amendment hearing June 5 through 8, 2023, from home in
22 realtime while also caring for a very sick cat.

23 Q. Okay. Thank you.

24 A. Uh-huh.

25 MS. CALLENBACH: Your Honor, we'd move to

1 admit Exhibit 101 into the record, please.

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: 101 has been offered. Any
3 objections?

4 MS. MEADOWS: I object.

5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: What grounds?

6 MS. MEADOWS: Relevance.

7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Overruled. Exhibit 101 is
8 admitted.

9 (GRAIN BELT EXPRESS EXHIBIT 101 WAS RECEIVED
10 INTO EVIDENCE AND MADE A PART OF THIS RECORD.)

11 MS. CALLENBACH: Thank you.

12 BY MS. CALLENBACH:

13 Q. One other question about this. Given your
14 representations that you weren't aware the Commission
15 had to approve the route, how did you know to tune in to
16 the WebEx of the hearing on June 5 through 8, 2023?

17 A. I don't even recall.

18 Q. Was it in a letter?

19 A. I honestly do not remember. I have no
20 recollection of how I knew, and I would say I knew to
21 put it on my calendar, because it was obviously on my
22 calendar, but I don't recall how I knew about it.

23 Q. Okay. Thank you.

24 A. That was a long time ago.

25 MS. CALLENBACH: Of course. Thank you.

1 Nothing further. Thank you.

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Callenbach, thank you.
3 Any bench questions? Commissioner Mitchell. Any
4 further questions?

5 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: No, Judge.

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I don't have any. Ms.
7 Meadows, anything you would like to say in response to
8 the questions, not just continuing to testify but simply
9 to address the questions that you just received? Any
10 response to those questions?

11 MS. MEADOWS: Well, I just want it to be made
12 clear and recognized, and I even provided the emergency
13 room bill from my cat who was actually so sick he had to
14 go twice to the emergency vet and he eventually died.
15 So when I put in there that I was caring for my very
16 sick cat, that means I was not sitting there watching
17 word for word everything that went on with this hearing.
18 I missed a lot of it. It seemed like every time I left
19 and came back there was a different witness up and I
20 didn't even know who they were talking about or what it
21 was for. So if you gave me a quiz on that, I would
22 probably fail it because I missed so much. I just tried
23 to be honest in answering and that's all.

24 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you. That
25 would conclude examination of Ms. Meadows. Ms. Meadows,

1 you have another witness on the order of witnesses. Did
2 you want to call that witness?

3 MS. MEADOWS: I call Randy Kleindienst. I'm
4 probably saying it wrong. I call him as my witness.

5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Would you come forward to be
6 sworn, please, sir. I'll ask you to raise your right
7 hand to be sworn, please. Do you swear the evidence
8 you're about to give will be the truth, the whole truth
9 and nothing but the truth so help you God?

10 MR. KLEINDIENST: I do affirm.

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Yes, sir. Thank you. You can
12 have a seat when you're ready. Ms. Meadows, you may ask
13 questions.

14 RANDY KLEINDIENST,
15 having been first duly affirmed, was examined and
16 testified as follows:

17 DIRECT EXAMINATION

18 BY MS. MEADOWS:

19 Q. Good afternoon, Randy. Thank you for taking
20 the time out of your day to do this. I really
21 appreciate it. I know you're no longer county
22 commissioner, but you were during the time most of this
23 back and forth with Grain Belt has taken place. Can you
24 please state for the record what your title was?

25 A. Eastern District Commissioner, Callaway

1 County.

2 Q. You were my county commissioner also for my
3 particular area?

4 A. Yes, ma'am.

5 Q. So I spoke to you numerous times about this
6 Tiger Connector line going back to the spring of 2023,
7 correct?

8 A. I would say we had several conversations, yes.

9 Q. Have I ever been anything but perfectly clear
10 that I did not want the risk of the Tiger Connector
11 going across my drive?

12 A. I can -- I have no recollection of anything
13 but that, you did not want it.

14 Q. Sorry. Didn't I also express my frustration
15 that in addition to risking blocking my drive if their
16 line ever fell Grain Belt was also taking out a very
17 large swath of my mature trees and underbrush I
18 specifically let grow up for wildlife and privacy while
19 the land immediately south of me was wide open with no
20 residences?

21 A. I would say that conversation came up most of
22 the time. A swath that apparently is about three times
23 the size of this room in length. So you know, that was
24 the width of it. Three times the length of this room
25 roughly.

1 Q. So I was always frustrated when I talked to
2 you basically and upset?

3 A. Well, because you've allowed your place to
4 grow up in vegetation. You didn't really want it
5 cleaned out. That's the way I took it anyway.

6 Q. That's true. Do you recall if anyone from
7 Grain Belt Express spoke with you individually or the
8 commissioners as a whole about the properties that would
9 be affected by this line and ask if you had any input or
10 feedback on any of this stuff?

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Sir, could I trouble you to
12 speak more into the mike. We're having a hard time
13 hearing you.

14 THE WITNESS: Sure. I'm sorry about that.

15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much.

16 THE WITNESS: Repeat that question.

17 BY MS. MEADOWS:

18 Q. Do you recall if anyone from Grain Belt
19 Express spoke with you individually or the commissioners
20 as a whole about any of the properties, by that I mean
21 landowners, that would be affected by this line and if
22 they asked you for any input or feedback about any of
23 them?

24 A. Well, I believe that Mr. Brown and I talked a
25 few times. I think you came up a few times in those

1 conversations. You have to understand there's so much
2 going on in the commissioner's office I couldn't keep
3 everything straight from years ago now to what it was.

4 Q. I appreciate --

5 A. There was a few times that came up Mr. Brown
6 and I had conversations.

7 Q. So based on your experience with Jason Brown,
8 what do you think his role was in regards to the Tiger
9 Connector?

10 A. I took that Mr. Brown was more of the, in a
11 sense, I don't know if coordinator is the right word or
12 public relations is the right word, like an information
13 person that we could talk to if we needed to.

14 Q. Do you remember what his or do you know what
15 his official title is or was?

16 A. I really don't. I couldn't tell you right
17 here what his official title was, no.

18 Q. Did you know at one time do you think?

19 A. I could have.

20 Q. Did he make you call him by that?

21 A. Oh, no. We didn't -- There was no formal
22 Mr. Brown, sir, you know, that type of thing or
23 commissioner, sir. It was none of that. We were on a
24 reasonably friendly basis, in my opinion.

25 Q. Do you recall how many times you and Jason

1 discussed my property specifically?

2 A. No, I don't recall how many times.

3 Q. Would you say more than once?

4 A. I would say it came up more than once.

5 Q. Was it your belief that Jason Brown had any
6 say or could move the line off of my property?

7 A. Honestly, I was under the impression that he
8 may have influence with that. Not that he necessarily
9 had the authority to move it, but he was there to talk
10 to us if there was an issue that perhaps he could
11 influence the final decision. That was my assumption,
12 by the way.

13 Q. And you just speak for yourself on that?

14 A. I'm speaking for myself. I'm not authorized
15 to speak for the other commissioners on that.

16 Q. Did Jason Brown ever tell you that the PSC had
17 approved or would approve the line and Grain Belt
18 Express couldn't change the location once that decision
19 by the PSC was made in regards to moving the line off of
20 my property?

21 A. I'm not sure that Mr. Brown ever told me that
22 exactly.

23 Q. So did you understand how the PSC worked in
24 relation to once they approved the line there was no
25 variances really to speak of off of it if something did

1 come up or since I was coming to you and voicing all my
2 concerns? Did you understand that that was just too
3 bad, it had already been approved?

4 A. I worked for the county for over 36 years and
5 it was a rare thing that something was nailed down
6 totally in stone at any particular -- at some point it
7 ended up being. I didn't necessarily think that the
8 folks at the PSC would not be open to look at something
9 if there was a problem there that they didn't realize.
10 If there was a problem there, I assumed they're all, you
11 know, servants of the communities and everything else
12 that they would be happy to look at that too. Not
13 saying they would change it but at least look at it.

14 Q. Sure. Based on the feedback that I was giving
15 you at the time about my interactions with Jason Brown,
16 did you believe he could move the line off of me?

17 A. I never -- I don't believe I ever thought
18 Jason could move the line. I felt like Mr. Brown could
19 talk to someone who may want to look at that and maybe
20 perhaps change it at that point.

21 Q. So you felt like he at least had influence for
22 going back to Grain Belt?

23 A. Yeah, I think I said that. I thought he had
24 some influence on that because I thought that was what
25 he was doing with the public in trying to establish

1 those things.

2 Q. Did I ever mention to you missing the deadline
3 to intervene at the PSC?

4 A. I don't recall.

5 Q. Do you ever recall me even mentioning
6 intervening at the PSC?

7 A. What do you mean intervening at the PSC? What
8 do you mean by that?

9 Q. You can intervene, which I understand is speak
10 up.

11 A. So your question is that you wanted to
12 intervene with the PSC or you wanted -- I'm sorry.

13 Q. My question is, Grain Belt has said I had the
14 opportunity to intervene and I didn't know what that was
15 and I definitely know I had an opportunity to do it. So
16 I'm asking you in case they think I'm lying, did I run
17 to you and brag how I could intervene but I wasn't going
18 to?

19 A. No, you did not do that. I just want to make
20 sure I know what you're saying.

21 Q. So I never mentioned to you that I wish I
22 wouldn't have missed the intervention period or I'm
23 looking forward to intervening or anything along those
24 lines above intervening?

25 A. I don't believe intervening was really a large

1 part of our conversation at any time. I mean, I thought
2 you were trying to work something out, but I didn't know
3 -- on the intervening I don't know.

4 Q. I don't know. I can't tell you exactly what
5 it is. So I'm not going to go into it. I just know
6 they have accused me of having the opportunity to
7 intervene and not doing it, and so I'm asking you to
8 share with everyone if I went to you and mentioned it or
9 talked about it and then I lied to them that I didn't?

10 A. It's my opinion you didn't lie to them.

11 Q. Based on our conversations, does that mean --
12 does that seem like something that I would have
13 mentioned as to keep you in the loop and given how upset
14 I was about careless they were being with my safety and
15 my property? About the intervention, I'm sorry, I
16 should have prefaced that. Do you want me to repeat it?

17 A. I think you better repeat that.

18 Q. Regarding the intervening part, based on all
19 of our conversations we had during this whole --

20 A. Right.

21 Q. -- I think you were my commissioner for the
22 two years this was going on. Based on our conversations
23 and me keeping you in the loop on everything, does it
24 seem like something about the intervening that I would
25 not have brought up with you?

1 A. If you knew anything about intervening, you
2 would have probably brought it up to me.

3 Q. Is it your opinion that I believed that the
4 Tiger Connector line could be moved off of my property
5 by Jason Brown or with his help or?

6 A. I think with the conversation that we had you
7 were leaning on Jason to try to figure out how to get it
8 moved off your land.

9 Q. In your deposition in May when asked by
10 Mr. Schulte if we discussed potential alternative routes
11 on my property specifically, you said yes. Can you
12 clarify your answer?

13 A. Well, we're standing there looking at your
14 property and so I'm really thinking that your whole idea
15 that you talked to me about was to try to move it off or
16 at least to the far extremity of your property so it
17 wouldn't take out the swath and all your vegetation.

18 Now, you had mentioned something earlier today
19 about way north of your place. I didn't know that was
20 even in play.

21 Q. I just brought that up as a hail Mary if they
22 just were determined to go across me at least don't do
23 it somewhere that could kill me. I don't walk my
24 animals under the north side. There's no power line.
25 There's nothing. All my conversations with you I didn't

1 think they would choose that option due to all the trees
2 and whatever, but I wanted to bring it up, but in your
3 deposition you had said that we discussed that. So I
4 wanted you to clarify about what we actually had
5 discussed. And I think they were referring to
6 micrositng. Once again, did I ever bring up
7 micrositng to you?

8 A. I never heard of micrositng. I don't even
9 know -- Does that mean pinpoint the spot?

10 Q. I'm not positive. I believe it's just moving
11 it around on your own property. It was never explained
12 to me.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. Before you were a county commissioner, what
15 was your job?

16 A. How far back? Like I said, I worked for the
17 county for 36 years. I did every job we had there.

18 Q. So you're a local in the community and you
19 know a lot of people?

20 A. That's correct. I was born and raised in
21 Callaway County, yes.

22 Q. Since you worked, and correct me if I'm wrong,
23 I believe you were my road grader at one time?

24 A. I did.

25 Q. Because I've been at my house for 25 years.

1 A. I'm very cautious about where I admit that
2 sometimes, but yes, I was your grader operator.

3 Q. Nothing ever was bad so you're okay.

4 A. Oh, yes, it was.

5 Q. Since you worked in the area, were you aware
6 of the house that had been there before my current house
7 being struck by lightning and burning down?

8 A. I had heard about it. I didn't witness it,
9 but I heard about it.

10 Q. You wouldn't have seen it from the road. It
11 was too far back. But anyway, do you recall several
12 years ago a nearby manufacturing company about a mile
13 and a half west of my house was struck by lightning and
14 also burned, it was completely destroyed?

15 A. I do recall that. I say I recall. I don't
16 know the exact date, but it was -- I do remember hearing
17 about it.

18 Q. It happened, yeah.

19 A. Word gets around in communities like ours.

20 Q. It's only within that area it's pretty tight.
21 The neighbors do talk anyway. Randy, you and I have
22 been going round and round on this for three years. I
23 would just like to ask you to be 100 percent honest with
24 everyone here and please tell them in your opinion if
25 I'm an honest person, if everything I've said today is

1 true in your belief on what my thinking was in all this,
2 please.

3 A. Well, what I've known the time that I've known
4 you, which has been three or four years frankly, we've
5 had multiple conversations. I feel like that what
6 you've told me has been up front and honest and sincere.
7 And her little piece of heaven and community you might
8 say with a 400-foot strip going back to her house, then
9 all of a sudden a big power line coming in when there's
10 150 acres on either side of it that the line could cross
11 has to cross her place and clean out the vegetation and
12 everything she has. I see the issue that she's having.
13 I feel for it. I would like to think that there could
14 be a way to work around that, you know, but that's
15 emotion. Maybe there's laws that won't allow it. I
16 don't know. If there is, it probably should be
17 examined. But I feel like that Cheri has been very
18 consistent when she's talked to me about her feelings on
19 this. I don't believe anything is made up or false.

20 Q. And you've been out to my house at least twice
21 now, correct?

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. And you can vouch that I spend a lot of time
24 on my drive, in my yard, keeping my place nice, and that
25 I'm going to end up spending a tremendous amount of time

1 directly under that power line to just enjoy my property
2 and keep it maintained?

3 A. To me the fact is that yes, you do maintain a
4 nice place. From my perspective, it looked very nice.
5 The time you would spend under that power line, you keep
6 the driveway very well mowed, things like that, and you
7 walk your animals. I don't know how many hours a day
8 that is. It's your only ingress and egress. So
9 whatever, you know, I don't know from that.

10 MS. MEADOWS: That's all the questions I have.
11 Thank you, Randy.

12 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Meadows, thank you. We'll
13 see if we have any cross for this witness. Public
14 counsel.

15 MR. POSTON: No questions. Thank you.

16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Staff.

17 MS. HANSEN: No questions.

18 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Grain Belt.

19 MR. SCHULTE: Yes, Judge. Thank you.

20 CROSS-EXAMINATION

21 BY MR. SCHULTE:

22 Q. Hi, mr. Kleindienst. My name is Andrew
23 Schulte. I'm with the law firm Polsinelli, and I
24 represent Grain Belt Express, LLC. Do you recall
25 meeting me previously at your deposition on May 13,

1 2025, at the Polsinelli office in Jefferson City,
2 Missouri?

3 A. I do recall meeting you there, yes, sir.

4 Q. Ms. Meadows asked you some questions about
5 your conversations with Jason Brown who works for Grain
6 Belt Express. Do you recall those questions?

7 A. Just now? Basically, yeah.

8 Q. In your conversations with Mr. Brown, did he
9 answer the questions that you had for him? Do you
10 believe that he answered those to the best of his
11 ability?

12 A. You're asking me to put my opinion on what
13 he's telling me.

14 Q. True.

15 A. I was satisfied with the answers that I got.
16 I suppose it was, yes.

17 Q. Okay. You had --

18 A. I don't have an issue with Mr. Brown.

19 MR. SCHULTE: Okay. That is all I wanted to
20 confirm. I have no further questions.

21 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Let me see if we
22 have any bench questions.

23 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: No, Judge.

24 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I don't see anything. All
25 right. No redirect then because of no bench questions.

1 Thank you very much, sir. You may step down.

2 THE WITNESS: May I say one thing?

3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: No, sorry. You aren't being
4 asked a question. I apologize. Thank you.

5 THE COURT REPORTER: Would you spell your last
6 name for me, please?

7 THE WITNESS: I certainly can.
8 K-l-e-i-n-d-i-e-n-s-t.

9 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

10 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I think we're ready for Grain
11 Belt witnesses now.

12 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Randy.

13 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Grain Belt, when you're ready.

14 MR. SCHULTE: We may be able to shortcut some
15 of our direct testimony if we could just have a
16 ten-minute recess if that would be okay. Then I think
17 the ten minutes will be well used in order to make sure
18 that we do an efficient job on our direct.

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Any responses, objections? So
20 we're going to go ahead and take that ten minutes now I
21 assume and come back here at 1:40.

22 MR. SCHULTE: Sorry to take the break so soon
23 after the lunch break. We weren't sure the close. Just
24 now her portion of the case has been closed, I think
25 we'll have an opportunity to make our direct more

1 efficient.

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay. Very good. We will
3 take a ten-minute recess, be back on the record at 1:40.
4 We are off the record.

5 (Off the record.)

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: We are back on the record.
7 Before Grain Belt's start with witnesses, we want to
8 give Ms. Meadows a chance. You had brought a lot of
9 exhibits up to the bench. Did you want those exhibits
10 admitted into evidence? I'll go through not in
11 numerical order but in the order that I was handed those
12 exhibits. Exhibits 26, 22, 2, 1, 7, 4, 11, 20, 30 and
13 3. Did you want those exhibits admitted into evidence?

14 MS. MEADOWS: Yes, please.

15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Any objections? And I think
16 we've already had some objections. But any further
17 objections?

18 MS. CALLENBACH: Yes, Judge. We would renew
19 our previous objections on the basis of relevance,
20 hearsay and lack of foundation. You went through those
21 rather quickly. If I could have a second.

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Absolutely.

23 MS. CALLENBACH: There were several we did not
24 object to. If I could have a minute.

25 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Absolutely.

1 MR. POSTON: While she's looking, Judge, I was
2 curious what was 30? I think I missed that one.

3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: 30 is a DR response.

4 MR. POSTON: Thank you.

5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: You're welcome.

6 MS. CALLENBACH: Judge, quick question. When
7 you went through the list of exhibits, I heard you say
8 21. I don't have that. Perhaps I misheard.

9 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Let me go through these in
10 numerical order now. I think this is the right
11 numerical order. 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 11, 20, 22, 26 and 30.

12 MS. CALLENBACH: Thank you.

13 MR. POSTON: Judge, there was also the two
14 videos. I didn't know if those were being offered.

15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, Mr. Poston.

16 MR. POSTON: I had those as 25 and 6.

17 JUDGE POSTON: Let's add -- thank you,
18 Mr. Poston -- Exhibit 6 and 25 to that list as well.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Judge, can we clarify which
20 order those videos were played in with Ms. Meadows?
21 Like which one was shown first. Was it 6 or 26?

22 MS. MEADOWS: It was the first one was 6, the
23 area that would be destroyed, the longer one.

24 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

25 JUDGE PRIDGIN: To clarify, I have Exhibits 1,

1 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 20, 22, 25, 26 and 30 that have been
2 offered into evidence. Do we have any further
3 objections? If you need more time, please let me know.

4 MS. CALLENBACH: Thank you. Just one minute,
5 please.

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you.

7 MS. CALLENBACH: Thank you for your
8 indulgence, Judge. We renew our objections to Exhibit
9 No. 2, 4, 7 and 22.

10 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you. Those
11 objections are overruled. So Exhibits 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7,
12 11, 20, 22, 25, 26 and 30 are admitted into evidence.

13 (EXHIBITS 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 20, 22, 25, 26
14 AND 30 WERE RECEIVED INTO EVIDENCE AND MADE A PART OF
15 THIS RECORD.)

16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Schulte, was Grain Belt
17 ready to go with their first witness?

18 MS. CALLENBACH: Yes, Judge.

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Callenbach. Thank you.

20 MS. CALLENBACH: Thank you. Grain Belt
21 Express calls Aaron White to the stand, please.

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. White, if you'll come
23 forward to be sworn, please, sir. Do you swear the
24 evidence you're about to give will be the truth, the
25 whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

1 MR. WHITE: Yes.

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. You may have
3 a seat. Ms. Callenbach, when you're ready.

4 MS. CALLENBACH: Thank you.

5 AARON WHITE,
6 having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified
7 as follows:

8 DIRECT EXAMINATION

9 BY MS. CALLENBACH:

10 Q. Mr. White, good afternoon.

11 A. Good afternoon.

12 Q. Would you please state your name, title and
13 place of employment?

14 A. Aaron White, Senior Director of Transmission
15 Engineering Invenergy, LLC.

16 Q. And what is your business address?

17 A. Business address is 1 South Wacker Drive,
18 Suite 1500, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

19 Q. Thank you. Would you please explain your
20 educational background and your experience, please?

21 A. My education is a Bachelor's in Civil
22 Engineering. I am a licensed engineer in the state of
23 Utah. And I have over ten years of experience designing
24 transmission lines.

25 Q. Thank you. And is it correct that you

1 previously testified in what we've been referring to
2 here today as the CCN proceeding?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You submitted both direct and surrebuttal
5 testimony in that proceeding and associated schedules?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. Thank you. And those are the same documents
8 that the Commission took administrative notice of
9 earlier today?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Thank you. And Mr. White, you were present in
12 the hearing room this morning when Ms. Meadows
13 testified; is that correct?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. And did you hear Ms. Meadows' fears that her
16 home could burn down as a result of the transmission
17 line?

18 A. I did.

19 Q. Is that a very likely scenario?

20 A. It is not.

21 Q. Would you please explain why that is not an
22 unlikely scenario based on your engineering experience?

23 A. It's unlikely that the transmission line would
24 cause her home to burn down for several reasons. First,
25 I would tell you that there's the design standards for

1 distribution for your home in the county, there's the
2 design standards for distribution and then design
3 standards for transmission, high voltage and extra high
4 voltage.

5 The design standards for extra high voltage,
6 high voltage are of the highest and more stringent. At
7 Invenergy we design our transmission lines above the
8 minimum code requirements and we add other
9 considerations into our design for reliability.

10 Q. Thank you. Mr. White, can you explain in a
11 little more detail what some of those more stringent
12 design standards are?

13 A. Sure. One of the code design standards is an
14 extreme wind event. The extreme wind is considered the
15 100-year mean reoccurrence interval or 1 percent chance
16 of happening each year. For this Callaway County, the
17 wind event is 94 miles per hour. We at Invenergy not
18 only design for 94 miles per hour but we also design for
19 other wind events, ice events that are not within the
20 code.

21 For example, the line considers tornado
22 loading on the structures, the wind from a tornado.
23 Some other above code requirements, the structures have
24 a V-string assembly and I can refer to what was
25 previously submitted as Exhibit AW-3 for an illustration

1 of that V-string assembly. What that V-string does for
2 the line is it limits the conductor movement from wind
3 and provides redundancy. If one insulator fails, the
4 vertical, what that structure is doing holding the wire
5 up, that vertical load can be supported by a single
6 insulator. So that redundancy is above and beyond what
7 code requires. It is good industry practice and
8 something that we do at Invenergy.

9 Q. Thank you, Mr. White. In the CCN proceeding
10 there were certain conditions placed on Grain Belt's
11 CCN; is that correct?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. And one of those conditions, and I'll just --
14 for the record I'm referring to Staff Exhibit 206 to the
15 Commission's October 12, 2023 Report and Order, which
16 the Commission took administrative notice of earlier. I
17 apologize. It is Attachment 1. It also says Exhibit
18 206. And one of those conditions is that the Commission
19 must have an emergency restoration plan in place prior
20 to commercial operation; is that correct?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Can you explain to the Commission what, I
23 understand it has not been developed yet, but what would
24 some features of that be?

25 A. Our first priority in an emergency response

1 situation is the safety of our workers and the safety of
2 the public. To accomplish that, there are built on the
3 details of the construction plans. May I read from the
4 direct testimony?

5 Q. Yes. Do you have a copy of that?

6 A. I do.

7 Q. Reading from the direct testimony from the
8 CCN, page 22. Worker safety and safety of public is our
9 number one priority through design, construction and
10 operations, evaluating and maintaining health and safety
11 reports to OSHA related injuries and illnesses,
12 established operational procedures, pre work inspections
13 of equipment and tools in the presence of health and
14 safety inspectors during operations are all critical
15 components for successful long-term operations. Stop.
16 Additionally, as the line construction plans further
17 develop, we will engage with local officials, local
18 emergency response, including co-ops, to make sure that
19 there is a plan in place to act quickly and, again,
20 maintain safety of our workers and the safety of the
21 public.

22 Q. Mr. White, in the event of an abnormal or
23 fault condition, would the line be deenergized quickly?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And how quickly would that be?

1 A. The control and equipment is set up to target
2 between five or ten cycles which is approximately ten
3 cycles 150 milliseconds or let's say a tenth of a
4 second, a blink of an eye.

5 Q. Thank you.

6 A. What that means is in that tenth of a second
7 the fault or surge of current is cleared, switch is open
8 and the line is no longer energized.

9 Q. Did you have something further?

10 A. No.

11 MS. CALLENBACH: Thank you. No further direct
12 examination.

13 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Callenbach, thank you.
14 Any cross-examination of this witness from staff?

15 MS. HANSEN: No, thank you.

16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Public counsel.

17 MR. POSTON: Just one follow up.

18 CROSS-EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. POSTON:

20 Q. It was just on that line you were talking
21 about the ability of the line to kind of shut off power.
22 You're testifying here that this is what will be built
23 on the entire course of this line that will have these
24 capabilities?

25 A. Correct.

1 MR. POSTON: Thank you. That's all.

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Poston, thank you. Ms.
3 Meadows, any questions?

4 MS. MEADOWS: Yes.

5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: When you're ready.

6 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you.

7 CROSS-EXAMINATION

8 BY MS. MEADOWS:

9 Q. According to the route selection study --
10 hello.

11 A. Hi, Ms. Meadows.

12 Q. I'm new here.

13 A. How are you?

14 Q. I've been better actually. According to the
15 route selection study, you were listed as a member of
16 the routing team; is that correct?

17 A. That is correct.

18 Q. What was your role as a member?

19 A. My role is to provide technical guidance
20 specific to the engineering.

21 Q. Did you ever go out on any wind shield surveys
22 or the field recons?

23 A. No, I did not.

24 Q. Were you invited to?

25 A. I don't recall.

1 Q. What role did you have in running the Tiger
2 Connector through my property and over my drive and
3 existing electrical line?

4 A. My role is to ensure that again the safety of
5 the design, the design is done properly. So it's to
6 look at the right-of-way width, that the conductor is
7 maintained within that right-of-way, clearances are met
8 over roadways and driveways, and that within the
9 right-of-way there's also a limited EMF and audible
10 noise.

11 Q. What are those numbers? What are those
12 numbers?

13 A. Which numbers specifically?

14 Q. The EMF and the audible.

15 A. Sure. The electric field within the
16 right-of-way is limited to -- this is, I'm sorry, just a
17 clarifying question. Specific to your property or to
18 the design limits?

19 Q. To my property.

20 A. The design limits are the same throughout the
21 entire line, which design limits are generally between
22 about 2 kV per meter at the edge of right-of-way for the
23 electric field. On your driveway, the limit or the
24 design currently at the edge of the right-of-way is
25 approximately less than one kV per meter.

1 With regard to the magnetic field, within the
2 right-of-way the design is between, I can't recall the
3 design criteria off the top of my head, but I can recall
4 your property that I've looked at recently. And the
5 limits are on your driveway between 50 milligals and 250
6 milligals.

7 Q. Are you done answering?

8 A. For the audible noise, we use a -- There's no
9 standard or regulatory requirement for audible noise,
10 but good practice is to keep the dBA decibels within a
11 range of 45 to 50, 45 to 55 decibels dBA.

12 Q. When would it be that loud?

13 A. For alternating current transmission lines,
14 it's typically when there is the moisture in the air,
15 raining or high humidity.

16 Q. Fog?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Isn't this 50 milligals to 250 milligals kind
19 of high or where is that at on safety?

20 A. To put it in perspective, the appliances in
21 your home, some appliances in your home are within that
22 same range. So such as a microwave on the high end.
23 Vacuum, hair dryer, they would fall within that same
24 range.

25 Q. Okay. So can dust cause any danger, because

1 I'm off of a gravel road and I read dust can cause and
2 there's also a soybean field next to me. I don't know
3 if you've ever seen a farmer combine soybean. It's
4 brutal. Would that be a concern?

5 A. Yes, and it's something that we've designed
6 for.

7 Q. Okay. And did I understand correctly in my
8 research that that causes arcing, the dust can cause the
9 arcing of the line?

10 A. If not properly designed for.

11 Q. So you're saying it would never arc because
12 it's designed or probably you can never say never?

13 A. It is difficult for an engineer to say never.

14 Q. It's not supposed to?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. So you said you are familiar with my property?

17 A. I haven't been out to your property, but I
18 have seen the maps of your property.

19 Q. Like last night or three years ago?

20 A. Before last night.

21 Q. Has it been back when they were doing the
22 public meeting in the local town or whatever or was it
23 prior to or before the, after the CCN 2023-0017 hearing?

24 A. It's been some time. I don't know if it was
25 before or after the hearing.

1 Q. So they haven't familiarized yourself with the
2 many, many times I've complained or voiced concerns or
3 whatever; is that what you're saying?

4 A. Only from what I've heard.

5 Q. Did Jason Brown specifically ever talk to you?

6 A. Not that I recall except to discuss the matter
7 of this hearing.

8 Q. This hearing. Okay. Did Kevin Chandler, did
9 he discuss with you my property?

10 A. We have discussed your property.

11 Q. Prior to this hearing?

12 A. The CCN hearing or this hearing?

13 Q. This hearing today.

14 A. Yes, prior to this hearing.

15 Q. Okay. I believe it was your testimony at the
16 CCN hearing 2023-0017 that you testified that this line
17 was going to be built to the NERC or North American
18 Electric Reliability Company standards; is that correct?

19 A. Correct. That's one of the standards.

20 Q. Okay. Are all high voltage power lines built
21 according to the NERC standards?

22 A. There are NERC requirements that apply to all
23 high voltage power lines depending on the ownership.

24 Q. So it wouldn't necessarily have to be built to
25 those standards; you're just choosing to?

1 A. I would say yes, they have to be built to
2 those standards.

3 Q. But not all. But you just said not all high
4 voltage power lines are?

5 A. With regard to how lines operate, depending on
6 the ownership of the line, they may operate differently
7 and those standards cover a variety of ownerships and
8 how they should be operated.

9 Q. So there's different standards depending on
10 who owns them; am I understanding that correctly?

11 A. For example, a transmission line that is part
12 of a large system could have more stringent requirements
13 versus a transmission line that is a radial feed or a
14 point from generation to a switchyard.

15 Q. Like the Tiger Connector? Is the Tiger
16 Connector a radial -- what did you call it? A radial?

17 A. Radial.

18 Q. So is the Tiger Connector a radial?

19 A. You'll have to forgive me. I'm not an expert
20 on the inner workings of NERC. I can speak to more
21 details of the NESC, the National Electric Safety Code
22 and some others.

23 Q. Is the Tiger Connector built to -- what did
24 you say that was, the NEC?

25 A. The NESC, National Electric Safety Code, which

1 is a minimum safety requirement for distribution and
2 transmission underground and overhead. It's not -- It's
3 not the only thing that we use. It's a minimum. So,
4 again, we design above and beyond the National Electric
5 Safety Code.

6 Q. So what are these codes for?

7 A. The National Electric Safety Code addresses
8 the safety of workers and the public.

9 Q. And the same for the NERC?

10 A. I, again, can't speak to the complexities of
11 NERC.

12 Q. So will those standards guarantee that this
13 line won't ever fall on my existing line and property?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Do falls still occur even with those standards
16 in place?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. So when you just said it wasn't likely or it
19 was unlikely to cause a fire, that doesn't mean that
20 it's impossible, correct? Do you want me to repeat the
21 question?

22 A. You're referring to the transmission line
23 falling to cause a fire?

24 Q. At my house, yes. I think it was the first
25 question she asked you maybe.

1 A. I know what we design the transmission line
2 to, the switching controls that we target and response
3 time to clear a fault. I do not know what the local
4 co-op, what their design, their requirements are. If I
5 may speculate, a fire from a transmission line if the
6 transmission line were to fall, an unlikely scenario,
7 and fault to the distribution line, the surge of that
8 fault similar to if the distribution line was struck by
9 lightning or if someone drove into a distribution pole
10 and caused it to fall, there would be a fault causing a
11 surge in the distribution line. That surge if the
12 equipment is not rated for it could fail.

13 Q. Okay. So is my transmission line on my
14 property from my Callaway Electric Co-op, is it designed
15 to withstand your line falling on it?

16 A. Again, I can't speak to the Callaway Electric
17 Co-op.

18 Q. So you haven't done any research on that to
19 confirm?

20 A. Unfortunately we have -- Kevin Chandler can
21 speak more to this. My understanding is we've reached
22 out to the co-op and they have not responded.

23 Q. Okay. So would you say it's possible that I
24 could lose cell phone coverage?

25 A. Due to the transmission line?

1 Q. Uh-huh. I'm sorry. I should have clarified
2 that.

3 A. I don't know.

4 Q. So it is possible?

5 A. What I can say is that cell phones operate at
6 a higher frequency than your low frequency transmission
7 lines. They operate at megahertz. Transmission line
8 operates at 60 hertz. Different frequencies means that
9 there wouldn't be interference if operating correctly.

10 Q. But isn't it also true that there's other
11 factors involved like that like the topography or in my
12 case my land is high, low, high, low and then it's in a
13 valley and then my house is underground in the valley.
14 Isn't that kind of a special circumstance to if you just
15 lived around the corner here and you have transmission
16 lines around you and losing?

17 A. Again, I can't speak to how the cell phone
18 coverage works.

19 Q. What's your experience or your expertise as
20 being a power line person to that? I know you said it
21 wouldn't affect -- the HVDC wouldn't affect cells in
22 your testimony.

23 A. Like I had shared with you again, I have not
24 experienced the issue. The likelihood from looking at
25 the frequency of the transmission line 60 hertz and the

1 frequency cell phones operate at being in the megahertz,
2 I can't imagine there being interference.

3 Q. But it could; anything is possible?

4 A. I don't know.

5 Q. Okay. Can you tell me what exactly the towers
6 are going to be that are going to be holding up this
7 line across my property? Are they the structural
8 lattice or are they not? That's all I know.

9 A. They are not.

10 Q. They're not the metal ones?

11 A. They are made of metal.

12 Q. But they're not the ones that go up like --

13 A. A lattice tower. They are not lattice towers.
14 To clarify, there are no structures on your property.

15 Q. Correct, yes. I was just wondering if it was
16 going to be a metal, one of those metal ones or wood or
17 what it would be.

18 A. Currently designed as steel poles.

19 Q. Is that what they're referred to?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. It's a steel pole?

22 A. And from the CCN Exhibit AW-3.

23 Q. You talked about the assembly. So that also
24 has the pole and all that on it, the AW-3? I don't have
25 it in front of me. Sorry. I know you're way more

1 familiar. So how many lines are on that pole? How many
2 lines will be on that pole across my property?

3 A. How many circuits, wires is what you're
4 asking; is that correct?

5 Q. Lines. Is it different? How many -- okay.
6 Let me. I do not know the lingo. Let me ask you this
7 in plain stupid language. How many lines are
8 potentially going to fall on top of my electric line or
9 me or my drive or anything?

10 MS. CALLENBACH: Excuse me. Objection. That
11 assumes facts not in evidence.

12 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'm going to overrule. He can
13 answer if he knows. If he doesn't know, he can say
14 that.

15 THE WITNESS: The transmission line the Tiger
16 Connector is a double circuit 345 kV transmission line.
17 BY MS. MEADOWS:

18 Q. I don't know what that means.

19 A. It's a double, has two circuits and three
20 phases.

21 Q. You're calling the line a circuit, am I
22 following? I don't think I'm following you. What are
23 you -- I'm referring it to a line. You're referring it
24 as something else. You're calling the line a circuit?

25 MS. CALLENBACH: Excuse me, Judge. We have

1 copies of what the structures look like. Would it be
2 helpful if I pass those out so people can follow along?

3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: That's fine with me.

4 MS. CALLENBACH: Once those are passed out,
5 Mr. White is referring to Schedule AW-3 which was
6 attached to his direct testimony in the CCN case.

7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Callenbach, thank you.

8 MS. MEADOWS: Do you know what page that is?

9 MS. CALLENBACH: Yeah, it's near the end. It
10 should be page 2 of Schedule AW-3.

11 BY MS. MEADOWS:

12 Q. Okay. So there will be active electrical
13 charged lines on these pointy things. I'm not an
14 engineer. I'm doing my best.

15 A. You're doing great. Yes, with the exception
16 that the top arm that you see on that Exhibit AW-3, page
17 1, that is for OPGW or optical ground wire,
18 communication wire and lightning protection.

19 Q. Would I know the difference if any of these
20 lines fell on the ground if they were active, not
21 active, safe, not safe, could I drive over them? I
22 mean, how would I know? Are they colored?

23 MS. CALLENBACH: Judge, can we get her to
24 break that into one question at a time, please.

25 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If the witness is having a

1 hard time understanding, he can say he doesn't
2 understand and we can break up the question.

3 THE WITNESS: Can you repeat the question?

4 BY MS. MEADOWS:

5 Q. Well, I don't understand how these poles work.
6 So let me give you a scenario, example. I'm walking
7 down my drive. There's a line on the ground. How will
8 I know if it's active or not active? By active I mean
9 could electrocute me or not or if it's just one of those
10 whatever you said, telecommunications? I mean, can you
11 tell by looking?

12 A. No. The recommendation would be to call the
13 contact for Grain Belt, the operations that would be
14 provided to you or the local authority and they would --
15 we would have procedures in place to coordinate with
16 them to address it safely.

17 Q. Is there a chance that it could just fall on
18 one pole onto my property or is it just all connected at
19 each pole and it would all slack down or not, it's not
20 connected?

21 A. You're okay. Let me explain one of the
22 structure load cases that we evaluate and that the line
23 is designed for. We call it the broken wire scenario,
24 which causes an imbalance in loading. So if the wire
25 breaks, generally the structures are there to support

1 the wire. And if that breaks, it causes imbalance in
2 the line loading, tension where it shouldn't be.

3 These structures are designed to account for
4 that, that additional loading. That's one of the
5 examples of going above and beyond the minimum
6 requirements but good practice.

7 Q. Do those ever fail, those backup plans or
8 whatever, do those ever fail? They're set not to but it
9 still happens, I'm assuming?

10 A. Extreme events do occur. Like I mentioned
11 before, we evaluate considering various weather cases
12 and operation cases, but there are extreme events that
13 we in those cases when it does fail, we rely on the
14 reliability of the line which involves not just the
15 resiliency or how it's designed but also how quickly
16 we're set up to address the issue.

17 Q. Okay. No one has ever told me what the time
18 turnaround would be. So I don't know if a line fell if
19 you guys would be out in 20 minutes, two hours, two
20 weeks. I have no idea. Do you have any idea at this
21 point?

22 A. No. It's difficult because the extreme event
23 that we're talking about is an extreme event. It could
24 be cascading across not the line but it could be that
25 the whole county is suffering. It could be a number of

1 things. That extreme event without having that detail
2 wouldn't be able to answer that question.

3 Q. But I'm probably one of the only homes that
4 they wouldn't be able to get off their property because
5 of the line falling, though.

6 MS. CALLENBACH: Objection. I think that
7 assumes facts not in evidence.

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I don't know that I -- could
9 you ask that again, Ms. Meadows?

10 MS. MEADOWS: No. I forgot the question too.
11 I was already thinking of the next question. I forgot
12 that one.

13 BY MS. MEADOWS:

14 Q. Okay. As far as it acting -- you acting
15 quickly, I remember my question, as far as you acting
16 quickly, would I have any precedence because of my
17 particular situation that emergency services could not
18 get to me versus the neighbor down the road that it's in
19 his back 40 and his line is down?

20 A. Yes. Considering Grain Belt, the Tiger
21 Connector, yes. Considering the local emergency
22 response, again I can't speculate on this type of event
23 how big it is. You have to consider that in such an
24 event, an extreme event, there could be multiple
25 distribution lines down. Again, distribution lines not

1 being designed to the same standard as transmission,
2 it's not recommended to drive over any of those either.

3 Q. If I had to, would I be okay, maybe, cross my
4 fingers, say a little prayer? Well, we might find out.
5 So tell me this. You keep referring to them as local.
6 Do you mean you like subcontract people from Ameren or
7 the local co-op or whatever, you're actually going to
8 have an office with people?

9 A. Yes. Grain Belt will have operation centers.

10 Q. And they'll be staffed?

11 A. They'll be staffed.

12 Q. With linemen, I guess?

13 A. Depending on -- yes. Depending on the
14 situation, we would reach out to contractors that are
15 available. In an emergency situation, whoever can
16 respond the quickest is what we're going to rely on.

17 Q. Are these poles designed to withstand
18 earthquakes?

19 A. No. That is not a design consideration for
20 transmission.

21 Q. They can't even do a small one from like the
22 New Madrid fault, because we're in that area? Probably
23 you can't say yes if they're not built that way. I
24 understand if that's the case.

25 A. Let me rephrase. Transmission design does not

1 consider earthquake dynamic loading. The design
2 approach is different where we use static loads with
3 large load factors for uncertainty and because those
4 static loads are so large they're more often than not
5 they exceed any dynamic loading from an earthquake.

6 Q. Are you familiar with the New Madrid fault?

7 A. I've heard of it.

8 Q. You're not from Missouri though, are you?

9 A. No. My familiarity with the New Madrid fault,
10 if I am thinking of the right one, is from Mag 7, an old
11 smelter plant? That's where my familiarity comes from.

12 Q. I've never heard of that. I just remember in
13 school all of our teachers talking about it and the
14 rivers flowed backwards and we're in the area of it. So
15 it's in the back of my mind that I wonder if any of this
16 construction stuff like high voltage power lines are
17 built to withstand any of that. It may not be a big
18 deal. We may not even feel it. But it may be a big
19 deal. Obviously if the whole county is down from an
20 earthquake, that's fine, but I don't want just five
21 poles in the whole county and mine is one of them that
22 is blocking my drive and they'd be like we'll get to you
23 when we get to you, because I'm literally blocked in. I
24 cannot -- There's no way out of my property.

25 MS. CALLENBACH: Judge, we're going to object

1 to that. Ms. Meadows is actually testifying. I don't
2 hear a pending question to Mr. White.

3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'm going to agree. If you
4 can try to limit your statements to questions. Thank
5 you.

6 MS. MEADOWS: Sorry.

7 BY MS. MEADOWS:

8 Q. So just to reiterate, it's unlikely that this
9 line would cause a fire if your active line fell on my
10 house but it's not impossible that it would not,
11 correct?

12 A. It is extremely unlikely that the transmission
13 line would cause a fire.

14 Q. But it still could. Can you sit there and
15 look me in the eye and tell me with 100 percent
16 certainty I don't have to worry about this line ever
17 falling and causing my house to catch on fire?

18 MS. CALLENBACH: Judge, objection. I think
19 the witness has answered this question multiple times
20 now. I believe it's asked and answered.

21 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Sustained. I think he's
22 answered it too.

23 MS. MEADOWS: That's all I have. Thank you.

24 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Let me see if we
25 have any bench questions for this witness. Any

1 questions for the Commissioners? Commissioner Coleman.

2 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you.

3 QUESTIONS

4 BY COMMISSIONER COLEMAN:

5 Q. Mr. White, I've been looking at this
6 information that was handed out a few minutes ago. Ms.
7 Meadows has mentioned the lines quite often and the
8 concern about it falling down. I was a little delayed
9 getting back here and I might have missed this part of
10 it. I don't know if there's been any conversation about
11 the towers, and she's talked a lot about lines, but is
12 there -- I would suspect that the route is drawn out,
13 this Exhibit No. 20, it's very self-explanatory. I
14 appreciate it. But I don't see anywhere on here where
15 it shows where the actual towers will be built. So my
16 question is will an actual tower be built on her
17 property?

18 A. The answer is no, there will be no structures
19 on Ms. Meadows' property.

20 Q. And those that -- Any structures that there
21 are, how close would they be?

22 A. The adjacent structures from my recollection
23 are greater than 150 feet from her road, her access.

24 Q. Her access?

25 A. Her driveway. Excuse me.

1 Q. So this rendering shows that the route goes I
2 believe west kind of like southeast to the west
3 diagonally. I don't know if you can see this or not,
4 but I'm talking about this transmission line here. When
5 you say 150 feet from her access, you mean the actual
6 road but not necessarily -- just re-explain that to me,
7 please, to make sure I'm getting it.

8 A. I can -- For route specific questions, Kevin
9 Chandler might be a better person to answer. What I
10 mean is the distance from Ms. Meadows' access to the
11 adjacent structures with the adjacent structures not
12 being on her property is greater than 150 feet.

13 Q. Either side?

14 A. Either side, correct.

15 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you. Thank you,
16 Judge.

17 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Any further bench
18 questions? Any bench questions? Thank you.

19 MS. MEADOWS: Judge.

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'm sorry. Yes.

21 MS. MEADOWS: I just wanted to point out, I
22 guess this was probably my printer that did this, but it
23 actually does show the towers. That's what this 34/3
24 and 34/2 are on each side of my deal.

25 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you. I did see

1 those.

2 MS. MEADOWS: They're dark blue. They just
3 kind of blend in.

4 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: I saw those earlier and
5 kind of thought that they might be. Then I had lunch
6 and things have changed.

7 MS. MEADOWS: I should have pointed it out. I
8 apologize.

9 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you.

10 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. I think I have
11 just a few questions.

12 QUESTIONS

13 BY JUDGE PRIDGIN:

14 Q. Mr. White, has Grain Belt explored the options
15 to move the line as Ms. Meadows is requesting?

16 A. I know that Grain Belt has explored some
17 options. In discussion again with Kevin, I recall
18 discussion with Kevin Chandler. He could answer those
19 in more detail.

20 Q. Could the line be moved?

21 A. From an engineering perspective?

22 Q. Yes.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What would be the costs and the challenges and
25 the benefits to moving that line?

1 A. Kevin Chandler will speak to more detail that
2 the constraints of the items that we consider when
3 routing what's impacted from wetlands, to endangered
4 species, to people's homes, to agricultural land. So
5 it's difficult without knowing the change what that
6 change would be to approximate a cost.

7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. I think those are
8 all my questions. Any recross based on bench questions
9 from staff?

10 MS. HANSEN: No, thank you.

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Public Counsel.

12 MR. POSTON: Yes, thank you.

13 RECROSS-EXAMINATION

14 BY MR. POSTON:

15 Q. So is there any of these witnesses that would
16 be able to answer those questions about costs?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Who would that be?

19 A. Mr. Kevin Chandler.

20 Q. So the structures that are shown on here that
21 Commissioner Coleman was asking about, the 34/2, 34/3,
22 are these the same structures that are shown in your
23 testimony, the pole structures?

24 A. From the CCN?

25 Q. From the CCN case, right.

1 A. Correct. These structures come from Exhibit
2 AW-3.

3 Q. Okay. And then if there were to be say a
4 detour that went from 34/3, 34/2, say a new pole was put
5 in just to the southwest of her property, would that
6 also use one of these type of poles or would a turn like
7 that require something different?

8 A. If there is a turn in the alignment, page 3 of
9 3, Exhibit AW-3, is a representation of the structure
10 that would be used, the typical structure for turning.

11 Q. So it's a different type of pole?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. And what is the approximate cost of one of
14 those poles?

15 A. I can't answer that at this time.

16 Q. Why is that?

17 A. I don't have the information.

18 Q. What is the general range of cost of poles?

19 A. Over the last two years, the price per pound
20 of steel has changed, gone up and down dramatically.
21 It's difficult to say.

22 Q. Okay. You can't even ballpark it?

23 A. I'm not a ballparking person.

24 Q. So you can't sit here and say that it would be
25 expensive to do this?

1 MS. CALLENBACH: Objection. I think the
2 question has been asked and answered.

3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'm going to sustain.

4 MR. POSTON: That's all I have. Thank you.

5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Poston, thank you. Ms.
6 Meadows, do you have any questions based solely on my
7 questions or on Commissioner Coleman's questions?

8 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Judge, before she
9 determines if she does, I thought of another question
10 looking at notes that I've made.

11 QUESTIONS

12 BY COMMISSIONER COLEMAN:

13 Q. Ms. Meadows talked about the New Madrid fault,
14 which I'm very familiar with born and raised in
15 Sikeston, Missouri. I've felt earthquakes. So real
16 familiar with that situation. But discussing damage
17 from natural disasters, not only earthquakes but maybe a
18 tornado, I was in Joplin quite often in another role I
19 was in after the 2011 Joplin tornado. And I saw
20 transmission poles that were ripped apart and bent over,
21 damaged considerably. Did I hear you say it was
22 unlikely that an earthquake or something of that sort
23 could cause significant damage?

24 A. No. An extreme event like an earthquake can
25 cause damage to transmission lines. Our objective in

1 design is the reliability. And so to design it is above
2 and beyond the minimum standards but not necessarily for
3 a 500-year event. The objective is to restore it as
4 quickly as possible. So to limit the amount of damage.

5 Q. And so your belief is that the way these
6 structures are designed and installed would limit the
7 amount of damage that they could suffer?

8 A. Correct. What damage there was in an extreme
9 event we would be ready to quickly address.

10 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you, Mr. White.
11 Thank you, Judge.

12 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Commissioner, thank you. Let
13 me go back and see if we have other recross based on the
14 new bench questions. Any questions from staff?

15 MS. HANSEN: No.

16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Public Counsel.

17 MR. POSTON: No, thank you.

18 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Ms. Meadows, any
19 questions based on these bench questions?

20 MS. MEADOWS: I do have one question.

21 RECROSS-EXAMINATION

22 BY MS. MEADOWS:

23 Q. So given Judge Pridgin asked about the cost
24 challenges and what was the third thing? I didn't get
25 it written down.

1 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Benefits, I think. I wasn't
2 listening to myself but I think that was it.

3 BY MS. MEADOWS:

4 Q. That sounds right. Of moving the line across
5 the road from me. So just to follow up his question on
6 that is, and you didn't answer, would there be any
7 benefits of the line being south of me if it was nothing
8 but grass, no wetlands, no whatever else?

9 MS. CALLENBACH: Objection. Calls for
10 speculation.

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'm going to overrule. If he
12 doesn't know, he can say so.

13 THE WITNESS: I don't know.

14 BY MS. MEADOWS:

15 Q. It just being on plain land. I mean, it's not
16 a wetland. It never gets wet. There's no cranes out
17 there or anything. It's just dirt with grass on it.
18 Unless someone has made that a wildlife refuge or
19 whatever with Grain Belt, no one has told me, as far as
20 I'm concerned, there's no reason it can't be put over
21 there. So my question is if there's nothing like that
22 out there, is there a benefit of it being over there,
23 the line being put over there, as in it would be over
24 there and not on me?

25 A. There is no engineering difference. With

1 regard to the route and considerations, I would defer to
2 Mr. Chandler.

3 MS. MEADOWS: Okay. Thank you. No further
4 questions.

5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Mr. White, thank
6 you very much. You may step down. We'll be ready for
7 Mr. Brown is the next witness; is that correct?

8 MS. CALLENBACH: Yes, that's correct.

9 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Brown will come forward
10 and be sworn, please. If you'll raise your right hand
11 to be sworn, please, sir. Do you swear the evidence
12 you're about to give will be the truth, the whole truth
13 and nothing but the truth so help you God?

14 MR. BROWN: I do.

15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. You may have
16 a seat. Ms. Callenbach or Mr. Schulte. Whenever you're
17 ready, sir. Thank you.

18 JASON BROWN,
19 having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified
20 as follows:

21 DIRECT EXAMINATION

22 BY MR. SCHULTE:

23 Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Brown. Could you please
24 state your full name and title and place of employment,
25 please?

1 A. Jason Brown, Director of Local and Community
2 Affairs Invenergy, LLC.

3 Q. And what is your business address?

4 A. 1 South Wacker Drive, Suite 1800, Chicago,
5 Illinois.

6 Q. Are you local though to Missouri?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. But your business address is in Chicago?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. Just clarifying. Thank you. You mentioned
11 your employer is Invenergy. How is Invenergy related to
12 Grain Belt Express, LLC?

13 A. Grain Belt Express is an Invenergy project and
14 I work on Grain Belt Express.

15 Q. Thank you. Could you please briefly describe
16 your educational and professional background?

17 A. My undergraduate degree was from Northwest
18 Missouri State. It was in Government and Criminal
19 Justice. My Master's in Public Administration was done
20 at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. I spent 27
21 years, deployed three times, veteran, United States
22 Army. I spent eight years as state representative in
23 the Missouri legislature from Platte County. I spent
24 four more years as the presiding commissioner of Platte
25 County. Then I have spent approximately the last 15

1 years working in the energy industry, and this coming
2 November will mark five years I have been with Invenergy
3 and on the Grain Belt Express project.

4 Q. Thank you. How long have you held
5 specifically the position of director of local and
6 community affairs at Invenergy?

7 A. It will be five years this November.

8 Q. So you've held the same position all five
9 years?

10 A. Correct, yes, sir.

11 Q. I'm going to provide you a copy of the
12 timeline and supporting documents. It's been marked as
13 Exhibit 104. It was also included with Grain Belt
14 Express's response to additional allegations which was
15 filed in this proceeding on May 21, 2025. I think
16 everyone one has copies now. I'd like to turn to tab A
17 and the header on the first page of tab A it says
18 Exhibit A to Response to Additional Allegations. Do you
19 see that?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And does this appear to be a Timeline of
22 Correspondence Between Grain Belt Express and Cheri
23 Meadows; that's the title of the document. Do you see
24 that?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Did you contribute to the creation of this
2 timeline?

3 A. Yes, I did.

4 Q. Were your contributions specific to the
5 entries that involve your communications specifically?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And to the extent of your knowledge, is this
8 timeline a complete and accurate summary of your
9 communications with Ms. Meadows?

10 A. I believe it to be, yes.

11 Q. Just as an example, could you look at entry
12 number -- As an example, could you look at entry number
13 11 on the timeline?

14 A. Okay.

15 Q. That reads June 26, 2023. First phone call
16 from Ms. Meadows to Mr. Brown. Mr. Brown missed the
17 call but returned it 9 minutes later and spoke to Ms.
18 Meadows for 8 minutes, 22 seconds. Did I read that
19 correctly?

20 A. Yes, you did.

21 Q. There's a footnote, footnote 10, and it
22 references Exhibit H and Exhibit I. Do you see that
23 footnote?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And if you turn to tab H and tab I, that shows

1 a call history. Both of those are versions of a call
2 history. Do you see that?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And have you reviewed this and other
5 supporting documents for this timeline to confirm that
6 they are consistent with your recollections?

7 A. I believe they're accurate, yes.

8 MR. SCHULTE: Okay. I would move to admit
9 Exhibit 104, which includes the full binder with the
10 timeline and the supporting documents.

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Exhibit 104 has been offered.
12 Any objections?

13 MS. HANSEN: No objection.

14 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Hearing none. Exhibit 104 is
15 admitted.

16 (GRAIN BELT EXHIBIT 104 WAS RECEIVED INTO
17 EVIDENCE AND MADE A PART OF THIS RECORD.)

18 MR. SCHULTE: I have no further direct
19 examination questions for Mr. Brown.

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, counsel. Any
21 cross-examination from staff?

22 MS. HANSEN: No, thank you.

23 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Public counsel.

24 MR. POSTON: No, thank you.

25 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Meadows.

1 MS. MEADOWS: Yes. Can I go ahead?

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Yes, I'm sorry. Thank you.

3 CROSS-EXAMINATION

4 BY MS. MEADOWS:

5 Q. So you just said your title was director of
6 local and community affairs?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Was it ever director of land and community
9 affairs?

10 A. No.

11 Q. No. You're saying no, it was never director
12 of land and community affairs?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Do you have business cards?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Do you carry them on you?

17 A. Sometimes.

18 Q. How come I never got one?

19 A. You had my cell phone number already.

20 Q. I didn't have your email. I didn't have your
21 -- I didn't know what your title was. I didn't know
22 what any of your information was.

23 A. If you had asked me, I would have given that
24 to you.

25 Q. But you don't just give them out as just

1 introductory my name is Jason Brown, here is my card?

2 A. You and I already knew one another. I was
3 operating off the fact you knew my name already. We had
4 met previously.

5 Q. Is it your belief I knew what your title was?

6 A. I don't know what you believe.

7 Q. Did you ever tell me your title?

8 MR. SCHULTE: Objection to relevance. I'm not
9 sure what -- We know his title now. We've established
10 that Ms. Meadows --

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Meadows, what's the
12 relevance of your line of questioning?

13 MS. MEADOWS: Because I thought he was a
14 person who could move this line. So I didn't know what
15 his title was. He could have been janitor for all I
16 know. I never knew what it was. So he never gave me a
17 card. He never offered a card. So I just had to go by
18 the fact that he was talking to my county commissioner
19 that he was someone who could move the line.

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'll overrule the objection
21 and he can answer if he knows the answer.

22 THE WITNESS: I don't recall if when we first
23 met at the open house in Callaway County if I introduced
24 myself as director or if I just introduced myself as
25 Jason. I'm fairly confident I probably just said my

1 name is Jason Brown.

2 BY MS. MEADOWS:

3 Q. That's how I recall it also. According to the
4 route selection study, Schedule AB-2 from the file
5 2023-0017, you were listed as a member of the routing
6 team; is that correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And what was your role as a member?

9 A. I am one of about 30 folks that are on that
10 list for, quote, the routing team, and what I work in is
11 making myself available to elected officials to answer
12 their questions. And when individuals like yourself
13 have a question and you ask that of your commissioner
14 and the commissioner asks me to call you, I do that.

15 Q. But you recall in this case Randy called you
16 on a three-way call the first time we talked and then I
17 had to call you the next time; is that your
18 recollection?

19 A. No, my recollection is that the first time we
20 spoke, you and I spoke at the open house in Callaway
21 County. That's when we first met. That was one of the
22 required open houses for the hearing. There was a lot
23 of information there. My role was to make myself
24 available, answer questions. If I couldn't, find
25 somebody who could. That was the first time we met.

1 And then I believe the instance you're referring to is
2 when I was visiting then Associate Commissioner Randy
3 Kleindienst at the Callaway County Courthouse and he
4 brought to my attention that he had a constituent that
5 had called him and expressed some concerns and he asked
6 if I would help out with that. I said yes, and then he
7 turned around and called you directly from his office as
8 I was standing there. And the next thing I knew you and
9 I and he were in a three-way conversation via the
10 speaker phone. I think it's at that point that you and
11 I realized that we had previously met and knew one
12 another already.

13 Q. Correct. Because you didn't tell me at the
14 hearing or at the public meeting that you were a
15 director of local and community affairs person for the
16 area. I just thought you were just an employee. So
17 thank you for clarifying. So as a member of the routing
18 team, did you ever go out on any wind shield surveys or
19 field recons?

20 A. In respect to me being on the routing team, I
21 just explained what my role was.

22 Q. So your answer is no, correct; your answer was
23 no?

24 A. Correct. That wasn't part of my
25 responsibility. My responsibility was to make myself

1 available at the open house to help answer questions and
2 show folks where their property was on the maps on the
3 different routes that were there and make myself
4 available if there were any elected officials that
5 showed up.

6 MS. MEADOWS: Judge, I have a thing I would
7 like for him to look at. I have enough copies for
8 everyone. Do I hand that out?

9 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Yes, please.

10 BY MS. MEADOWS:

11 Q. Have you had a chance to read it?

12 A. This entire thing right now?

13 Q. No, the top section.

14 A. I have read it.

15 Q. Okay. So it says after the meeting all the
16 routing team members got together and discussed it. Did
17 you get together with other members of the routing team
18 and discuss the issue you and I had talked about about
19 this line going over my property and driveway?

20 A. Ask me your question again. You're asking me
21 what about that meeting?

22 Q. It says immediately following public meetings,
23 the routing team met to review comments that were
24 written on comment cards or maps, shared in
25 conversations with project representatives, and

1 submitted online via the virtual meeting. In addition
2 to making the routing team aware of general landowner
3 concerns about the project, these meetings provided an
4 opportunity to revise potential routes where feasible
5 based on new information provided by landowners and
6 technical guidance provided by the engineering team.
7 Revisions to the potential network including eliminated
8 potential routes are shown in the refined potential
9 routes network on map 4.

10 So it says immediately following public
11 meetings, the routing team met to review comments that
12 were written and shared in conversations. I'm asking
13 you did you have a meeting after that public hearing on
14 July 2022?

15 A. Yes, there were a whole bunch of folks there
16 that were at the open house. Yes, after the open house
17 ended, we were all still there, yes.

18 Q. Okay. So did you share my concern about this
19 line being put over my drive, my only entry/exit?

20 A. You did not give me your comment cards. So
21 no, I did not hold up your comment card and speak to
22 you.

23 Q. It says and shared conversations. So we
24 discussed it because you told me it would take an E5
25 tornado to take down the line. My concern was I didn't

1 like it running across my driveway and my lines. You
2 said it would take an E5. So we had discussed my
3 concerns with it being across my drive and I had told
4 you that's the only way in and out of my property.
5 You're saying because you didn't have my card in hand
6 you didn't discuss it even though it says in this that
7 you did?

8 A. It doesn't say that Jason Brown held up Cheri
9 Meadows' card and discussed it at that meeting. If
10 that's what you're asking me, that answer is no. You
11 didn't turn your cards in to me. You turned them in to
12 one of our consultants that were there. There was a
13 separate table for that. You turned your card in. No,
14 I did not bring up your card to the group at large.

15 Q. What about the part where it states, it's the
16 second line starts in the middle, shared in conversation
17 with project representatives and submitted online --
18 wait a second. That's not what I wanted.

19 In addition to making the routing team aware
20 of general landowner concerns about the project, these
21 meetings provide an opportunity. So my question is, we
22 talked about this. It was on the card separately, but
23 we also talked about it. So my question is, basically
24 just yes or no, did you discuss in that meeting what we
25 talked about in person and the line being over my

1 property?

2 A. We discussed a lot of things in a general
3 nature. There were a lot of people that brought things
4 up. If I mentioned you at that meeting, I said you had
5 turned in a comment card.

6 Q. Who would that have been that you told
7 specifically or was it just a group?

8 A. Specifically a group of folks that were
9 standing there. Folks that were attending the meeting
10 from the company and from the consulting companies.

11 Q. What did they say?

12 A. I don't remember what was said.

13 Q. What would the protocol been like? Okay, we
14 need to sit down and go through these cards and have
15 another discussion or we'll see if they complain any
16 more or where did it go after that?

17 A. Nobody said anything like that, if that is
18 your question.

19 Q. So you had that meeting, but then where did
20 you go from there?

21 A. So it's a process and that was one of the
22 things that I brought up at the meeting to you and
23 several other people that I talked to that very day. We
24 talked about the timeline, we talked about the process
25 and we talked about the project. And so what I refer to

1 as, it may not be what Invenergy refers to it as, me
2 with the military background I have, after actions
3 review where we talk about folks that came through, how
4 many folks came through, if we thought it was well
5 attended, things that we might do better to help
6 organize the room for the next meeting.

7 Q. Did you talk to anyone else at that meeting
8 who was in a similar position as mine that this line was
9 going to block their only drive, their only entry/exit
10 to their property? Do you recall?

11 A. I recall spending a lot of time with you. At
12 that particular meeting, I didn't have too many other
13 conversations that day. You and I spent a lot of time
14 on that map. I listened to you. I tried to explain
15 things. I know that we talked about the placards around
16 the room. I know I explained the process to you, the
17 project, and you had a lot of questions. And that's
18 what we spent a lot of time talking about.

19 Q. You recall I was upset, correct?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Do you recall that it was your idea for me to
22 put on that comment card for them to move the line
23 between me and my neighbor to the east of me to split
24 the difference on -- do you have this map?

25 A. I don't know what map you're referring to.

1 Q. This is the routing line map. You recommended
2 that I talked about we split the difference here and
3 that way it wouldn't take out too much of my trees and
4 also it wouldn't be over my drive. So that's what I put
5 on the comment card per your recommendations.

6 A. What I remember speaking to you about is
7 whatever concerns you had you should put on the comment
8 card and that now was the time to discuss what could and
9 could not be done.

10 Q. Did those comment cards, I don't recall, did
11 those comment cards specify who we were talking to?

12 A. I'd have to go back and look at your comment
13 card. I don't know off the top of my head. You or
14 anybody on those comment cards can write anything they
15 want on them.

16 Q. No, I'm sorry. I didn't ask that correctly.
17 Did my card indicate that I had talked to you as my
18 contact person or whatever there at that meeting?

19 A. I don't know. I'd have to go back and look at
20 the card again.

21 Q. So you don't think --

22 A. You did not fill the card out in front of me.

23 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. What was your
24 question?

25 BY MS. MEADOWS:

1 Q. If the card indicated who I had spoken to
2 there, like, for example, I spoke to Jason but there was
3 another girl there that, she I think moved aside for
4 him. I was questioning do the cards reflect who we
5 talked to, because he's the one who gave me the idea of
6 how to recommend rerouting the line. Does that make
7 sense?

8 THE COURT REPORTER: And your answer?

9 THE WITNESS: I'm not sure.

10 MS. MEADOWS: Your answer was you didn't know,
11 you'd have to go back and look at the card.

12 THE WITNESS: What's the question?

13 BY MS. MEADOWS:

14 Q. Did the card indicate who we talked to while
15 we were there?

16 A. I don't know what you wrote on the card
17 without going back to look at it right now.

18 Q. That was his answer. So did you specifically
19 talk to Kevin Chandler or anyone else specifically about
20 my concerns any time after that July 2022 meeting and
21 any other time?

22 A. I'm sure that I have.

23 Q. But you don't recall?

24 A. The exact instance, no.

25 Q. Just if you did?

1 A. I'm sure that I did.

2 Q. When you came out with Greg Smith and Jordan
3 Connelly, one of the first things Greg Smith said when
4 he got out of the car was, and Greg Smith is from CLS by
5 the way, was he said he asked you how you guys weren't
6 able to avoid my land. What did you tell him?

7 MR. SCHULTE: Objection. That's hearsay.

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'll overrule. He can answer
9 if he knows the answer.

10 THE WITNESS: I heard you make that comment
11 earlier today, and I've been thinking about it since you
12 said it. I honestly don't recall making a comment to
13 that extent like --

14 BY MS. MEADOWS:

15 Q. You don't recall commenting, replying back to
16 him, comment to that?

17 A. No, I do not. I don't recall him saying that.

18 Q. So do you remember our discussion at all at
19 the open house about you recommending me to put on the
20 card about moving the line east of me? Do you remember
21 that conversation at all?

22 A. I do. We spoke for a long time. Do I
23 remember everything you and I talked about? No.

24 Q. Sure.

25 A. I remember you saying you wanted it moved off

1 you. I said well, now is that time to put that in the
2 comment card and I understand what you're asking and I
3 said now is that time. And you know, I told you that
4 there were different ways to do that, you could go
5 online and do it. You said you didn't like that or
6 didn't always have that availability. I said well, then
7 there's a table. I remember the table. It was over by
8 the door, if I remember correctly.

9 Q. It was through the doors.

10 A. I said it's over there and that's where you
11 should go over there and somebody sitting at the table
12 will give you a comment card to fill out.

13 Q. I did as you instructed. Did that do
14 anything? Did anyone take note of that?

15 A. You filled the comment card out?

16 Q. And I asked them to put it between, like you
17 said, just between the two properties so it wouldn't be
18 over my drive.

19 A. I would not agree that I told you to write
20 down put it between two properties. If you're trying to
21 get me to say yes to that, I'm not going to do that. I
22 don't think that's accurate.

23 Q. Well, I hadn't thought of that --

24 THE COURT REPORTER: Wait a minute. You can
25 only talk one at a time, you two.

1 THE WITNESS: Fair enough. If your question
2 is what did somebody do with the card, is that what
3 you're asking me?

4 BY MS. MEADOWS:

5 Q. I want to know what became of it. Did it go
6 in a pile that you got to review since it was in your
7 jurisdiction? I assume I'm in your jurisdiction or no?

8 A. What do you mean by jurisdiction?

9 Q. Well, you were at the Fulton meeting and you
10 talked to the commissioners in the Fulton, Mexico area
11 or whatever. So is this the area where, for example, I
12 had a problem with the line. Are you kind of the go-to
13 person for this area?

14 A. When any commissioner across any one of the
15 three states Phase I, Phase II or MTC has a question,
16 they call me and I try to answer the question for them.
17 I'm not sure what you're referring to as jurisdiction.
18 If you're asking me if I have the authority to move the
19 line, no, I do not. I've never told you that. In fact,
20 numerous times when you and I were speaking on the phone
21 I've explained that to you. I've said that time and
22 time again, and I remember us even discussing that that
23 day we were out there with Greg Smith, Jordan Connelly
24 and myself and you.

25 Q. And did you follow that conversation up with

1 any emails or letters or anything stating that?

2 A. Follow what conversation up?

3 Q. Any conversation that you told me you could
4 not move the line.

5 A. With emails to who?

6 Q. To me. Just following up. Just a courtesy.
7 I'm sending this email after our conversation today
8 where you were concerned about the line and I told you I
9 couldn't move it or something to that length. Did you
10 ever send me a follow up email?

11 A. I don't know that I've actually emailed you,
12 have I?

13 Q. I don't have record of one.

14 A. I don't think I have emailed. I think you and
15 I spoke a lot by phone many times.

16 Q. And I had requested several data requests of
17 any notes or communication or anything that you or
18 anyone else had that mentioned my property and none have
19 been provided. So I guess you never took notes about my
20 property or mentioned my property beyond that hearing
21 there?

22 MR. SCHULTE: Objection. Assumes facts not in
23 evidence. The witness has already testified that he did
24 have conversations about her property.

25 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'm going to overrule, let him

1 answer. When you get done answering the question if you
2 know, I'm going to ask Ms. Meadows about how much more
3 cross-examination she has, because I'm looking for a
4 time to take a break. So I'm sorry. If you know the
5 answer, you can answer.

6 THE WITNESS: So when that request was made,
7 it came to me via our attorney and I went through
8 everything I had and what I had I turned over to him.

9 BY MS. MEADOWS:

10 Q. So no notes then from any of our
11 conversations?

12 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Meadows, do you know about
13 how many more questions you have for this witness?

14 MS. MEADOWS: It depends. I have probably
15 half a page, but it depends on what his answers are.

16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Half a page is quite a bit.
17 So let's take a break. We've been going for quite a
18 while. I show the time to be 3:05. Let's resume at
19 3:20. We'll be off the record until 3:20. Thank you.
20 We're off the record.

21 (Off the record.)

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Good afternoon. We are back
23 on the record. Mr. Brown is still on the stand. Ms.
24 Meadows was questioning him when we took a break. So
25 Ms. Meadows, when you're ready to resume questioning,

1 you may begin.

2 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Judge.

3 BY MS. MEADOWS:

4 Q. So you just before the break, you said that
5 you had told me a few times that you weren't able to
6 move the line off of me. Is that how you worded it?

7 A. Yes. I know you have asked that of me or of
8 Invenergy of Grain Belt project. I think just about
9 every time we've spoken you've always told me that's
10 what you want. I told you every time that I don't think
11 that's possible but we may be able to move it a little
12 further away from your house, that might be a
13 possibility.

14 Q. Okay. So would you have had any notes of
15 those conversations to anybody that I was continuing to
16 ask that question, because we spoke -- we spoke a total
17 of nine times, seven times by phone and two in person,
18 once the public meeting, once when you were at my house.
19 I'm just curious if there are any notes of you saying
20 that or anything else you would have made note of
21 because of my persistence of wanting this line moved.

22 A. I answered that before and I said no. The
23 answer is still the same.

24 Q. Okay. On August 4, 2023, you told me that you
25 were going to bring a transmission guy out once the PSC

1 has made their position. Who was your transmission guy
2 you were referring to?

3 A. Is this something in the timeline I can look
4 at?

5 Q. Uh-huh. It's I. The last column, I.

6 A. So I'm looking at Exhibit I and this is the
7 phone log?

8 Q. Yes. It's the one on the end.

9 A. Okay.

10 Q. You see I made a note on my calendar at my
11 home after our conversation that you told me that you
12 were waiting on the PSC's decision before you were
13 bringing your PSC guy out.

14 MR. SCHULTE: Objection. That's not what's
15 reflected in this exhibit.

16 MS. MEADOWS: That's right. It's not. Okay.
17 Sorry. Strike that. I thought that was the one that
18 said you were going to bring your transmission guy out.

19 BY MS. MEADOWS:

20 Q. So do you recall --

21 A. So is there a question? I don't understand.

22 Q. No, I was thinking it was a different time
23 that you had told me you were going to bring your
24 transmission guy out. It wasn't from August 3 according
25 to those records that I have before me. Can you tell me

1 from that August 4, 2023 phone conversation -- I'm
2 sorry. I'm looking at my notes because I can't believe
3 that I remembered that correctly because it's kind of --
4 incorrectly because it's burned in my mind. Yeah, my
5 notes that I have say you told me you were going to
6 bring a transmission guy out but they were waiting until
7 after the PSC's decision before moving the line off of
8 me. Is the -- I haven't looked through all this. Is my
9 calendar in this booklet, Grain Belt? It was an
10 exhibit.

11 MR. SCHULTE: Exhibit J.

12 BY MS. MEADOWS:

13 Q. Okay. I guess I just said they're, they're
14 waiting meaning you and Grain Belt or whatever. So we
15 can skip over that part. Can you just tell me if you
16 remember that conversation from August 4, 2023, about
17 you were waiting until after the PSC's decision to come
18 out to my house -- or I'm sorry. Why am I having so
19 much trouble? You were waiting on the PSC's decision
20 before figuring out about moving the line on me or less
21 on me. Do you recall that conversation?

22 A. According to the timeline that was back here
23 under Appendix A, I believe that it's accurate that you
24 and I had a conversation in August and I know that
25 during that time frame I think we had talked about we

1 didn't know what route was going to be final set and we
2 had a conversation to that extent. I don't remember
3 promising anything except we should talk after the PSC
4 makes their decision.

5 Q. So prior to that, had I mentioned that we
6 needed to get this figured out or something to that
7 effect before Grain Belt sealed where this line had to
8 go?

9 A. I'm not sure what you're asking me.

10 Q. So my contention in all this process has been
11 I didn't understand how the PSC worked. I don't know if
12 you heard earlier when I was saying to Anne, I didn't
13 know the route was a specific non-moveable path or
14 whatever. I thought their decision was just that
15 they're going to let the line be built and then Grain
16 Belt was kind of at their discretion to follow the
17 route.

18 MR. SCHULTE: Objection. This is testimony.
19 I don't hear a pending question.

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Sustained. Yeah, I don't hear
21 a question either. Do you have a question for the
22 witness?

23 MS. MEADOWS: I was trying to explain so he
24 would understand my question better.

25 BY MS. MEADOWS:

1 Q. When we went to August and we talked, you said
2 that you -- in the thing you were waiting on the PSC
3 decision before moving the line and I went along with
4 that thinking the line could still be moved. My
5 question to you is, is that how you interpreted my
6 understanding by going along with that that this wasn't
7 going to make it that the line couldn't be moved?

8 A. Hearing you talk about it now versus when you
9 and I spoke all those different times from when we first
10 met at the open house and I explained what the project
11 was, the timeline and the process from the contact that
12 I know the company had with you, from the contact that
13 you and I had with each other, the contact that I had
14 with you, again at the behest of Commissioner
15 Kleindienst and when we were out there on your property
16 with Jordan Connelly, Greg Smith, myself and you, I
17 don't know how you did not understand the process
18 because I have explained the process to a lot of people
19 over the course of this project from Dodge City all the
20 way through Missouri when I've been asked about it, and
21 I don't know -- I can only explain what I know. You and
22 I have had this conversation I just can't even count how
23 many times. I'm not sure what exactly you're asking me
24 other than did we speak on or about that date. I'm sure
25 we did. And I don't take exception with that. I would

1 also tell you that I would agree, and I said it before
2 when I was asked about this, that, yeah, I think you and
3 I did talk about waiting to see what the PSC made their
4 decision. I didn't know when that would come. I said
5 it should be here in the next month or so, and I'd have
6 to go back and look and see exactly when it came out.
7 The date escapes me right this second. I said we should
8 talk after that again and you agreed to it. I'm not
9 sure if that answers your question, Ms. Meadows. But
10 from what you're explaining to me --

11 Q. You're contending that you told me numerous
12 times and I understood the process or you thought I did.
13 So if you feel like that was the case, then how do you
14 explain or what do you think my goal would have been in
15 continuing to broach the subject with you that I don't
16 want this line going across my property?

17 A. I think you just said exactly why you kept
18 telling me what you told me. You did not want the line
19 on your property. I said I've always understood that
20 and I've always told you that I can't move it.

21 Q. But you didn't tell me that prior to that
22 August.

23 MS. SCHULTE: Objection. That's not a
24 question. It's testimony.

25 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Sustained. That's not a

1 question.

2 BY MS. MEADOWS:

3 Q. So on August 3, are you saying that you told
4 me before that date that once the PSC made the decision
5 we could not move the line off of me?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And yet I still talked to you six more times
8 or however many times past that date about moving the
9 line?

10 A. If that's the number that we've agreed to,
11 then I would say yes, because I have always told you --
12 We have had a lot of conversations, and unfortunately a
13 lot of them were circular in nature because I understand
14 your position but I explained what I could and could not
15 do and I explained the project and the process and the
16 timeline and we've gone over that many times.

17 Q. So if you explained that to me numerous times,
18 why did I keep calling you? What was my question or --

19 MR. SCHULTE: Asked and answered.

20 THE WITNESS: Because you wanted it off of
21 your property.

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'm going to overrule, let him
23 answer.

24 THE WITNESS: Because you kept telling me you
25 didn't want it on your property. I've said that before.

1 I just said that a few minutes ago.

2 BY MS. MEADOWS:

3 Q. So you told me every single time that we
4 talked that you could not move this line but yet I
5 continued to call you repeatedly and have you out to my
6 house regarding the topic once you had already told me
7 repeatedly you couldn't move the line?

8 MR. SCHULTE: Objection. Asked and answered.

9 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'll overrule. He can answer
10 if he knows.

11 THE WITNESS: We have had the same
12 conversation I honestly cannot count how many times.
13 And I mean that with all due respect and I'm not trying
14 to split any hairs on anything here. We've covered the
15 same ground, you and I, for a long time and I know it's
16 not the answer that you want and I get that, but I've
17 always been up front with you. I've always explained
18 the project, the process, the timeline, and I don't
19 know, sometimes folks just disagree.

20 BY MS. MEADOWS:

21 Q. Okay. Is a copy of the email in your thing or
22 do I need to pass this around?

23 MR. SCHULTE: It is. So it will already be in
24 the record. What's the date of that email?

25 MS. MEADOWS: June 17, 2024.

1 MR. SCHULTE: Exhibit L in the -- so the
2 record is clear, we're referring to Hearing Exhibit 104.
3 That exhibit contains several tabs and those are labeled
4 as exhibits with letters. And so within Hearing Exhibit
5 104 there's a tab L and the email is contained there.

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Schulte, thank you.

7 MS. MEADOWS: Can I go?

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Yes, please.

9 BY MS. MEADOWS:

10 Q. Can you read that email, please, Jason?

11 A. So this is under L, so that I'm on the right
12 one, that is dated Monday, June 17, 2024; is that the
13 one that we're on?

14 Q. Yeah.

15 A. Jason, per our phone conversation last
16 Wednesday and your request, here are some pictures that
17 I took of the proposed path through my property. I
18 originally tried to send this email through my main
19 email. That's redacted. But it was returned twice.
20 The second time I only had a note that I wasn't able to
21 send you pictures. I'm trying to send this temp gmail
22 -- I am trying this temp gmail account. I have to see
23 if that option works. If it does, please add my, I
24 assume that was your email address, to your safe centers
25 list and tell the transmission line planners/IT

1 department to stop blocking important emails. Your
2 company is the only one I've ever had a problem with
3 delivering from that account.

4 In addition to the pictures, the attached
5 pictures, here's also a picture of where you are putting
6 your line in proportion to eight houses all around me.
7 Notice the center of the picture is wide open with
8 little or no vegetation and would clearly put the line
9 in a good distance away from every house in the area
10 including mine. That seems like the most reasonable
11 thing to do. This picture speaks volumes about Grain
12 Belt/Invenergy's concern --

13 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. This picture
14 what?

15 MS. MEADOWS: He misread before that. He
16 might want to go back and correct.

17 THE COURT REPORTER: If you could read just a
18 little slower.

19 THE WITNESS: So the second paragraph begins
20 in addition to the attached pictures, here is also a
21 picture of where you are putting your line in proportion
22 to eight houses all around me. Notice the center of the
23 picture is wide open with little to no vegetation and
24 would clearly put the line in a good distance from every
25 house in the area including mine. That seems like the

1 most responsible thing to do. This picture speaks
2 volumes about Grain Belt/Invenergy's concern for the
3 community and doing what's right.

4 BY MS. MEADOWS:

5 Q. Did you respond to my email?

6 A. I don't believe so. I don't remember that I
7 did.

8 Q. So you had the opportunity to reply to this
9 email and say something to the effect we've already
10 discussed this, I can't move it, please refer to our
11 prior conversations and made a note somewhere me showing
12 pictures of the devastation and stuff. Do you have
13 copies of any of that, Jason?

14 A. Copies of any of what?

15 Q. Your notes you made about me continuing to
16 send pictures.

17 A. I already said I didn't make any notes.

18 Q. So did you talk to anyone about this email,
19 receiving this email?

20 A. I believe I forwarded this email. I may have
21 forwarded this to Kevin Chandler, if I remember
22 correctly.

23 Q. What was that about, the email you forwarded?
24 I mean, what was the conversation?

25 A. There was no conversation.

1 Q. You just forwarded it with no context to it?

2 A. Probably.

3 Q. Is it customary that Grain Belt doesn't make
4 notes on any of its conversations so situations like he
5 said, she said that we're in now?

6 A. Could I suggest that you ask Jason that
7 question, because I can't speak to every employee that
8 Grain Belt has.

9 Q. Jason who?

10 A. So just ask me that question that you want to
11 ask me. It's okay. Ask me. If you're asking me if I
12 regularly make notes, that answer is no.

13 Q. I want to know if it's company policy to make
14 notes.

15 A. There's no company policy.

16 Q. You don't have a policy that whenever a
17 potential landowner gets in contact with you regarding a
18 possible issue or safety issue with their land, you
19 don't take notes and put it in their file or anything?
20 There's no company policy for that?

21 A. No, there's no policy that -- You and I were
22 dealing with one another directly. So you and I were
23 dealing with one another directly. You had filled out
24 your comment cards. Folks were aware -- I mean, Greg
25 Smith was aware with Contract Land Services that you did

1 not want anything on your property. I did not take
2 notes every time we spoke, because if there was an
3 action item like when prior to the meeting and you and I
4 had talked about bringing folks out there, one of the
5 things that came out from the meeting was that we were
6 going to get things staked, you know, you and I went
7 back and forth on that to coordinate the staking of
8 that. Yes, I had conversations with other people. I
9 made phone calls stating we need to figure out how to
10 get this staked, let me know what's available, but I
11 need to give Cheri notice ahead of time because we just
12 don't want people showing up on her property. Yes, I
13 had that conversation with people.

14 Q. How are you expected by -- Is Kevin Chandler
15 your boss, by the way?

16 A. He is now somebody that's in my reporting
17 chain, if you will, folks that -- but at that time, no,
18 he was not.

19 Q. Okay. Who was your reporting boss then?

20 A. At that time I believe it would have been, I
21 don't even know, I'd have to go back and look. I don't
22 honestly recall, but Kevin Chandler is technically my
23 boss now.

24 Q. So he doesn't -- As your supervisor, can I
25 call him your supervisor?

1 A. Call him Kevin is fine.

2 Q. So Kevin doesn't ask you or anyone else below
3 him or that deals with the community or deals with the
4 commissioners or whatever to take notes so you guys can
5 remember a year, two, three years down the road any of
6 these discussions you're having with people?

7 A. So I don't know what Kevin does with other
8 folks who report to him. No, he doesn't call me and
9 tell me to take notes on every conversation I have. I
10 haven't done that for years, quite frankly, because when
11 I have a conversation with somebody, if there's an
12 action item that comes out of that conversation, I deal
13 with that and then I move on. And so the action items
14 that arose from conversations we continued to have were
15 that you wanted the line moved off of you. I always
16 told you that line cannot just, quote, be moved off of
17 you. I gave you those reasons and we talked through
18 that. There was no, quote, action item there.

19 But I was going to try to help, try to have
20 CLS meet with you, which they did, and you and I ended
21 up talking and meeting and had a great number of
22 conversations at different times.

23 Q. Can you tell me what a variance is?

24 A. In the context of what?

25 Q. Moving the line.

1 A. Well, then I would tell you a variance is that
2 the line gets moved.

3 Q. I don't know what it is. I'm asking you. You
4 basically don't know either?

5 A. I know what the word variance means.

6 Q. I know what variance means. I mean,
7 pertaining to this situation and moving the line,
8 there's --

9 A. In what context? I don't understand what
10 you're asking.

11 Q. There's apparently a variance you can do with
12 this line.

13 MR. SCHULTE: Objection.

14 THE WITNESS: Who is who?

15 MS. MEADOWS: Grain Belt.

16 MR. SCHULTE: Lack of foundation. The witness
17 has testified that he doesn't understand the context of
18 variance. So if we could get the clarification on the
19 question, then maybe the witness can answer.

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'm going to sustain. You two
21 are just bickering over the meaning of the word
22 variance.

23 BY MS. MEADOWS:

24 Q. I would like to know what it means so I know
25 if it applies to my situation, because that's a little

1 outside my knowledge realm of the possibility that the
2 PSC has to, or whoever has, to get the line moved,
3 because staff even asked if they had requested a
4 variance at one time. I read it and I still didn't
5 quite understand it.

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: So do you have a question for
7 this witness?

8 MS. MEADOWS: I guess not if neither one of us
9 knows what a variance is.

10 BY MS. MEADOWS:

11 Q. So did you ever ask if there were any
12 alternative ways that the line could get -- you guys
13 could talk to the PSC to get the line moved or you
14 didn't even try?

15 A. You're asking me if I asked the PSC if we can
16 move the line?

17 Q. Anyone in your organization, Grain Belt, Kevin
18 or your previous boss?

19 A. No, I did not ask anybody in Grain Belt if we
20 could go to the PSC and try to get the line moved.

21 Q. It was just basically an open and shut case to
22 you; they had already ruled and it was done?

23 MR. SCHULTE: Objection to the form of the
24 question as argumentative.

25 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I didn't really hear a

1 question. Do you want to try again, Ms. Meadows?

2 BY MS. MEADOWS:

3 Q. Well, was that basically the end of the
4 discussion once the PSC approved the line, there was no
5 -- you weren't going to do anything further to, and
6 again because I don't know how all this works, could you
7 go back to them and be like sorry, we made a mistake,
8 there's a safety issue involved here, we would like
9 permission to move this line or something, I mean, or
10 was it just -- maybe you don't know either. I don't
11 know. Or was it just well, the PSC has ruled this is
12 the route we have to stick to, too bad if she's
13 concerned about it burning her house down or whatever,
14 it is what it is.

15 A. First of all, I never, honestly have ever
16 taken that attitude that you just portrayed or tried to.
17 I've never treated you that way.

18 Q. True.

19 A. Okay. Thank you. I appreciate that. When
20 the route was determined by the PSC, I informed you of
21 that and I have always held and said that we may be able
22 to move the line a little further from your house but at
23 the same time I've always said that we can't just
24 summarily move it off of your property. That's not
25 something we can do. And I mean, I'm not trying to be

1 argumentative, Judge. I'm not trying to be
2 argumentative, Commissioners. And Cheri, you know I'm
3 not trying to argue with you. This is the same
4 conversation that you and I have had for a long time
5 now.

6 Q. Yeah, we have different versions of it, and
7 because you have no notes and I trusted that you could
8 move the line because I did not understand the process
9 and I disagree that you told me that you did, that's
10 neither here or there. I have just a couple more
11 questions for you.

12 So on a couple of occasions I asked you why
13 Grain Belt Express targeted my land. You told me, and
14 I'm quoting, I don't know. Do you remember telling me
15 that?

16 A. I remember telling you that we didn't target
17 it.

18 Q. But you don't remember telling me that you
19 didn't know why they targeted me?

20 A. I don't know why you feel that way. I can
21 hear what you think and what you're talking about. But
22 we, quote, didn't target your land. We haven't
23 targeted, quote, anybody's land. We strive very hard to
24 treat all landowners the same. There's a lot of work
25 that goes into routes in this entire process. Honestly,

1 I take some exception with you the phrase of the
2 question why did you target me. Well, you're making the
3 assumption that we did. I will tell you that we did
4 not.

5 Q. So you've seen this map?

6 A. Can I step up and grab it, sir.

7 MR. SCHULTE: Could you identify that if it's
8 an exhibit? Is it previously in evidence?

9 MS. MEADOWS: Staff DR 0003, Attachment A.

10 MR. SCHULTE: Which has been, just for the
11 clarity of the record, that's been entered as Exhibit
12 20.

13 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you.

14 MS. MEADOWS: I believe so.

15 THE WITNESS: Your question was have I seen
16 this?

17 BY MS. MEADOWS:

18 Q. Between this and the map that I sent you that
19 wasn't even attached to there, I'm not sure where it is,
20 but you see I'm the only house. There's these houses
21 over here. They've cut off the ones down there. You
22 see I'm the only house in this one-mile stretch of road.
23 So the fact that my one little tiny piece of property
24 couldn't be avoided would make one think that you guys
25 specifically tried to go across me to avoid the cow

1 pasture or whatever.

2 MR. SCHULTE: Objection. I don't hear a
3 question. I just hear testimony from Ms. Meadows.

4 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Sustained. Do you have a
5 question?

6 BY MS. MEADOWS:

7 Q. So when I asked you why my land was targeted,
8 you're saying it was not targeted and basically that's
9 just how it worked out with the line; is that the
10 summary of it?

11 A. What I would say is that not only did we not,
12 quote, target your property. We, quote, targeting isn't
13 one of the things that are thought about when routes are
14 put together. I just -- You weren't targeted. I don't
15 know how else to say that.

16 Q. Okay. So do you have several other
17 landowners, property owners, residential people that
18 have basically my situation, just really long driveways
19 and you just had no choice but to go across it with they
20 only had one entry/exit and you just had to do it?

21 A. I don't know how many roads or driveways we
22 crossed with the entirety of Phase I.

23 Q. But no one in a situation similar to mine has
24 reached out to you that they weren't comfortable with?

25 A. There have been folks that have not wanted the

1 line on their property in different places across
2 counties in both states but.

3 Q. I'm asking specifically in a situation like
4 mine where I have a narrow piece of property with a
5 super long driveway, no other way to get out, how many
6 people have you worked with like that? To me that's
7 kind of a special circumstance than, say, example my
8 neighbors down on the end here on 231, they live right
9 on the road. So you know, they have no safety issues or
10 whatever with their driveway whereas I have no other way
11 off my property or emergency services in or out either.
12 So I'm just curious was that just me complaining or you
13 just didn't have anyone else that had that particular
14 situation that was contacting you?

15 A. I don't know how many driveways we crossed on
16 the project or roads. I don't have a total for that.

17 Q. I reached out to you, but did you have anyone
18 else reach out to you that doesn't want their driveway
19 crossed, specifically their driveway?

20 A. To me personally?

21 Q. Uh-huh.

22 A. No.

23 Q. Just me. Okay. Okay. At one point I also
24 asked you how thick the wires were and if my car with
25 eight-inch ground clearance could drive over them. Do

1 you remember that conversation? That was one of our
2 longer ones.

3 A. Yes, I remember you asking that question.

4 Q. Did you ever find out how big those wires are
5 or did you already know and you just didn't want me to
6 do it so you wouldn't tell me?

7 A. The latter question you just asked me, the
8 answer is no, I didn't already know, I didn't withhold
9 anything and I didn't lie to you.

10 Q. But you wouldn't want me to drive over a
11 transmission line probably?

12 A. I would not want anybody to drive over a
13 downed wire period regardless if they were in a monster
14 truck or they were in a Honda Accord that was two inches
15 off the ground. No matter who it is, where it's at, I
16 think it's a very, very bad idea to drive over any line
17 that's laying on the ground period, much less how high
18 your car is, and I think I explained that to you when
19 you asked me that and made that.

20 Q. No, you didn't. Again, if my drive is blocked
21 and someone in my household needs emergency services, I
22 would like to know how big those lines are because I
23 know for a fact my car has 8 inches of ground clearance
24 and if I need to drive over that line, as long as it's
25 not over 8 inches, I would probably try it.

1 MR. SCHULTE: Objection. Not a question.

2 MS. MEADOWS: I just want to know what's the
3 wire diameter?

4 THE WITNESS: I don't know.

5 MS. MEADOWS: You don't know. Okay. I'm
6 done, Your Honor.

7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Do we have any
8 bench questions? Chair Hahn.

9 QUESTIONS

10 BY CHAIR HAHN:

11 Q. Good afternoon. Mr. Brown, in Ms. Meadows'
12 opening testimony I think she mentioned that maybe the
13 first time you visited her property her summation was
14 that how did you all not avoid this place were your
15 remarks. How do you recall your remarks and is that
16 accurate?

17 A. I don't recall the remarks, and I don't
18 believe that's accurate.

19 Q. Okay. Have you been the primary person to
20 work with Ms. Meadows on her siting concerns?

21 A. Yes, I would say that I've probably spoken
22 with Ms. Meadows more than -- as much or definitely
23 probably more than anybody else in the company, yes,
24 ma'am.

25 Q. Okay. Ms. Meadows had provided, I don't know

1 what number it is, 8.5 of proposed alternative line that
2 basically does go onto, as she's described, her
3 alternative route which would go onto an alternative
4 landowner's property. If you were to reroute the line
5 on that alternative landowner's property, if that
6 landowner were even interested, apparently there's a
7 pond below. Can you describe that pond?

8 A. Unfortunately I don't think I can. I think,
9 Commissioner, Chairwoman, sorry, I think perhaps Kevin
10 Chandler is probably a better person to ask that
11 question of when it comes to those types of constraints.

12 Q. Thank you. Do you know anything about if
13 additional towers would have to be constructed as a
14 result of that line moving somewhere else or is that
15 also a Mr. Chandler question?

16 A. I think that's probably a better question for
17 Mr. Chandler, yes, ma'am.

18 Q. Also may be a question for you or
19 Mr. Chandler. Ms. Meadows has described this driveway
20 as her only ingress and egress to her home. Are there
21 any other homes similarly affected along Grain Belt
22 where the only ingress and egress is below the GBX?

23 A. I don't know the answer to that question. And
24 I don't want to put Mr. Chandler in a spot where he has
25 to try to figure that out right now in the back of the

1 room. I don't know. We have a line that covers
2 hundreds of miles between Dodge City, Kansas and all the
3 way here into Missouri and down into Callaway County at
4 McCredie substation. So I'm sure we crossed a number of
5 driveways. I don't know that we -- I just don't know.
6 I don't know what that answer is.

7 Q. Okay. As the line currently stands, it goes
8 in front of Ms. Meadows' house but behind -- either
9 behind or beside other homes in that area. If you were
10 to move the line as she's proposed, what is the foot
11 differential between the house that would now see the
12 back of the line and the front of the line from Ms.
13 Meadows' house? So you move it basically further in the
14 backyard of one house. I'm looking at Mr. Chandler.
15 Maybe he's the right person to ask.

16 A. I wish I could answer. Some of these I feel
17 badly that I can't, but this is honestly outside what I
18 know. And I don't know what that footage is plus or
19 minus. Mr. Chandler probably knows.

20 Q. Sounds good. I'm going to keep asking you.
21 You can keep telling me to ask Mr. Chandler. I'm not
22 going to miss my opportunity to ask. How many
23 landowners have you micrositd or addressed their
24 landowner concerns by moving the line somewhere else on
25 their property?

1 A. I don't know the numeric number of how many
2 instances we've done that, but I know that we have tried
3 to work with many landowners to help alleviate or lessen
4 their concerns inside their property where the line is.

5 Q. Have you in any of those instances you can
6 think of moved it, let's say, 600 feet?

7 A. I don't think so. I think that's a pretty big
8 number and would probably get us outside the route.

9 Q. Okay. If you were to -- I think from the past
10 CCN Order Grain Belt is allowed to microsite; is that
11 correct?

12 A. That's my understanding, yes, ma'am.

13 Q. If you had to traverse a new landowner's
14 property, that may not be micrositeing; is that correct?

15 A. That's my understanding that we're not allowed
16 to actually introduce new landowners is my
17 understanding.

18 Q. Under the current order unless you notify the
19 Commission; is that right?

20 A. We're probably way into some -- I'm not an
21 attorney and I'm by no means an expert. For where
22 you're asking me, and I wish I did know the technical
23 answer there, but there's several people in the room
24 that are a lot smarter than I that can answer that,
25 ma'am.

1 CHAIR HAHN: That happens to me all the time.
2 Thank you.

3 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

4 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, Chair Hahn. Any
5 further bench questions?

6 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Just one, Judge.

7 QUESTIONS

8 BY COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:

9 Q. You mentioned that in a conversations with Ms.
10 Meadows you explained to her that you were unable, I
11 imagine that when you say you were unable, that Grain
12 Belt was unable to move the line and you explained the
13 reasons why they were unable to move the line. Can you
14 enumerate what those reasons were now?

15 A. I mean, we are -- once the -- Once you all
16 give us the route that we can't introduce, how do I want
17 to say it, we can't put the line onto somebody else that
18 hasn't -- that isn't previously part of it. I'm
19 probably not being real clear here. Where she's always
20 wanted that line moved to, what she's explained to me is
21 just move it, quote, over here, just get it off of me,
22 and we simply can't do that. And that's what I've
23 explained to her that we have some -- we can probably
24 make some adjustments inside and get it further away
25 from her house, but we couldn't just put it on somebody

1 else altogether that was outside of the route.

2 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Okay. Thanks. I
3 think I'll save my follow up when we get to
4 Mr. Chandler.

5 THE WITNESS: Sorry, sir.

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Commissioner, thank you. Any
7 recross based off of bench questions from staff?

8 MS. HANSEN: No, thank you.

9 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Public counsel.

10 MR. POSTON: Yes. Thank you.

11 RECROSS-EXAMINATION

12 BY MR. POSTON:

13 Q. This was just the last line of questioning you
14 got. You said you can't move it off of her property.
15 Is that based on what you think your limitations are
16 based on the CCN Order?

17 A. Yes, that's my understanding.

18 MR. POSTON: Thank you.

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Poston, thank you. Ms.
20 Meadows.

21 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you. Sorry for the delay.

22 RECROSS-EXAMINATION

23 BY MS. MEADOWS:

24 Q. Jason, can you tell me when Kevin Chandler
25 became your boss on this or your contact person

1 regarding when you started notifying him about my
2 concerns with my property?

3 A. It's been very recently that he just became
4 technically my boss who I would report to. I mean --

5 Q. Can you give me any sort of a time frame?

6 A. I'm thinking somewhere in the last 30 to 60
7 days. It hasn't been -- It's been within the quarter.
8 I could go back and figure it out at some point. It's
9 been very recently.

10 Q. So prior to Kevin Chandler, have you thought
11 of who the other person was you were talking to?

12 MR. SCHULTE: I'm going to object. This is
13 not based on Commissioner questions.

14 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Sustained.

15 BY MS. MEADOWS:

16 Q. So going off of Commissioner Hahn's questions
17 that you weren't able to answer as far as this line,
18 moving it across the neighbors if they were okay with
19 it, is it your understanding that you can just do it,
20 move the line?

21 A. You're asking me a hypothetical. So
22 hypothetically I don't think it's -- I don't think so
23 that we can just, quote, move it.

24 Q. If the property owner across from me is okay
25 with it and there's no wetlands or whatever?

1 A. Right. Again, it's a lot of hypotheticals
2 here. I don't think it's as simple as you're alluding
3 to.

4 Q. I don't understand how any of this works at
5 all. So I don't know if it is as simple as that
6 landowner, because I know originally they were contacted
7 but then they weren't contacted for some reason or
8 whatever. So I was just wondering if you know if they
9 were to agree to it just without having to go through a
10 new permitting process or whatever if that's something
11 that you guys could do, especially given I guess you
12 have to maybe possibly add a pole or do something
13 different. So your answer basically is you don't quite
14 understand the process either it sounds like exactly.

15 A. I don't think it's as simple as you make it
16 out to be. That would be my answer to your question.

17 MS. MEADOWS: Okay. Thank you. That's all I
18 have.

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Meadows, thank you.
20 Mr. Brown, thank you. You may step down. Mr. Chandler
21 I believe is the final Grain Belt witness; is that
22 correct?

23 MR. SCHULTE: Yes, Judge.

24 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Could you come forward and be
25 sworn, please. Mr. Chandler, if you'll raise your right

1 hand to be sworn, please. Do you swear the evidence
2 you're about to give will be the truth, the whole truth
3 and nothing but the truth so help you God?

4 MR. CHANDLER: I do.

5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. Grain Belt,
6 when you're ready.

7 MR. SCHULTE: Thank you, Judge.

8 KEVIN CHANDLER,
9 having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified
10 as follows:

11 DIRECT EXAMINATION

12 BY MR. SCHULTE:

13 Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Chandler. Could you
14 please state your full name, title and employer for the
15 record?

16 A. Kevin Chandler, Senior Director of
17 Transmission Public Affairs for Invenergy.

18 Q. What is your business address?

19 A. 1 South Wacker Drive, Suite 1500, Chicago,
20 Illinois 60606.

21 Q. Could you please describe your educational and
22 professional background?

23 A. Yes. I have a Bachelor's and Master's Degrees
24 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I
25 have been employed with Invenergy supporting

1 transmission development for the past three years.
2 Prior to that, I worked for Apex Clean Energy supporting
3 electric project development for six or close to seven
4 years, and prior to that I worked for various nonprofit
5 organizations.

6 Q. Thank you. How long have you held the
7 position of Senior Director of Transmission Public
8 Affairs at Invenergy?

9 A. I believe since April of this year.

10 Q. And what was your position immediately prior
11 to that?

12 A. Director of Transmission Business Development.

13 Q. And what were your responsibilities as
14 Director of Transmission Business Development?

15 A. I generally helped manage transmission project
16 development associated with the Grain Belt Express,
17 including serving as development lead for the Tiger
18 Connector.

19 Q. You held that position during the routing
20 process and CCN amendment process?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. And did you testify as a witness during the
23 CCN proceeding which as a reminder is Case No.
24 EA-2023-0017?

25 A. I did.

1 Q. Could you please remind us what Grain Belt
2 Express requested at a high level in its application to
3 amend the CCN in that case?

4 A. Yes. The CCN amendment sought to relocate the
5 Missouri converter station from Ralls County to Monroe
6 County and to relocate the AC connector line from that
7 county to Monroe, Audrain -- and to relocate the Tiger
8 Connector line to Monroe, Audrain and Callaway Counties.
9 It also sought to construct the project in two phases.

10 Q. Thank you. Did the application include a
11 proposed route for the Tiger Connector?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Were you involved in the development of that
14 route?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Could you please elaborate on your involvement
17 in the development of the route for the Tiger Connector?

18 A. Yes. As the project development lead, I
19 oversaw the routing process and helped manage the public
20 outreach and execution of the public open houses, as
21 well as being involved in the regulatory filing and
22 serving as a witness in the proceeding.

23 Q. Thank you. Could you tell us who CLS, which
24 stands for Contract Land Staff, could you explain their
25 role in the routing process?

1 A. Yes. CLS is the land agent group that
2 oversees right-of-way acquisition for Grain Belt
3 Express.

4 Q. Did you have responsibility for overseeing the
5 work of CLS as it relates to Grain Belt Express?

6 A. Predominantly as it relates to the Tiger
7 Connector, yes.

8 Q. Thank you. And you -- Actually do you have a
9 copy of Hearing Exhibit 104 with you on the stand?

10 A. No.

11 Q. I'll get you one. Could you turn to tab A of
12 that exhibit?

13 A. I'm there.

14 Q. And the title of this document is Timeline of
15 Correspondence Between Grain Belt Express and Cheri
16 Meadows; do you see that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Did you contribute to the creation of this
19 timeline?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And I discussed certain portions of this
22 timeline with Mr. Brown. Were you in the hearing room
23 for that discussion?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And he testified that he was responsible for

1 the portions of the timeline that involved his
2 communication with Ms. Meadows. Do you recall hearing
3 that?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. There are other entries on this timeline, for
6 example, entry 1 that discuss notice letters mailed to
7 all landowners, public meetings where all landowners
8 were invited. That's timeline entry number 3. Letters
9 -- or contact from Contract Land Staff, CLS. That's
10 timeline entry number 7. Timeline entry number 8 refers
11 to a standard easement offer to Ms. Meadows that was
12 sent by CLS. Are you familiar with all of these
13 timeline entries?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And are they accurate in your opinion?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And those timeline entries also include
18 supportive documents which are in the tabs B through P.
19 Are you familiar with those supportive documents and are
20 those accurate copies of the letters that are discussed
21 in the timeline?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Thank you. Now, regarding the subject of
24 routing, are you familiar with WSP and Andrew Burke?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And what was WSP and Andrew Burke's role in
2 the routing process?

3 A. WSP is a firm that we contracted with to
4 oversee the routing process for the Tiger Connector from
5 a technical and data collection perspective. They do
6 transmission line routing and they were the contract
7 support for that.

8 Q. And Mr. Burke filed testimony as part of the
9 application to amend the CCN in the CCN proceeding; is
10 that accurate?

11 A. That's accurate, yes. Mr. Burke was the
12 project director for WSP for the Tiger Connector routing
13 process.

14 Q. And you're familiar with the fact that his
15 direct testimony included a route selection study that
16 was referred to as Schedule AB-2 in that proceeding?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I'm going to hand you a copy of that Schedule
19 AB-2. Are you familiar with the contents of this study?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Is the study publicly available on the
22 Commission's website?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Is it also accessible through the Grain Belt
25 Express website?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And just for the record and for the judge,
3 this was one of the items that was administratively
4 noticed at the beginning of the hearing. It is a
5 schedule attached to the direct testimony of Andrew
6 Burke in the CCN proceeding.

7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, counsel.

8 BY MR. SCHULTE:

9 Q. So in order to provide some context for how
10 Grain Belt Express arrived at the route that crosses Ms.
11 Meadows' property, could you please turn to the
12 executive summary which begins on page 8 of 87?

13 A. I'm there.

14 Q. Could you read the opening paragraph of that
15 executive summary? I'm sorry. Let's not do that.
16 Okay. Actually could you go to the third paragraph of
17 the executive summary and read starting with the goal in
18 selecting?

19 A. Yes. Do you want me to read the entire
20 paragraph?

21 Q. Yes, please.

22 A. The goal in selecting a suitable route for the
23 project is to minimize impacts on the natural, cultural
24 and human environment while avoiding circuitous routes,
25 extreme cost and nonstandard design requirements. The

1 routing team evaluated the advantages and disadvantages
2 of the potential routes based on the established routing
3 criteria and inventory of land use, environmental and
4 cultural factors along each of the routes and additional
5 local knowledge and past experience. Less favorable
6 potential routes were eliminated and three alternative
7 routes A, B and C were retained for further
8 consideration.

9 Alternative route A is approximately 34.4
10 miles long and would be constructed to parallel an
11 existing 69 kV transmission line or 28 percent of its
12 route. Alternative Route B is approximately 35.8 miles
13 long and would be constructed as a combined green field
14 and parallel route option. Alternative route C is
15 approximately 34.8 miles long and would be constructed
16 to parallel an existing 345 kV transmission line or 22
17 percent of its route. Each alternative route presents
18 certain advantages and challenges when compared to the
19 other routes. Likewise, all routes carry with them
20 certain risks related to land use and property issues,
21 e.g., proximity to residences within 300 feet of their
22 respective center line.

23 Q. Thank you. And is it accurate that
24 alternative Route B was selected as the proposed route
25 for the application?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And sorry to make you keep reading, but could
3 you turn to the next page and read the reasons for the
4 selection of that alternative?

5 A. This iterative assessment of the advantages
6 and disadvantages of the three alternative routes
7 resulted in the routing team's selection of alternative
8 route B as the proposed route. The selection was based
9 on the following alternative Route B advantages, crosses
10 the fewest total parcels and has the fewest number of
11 residences within 250, 300 and 500 feet of its center
12 line, utilizes the greatest length of parcel boundary
13 parallel thereby minimizing impacts to agricultural
14 activities, e.g., cropland, cultivation, pivot
15 irrigation, requires the least impact to water resources
16 by spanning the fewest number of streams and crossing
17 less wetlands and Federal Emergency Management Agency,
18 FEMA, floodplain. Substantially minimizes the overall
19 tree clearing acreage of all routes. The routing team
20 believes that the cumulative social, environmental and
21 financial impacts associated with constructing
22 alternative route B will be less than any other
23 alternative route.

24 Q. Thank you. Give me one moment. Could you
25 please next turn to page 16 of 87 of the routing study.

1 A. Yes, I'm there.

2 Q. And this section is titled Routing Guidelines.
3 Do you see that?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What were or are the routing guidelines for
6 the Tiger Connector?

7 A. The general guidelines are listed in 2.31.
8 Would you like me to read the guidelines?

9 Q. No, just an overview of generally what they're
10 trying to accomplish.

11 A. Yes. So for the general guidelines, the
12 overall goal is to minimize impacts to the Belt
13 environment, to cropland cultivation, to cultural,
14 sensitive cultural and environmental sites, among other
15 things, minimize wetland and water body impacts,
16 minimize tree clearing, and then from a technical
17 perspective we are trying to develop a route that is
18 safe and efficient and technically feasible from an
19 engineering and construction perspective.

20 Q. Thank you. Could you please now turn to page
21 18 of 87.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Were you in the hearing room when Ms. Meadows
24 was testifying and asking questions about the wind
25 shield survey?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Do you see at Section 2.4.2 on page 18 a
3 section titled Field Reconnaissance?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Could you read that paragraph, that first
6 paragraph under that section?

7 A. Sure. Prior to field reconnaissance, some key
8 features such as residences, out buildings, recognized
9 places of worship, cemeteries and commercial buildings
10 were mapped based on publicly available building
11 footprint data augmented by aerial imagery
12 interpretation. In April, June and July 2022, routing
13 team members conducted wind shield surveys of the
14 conceptual routes and potential routes from public
15 roadways and compared observed features to data
16 contained in the GIS database. Where exigent features
17 differed from the GIS data, this occurred most
18 frequently where buildings had been constructed or
19 demolished since the 2020 imagery was collected. The
20 GIS data was corrected either via a tablet running
21 Esri's (phonetic spelling) field map application or via
22 a laptop running ArcGIS Pro and supported by realtime
23 global positioning system, GPS, location tracking.

24 Q. Thank you. So is it a fair summation to say
25 that the purpose of the wind shield surveys were to

1 confirm what you were seeing on the GIS data?

2 A. That's accurate.

3 Q. Prior to the wind shield surveys, was the
4 routing team able to see the nature of Ms. Meadows'
5 property from GIS data?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Are you aware of any reason the wind shield
8 survey would have modified the team's evaluation of Ms.
9 Meadows' property other than confirming what you already
10 knew?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Were you in the hearing room when Ms. Meadows
13 was asking Mr. Brown about the comment cards that were
14 received at the public meetings that occurred in July
15 2022?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. How many comment cards, if you know, were
18 collected during that public meeting process?

19 A. I don't know a specific number. I believe it
20 may be captured in one of the filings somewhere in the
21 docket, but I think it was in the dozens.

22 Q. Do you know what was done with those comment
23 cards, how they were evaluated and incorporated into the
24 routing study?

25 A. Yes. So after the public meetings and

1 comments were collected both at the public meetings and
2 through our virtual open house, the routing team met as
3 a group at WSP's office in St. Louis and we reviewed the
4 comments against maps of the route segments and we
5 evaluated comments individually and looked at the
6 suggestions that were contained there and evaluated
7 whether adjustments to the route segments were
8 appropriate or feasible based on those comments, and
9 ultimately the adjustments, many of the adjustments are
10 captured in the routing study that was filed by WSP and
11 noted and ultimately they informed the routes that were
12 evaluated and ultimately submitted to the Public Service
13 Commission.

14 Q. You mentioned that you thought the comment
15 cards were in the record in the CCN case; is that right?

16 A. I thought they might be.

17 Q. I'm going to hand you a copy of your testimony
18 and schedules from the CCN case and this is one of the
19 documents that was administratively noticed at the
20 beginning of the proceeding. Thank you. At the front
21 page of what I've handed you, it describes your
22 testimony and it lists several schedules and there's a
23 Schedule KC-2. Do you see that?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Could you turn to Schedule KC-2, part 5 of 5.

1 Schedule KC-2, part 5 of 5.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Is that where those public comment cards
4 reside?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. Thank you. Just wanted to make sure
7 the record was clear in case anybody was looking for
8 those. Ms. Meadows introduced an exhibit, it's Exhibit
9 No. 30, earlier today and it was Grain Belt's response
10 to staff DR 3. I assume you don't have a copy of that
11 with you on the stand?

12 A. No.

13 Q. We'll get you one. This was a prior admitted
14 exhibit, Exhibit 30. If anybody needs an extra copy, we
15 have them. But if you already have them, we won't pass
16 it out again. Have you seen this DR response
17 previously?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Are you the sponsor of this response as
20 indicated in the verification section?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Exhibit 30 actually does not include the
23 attachment. Do you see at the bottom of the response it
24 refers to an aerial map attached hereto as Exhibit A?

25 A. Yes, I have an aerial map here.

1 Q. Okay. Your copy does. I'm going to hand you
2 what's been marked as Exhibit 20 in this case. Ignoring
3 the difference in the print quality, do those appear to
4 be the same maps?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. So Exhibit 20 in this case is the Attachment A
7 to your response to staff DR 3 and the response itself
8 is Exhibit 30. Just want to make that clear.

9 A. That appears so.

10 Q. Could you read the first couple of sentences
11 of your response?

12 A. When developing the Tiger Connector route
13 through the area, the routing team was constrained by
14 the properties to the west and south of Ms. Meadows.
15 Immediately to the west of Ms. Meadows are multiple
16 residences and agricultural buildings on the east side
17 of County Road 232. These structures --

18 Q. Stop there. I just want to make sure that
19 everyone remembers County Road 232 was a typo. Was that
20 intended to say County Road 231?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Thank you. You can continue now.

23 A. These structures limit Grain Belt Express's
24 ability to enter the parcel south of Ms. Meadows across
25 County Road 260 in a manner that would avoid Ms.

1 Meadows' property without placing the line closer to
2 another home than the line currently is to Ms. Meadows'
3 house. Avoiding both the structures on County Road 231
4 and Ms. Meadows' property would involve placing a
5 turning structure on the property immediately to the
6 west. However, this property appears to be in
7 agricultural use in general routing practices to avoid
8 when possible placing turning structures in the middle
9 of agricultural fields. Placing a structure there may
10 also lead to increased tree clearing and though this
11 would move the line from Ms. Meadows' property it would
12 also require impacting a new landowner and potentially
13 take the line closer than is preferable to a pond on
14 that landowner's property.

15 Q. Thank you. Since we've come this far, go
16 ahead and finish your response.

17 A. Farther south from Ms. Meadows' property,
18 Grain Belt Express is constrained by the need to enter
19 the points of interconnect AECI and MISO substations
20 from the north. In this area, the general alignment of
21 the route attempts to support this goal while minimizing
22 agricultural impacts and tree clearing and maximizing
23 residential distance.

24 MR. SCHULTE: Thank you. I would like to
25 display a large map which is just a bigger version of

1 Exhibit 20. Judge Pridgin, does the witness have
2 permission to leave the witness stand and point to items
3 on the map?

4 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Yes.

5 MR. SCHULTE: Thank you.

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: That's perfectly fine. He can
7 use the microphone at the podium if he needs to speak.
8 That would be great.

9 BY MR. SCHULTE:

10 Q. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chandler. I can see
11 looks like the camera is pointing at the map. I can see
12 where you're pointing as well and the Commissioners and
13 the Judge can see directly. Could you please just using
14 this map -- I guess before I open it up to a general
15 explanation. Could you confirm, there was discussion
16 about the blue dots that are labeled 33/4, 34/1, et
17 cetera. Are those indeed potential tower structure
18 locations?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Thank you. Could you now using this map as a
21 visual aid explain some of the routing constraints in
22 the area?

23 A. Sure. So for this section of the line coming
24 in from the north we had been following a number of I
25 believe property boundaries and section lines. There's

1 a need to come in this direction because ultimately in
2 this general area below the map we are turning south to
3 enter -- to align the transmission line to enter the
4 AECI and MISO substations. The Tiger Connector ends at
5 one point and then it branches off and there is a
6 substation owned by AECI generally a little bit to the
7 west of the end of the line and then there's a MISO
8 substation that I believe is in construction a little
9 bit to the east. And so I think it's also important to
10 note that the original route that was approved by the
11 Public Service Commission was actually about a hundred
12 -- the center line was about 94 feet farther north as is
13 noted I think elsewhere in the record of this complaint.

14 In response to Ms. Meadows' concerns, we did
15 shift the line farther south to be away from her
16 property. So that center line is 94 feet farther south
17 from her residence than the original.

18 Q. Real quickly I just want to confirm that
19 94-foot shift south, that is within the authority that
20 was given to Grain Belt Express in the CCN Order?

21 A. Yes, that's right. In the order without
22 quoting directly I believe our authority to microsite is
23 within 500 feet of the approved center line provided
24 that we do not leave the parcel or impact a new
25 landowner. And so within the context of micrositeing we

1 were able to make this shift. In this area here, from
2 the closest point of the line to Ms. Meadows' property
3 -- to Ms. Meadows residence is not actually on her
4 property. It is over here. It is I believe
5 approximately 840 to 850 feet away from her residence on
6 the neighboring property. At this point here it is
7 approximately a thousand feet away. I say approximately
8 because I'm not sure of the exact footage off the top of
9 my head. So at this point the line is relatively equal
10 distance between the residential structure here and her
11 residence. It is slightly closer to her residence. I
12 think it's just over a thousand feet here. So our
13 options if we were to try to come farther south to be
14 off of her property, our options would be either to
15 shift the alignment of the line farther south earlier in
16 order to maintain the straight line approach to avoid
17 more turning structures and to avoid placing those in
18 agricultural fields. Doing so would actually -- we
19 would have to come south of this existing barn
20 structure. And so that would place the line
21 significantly closer to this residence here. It would
22 increase tree clearing requirements on this property in
23 all likelihood. It would also, if we continue that
24 straight line approach, it would increase tree clearing
25 requirements to the south of Ms. Meadows' property.

1 It would also take us closer to this pond. I
2 know the pond has come up a couple times in discussion.
3 It is a factor that we think about when we're routing
4 transmission lines in general. It's preferable to not
5 be close or adjacent to larger standing bodies of water.
6 It's not a primary routing consideration, but it's one
7 of the routing considerations that we take into account
8 when we are deciding how to shift or microsite a line.

9 The other option could conceivably be to add a
10 turning structure in this general direction to orient
11 south. Again that would involve placing the two pole
12 turning structure in the middle of this agricultural
13 area. It would still take the line closer to this
14 residence. I don't know exactly how much closer it
15 would take it. And the tree clearing and potential
16 environmental sensitivities associated with going here
17 and then farther south would still be a factor as well.
18 And in both of those scenarios, we would have to shift
19 the line onto a landowner who does not currently host
20 the line on their property which we don't believe would
21 be in violation of the requirements of the CCN.

22 Q. Within the tree line on the property to the
23 west of Ms. Meadows, is there water there? Is there a
24 stream?

25 A. Yes, yes.

1 Q. Okay. Does that factor into the routing
2 constraints as well?

3 A. I mean, to some extent we have to cross it in
4 any scenario. So I don't know how major of a factor it
5 is, but it's something we would look at. We would look
6 at whether an angle, a changed angle of approach, the
7 change of angle would change anything about that
8 crossing or whether structure placements would make a
9 difference. But I don't know that it would be a major
10 factor.

11 Q. Are there other houses along the Tiger
12 Connector that are -- You mentioned that you said where
13 it crosses her property is about a thousand feet and at
14 its closest point did you say how close it is to Ms.
15 Meadows' property?

16 A. I believe about 840 feet.

17 Q. Okay. Are there other houses along the Tiger
18 Connector that are closer to the center line than 840
19 feet?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Do you know approximately how many?

22 A. There are more than one. I believe there are
23 two within 500 feet of center line. I don't know how
24 many are closer or between 500 and 840.

25 Q. Fair enough. Okay. Do you have anything else

1 to add with regard to the routing constraints?

2 A. Not at this time.

3 MR. SCHULTE: Okay. I have no further direct
4 questions then for this witness.

5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. We may -- You may
6 need to get back up and answer questions later by the
7 map. Let me see if we have any cross-examination from
8 staff. Ms. Hansen.

9 MS. HANSEN: No, thank you.

10 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Poston, public counsel.

11 MR. POSTON: I do. Thank you.

12 CROSS-EXAMINATION

13 BY MR. POSTON:

14 Q. You may see this one coming because it was a
15 question I had asked one of the prior witnesses. Again,
16 this is an attorney trying to design a transmission
17 route line. When I look at this map that you were just
18 talking about, there's the two structures 34/2 and 34/3.
19 Could it not be where you just dropped the line straight
20 south from 34/2, straight west from 34/3 and then
21 connect them there? What would be the problem with that
22 type of a change in the route?

23 A. I believe that would involve placing
24 additional dead end structures potentially at 34/2, 34/3
25 and there would be a new structure to connect them. So

1 that's a lot of heavy angles in one place which we I
2 think from an engineering and design perspective try to
3 avoid. Those structures would be in the agricultural
4 fields which again we try to avoid when possible. And
5 it would still impact an additional landowner who does
6 not currently have transmission line on their property.

7 Q. What is a dead end? Can you explain what that
8 is?

9 A. I just think really just referring to those
10 heavy angle structures. So the diagrams that Mr. White
11 showed earlier today, the Tiger Connector standard
12 structure is a single monopole and for those heavier
13 angles there would be the two monopoles approximately 30
14 feet apart side by side. Really those are twice as
15 impactful from a land use perspective as the standard
16 single monopole.

17 Q. What is the price difference between those,
18 cost difference?

19 A. I think I can generally ballpark. As
20 Mr. White mentioned, the price of commodities going into
21 it goes up and down. I think in general you should
22 assume that the average structure could be around
23 \$200,000 and I think for this heavy angles probably
24 three times that. That's a factor of you have two poles
25 and there's more steel involved and more foundation.

1 Q. When you say "heavy angle," what does the
2 angle have to be to make it a heavy angle?

3 A. I am not an engineer. I believe generally
4 over 20, 20 degrees, but don't quote me on that.

5 Q. Are you aware of any attempts to reach out to
6 the landowner to the south? Did you inquire about
7 whether they would have any problems with the line on
8 their property or structure?

9 A. We have not. We have not spoken with that
10 landowner about that parcel, no.

11 Q. Do you know if they were initially notified of
12 this whole project? Would they have been originally
13 received notice of this?

14 A. I can't recall if they received notice for
15 that particular parcel.

16 Q. And then what you pay to a landowner for
17 agricultural land, is that higher than what you would
18 pay to someone like Ms. Meadows that does not have an
19 operating farm?

20 A. No. Our payment structure is uniform across
21 the project. So per the -- in the CCN, it's detailed
22 that landowners receive 150 percent of fair market value
23 for the right-of-way area for the transmission easement.
24 They have the option to also potentially choose 110
25 percent fair market value plus a \$6,000 per structure

1 additional payment. And when receiving the easement,
2 landowners are presented with both options and obviously
3 they'll typically -- they'll choose which is the most
4 financially lucrative.

5 MR. POSTON: I think that's all I have. Thank
6 you.

7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Poston, thank you. Ms.
8 Meadows, before I give you the chance to question
9 Mr. Chandler, I'm going to go out of order just a little
10 bit and let Chair Hahn ask some questions and then you
11 can ask Mr. Chandler questions afterwards if you'd like.
12 Chair Hahn, when you're ready.

13 CHAIR HAHN: Thanks, Judge.

14 QUESTIONS

15 BY CHAIR HAHN:

16 Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Chandler. You kind of
17 heard my series of questions before. So I'm going to
18 try to go through them as much as I can recall. Are you
19 aware of any other properties that are impacted by GBX
20 that where the line goes across the only point of entry
21 and exit of the property?

22 A. I can't speak to the entirety of Phase I. I
23 do know that there are two other properties on the Tiger
24 Connector where the line does go over the driveway. In
25 those cases, I do believe that's the only dedicated

1 entry and exit point.

2 Q. Okay. Ms. Meadows provided an alternative
3 route which is slightly different than what you had kind
4 of, you know, roughly illustrated at the map you all
5 have displayed. Her map has the same starting point
6 with a different ending point and you don't have the
7 ending point of this line where she has located a tower
8 on someone else's property at the end point. I'm
9 referring to map alternative line 8.5 proposed
10 alternative route of Tiger Connector line that she has.
11 And so I'm curious, it's closer -- it would be south of
12 34/3 on your map like a further continuance. There's a
13 tower there. Well, it's not shown on your map but I
14 assume it's there. And then a direct line south where
15 you say it will connect to AECI and MISO substations.
16 It has a different point of interconnect for that
17 particular line. Is there a reason why you can't move
18 where it's interconnected on that property?

19 A. I apologize, Chair Hahn. I think without
20 seeing her proposal I'm having a hard time picturing it.

21 Q. It's hard for me to figure out where it's at
22 in the record because it's labeled under mine as 8.5
23 proposed alternative line.

24 MS. JOHNSON: Can I show you this?

25 CHAIR HAHN: Thank you. Yes, that's it.

1 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'm sorry. Is this already in
3 evidence by chance?

4 MS. JOHNSON: It's not in evidence yet. It's
5 the supplemental documentation that's in the docket. It
6 came in with Ms. Meadows' supplemental report, I
7 believe.

8 MR. SCHULTE: With staff's supplemental
9 report?

10 MS. JOHNSON: No.

11 CHAIR HAHN: I would ask some other questions
12 right now, but they may be legal in nature.

13 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If perhaps the party wanted to
14 offer that into evidence at some point or if not, we can
15 always make it a Commission exhibit.

16 MS. JOHNSON: Sorry, Judge. Let us make sure
17 we understand exactly which document it is and they have
18 a chance to look at it and then we'll offer it.

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you.

20 MS. JOHNSON: I don't think we have additional
21 copies for everybody to be looking at it right now. We
22 can certainly get them.

23 CHAIR HAHN: It's okay. Let me ask different
24 questions.

25 BY CHAIR HAHN:

1 Q. Under the original -- or under the Tiger
2 Connector CCN, is it your understanding that Grain Belt
3 can do micrositing?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And what are the requirements for micrositing?

6 A. I believe the requirements are we are
7 permitted to microsite on the property up to 500 feet
8 from the original center line so long as it remains on
9 the same property and does not impact a new landowner.

10 Q. If it did impact a new landowner, under the
11 CCN my understanding was that the Commission would deem
12 to be notified. Is that your understanding or no?

13 A. It's my understanding that we are not
14 permitted to impact a new landowner not on the original
15 route.

16 Q. Okay. Thank you. So if as Ms. Meadows has
17 proposed moving the line completely off her property,
18 how many feet would you have to move the line? I think
19 I recall perhaps 600 feet; is that right?

20 A. Yes, it's greater -- I believe it's greater
21 than 500.

22 Q. Okay. So in order to do what Ms. Meadows is
23 proposing, it's your understanding that Grain Belt
24 doesn't have the authority from the Commission to
25 actually move the line off of her property completely?

1 A. That is correct. It's my understanding that
2 we do not have the authority to move the line off her
3 property completely if it impacts a landowner who is not
4 previously a part of the project.

5 Q. Last time you were here for the CCN case you
6 were asked, I think it was by Commissioner Holsman, have
7 you accommodated other landowner concerns moving the
8 line to different places on their property. Do you
9 recall that? I mean, that wasn't the exact question but
10 it was the gist of it.

11 A. I think I recall the gist, yes.

12 Q. At the time you couldn't recall of any
13 specific examples of where you had made such
14 accommodations. But that was two years ago. Can you
15 give other examples of where you have moved the line on
16 other people's property to accommodate their request?

17 A. On the Tiger Connector specifically?

18 Q. Yes.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Can you give examples?

21 A. So we have -- There are places where we have
22 moved the line to minimize impact to agricultural
23 operations. So I can think of at least one scenario
24 where we have shifted the line closer to the property
25 boundary to get it farther out from a field. We have

1 made minor shifts to I believe accommodate, plan to do
2 agricultural infrastructure on properties. Again, we
3 have made a shift on Meadows' property in particular to
4 maximize the distance from her residence to the extent
5 that we feel we can with the CCN.

6 Q. Okay. I think Ms. Meadows may have even asked
7 previously if the line could be moved north of her
8 house. Have you all evaluated that alternative and
9 would that impact any landowners that have not been
10 given previous notice?

11 A. It would not impact landowners who have not
12 been given previous notice, but it would substantially
13 increase the impact to landowners on either side of Ms.
14 Meadows. I can talk through that if you would like.

15 Q. That would be great.

16 A. So in order to go on the north side of the
17 house, we would have to turn let's call it here from
18 this 33/4 structure. You are substantially increasing
19 the amount of trees that would need to be cleared to get
20 over on the north side of the house and to get through
21 this area you're introducing additional tree clearing.
22 And I believe we counted four additional turning
23 structures would be needed that are not already there.
24 This one here and additional turning structures to turn
25 south here. This would also require us to run this line

1 directly through this agricultural field. So really
2 substantially increasing the impact on the agricultural
3 operations on this property as well. And because this
4 is well outside of the 500 feet granted by the CCN, I
5 believe there may be procedural issues in addressing
6 that with both of these landowners as well.

7 Q. Thank you. Appreciate that.

8 MS. JOHNSON: Chair Hahn, sorry for the
9 interruption. We have located it in the docket and
10 Grain Belt has had a chance to look at the map that you
11 were indicating that the witness now has. If you want
12 to ask your questions.

13 CHAIR HAHN: Thank you. I appreciate that.

14 BY CHAIR HAHN:

15 Q. So Ms. Meadows has an alternative route. Do
16 you have a copy of that?

17 A. Is it this?

18 Q. That one, right. So it may be moot because it
19 would go on a landowner's property that is greater than
20 500 feet and I understand that and the fact that you may
21 not have the legal authority under your current CCN to
22 construct this line. If you did have the legal
23 authority, how many additional structures would this
24 take. Talk to me sort of about the impact of this
25 proposal.

1 A. I think this is somewhat similar to one of the
2 scenarios I walked through earlier. So I do think this
3 putting aside the fact that it does impact an additional
4 landowner and so that takes the CCN process concerns,
5 you know, I cannot say how many additional structures it
6 would require. Potentially one additional turning
7 structure where it forks off. I don't know that there
8 would be a substantial difference in the total number of
9 structures required. You would potentially be looking
10 at somewhat additional tree clearing in the area. Not
11 being able to measure that, I can't say that for sure.

12 Q. Okay. So the primary reason why Grain Belt
13 has not chosen Ms. Meadows' alternative is primarily CCN
14 legal authority?

15 A. I think that is a major factor. Generally the
16 idea of not increasing impacts to neighboring landowners
17 in the process, this line still would bring the line --
18 this reroute still would bring the line somewhat closer
19 to the residence that is on the east side of Highway
20 231. I can't say specifically how much closer just
21 looking at the map, but I think there's still that
22 principle in play when considering reroute requests. We
23 try to not use those as an opportunity to increase
24 impact on other landowners to satisfy requests for
25 certain landowners unless there's, yeah.

1 CHAIR HAHN: Understood. Thank you. I think
2 that's all my questions. Thank you, Judge.

3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Chair Hahn, thank you. This
4 looks to be an opportune time to take another break. I
5 know we've been going for a couple hours. Then we'll
6 let Ms. Meadows cross-examine Mr. Chandler when we get
7 back from break. I'd like to take about ten minutes.
8 If we can go back on the record at 5:15. Thank you very
9 much. We're in recess until 5:15.

10 (Off the record.)

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: We're back on the record.
12 When we took a recess, I believe we were at the point
13 where Ms. Meadows wanted to cross-examine Mr. Chandler.
14 Ms. Meadows, any questions?

15 MS. MEADOWS: Yes.

16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: When you're ready.

17 CROSS-EXAMINATION

18 BY MS. MEADOWS:

19 Q. Mr. Chandler, are you familiar with the
20 Missouri Constitution Bill of Rights, Section 2?

21 A. No.

22 Q. It states that all constitutional government
23 is intended to promote the general welfare of the
24 people; that all persons have a natural right to life,
25 liberty, the pursuit of happiness and the enjoyment of

1 the gains of their own industry; that all persons are
2 created equal and are entitled to equal rights and
3 opportunity under the law; that to give security to
4 these things is a principal office of government, and
5 that when government does not confer this security, it
6 fails in its chief design. That's what the Missouri
7 Constitution Bill of Rights, Section 2 says.

8 MR. SCHULTE: Objection. There's no question
9 and the witness answered he's not familiar with that.

10 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Sustained. Do you have a
11 question, Ms. Meadows?

12 MS. MEADOWS: Yes.

13 BY MS. MEADOWS:

14 Q. Are you from Missouri?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Okay. Are you concerned or would this have
17 been an impact on your decision to go across my property
18 if you had known about this?

19 MR. SCHULTE: Objection. Calls for a
20 hypothetical.

21 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Could you ask the question
22 again, Ms. Meadows.

23 BY MS. MEADOWS:

24 Q. If you had known about this constitution --
25 Bill of Rights in the Missouri Constitution, Section 2

1 and the rights that it was granted me, would you still
2 have routed this -- chose this route for consideration
3 of the PSC across my property?

4 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'll overrule. He can answer
5 if he knows. If not, he can say so.

6 THE WITNESS: I don't think I understand the
7 question.

8 BY MS. MEADOWS:

9 Q. Given that our constitution in Missouri states
10 that it's the PSC's duty to protect citizens and all
11 that from -- would you like a copy of this? Do you need
12 it?

13 MS. MEADOWS: Should I have offered this?

14 JUDGE PRIDGIN: No.

15 BY MS. MEADOWS:

16 Q. It states that their job is to take care of
17 the people. The PSC is a government body. My question
18 is, if you had known that that that was in our
19 constitution and you came to the PSC asking to endanger
20 my life and property and limit the enjoyment of it now
21 from this line, would you have moved the line?

22 MR. SCHULTE: I object. It's an argumentative
23 question. It calls for speculation. And to the extent
24 it calls for a legal conclusion, that would be another
25 basis for my objection.

1 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Sustained.

2 BY MS. MEADOWS:

3 Q. Do you recall the email that I sent you on
4 July 12, 2024?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. It's on --

7 MR. SCHULTE: It is in the record as Hearing
8 Exhibit 104.

9 BY MS. MEADOWS:

10 Q. It's N in this folder here. Do you have this
11 blue one?

12 A. Yes, I have that one.

13 MR. SCHULTE: It's tab H.

14 THE WITNESS: Sorry. What was the date?

15 BY MS. MEADOWS:

16 Q. I'm lost. In my book, it's N. You're saying
17 H?

18 MR. SCHULTE: No, I was mistaken. What's the
19 date?

20 THE WITNESS: I have it here. It is tab N,
21 July 12, 2024.

22 BY MS. MEADOWS:

23 Q. Yes. Does that look familiar or do you recall
24 it?

25 A. I recall receiving it.

1 Q. Do you recall reading it?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do you mind reading it now?

4 MR. SCHULTE: It's in the record. So if
5 there's something in particular that we want to
6 highlight. It's a very long email.

7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Do you have any questions?

8 BY MS. MEADOWS:

9 Q. Okay. So I went over my numerous concerns
10 with this. Was there anything in there that gave you
11 any pause?

12 A. Sorry. I'm just reading the email again.

13 Q. That's fine.

14 A. No.

15 Q. I'm sorry. You said no?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Did you look at any of these links that I
18 provided of transmission lines falling?

19 A. No.

20 Q. You didn't click on a single one of them?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Did you look at the pictures of my property?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And had you seen pictures of my property or
25 been to my property prior to this July email?

1 A. I believe I had seen pictures of your property
2 prior to this email. I have not visited your property.

3 Q. So you didn't do a wind shield survey or any
4 of the recons; you weren't involved in any of those?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Okay. So in this email and in these links I
7 pointed out how even though Aaron White, I think that
8 was his name, I apologize, even though he testified that
9 you guys go above and beyond on your poles and all that,
10 does it not give you any pause for concern that I
11 provided numerous links of these lines still falling?

12 A. No. As Mr. White testified, transmission
13 lines falling is an exceedingly rare event and there are
14 transmission lines throughout the Belt environment. I
15 think they are typically operated and designed safely.

16 Q. And you understand that typically don't fall,
17 or unlikely to fall, does not equate to impossible?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. Did I understand when you were
20 testifying that you evaluated my land after the comment
21 card at the public meeting? Did I understand when you
22 answered that correctly?

23 A. I would say we evaluated your comment as we
24 evaluated all comments together and evaluated the
25 routing, the final routing process on the basis of

1 comments and general routing principles.

2 Q. So what was your conclusion after you
3 evaluated my comment card?

4 A. I don't recall making a specific conclusion
5 about the comment, about your specific comment. I
6 generally think that in the area and with the chosen
7 route, when we are evaluating a transmission line route,
8 we are evaluating that against the entirety of the line,
9 the entirety of the landowners impacted and we, you
10 know, we are making decisions based on those general
11 routing principles holistically.

12 Q. So the good of everyone else is okay for me to
13 be sacrificed is basically what you're saying?

14 MR. SCHULTE: Objection, argumentative.

15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'll sustain.

16 BY MS. MEADOWS:

17 Q. So it's your opinion that even if you do
18 believe there's a risk, you don't feel like it's great
19 enough to warrant moving this line?

20 A. I don't believe there is a -- I don't believe
21 there's a risk, there's not a risk that is inherently
22 greater than anywhere else I think as demonstrated in
23 Mr. White's testimony here and in the earlier docket
24 given the engineering standards to which we are
25 designing and building the line. The risks are

1 incredibly small for a failure of the type that you're
2 discussing.

3 Q. But you understand it's still a risk? No
4 matter how small a risk is still a risk?

5 MR. SCHULTE: Objection. Asked and answered.

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Sustained. We've been over
7 it's a small risk but still possible. We've been over
8 that several times.

9 BY MS. MEADOWS:

10 Q. Are you aware that this line's proximity to my
11 home was never an issue with me unlike just having it
12 over my drive was? I never brought up I didn't want it
13 near my home. I only brought up I didn't want it over
14 my drive and my existing electrical line. Were you
15 aware of that?

16 A. I am not aware of the totality of your
17 comments off the top of my head.

18 Q. Okay. So Jason Brown testified --

19 A. I'm looking at your comment form which says
20 you don't want it on, over, near my property from the
21 open house. So I think we took that to mean that you
22 did not want it on the property.

23 Q. Would you agree that my land is unique or my
24 property is unique?

25 A. In what? I don't know that I understand the

1 context.

2 Q. The size, the layout, the long drive, the
3 electrical line, no entry/exit, no close neighbors.
4 Would you call it a unique situation, unique piece of
5 property as opposed to the neighbors that live half a
6 mile away?

7 A. I would say it is certainly shaped different
8 than the neighboring properties. I don't know to what
9 extent it's unique in the context of land use in the
10 area.

11 Q. So you've seen a lot of properties that only
12 have one entry/exit, no other possible way out?

13 A. I am not typically evaluating properties for
14 the number of entry and exits and ways out of the
15 property.

16 Q. So what exactly is your role as a, because I
17 understand you're a member of the survey routing team or
18 whatever. So could you tell me what your exact role is
19 in that?

20 A. Yes. I was the project director for Tiger
21 Connector project. As part of that, oversaw the routing
22 process and ultimately the early stage development of
23 the project until I switched roles earlier this year.

24 Q. That's when you said you became the business?

25 A. Senior director of transmission public

1 affairs.

2 Q. And you said April on that, correct?

3 A. I believe so.

4 Q. So back when this was kind of ongoing with me
5 and back and forth with Jason, your title was project
6 director of the Tiger Connector?

7 A. My title was director of transmission business
8 development. As part of that, one of my roles was
9 overseeing development of the Tiger Connector.

10 Q. Okay. How close did you work with Jason? I
11 know you weren't his supervisor he said until just
12 recently. How close were you working with him back in
13 2022, '23?

14 A. Relatively closely.

15 Q. Did you guys speak daily, weekly, monthly
16 about anything to do with people's, landowners' concerns
17 with their property?

18 A. I would say we generally spoke every week or
19 every other week. It was not always or even often about
20 landowner concerns. I believe your property was the
21 only one that he was intimately involved in.

22 Q. And if anyone else had had a problem, who
23 would they have needed to contact?

24 A. So other folks present at the meeting at your
25 house were Greg Smith with CLS and Jordan Connelly on

1 the development team. For the most part, most
2 landowners are interfacing with CLS on a more regular
3 basis. They have the ability to also speak with members
4 of the development team as needed. It's not necessarily
5 unusual for Jason to speak with the landowner as
6 somebody who's in and around Missouri. But the primary
7 interface for the most part is with Contract Land Staff.

8 Q. So the CLS person is technically who I should
9 have been working with on possibly getting the line
10 moved? Am I understanding you correctly?

11 A. No.

12 Q. I thought they just did easements like if I
13 just wanted to get money for my land. That's how I
14 understood their role was. Are you saying that's not
15 the case? Can you clarify that?

16 A. CLS' role is to oversee the easement
17 acquisition process and act as an interface with
18 landowners and they are able to bring micrositings
19 requests or any member of the project team such as Jason
20 is able to bring a micrositing request which is then
21 evaluated by the project team and approved based on
22 general development principles whether it is -- again,
23 whether it is feasible from an environmental or
24 technical perspective and to the extent that it doesn't
25 impact additional landowners or adversely impact

1 neighboring landowners. As a rule, we don't want to rob
2 Peter to pay Paul in the sense that we don't want to --
3 if every landowner who did not want the line on their
4 property or wanted it moved, if that is going to
5 negatively impact a neighboring landowner, you run the
6 risk of cascading impacts down the line which is why we
7 are typically evaluating micrositings requests within --
8 we want to be incredibly mindful of landowners. We want
9 to work with landowners to the extent possible. We
10 recognize that they have unique views of their property
11 but at the same time we are evaluating it against those
12 more technical criteria as well as to what does that do
13 to the entirety of the line which is how ultimately we
14 were able to make a 94-foot shift farther south from
15 your residence as a result of those conversations.

16 Q. Did you know that I wasn't even aware that you
17 micrositings from one spot, I assume that's what it's
18 called, that you micrositings from one spot to another?

19 A. Yes, I believe we were in the process of
20 working through that micrositings request and there was
21 dialogue throughout the summer of 2024, at which point
22 you filed complaints with the Missouri Public Service
23 Commission and the Attorney General of Missouri at which
24 point we were advised to cease communication while those
25 investigations or cases played out.

1 Q. Is that why you didn't respond to my email or
2 you just don't normally respond to emails from
3 landowners?

4 A. I think at that point when we received the
5 email we were discussing it as a team and I cannot
6 remember off the top of my head when the complaint --
7 the complaint, it's open here, it was received on July
8 16. Shortly after receiving the email.

9 Q. And instead of replying back and saying we're
10 sorry since you filed a complaint we've had to turn it
11 over to, whoever you turned it over to, the PSC or your
12 attorneys or whatever, that's not customary for you
13 guys, because Jason never replied to my email either and
14 you didn't send an email either. Is there no -- I guess
15 I just don't understand why no one told me what was
16 going on or why they weren't responding or where we were
17 at anywhere on this. I was confused because I had
18 trouble even getting the email to go through. I wasn't
19 even sure that you got it.

20 In a case like that, especially when I
21 mentioned like in Jason's case I've had to try this
22 twice now, I know you weren't his supervisor at the time
23 maybe. Do you not have something in place where you at
24 least as a courtesy reply to emails to the people who
25 have legitimate, like me, I'm a person being affected by

1 this against my will and I have legitimate concerns and
2 you guys couldn't even bother to send me an email to let
3 me know we got it, we hear you, we can't do anything
4 about it or we've turned it over to whoever, anything.
5 I mean, you guys just didn't even care to respond. So
6 I'm wondering is there no protocol or something for
7 staying in contact with landowners when they reach out
8 like that?

9 A. When we receive communication from landowners,
10 it's our practice to evaluate the communication and it
11 typically takes, because we are working with our
12 development teams, our engineering teams, our
13 environmental permitting teams, other folks,
14 transmission line routing for better or worse is
15 incredibly complex. It does often take us time to
16 evaluate what we're hearing and what we're reading and
17 it's not possible for us to respond directly immediately
18 and then again four days later when the complaints --
19 when we received notice of the complaints from the AG's
20 office, and I can't remember, well, it might be here,
21 but the MPSC as well, again we were advised to hold off
22 on further communication while those processes played
23 out.

24 Q. Jason's email was sent before yours and he
25 didn't respond either. According to the code of

1 conduct, all communications with landowners and
2 occupants should be factually correct and made in good
3 faith. I'd almost argue that the code of conduct
4 includes how you treat customers who are reaching out to
5 you with concerns or whatever. I mean, if you read your
6 email and his email, they're both basically saying the
7 same thing.

8 MR. SCHULTE: Objection. It's argumentative.

9 JUDGE PRIDGIN: You're certainly testifying.
10 Do you have a question?

11 BY MS. MEADOWS:

12 Q. Well, my point is both of them were basically
13 the same issue about my concerns and to me they
14 warranted a response and neither one of you responded
15 and I'm wondering to me that should fall under the code
16 of conduct how you treat people whose land you're taking
17 and in my case life you're potentially destroying with
18 this line and you can't even be bothered to send an
19 email back and your company is okay with that, there's
20 no protocols for that, especially when you've told the
21 PSC that you're going to follow all these things?

22 MR. SCHULTE: Renew my objection.

23 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'm going to overrule. He can
24 answer if he knows. I think we've plowed this ground
25 quite a bit.

1 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry you feel this way. I
2 would just look at the timeline of communication between
3 Ms. Meadows and Grain Belt and note that she emailed
4 Jason on June 17, 2024, and then Jason attempted to call
5 her on July 10 but she declined the call and she emailed
6 myself on July 12. And then she called and left a
7 voicemail to the project line.

8 The next day we received the letter from the
9 AG's office regarding the complaint. That was the last
10 -- so July 10 is the last record of attempt, which he
11 did attempt to reach out to Ms. Meadows after receiving
12 that email.

13 BY MS. MEADOWS:

14 Q. Do you recognize the timeline in how it's kind
15 of cascading with I sent Jason an email and he didn't
16 respond and you didn't respond. And so I don't know
17 that anyone is going to respond. So then I had to take
18 the next steps which were the PSC. I emailed the
19 Commissioners. I didn't even know that wasn't allowed.
20 I emailed the Attorney General because I wanted someone
21 to help me. So if you look at the timelines there and
22 stuff, you'll see you guys to me had a duty to respond
23 to me in a timely manner regarding these issues.

24 MR. SCHULTE: I apologize that I keep
25 objecting, but we do need to get to the questions and I

1 think these are argumentative. So I will object again
2 as an argumentative statement as opposed to a question.

3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: And I will sustain again. If
4 you have questions, you may ask, but you're simply
5 testifying and arguing.

6 BY MS. MEADOWS:

7 Q. Are you aware of the letter that Andrew
8 Schulte sent to Polsinelli Law Firm on July 30? I
9 don't know if it's in their thing or not.

10 A. I mean, Andrew works for Polsinelli. So I'm
11 not sure there is a letter from him to the office.

12 MS. MEADOWS: Do you guys know if that letter
13 to the Attorney General is in your book here anywhere?

14 MR. SCHULTE: It is referenced in the timeline
15 as entry number 32 and the footnote refers to Grain Belt
16 Express's response to formal complaint Exhibit B. So it
17 was filed in this docket. It's not an exhibit. But it
18 was filed in the docket.

19 MS. MEADOWS: Can I just read the section of
20 the letter and ask him if he agrees with this or is
21 aware that it was sent.

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ask me that again, please.

23 MS. MEADOWS: Can I read him just a section of
24 that letter? Sorry. Can I ask Kevin if he agrees or
25 authorized this section that Andrew wrote to the

1 Attorney General?

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Pending an objection. I mean,
3 I don't have a problem with it. If I get an objection,
4 I'll rule on it.

5 MR. SCHULTE: I don't have an objection.

6 MS. HANSEN: Staff doesn't have an objection.

7 BY MS. MEADOWS:

8 Q. So on page 2 of this letter that Andrew sent,
9 Andrew Schulte sent the Attorney General, he says Grain
10 Belt Express is committed to considering reasonable
11 reroute proposals, proposals from landowners, will
12 respond in writing to reroute requests and will track
13 and follow through with its obligations to landowners.
14 And then it goes on to say while the route selection
15 study sought to minimize impacts on landowners, some
16 impacts are unavoidable. And so my question to you is
17 was this what you conveyed to him or were you aware of
18 it or did he do this on his own, Andrew write this
19 letter to the Attorney General?

20 MR. SCHULTE: Actually I will object to the
21 extent that this requires divulgence of attorney-client
22 privilege material.

23 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Sustained. I don't want to
24 get into anything privileged.

25 BY MS. MEADOWS:

1 Q. But according to this, you guys follow through
2 in writing to reroute requests which I never received
3 and also you guys track and follow through with its
4 obligations to landowners and I feel like responding to
5 emails should fall under that. So I don't know, is that
6 still something you're objecting to him answering if
7 they're allowed to or this was his --

8 MR. SCHULTE: If the question is simply
9 whether --

10 MS. MEADOWS: Is this the company's policy or
11 was this --

12 MR. SCHULTE: If that's the question, I don't
13 have an objection.

14 BY MS. MEADOWS:

15 Q. Is it the company's policy then that while the
16 route selection study sought to minimize impacts on
17 landowners, some impacts are unavoidable? I'm sorry.
18 That's not the one. That Grain Belt is committed to
19 considering reasonable reroute proposals from
20 landowners, will respond in writing and will track and
21 follow through with its obligations to landowners. So
22 is that -- I guess my question is that wasn't done. So
23 I guess where did the ball get dropped here or who
24 should have been following up with me or writing me a
25 reroute request? Is it you, Jason, my land guy, who?

1 MR. SCHULTE: Could we get one question at a
2 time? I think you intended to ask whether that was the
3 company's policy to respond in writing to reroute
4 requests?

5 MS. MEADOWS: I feel like the question was
6 maybe a little too broad and confusing. So I wanted to
7 narrow it down to was it Jason, because I was working
8 with him, was it his responsibility? Was it the CLS
9 person because they were the one in charge of the
10 easement stuff, routing, rerouting stuff also, or who
11 should I have been expecting follow up through or
12 whatever? I sent emails to two people. So who should I
13 expected, and I guess I meant Greg too, who should I
14 have expected to get back with me?

15 THE WITNESS: At the end of the day, it is the
16 project development team's job to review and approve
17 micrositing requests. And had we -- And ultimately that
18 is communicated with whoever is managing the
19 relationship with the landowner. I think had we not
20 begun the complaint process, it is likely that you would
21 have received communication on a micrositing shift from
22 Jason or a member of the CLS team.

23 Q. Okay. Now, are you aware, I guess you have it
24 in front of you, that I met with him in March?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And by July I hadn't heard back from anybody
2 about anything from our meeting in the micrositing of,
3 what did you say, 94 feet or whatever?

4 MR. SCHULTE: I object that it misstates the
5 record. There were several communications between March
6 and July of 2024.

7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'll sustain.

8 BY MS. MEADOWS:

9 Q. Okay. So when did rerouting requests normally
10 get sent after it's discussed on someone's property?

11 A. It's difficult to place a timeline for the
12 micrositing process. Again, as mentioned, it can
13 sometimes be fairly complicated in that we have to have
14 a certain level of design on the transmission line in
15 order to make informed decisions and that often requires
16 conversations within the engineering group, occasionally
17 with our outside engineering firms and we sometimes have
18 to have more clarity on what the routing would look like
19 on either side of the property. I'm not saying any of
20 that was the case necessarily here. But it is not an
21 overnight process to be able to microsite on the
22 property and it can be iterative as well.

23 Q. So you don't have like say my neighbor next
24 door wanted a micrositing request, you don't have a
25 typical like 90 days, 60 day, whatever, amount of time

1 that you get back on those?

2 A. Our approach is we are typically in close and
3 regular communication with landowners throughout the
4 development process and there's no typical time frame
5 for when a micrositing request can be approved or
6 denied. Again, it is quite often dependent on
7 engineering constraints and other items and so we try to
8 stay in regular communication with landowners and yeah.

9 Q. I didn't know that you guys did rerouting
10 requests, wrote rerouting requests, so that was news to
11 me. But is that something that you would have --
12 someone would have let me know that it's on the way or
13 we're working on it and we should have it to you in the
14 next six months or whatever, because let's use the
15 example of I was wanting to build a barn on my property
16 and I wanted to reroute the line a little bit and I kind
17 of had a deadline for it. Would that be a case where
18 you would make sure you had it done in whatever time
19 frame for me or is it just you guys when you get it done
20 you get it done, there's no ever time?

21 A. I don't think I understand the question.

22 Q. Well, had I wanted to build a barn where
23 you're wanting to put this line and I told Jason or
24 whoever, told Jason that I needed to know because I had
25 to put a deposit down by a certain date, would you guys

1 have worked with me to get that reroute request to me in
2 time or it is what it is?

3 MR. SCHULTE: Objection as to -- It's a
4 hypothetical that is not relevant. So I'll object on
5 the grounds of relevance.

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'll sustain.

7 MR. SCHULTE: I would like to just ask the
8 witness, if I may, well, I'm not sure how long this
9 questioning will go on and I'm not sure what
10 Mr. Chandler's travel arrangements are, but it's
11 possible that we may need to take a recess to address
12 travel arrangements given that we are well past 5:00
13 p.m. and I know that people had flights and things that
14 they may need to address.

15 THE WITNESS: I'm okay.

16 MR. SCHULTE: Okay. Thank you.

17 BY MS. MEADOWS:

18 Q. Were you aware that at the end of this letter
19 Mr. Schulte said Ms. Meadows has filed a complaint at
20 the MPSC raising the same concerns included in her
21 complaint filed with your office as the agency with
22 exclusive jurisdiction regarding the certification and
23 siting of electric transmission lines. The MPSC is the
24 proper venue to address Ms. Meadows' concerns. We
25 request that your office direct Ms. Meadows to address

1 her current and any future concerns directly with Grain
2 Belt Express or to the extent with the MPSC. So are you
3 familiar with Andrew directing my complaint instead of
4 to the AG, to the MPSC?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Because then when I directed it to the MPSC,
7 they tried to get it dismissed a number of times. So
8 there's a little bit of contradiction in what you guys
9 want people to do and then allow them to do I guess. I
10 just -- I wanted to be heard. I wanted people to,
11 whoever it was, the AG, the MPSC or whatever to just
12 know that this was out there existing and that seems
13 like --

14 MR. SCHULTE: The motion -- I object to the
15 extent.

16 MS. MEADOWS: I'm done, I'm done.

17 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Any further questions, Ms.
18 Meadows?

19 MS. MEADOWS: Yes, I have a couple more.

20 BY MS. MEADOWS:

21 Q. Can you tell me what was it about the property
22 south of my land that made my land a better location?
23 Did you already cover that earlier that it was just
24 being a straighter route?

25 A. I'm not positive. I'm not positive I

1 understand what specifically you're asking for.

2 Q. Well, for example, the land south of me, and
3 I'm not talking about the land that's sort of to the
4 right of my property. I'm talking about the land with
5 the pond on it. Can you see like the light green and
6 dark green difference or whatever. So my question is as
7 far as that goes. It would have even barely have been
8 on him if you had gotten not on my property. So I'm
9 just wondering was there something else about that
10 property other than the pond or whatever, I mean,
11 because it seems like looking at it, there would be no
12 bulldozing, there would be no anything else. Was there
13 just something on there that you didn't want to try to
14 navigate or whatever?

15 A. I think as I mentioned earlier the primary
16 constraints in that area had to do with the residential
17 and agricultural structures on the east side of Highway
18 231. And so to maintain a straight route through that
19 area and avoid your property would require us either
20 getting significantly closer to the residence sort of at
21 that intersection on 231 or to place a turning structure
22 in the middle of the agricultural field and turn south
23 and in either scenario we would wind up taking the line
24 significantly closer to those structures, increasing
25 tree clearing and introducing a new landowner, a new

1 previously unimpacted landowner to the process.

2 Q. So it really wasn't that there was anything
3 wrong with that land; it was basically everything else.
4 And also you keep calling that ag land. What do you
5 mean by that exactly? The turning structure on the ag
6 land, because it's a cow pasture. I don't know if you
7 know that or it's still ag land if it's a cow pasture or
8 soybean field. I don't know if you guys classify those
9 differently or not. So that's a cow pasture there. I'm
10 wondering what's with the turning structure and not
11 being able to do that there?

12 MR. SCHULTE: I object as asked and answered.
13 The witness has explained numerous times the routing
14 constraints.

15 MS. MEADOWS: I don't know what a turning
16 structure is. Why is it so different? It looks like
17 it's smaller to me if anything.

18 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'm going to overrule, let him
19 answer if he knows. If not, he can say so. I think the
20 question was what he considered ag land.

21 THE WITNESS: Typically we view ag land as
22 land that is in some form of agricultural production.

23 BY MS. MEADOWS:

24 Q. Crops or cows you meaning?

25 A. Yes. I mean, I think the routing constraints

1 are typically tighter in areas that have cultivated
2 production but they're still considerations in
3 pastureland as well.

4 Q. Okay. And as far as the turning structure
5 goes, what's so specific about them and ag land or a cow
6 pasture?

7 A. As Mr. White detailed earlier, for those
8 heavier turning structures rather than a single monopole
9 you wind up with two monopole structures and they're
10 spaced about 30 feet apart and so whereas the single
11 monopole is a relatively smaller diameter structure,
12 they're side by side. So it is --

13 Q. A footprint basically is what you're saying?

14 A. There are two poles versus one. So they're
15 two poles and you also have the 30-foot section in
16 between them. So the overall footprint of the
17 disturbance is larger.

18 Q. Okay. Thank you. I mentioned earlier that
19 I've had two bald eagles on my property and I have a
20 number of owls and herons and all that that come
21 through. Is that a concern with the line?

22 A. I'm not an environmental permitting expert.
23 So I can't speak to the level of concern.

24 Q. What happens when one of those birds hits a
25 line?

1 A. I can't speak to that.

2 Q. So you can't tell me it wouldn't start a fire
3 or arc or fall, you have no idea what would happen?

4 A. I don't think a bird hitting a line would
5 cause a fire or cause it to fall.

6 Q. But you don't really know for sure. Would
7 that have been an Aaron White question?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Did you do a study of lightning strikes, ice
10 storms, tornadoes and stuff in this area to confirm that
11 the risk of any of that stuff happening over the course
12 of however many years didn't pose a large enough risk to
13 warrant moving this line?

14 A. I don't believe we did. There are
15 transmission lines throughout this region of the country
16 and they are built and generally engineered and
17 operating safely. So I don't think there's anything
18 unique about this area in terms of those risks.

19 Q. So your line, the way your line is built, the
20 pole system, whatever, is that how, say, my electric
21 company, it's a co-op, is that how their transmission
22 lines poles are built also?

23 A. I don't know how other co-ops or other
24 organizations engineer their transmission lines. I
25 believe Mr. White testified to the fact that we over

1 engineer our lines for safety.

2 Q. And you don't think they probably do?

3 A. I don't know.

4 Q. Okay. So did you guys ever have the option of
5 contacting the PSC and asking to be allowed to move this
6 line off of me?

7 A. I don't know. I think again reading the
8 conditions of the CCN we are allowed to microsite within
9 500 feet of the center line so long as it remains on
10 that parcel and does not impact an additional landowner.

11 Q. Didn't you say earlier you weren't for sure if
12 there were any -- You told Hahn, I think, that you
13 weren't for sure there were any exceptions to?

14 A. I am not -- I'm not an attorney. So I cannot
15 speak to what -- I cannot speak to that. I can tell you
16 what the conditions say and I can also reiterate that
17 our policy is to consider micrositing requests where
18 reasonable and to the extent they don't impact
19 additional landowners and if we had to -- if the answer
20 to every micrositing request was to move the line onto
21 somebody else's property, we would be doing this
22 forever.

23 Q. Can we agree that how the PSC works and what
24 you're allowed and not allowed to do is really
25 confusing?

1 MR. SCHULTE: Objection. Calls for a legal
2 conclusion and is argumentative.

3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Yeah, I'll sustain.

4 BY MS. MEADOWS:

5 Q. So basically what you've testified then is you
6 understand how the PSC works but you don't want to set a
7 precedence by moving it off my land?

8 MR. SCHULTE: Same objection. I think it
9 calls for a legal conclusion and is argumentative.

10 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Sustained.

11 BY MS. MEADOWS:

12 Q. You mentioned the pond. Is it anything to do
13 with the fact that it's a body of water no matter how
14 small and you try to avoid those?

15 A. Yeah. As mentioned, I mean, as a general
16 practice we try to avoid them when possible. I also
17 mentioned that it's not necessarily like a primary
18 constraint in this area. Some of the concerns that you
19 wind up with bodies of water like that is potential
20 flood risk, potential access issues, things like that.
21 But again, I think the other constraints that we've
22 identified on the west side of your property are more of
23 a consideration than the pond itself. It is one of the
24 factors but it's not the primary factor.

25 Q. Did you see when I presented the first exhibit

1 of the standing water on my property after a decent
2 rain?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Would that be a concern at all to you with the
5 line, because here's the reason why I ask because, for
6 example, I have a culvert that runs under my drive. I
7 wonder if something did happen and the line fell and it
8 got that water, would the culvert be electrified?

9 A. I am not an engineer. So I don't know the
10 answer to that question.

11 Q. So even if the line wasn't on me and it fell
12 and landed in the water, my driveway still might not be
13 safe, correct?

14 MR. SCHULTE: Objection. Asked and answered
15 and lacks foundation since this witness is not an
16 engineer.

17 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Sustained.

18 BY MS. MEADOWS:

19 Q. So I could get electrocuted regardless of your
20 line being on me or not?

21 MR. SCHULTE: Same objection.

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Same answer. Sustained.

23 BY MS. MEADOWS:

24 Q. So can you guarantee me that this line will
25 never fall or never be a hazard to me and my property?

1 MR. SCHULTE: Objection. Asked and answered.

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Sustained.

3 BY MS. MEADOWS:

4 Q. Are you familiar with the Missouri Overhead
5 Power Line Safety Act?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Section 319.080 makes it illegal for any
8 unauthorized person to work or bring equipment within 10
9 feet of high voltage overhead power lines that have not
10 been covered or deenergized. OSHA's minimum clearance
11 distance for a 345 kilovolt line is 20 foot due to
12 potential arcing distance. Can you tell me what the low
13 point in that line would be across my drive?

14 MR. SCHULTE: I'm not -- If the question is
15 only about the low point, I guess I don't have an
16 objection, but I'm not sure what the preamble was and I
17 would object to that as argumentative and not related to
18 the question.

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'll overrule. He can answer
20 if he knows. If not, he can say so.

21 BY MS. MEADOWS:

22 Q. I might add that I understood from, I don't
23 think it was your testimony, I thought I heard someone
24 say it, but like I said earlier, I was in and out with
25 my cat during the hearing. I believe someone told me

1 that 30 foot was the lowest those lines would be. Does
2 that sound correct or is that correct?

3 A. I think that would have been a better question
4 for Mr. White.

5 Q. Okay. That's not really common knowledge or
6 whatever just among the transmission line?

7 A. I can't speak to that clearance on your
8 property, no.

9 Q. So just to kind of clarify that a little bit,
10 if I had a -- now that Mr. White is gone, if I had a
11 dump truck coming in and dumping and he's 20 foot up in
12 the air and the line is, say, 30 feet, because that's
13 approximately where it is, and you know, you can't tell
14 when you're looking up at a line how far it is. Would I
15 have to call you guys or is there someone I would have
16 to call to make sure everything would be good before I
17 could have rock put on my drive?

18 A. Again, I can't speak to the clearance
19 specifically with the dump truck. I would just
20 reiterate that transmission lines are common throughout
21 the United States. They are common throughout roadways
22 and highways at the local, state and county level and
23 vehicles routinely operate under them.

24 Q. With the bed completely up, a dump truck's bed
25 completely up? That makes it a lot taller and puts it

1 closer to that line. My concern is if I need rock, do I
2 have to contact you guys first to make sure, because you
3 probably don't know at this point how low that line is
4 going to be.

5 MR. SCHULTE: I object to the relevance of
6 this question to Ms. Meadows' complaint.

7 MS. MEADOWS: It's just another thing I would
8 have to deal with having this line over me is not being
9 able to just get gravel put on my drive without worrying
10 my poor delivery driver could get an arc and shocked and
11 killed.

12 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'll overrule. He can answer
13 if he knows. If not, he can say so.

14 THE WITNESS: Again, I would reiterate that
15 activity takes place under and around transmission lines
16 frequently. If you had a specific question about
17 clearance related to activities on your property and the
18 line was in operation, you would have a contact for the
19 Grain Belt Express operations team and you would have
20 the ability to call them and ask questions and to
21 confirm that clearance. So as part of our operations
22 you would know who to call and you would be able to have
23 those conversations. And so I think that is a very real
24 thing that you could ask about and receive confirmation
25 from at that point.

1 BY MS. MEADOWS:

2 Q. So they would know from just a phone call;
3 they wouldn't have to send someone out to measure it or
4 anything crazy?

5 A. I don't know how -- I don't know how -- I
6 think it depends on the nature of the question and the
7 nature of the activity, but they would be able to get
8 you an answer whether it's on the phone or whether it
9 would come after a visit to the house.

10 Q. Now, is that the kind of thing that you would
11 tell someone after you built the line, we have this
12 paperwork here for you, here's your clearance for that
13 line so you need to make sure you don't take an auger or
14 a piece of farm equipment, for example, or something
15 under that line because, like I said, when you look up
16 you can't tell how far stuff is. Would I get a
17 precaution -- would you guys know when you built it what
18 your height is of that line? I know they sag over time.

19 MR. SCHULTE: Objection. Asked and answered.

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'll sustain.

21 BY MS. MEADOWS:

22 Q. Will there need to be maintenance between the
23 poles on my line? I'm not talking landscape or
24 vegetation. I'm talking actual line maintenance.

25 A. Recognizing that I'm not an engineer, I would

1 say that there would not likely to be maintenance
2 required on like the wires themselves. The primary
3 interface would be with that ongoing vegetation
4 management, yes.

5 Q. So really once they built the line they'd
6 almost never need to be on me except for the vegetation
7 clearing?

8 A. That's right.

9 Q. Is it fair to say that maybe Grain Belt
10 doesn't want to entertain moving the line off of me just
11 for fear of other landowners wanting the line moved off
12 them as well?

13 A. I would again go back to general routing
14 development principle that the micrositing -- a key
15 principle in that process is to not increase impact to
16 neighboring landowners or introduce impact to new
17 landowners for the benefit of one landowner.

18 Q. So have you ever had an instance, because you
19 guys have built other transmission lines, correct?

20 A. (The witness nodded his head.)

21 Q. Have you guys ever had an instance where
22 you've needed to move the line due to a safety risk or
23 something like that that just was not something you
24 could allow?

25 A. I can't think of a specific case where we have

1 had to do that; but if there was a -- if there was a
2 safety risk to the route, we would alter to work around
3 that safety risk.

4 Q. So I mentioned earlier I have a drone. Would
5 I still be allowed to fly my drone around the line as
6 long as I didn't hit it or hurt it in any way or at
7 least not intentionally?

8 A. I'm not familiar with operating requirements
9 for drones or anything like that. I don't want to
10 speculate.

11 Q. Would it still work? They're wireless or
12 whatever.

13 A. I would think so. And the reason I can
14 speculate on that is I also have a drone and live about
15 500 or so feet from a transmission line and it seems to
16 work fine.

17 Q. Even around flying over the top of it and
18 stuff?

19 A. I don't fly over the top of it.

20 Q. Well, I have to get to the road. Fly under it
21 I guess. The point of me having a drone is to fly down
22 to the end of my drive to the road to make sure one of
23 my animals isn't there or next door to the cows. So
24 I'll have to go around the line either over it or near
25 it or whatever. If you have one, you know they're not

1 cheap. So you don't want to destroy it or whatever. Is
2 there a chance that it would fry it do you think? Is
3 there any danger with that?

4 A. I don't know. I don't know the answer to
5 that.

6 Q. I worry because of the EMF, ELF, all that kind
7 of stuff. I don't know how drones work or whatever. I
8 don't really want to be the guinea pig. Have you heard
9 of instances of?

10 A. I have not heard, no.

11 Q. So maybe it's safe. So can you tell me how
12 long the section of line will be between the two poles
13 on each side of my property? Is it a thousand foot?

14 A. No, I don't know the span length. I don't
15 know the span length exactly, but I think that a
16 thousand foot is an average.

17 Q. Is that a quarter mile?

18 A. A quarter mile is a little over a thousand
19 feet.

20 Q. Because Jason had told me the towers were
21 every quarter of a mile. So does that sound like -- I
22 wasn't even sure what kind of tower it was. A thousand
23 feet is from I assume the pole or whatever. There's
24 nothing sticking out forward or whatever. So it's
25 approximately a thousand feet section of line from the

1 poles on each side of me?

2 A. Yeah. Between, yeah, a thousand give or take.
3 The span length really depends on engineering
4 requirements in the area. Longer spans are possible
5 sometimes. It depends on the line design itself.

6 Q. Would it ever need to be shorter?

7 A. Yes, there are instances where the span length
8 could be shorter than a thousand feet. I don't think
9 that in the case of your line, the line as it goes
10 through your property, I wouldn't foresee that span
11 length shortening, but there are engineering
12 requirements that may require a shorter span length in
13 other scenarios that I'm just not familiar with.

14 Q. I know you moved the tower because it was up
15 across the road there. Is it set now? Is it still
16 subject to change?

17 A. I would say the exact tower location is as
18 line design is ongoing is subject to change.

19 Q. So the towers where they're at now they could
20 be different in a month or two?

21 A. Here or there. I think it's unlikely. As we
22 stated before, we would not intend to place a tower
23 structure on your property and I would think it's
24 unlikely that the tower would come back north of the
25 road there.

1 Q. So you feel confident I would never have a
2 tower on me?

3 A. I feel reasonably confident that would be the
4 case, yes.

5 Q. If I had a pivot irrigation system running on
6 my drive, would that constitute rerouting the line?

7 A. One of the benefits of the route that was
8 chosen among the routes A, B and C was that there's no
9 -- the line does not span any operating pivot systems.
10 So for properties that have center pivot irrigation, we
11 are following the property boundaries and it's generally
12 a practice to avoid existing center pivot systems.

13 Q. So that pretty much would have been the only
14 thing that would have made my land avoidable to you
15 guys? As I understand from your chart or your map,
16 that's really the only thing you guys diverted your
17 lines around?

18 MR. SCHULTE: Objection. Misstates the
19 evidence given that we went through numerous routing
20 criteria earlier and is argumentative.

21 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Sustained.

22 BY MS. MEADOWS:

23 Q. So according to this map, it's not over there
24 any more, according to this map, you guys have jig
25 jagged out in several places and there's not necessarily

1 according to the legend there's not the pivot
2 irrigation. So what other reasons would you be, and
3 there's no houses either, what other reasons would you
4 be making these odd like there's this one here. It
5 actually looks like you went closer to another line. It
6 was a 69 volt. Do you try to stay closer to those? Is
7 that why you would have went around there?

8 MR. SCHULTE: Could you identify the document
9 you're looking at by exhibit number?

10 MS. MEADOWS: Map 7. I'm sorry. Schedule
11 AB-2, page 56 of 87.

12 MR. SCHULTE: Was it submitted as an exhibit?

13 MS. MEADOWS: It was mine, but it was
14 originally in the AB from the 2023 case.

15 MR. SCHULTE: Map 7?

16 MS. MEADOWS: Yes.

17 MR. SCHULTE: Yeah, that's it. Thank you.

18 I'm sorry. I don't know if there was a pending
19 question. I just wanted to --

20 BY MS. MEADOWS:

21 Q. I see obviously where you went around all the
22 green pivot irrigations but then I also see places where
23 it looks like you just randomly went around. I'm just
24 wondering what other things are out there that would
25 have made you go around that constitute something more

1 worthy of extra turning structures or whatever they are,
2 because some of these are 90 degree than my property and
3 all the risks that I've shared.

4 A. I mean, I don't think that I can like go
5 through and walk through each of these turns at this
6 point. I do believe they are outlined quite extensively
7 in the routing study itself. Each of the routes are
8 described in depth and describing features of the
9 landscape that each runs through. So without spending
10 some time refreshing myself on each of those, I don't
11 know that I can specifically state why certain decisions
12 were made. I think referring back to the general
13 routing guidelines is a good place to start.

14 Q. But you don't have any set like bald eagle
15 nests, or I don't know, any specific thing that is a
16 definite no-go on running the line through it?

17 A. I mean, yes, there are things that we would
18 not run the line through or adjacent to.

19 Q. And what would be an example?

20 A. Well, sorry, I'm going to refer back to the
21 routing principles. So again, going back to the general
22 routing guidelines, we would typically avoid routing
23 directly over a home or an existing occupied structure.
24 We are avoiding sensitive cultural areas that could
25 cause permitting issues. We are avoiding the center

1 pivot systems. Again, one of the reasons that we
2 highlighted those is those are active agricultural
3 operation areas that we're, I think generally in
4 Missouri it's seen as good routing practice to avoid
5 direct impacts to those center pivot systems. Any other
6 item that could present a permitting barrier to the
7 project, you know, again this is detailed I think quite
8 extensively in the routing study itself.

9 Q. Of all the -- I've read about the tribal lands
10 and all that different things. Just looking at the
11 route when you're looking at -- you guys make some
12 really hard 90 turns and all that. I'm just wondering
13 if there's a specific reason like on Route A there was
14 --

15 MR. SCHULTE: Objection. Asked and answered.

16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: And testifying and arguing.
17 Sustained.

18 BY MS. MEADOWS:

19 Q. I'm not even exactly sure what is an
20 irrigation pivot and why is it so bad for a power line?

21 MR. SCHULTE: Objection. Asked and answered.

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Sustained.

23 MS. MEADOWS: I didn't ask what a pivot
24 irrigation was.

25 MR. SCHULTE: Mr. Chandler described the

1 agricultural purposes of pivot irrigation systems.

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Sustained.

3 BY MS. MEADOWS:

4 Q. Do you know who Jordan Connelly is?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. She's on the routing team?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What's her title?

9 A. I believe currently it's senior analyst of --
10 associate of transmission development.

11 Q. Is it customary for her to make visits to
12 property?

13 A. It is not frequent.

14 Q. Would she have been able to, if she had
15 deemed, I don't know if you said she's -- what did you
16 say, she was associate of transmission?

17 A. Development.

18 Q. Development. Okay. Does that mean she has
19 authority to move the line or what exactly is her role?

20 A. Her role as related to the Tiger Connector is
21 to help manage the development process and typically her
22 primary focus is on easement acquisitions. So she is a
23 primary interface with CLS and vis-a-vis landowners to
24 the extent it's related to acquiring right-of-way
25 easements. She has other work associated with the

1 project as well, but on the Tiger Connector it primarily
2 has been working with landowners and other entities that
3 have easement interest on properties.

4 Q. Just to make sure I'm clear here, she didn't
5 have the ability or the title I guess to actually move
6 the line off of me?

7 A. Typically micrositng is a consensus based
8 process within the team. So she would have the ability
9 to make observations, potentially make recommendations
10 that are then evaluated against engineering,
11 environmental, other landowner constraints and things
12 like that and then ultimately based on the input of not
13 just her but other subject matter experts within the
14 group then we can ultimately come to a decision on
15 whether and how a micrositng request is feasible.

16 Q. So is she an engineer?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Oh, okay. I wasn't sure. Jason just said she
19 was coming out. I wasn't even sure what her role was or
20 anything about her. I did ask her if she lived in the
21 country, and I think that's about the only conversation
22 we had. Have you guys ever had any incidents of
23 vandalism or terrorism to any of your existing
24 transmission line towers or transmission lines?

25 MR. SCHULTE: Objection. Relevance.

1 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'm going to sustain.

2 BY MS. MEADOWS:

3 Q. So these towers are going to be running across
4 my road or near the road on a road with no other
5 traffic, no lights, no anything. So it would be
6 susceptible to vandalism or --

7 MR. SCHULTE: Same objection.

8 BY MS. MEADOWS:

9 Q. So you're not concerned with that?

10 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Still sustained.

11 BY MS. MEADOWS:

12 Q. Can you just explain to me real quick what the
13 purpose is of avoiding residences?

14 A. I think that's typically self-explanatory.

15 Q. Is it more of a safety issue or is there,
16 because it's a finding of fact, so I'm just curious what
17 that actually means, avoiding residences. Is it because
18 of safety, property value, what?

19 A. I'm not aware of any particular safety
20 concerns associated with it. I mean, I think just in
21 general landowners prefer that we keep as far away from
22 the residence as is possible.

23 Q. And these towers will have grounding
24 mechanisms on them, correct?

25 A. I believe so. But again, I'm not an engineer.

1 MS. MEADOWS: I think that's all I have.

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Any bench
3 questions? Commissioner Mitchell.

4 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: No, thank you.

5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right.

6 MR. SCHULTE: Can I ask one brief redirect?

7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Certainly.

8 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. SCHULTE:

10 Q. Mr. Chandler, sorry to keep you up there for a
11 little bit longer. Do you recall a discussion with
12 Chair Hahn about whether a reroute, whether the only
13 constraint on a certain reroute that you were discussing
14 was a legal constraint? Do you remember that
15 discussion?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. In addition to legal constraints, are there
18 any practical constraints with doing reroutes,
19 especially the type of reroutes that Ms. Meadows has
20 requested?

21 A. I mean, I think the practical constraint is
22 what I outlined earlier in response to one of Ms.
23 Meadows' questions which is just in general if you make
24 a shift to take the line off of a landowner's property
25 and put it onto a new landowner's property, I think you

1 really do run the risk of that occurring throughout the
2 line, and it generally goes against the routing
3 principles and development principles of not wanting to
4 trade one set of landowner impacts for a new landowner
5 and that could happen indefinitely.

6 Q. How many landowners are on the Tiger
7 Connector?

8 A. So there are 120 unique parcels along the
9 Tiger Connector and I believe there are 86 unique
10 landowners. So again, you run the risk of having to go
11 through this process 86 times.

12 Q. And how many landowners approximately are on
13 the entirety of Phase I of the Grain Belt Express
14 project as a whole?

15 A. I don't know how many unique landowners there
16 are. I believe there are -- I believe it's more than
17 1,600 parcels.

18 Q. Is that Dodge City to the interconnection
19 point?

20 A. That is from the origination point in Dodge
21 City, Kansas to the Monroe County converter station.

22 Q. So would the practical concerns you described,
23 would it apply to not just the Tiger Connector but the
24 entirety of Phase I?

25 A. I think it would ultimately apply to, yes,

1 Phone I Tiger Connector and ultimately would apply to
2 other transmission developments elsewhere.

3 MR. SCHULTE: Thank you. No further
4 questions.

5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Mr. Chandler,
6 thank you very much. You may step down.

7 I believe we are now ready for staff's
8 witnesses. We may, depending on the length of the
9 questioning, we may take another break if only for the
10 court reporter but we'll see how long this goes. I'm
11 sorry. Staff witnesses. Ms. Hansen, when you're ready.

12 MS. HANSEN: Thank you, Judge. We would like
13 to call Mr. Coty King to the stand.

14 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. King, if you'll come
15 forward and be sworn, please, sir. Do you swear the
16 evidence you're about to give will be the truth, the
17 whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

18 MR. KING: I do.

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. You may have
20 a seat. Ms. Hansen, when you're ready.

21 COTY KING,
22 having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified
23 as follows:

24 DIRECT EXAMINATION

25 BY MS. HANSEN:

1 Q. Mr. King, can you please state and spell your
2 name for the record?

3 A. Coty King, C-o-t-y K-i-n-g.

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

5 A. I'm employed by the Missouri Public Service
6 Commission as a Senior Compliance Analyst.

7 Q. Did you prepare the Staff Report and the
8 Supplemental Staff Report in this case which have been
9 previously marked as Exhibits 200 and 201?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. All right. Mr. King, at this time do you have
12 any corrections or clarifications that you'd like to
13 make in the Report or the Supplemental Report?

14 A. I have two clarifications in the Supplemental
15 Report.

16 Q. Can you tell me what those are?

17 A. There is no cover sheet for data request or
18 for the public comment.

19 Q. Is it public comment, it looks like there's
20 two public comments; is that right?

21 A. Yes, that don't have cover sheets.

22 Q. Is that going to be P202302114 and then
23 P202500004 respectively?

24 A. Yes.

25 MS. HANSEN: Thank you very much. For clarity

1 of the record, I just want to identify the page numbers.
2 So that's going to be on staff's Supplemental Report, so
3 that's going to be Attachment 1 and then page 4 and then
4 also still on Attachment 1, page 12. Then Your Honor,
5 staff requests the ability to follow up and provide the
6 full comment cover sheet and attachments for the record
7 to be clear and complete regarding staff's Supplemental
8 Report.

9 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you.

10 MS. HANSEN: Thank you very much.

11 BY MS. HANSEN:

12 Q. Mr. King, if I asked you the same questions
13 today within Exhibits 200 and 201, would your answers be
14 the same or substantially similar?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Are those answers true and correct to the best
17 of your knowledge and belief?

18 A. Yes, they are.

19 MS. HANSEN: Thank you. At this time I would
20 like to offer Exhibit 200 and then 201 and then we will
21 also have those -- we will provide those comments and
22 attachments at a later date.

23 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Hansen, thank you.
24 Exhibits 200 and 201 have been offered. Any objections?
25 Hearing none. Exhibits 200 and 201 are admitted into

1 evidence.

2 (STAFF EXHIBITS 200 AND 201 WERE RECEIVED INTO
3 EVIDENCE AND MADE A PART OF THIS RECORD.)

4 MS. HANSEN: All right. Thank you. All
5 right. At this time I tender the witness for
6 cross-examination.

7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Hansen, thank you. Any
8 cross from Grain Belt?

9 MR. SCHULTE: No cross, Judge. Thank you.

10 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Public counsel.

11 MR. POSTON: No questions. Thank you.

12 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Meadows.

13 MS. MEADOWS: No questions. Thank you.

14 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Bench questions.
15 Thank you. Mr. King, thank you very much. You may step
16 down. I believe Mr. Bax is the final witness on the
17 witness list.

18 MS. HANSEN: That is correct. We would like
19 to call Mr. Alan Bax up to the stand.

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If you'll come forward and be
21 sworn, please, sir. Do you swear the evidence you're
22 about to give will be the truth, the whole truth and
23 nothing but the truth so help you God?

24 MR. BAX: Yes.

25 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Yes, sir, thank you very much.

1 You may have a seat. Ms. Hansen, when you're ready.

2 ALAN BAX,

3 having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified
4 as follows:

5 DIRECT EXAMINATION

6 BY MS. HANSEN:

7 Q. Mr. Bax, could you please state and spell your
8 name for the record?

9 A. Alan Bax, A-l-a-n B-a-x.

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

11 A. I'm employed in the Engineering Analysis
12 Department of the Missouri Public Service Commission.

13 Q. Did you contribute to the Staff Report in this
14 case which has been previously marked as Exhibit 200?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. At this time do you have any corrections to
17 make to Exhibit 200?

18 A. I do not.

19 Q. If I asked you the same today within Exhibit
20 200 -- Let me start over. I apologize. If I asked you
21 the same questions today within Exhibit 200, would your
22 answers be the same or substantially similar?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. All right. Then are those answers true and
25 correct to the best of your knowledge and belief?

1 A. Yes.

2 MS. HANSEN: Thank you very much. So Exhibit
3 200 has already been entered into evidence. I tender
4 witness for cross-examination.

5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Hansen, thank you. Any
6 cross from Grain Belt?

7 MR. SCHULTE: No, thank you.

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Public counsel.

9 MR. POSTON: No, thank you.

10 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Meadows.

11 MS. MEADOWS: No, thank you.

12 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, Mr. Bax. Thank you
13 very much. I'm sorry. Any bench questions?

14 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: No, Judge.

15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Mr. Bax, thank you
16 very much. You may step down. That appears to be the
17 end of witnesses.

18 Is there anything else from the parties or
19 from the bench before we go off the record?

20 MR. SCHULTE: Yes, Judge. I have a question
21 about the map that we had a little trouble finding that
22 Chair Hahn asked some questions about. Is it the
23 intention of the Commission or staff to make that an
24 exhibit?

25 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I would think so, yes.

1 MS. HANSEN: Staff can make that an exhibit,
2 yes.

3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: That would be great, Ms.
4 Hansen. Thank you.

5 MR. SCHULTE: The reason I ask is actually
6 because we do have an objection. The map appears to be
7 created on Ms. Meadows' personal computer and does not,
8 as far as we can tell, accurately reflect the location
9 of the transmission line as it appears on the official
10 proposed route maps. It's slightly different. She did
11 a pretty job of getting close but slight differences can
12 make big impacts. So we would object to that exhibit on
13 those grounds because it lacks accuracy.

14 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I think what I would like
15 since this was just kind of brought up today is for
16 staff to file that as a late-filed exhibit and then
17 either I or Judge Clark would allow time for responses
18 and objections and then we would rule from there.

19 MR. SCHULTE: That would be helpful to confirm
20 exactly what the discrepancies are and we can put that
21 on the record.

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Very good. Thank you.
23 Anything else from the parties before we conclude or
24 from the bench?

25 MS. MEADOWS: I have a question.

1 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Yes, ma'am.

2 MS. MEADOWS: I think it's a question. Is
3 this where I can just make like a closing type statement
4 or just object to something or I'm a little bit confused
5 as to what this is. Sorry.

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Sure, that's quite all right.
7 I'm not going to allow closing arguments, but the
8 parties can file briefs. In fact, I'm glad you brought
9 that up. Just to kind of simply sum up what they think
10 the evidence showed and what the Commission can do or
11 should do. And I certainly will expect briefs from the
12 other parties. You can file a brief if you want. You
13 don't have to. You're certainly welcome to. That's
14 just kind of your written argument on what you think the
15 Commission should do.

16 MS. MEADOWS: Okay. Do we know how long it
17 will take for you to have the transcript?

18 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Not off the top of my head.
19 It will certainly be a few days. That's built into the
20 briefing schedule.

21 MS. MEADOWS: That was my next question.

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Obviously if you or anybody
23 else feels like you need more time to work on your
24 briefs, you can always file a motion with the Commission
25 to ask for more time.

1 MS. MEADOWS: Okay. That's all I have. Thank
2 you.

3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: You're very welcome. Anything
4 else? All right. That concludes the hearing in Case
5 No. EC-2025-0136. Thank you very much. We are off the
6 record.

7 (WHEREUPON, the proceedings concluded at 6:42
8 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

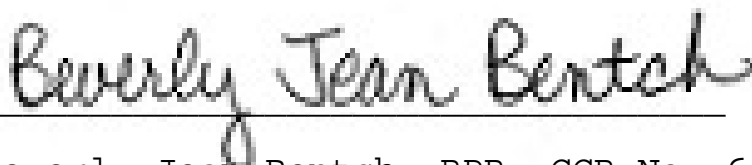
STATE OF MISSOURI)

COUNTY OF COLE)

I, Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing Public Service Commission Evidentiary Hearing and that the transcript, pages 1 through 271, is a true record of my stenographic notes.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative, employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

Dated this 2nd day of September, 2025.



Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

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