

Exhibit No.:
Issue(s): Public Engagement
Witness: Leah Dettmers
Type of Exhibit: Direct Testimony
Sponsoring Party: Union Electric Company
File No.: EA-2026-0058
Date Testimony Prepared: November 10, 2025

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

File No. EA-2026-0058

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

LEAH DETTMERS

ON

BEHALF OF

UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY

d/b/a Ameren Missouri

**St. Louis, Missouri
November 2025**

Table of Contents

I.	INTRODUCTION	1
II.	PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY AND SCHEDULES	3
III.	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND NOTICE REQUIREMENTS	5
	A. Community Representative Forums	6
	B. In-Person Public Engagement: Open Houses in Each County	9
	C. Online Public Engagement: Project Website.....	13
	D. Online Public Engagement: Interactive Map.....	16
	E. Other Public Engagement Opportunities	18
	F. Notice to Landowners and Stakeholders of Preferred Corridor.....	19
	G. Notice of Filing to Affected Landowners	20
	H. Commission Conditions Regarding Public Engagement.....	21
IV.	REGULATORY AGENCY COORDINATION	23

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

LEAH DETTMERS

FILE NO. EA-2026-0058

I. INTRODUCTION

Q. Please state your name and business address.

A. Leah Dettmers, Ameren Services, One Ameren Plaza, 1901 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63103.

Q. What is your position with Ameren Services?

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

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

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

1 project information via written materials and digital resources. My role includes overseeing and/or
2 meeting with the public, agencies, community leaders, and other stakeholders during open houses,
3 agency review meetings, local government discussions, and other meetings concerning anticipated
4 transmission projects. During my tenure at Ameren Services, I have, on behalf of its transmission-
5 owning affiliates, coordinated and managed public outreach processes for over 2,000 miles of
6 transmission lines in Illinois and Missouri, and have implemented public outreach processes for
7 several greenfield Missouri transmission projects. These greenfield Missouri projects include,
8 among others, the Northern Missouri Grid Transformation Program Phases 1 and 2 projects, the
9 Mark Twain Transmission Project, the Limestone Ridge Project, and the Grand Tower River
10 Crossing Project.

11 **Q. Please describe your professional background and qualifications.**

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

18 My current title is Manager of Stakeholder Relations and Training. I develop the strategy
19 for stakeholder outreach in developing, training, and implementing the required regulatory
20 processes for Ameren transmission projects as well as best management practices for outreach
21 processes for all transmission programs. I also oversee the management of our external
22 engagement consultants, support our other internal Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois
23 ("ATXI") workgroups in routing/siting, lead and provide public outreach strategy for our

1 transmission business development services, and manage ATXI's corporate training for all
2 workgroups. During my career, I have been involved in developing and implementing public
3 process strategy via regulatory requirements and utilities' best management practices for over
4 2,000 miles of Ameren's electric transmission projects.

5 **Q. Have you previously testified before the Missouri Public Service Commission**
6 **("Commission")?**

7 A. Yes, I have testified before the Commission on behalf of ATXI for Phase 1 Projects
8 of the Northern Missouri Grid Transformation Program in File No. EA-2024-0302 and for Phase
9 2 Project of the Northern Missouri Grid Transformation Program in File No. EA-2025-0087. In
10 these proceedings, ATXI sought Commission approval of certificates of convenience and necessity
11 ("CCN") to construct transmission lines that ATXI has been assigned or chosen by competitive bid
12 to build via the Long-Range Transmission Planning ("LRTP") Tranche 1 process at Midcontinent
13 Independent System Operator, Inc. ("MISO"). I have also testified on behalf of ATXI regarding
14 the Grand Tower River Crossing Project in File No. EA-2025-0222.

15 **II. PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY AND SCHEDULES**

16 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

17 A. The purpose of my testimony is to describe the public engagement activities taken
18 under my direction in support of the Ameren Missouri's Application for a CCN and related
19 Commission approvals authorizing Ameren Missouri to construct, acquire, and operate certain
20 transmission assets known as the Montgomery Callaway Connector Project ("the Project"),
21 described in the Direct Testimony of Ameren Missouri witness Mr. Samuel Gardner. The Project
22 is being constructed as the regional grid operator MISO identified the need for this Project to
23 support new, third-party energy sources. As the incumbent energy provider, Ameren Missouri is

1 required by federal regulations to develop grid infrastructure projects to fulfill these needs. Ameren
2 Missouri witness Samuel F. Gardner provides more specific details about the federal requirements
3 in his testimony. The Project includes the construction of a new, approximately 28-mile, 345 kV
4 transmission line to connect the existing Montgomery substation in Montgomery County,
5 Missouri, to the existing Burns substation in Callaway County, Missouri. Nearly 100 percent of
6 the proposed route will co-locate along an existing Ameren Missouri right of way. The goal is to
7 have this new line in-service by December 1, 2030.

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

19 **Q. Are you sponsoring any schedules with your Direct Testimony?**

20 **A.** Yes. I am sponsoring:

- 21 • **Schedule LD-D1**— an Engagement Summary which illustrates and memorializes the
22 integrated outreach process undertaken by Ameren Missouri for this project, including
23 notifications to stakeholders and landowners and open houses which were held; and

- **Schedule LD-D2** – an exemplar copy of the letter that Ameren Missouri sent to each affected landowner as notice of its application.

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

A. No. I am not an attorney, and none of my Direct Testimony is intended to offer any legal opinions.

III. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Q. Please generally explain the public engagement process.

A. In February 2025, Ameren Missouri conducted a series of public information meetings for the Project. Ameren Missouri provided the public with both in-person, virtual, and other engagement opportunities to learn more about the Project and provide input on the Project's Study Area and Route Corridors. To ensure robust participation, those opportunities included: (1) in-person meetings with community representatives in Montgomery and Callaway Counties; (2) two in-person open houses in each of Montgomery and Callaway Counties; (3) a website dedicated to the Project; (4) an interactive mapping tool with parcel level maps, and a comment feature; and (5) other ways to learn about and provide feedback on the Project and connect with the Public Engagement Team. I explain each public engagement opportunity further below.

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

A. There were several objectives of the public engagement process. The Public Engagement Team sought to introduce the Project to the public, explain the need for the Project and its benefits, explain the routing, and begin to collect public input on Project's Study Area and Route Corridors. Ameren Missouri engaged in public outreach to potentially affected landowners, community representatives and stakeholders, agency stakeholders, and the general public in the Study Area and Route Corridors.

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

3 A. Yes. The intent of the multi-faceted public outreach approach itself is to provide
4 ample opportunities for engagement with the broadest and largest group by accommodating
5 diverse schedules and engagement preferences. Ameren Missouri encouraged robust participation
6 by, among other means, providing early notice of the various engagement opportunities through a
7 variety of communication channels, including advertisements in local newspapers, direct notices
8 to stakeholders and landowners within the Study Area, and updates on the Project website, as I
9 explain further below. My testimony and Schedule LD-D1 document these activities with
10 stakeholders and landowners in Montgomery and Callaway Counties.

11 **Q. How did Ameren Missouri obtain information to send landowners open house**
12 **invitations and notice of filing?**

13 A. Ameren Missouri received parcel ownership information and landowner contact
14 information from the Montgomery and Callaway county assessors prior to sending out open house
15 invitations and within sixty days of notice of filing.

16 **A. Community Representative Forums**

17 **Q. Above you mentioned that Ameren Missouri engaged with community**
18 **representatives and stakeholders from Montgomery and Callaway Counties as part of the**
19 **public engagement process for the Project. How did Ameren Missouri engage with these**
20 **representatives and stakeholders?**

21 A. Ameren Missouri held in-person Community Representatives Forums ("CRFs") in
22 Montgomery and Callaway Counties on January 21, 2025. A total of 50 stakeholders, with 9 unique
23 to Callaway County and 9 unique to Montgomery County, were invited to attend either of these

1 events. The Callaway meeting was held from 8:30 am to 9:30 am at the Legends Rec-Plex in
2 Fulton, Missouri and was attended by a total of 7 stakeholders. The Montgomery County meeting
3 was scheduled for 12:00-1:00 pm at the Montgomery Lions Club but had no attendees due to email
4 invitations going to the County's junk mail and the U.S. Postal Service delays with hard copies of
5 the invitations. The Project Team subsequently arranged to join a Montgomery County Chamber
6 of Commerce meeting virtually and present the Project to attendees. This meeting occurred from
7 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm on February 3, 2025. The team identified 8 Project stakeholders among the
8 attendees of the Montgomery County Chamber meeting. The invitations to and attendance at these
9 meetings by community representatives as well as the presentation used in the CRF are provided
10 in Schedule LD-D1, Part 1, and attached to my testimony.

11 **Q. Please explain how Ameren Missouri conducted the CRF meetings.**

12 A. The CRF meetings described above were conducted with the purpose of providing
13 an opportunity for local leaders and agency representatives to meet members of the Project team
14 from Ameren Missouri; learn about the Project's need and benefits; ask questions; provide data for
15 resources, opportunities and sensitivities within the Study Area; and share suggestions for future
16 public engagement opportunities. In total, 15 community representatives, including 8 from
17 Montgomery County and 7 from Callaway County, attended the meetings either virtually or in-
18 person. Community representatives who attended the meetings included a member of Commission
19 staff as well.

20 At these meetings, attendees were presented with a PowerPoint overview of the Project
21 and an explanation of the interactive map feature on the Project website, followed by a question-
22 and-answer session. In-person attendees at the Callaway meeting were given the opportunity to
23 offer their insights into identifying on large tabletop maps any route sensitivities or opportunities

1 they were aware of within their area. The routing input collected during this exercise was then
2 summarized and shared by each table's facilitator with the larger group.

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

4 A. Once the Study Area was identified, Ameren Missouri and its consultant, Burns &
5 McDonnell, researched online and made phone calls to develop a list of local, regional, state and
6 federal agencies and officials who would have an interest in the Project. The list of community
7 representatives was compiled into a 50-person contact list that included stakeholders with their
8 organizations, titles, phone numbers, email and mailing addresses, as available.

9 **Q. Who were identified as community representatives?**

10 A. The community representatives list included local, state and federal agencies or
11 organizations; the county clerks in Montgomery and Callaway Counties; state and federal elected
12 officials; county, city and township government leaders; environmental organizations; history-
13 related organizations; local energy cooperatives; and more. A designated Commission staff
14 member was sent an invitation as well. A list of invited community representatives is included in
15 Schedule LD-D1, Part 1.

16 **Q. How were community representatives invited to the Community**
17 **Representative Forums?**

18 A. The 50 community representatives identified were sent invitation letters to the
19 meetings by U.S. Mail on January 10, 2025, and by email on January 10, 2025 (Montgomery
20 County) and January 14, 2025 (Callaway County). As a result of Montgomery County stakeholders
21 not receiving the invitations in advance of the in-person meeting, Ameren Missouri's consultant
22 arranged for the Project team to join the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce virtually on

1 February 3, 2025 and sent an email invitation to the Project team on January 27, 2025, as shown
2 in Schedule LD-D1, Part 1.

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

5 A. Some of the issues that attendees raised were related to the solar farm near the
6 Callaway substation. Some attendees were concerned about the area being inundated with interest
7 from developers of solar farms and data centers. Attendees also had questions about the Project
8 and its relation to the Grain Belt Express, LLC ("Grain Belt") transmission line.

9 **B. In-Person Public Engagement: Open Houses in Each County**

10 **Q. What public meetings did Ameren Missouri host for the Montgomery-**
11 **Callaway Connector Project?**

12 A. Ameren Missouri's public outreach efforts included multiple opportunities for the
13 public located within the Project's Study Area to attend an in-person public open house meeting.
14 Ameren Missouri held two sets of open houses in Montgomery and Callaway Counties to engage
15 with landowners and other stakeholders as Ameren Missouri plans the project in accordance with
16 the public meeting requirements. The Callaway County open houses were held on February 4,
17 2025, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Legends Rec-Plex in Fulton,
18 Missouri. The Montgomery County open houses were held at the same times on February 5, 2025,
19 at the Montgomery City Lions Club in Montgomery City, Missouri.

20 **Q. Who was invited to the open houses?**

21 A. Ameren Missouri sought to invite all potentially affected landowners and other
22 stakeholders by mailing invitation letters that showed the Study Area map to landowners within

1 the Study Area. The Public Engagement Team identified potentially affected landowners using
2 tax parcel information obtained via the Montgomery County assessor and from the Callaway
3 County Arc Geographic Information System ("GIS") website. The Project Team mailed these
4 notification letters to about 1,393 landowners in the Project Study area, including about 1,123
5 landowners in Callaway County and 270 landowners in Montgomery County, on January 20 and
6 23, 2025 respectively. The Engagement Summary attached as Schedule LD-D1, Part 2, includes
7 the total number of landowners and stakeholders who were mailed this postcard as well as an
8 exemplar postcard. Email invitations were also sent to stakeholders for whom we had email
9 addresses notifying them of the upcoming in-person open houses and online engagement
10 opportunities. Schedule LD-D1, Part 2, contains examples of all these notifications.

11 Additionally, as I explain below, the Public Engagement Team on behalf of Ameren
12 Missouri launched a website for the Project on January 15, 2025 at
13 www.ameren.com/company/ameren-transmission/montgomery-callaway. The site provided notice
14 of the public open house meetings and still today serves as yet another means to inform the public
15 of the many opportunities to engage with the Project team representatives and provide feedback
16 regarding the Project. The team included the Project website address in the mailed and newspaper
17 notices of the meetings that were held.

18 **Q. Did Ameren Missouri provide any other notice of the public meetings?**

19 A. Yes. Ameren Missouri also published general notice of the public open house
20 meetings in the *Fulton Sun* in Callaway County and the *Montgomery Standard* in Montgomery
21 County, for three weeks prior to the meetings. Schedule LD-D1, Part 2, includes copies of the
22 newspaper advertisement and names and dates of publication. Ameren's Corporate
23 Communications team also issued a press release announcing the open houses. Additionally, the

1 Public Engagement Team mailed a letter with information regarding the Project and the various
2 public engagement opportunities available to the county clerks in Montgomery and Callaway
3 Counties. The letters included a Project overview map. Exemplars of these letters are also included
4 in Schedule LD-D1, Part 2.

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

6 A. Yes. Ameren Missouri sent letters to Commission Staff representatives inviting
7 them to the public meetings and providing other general information regarding the Project, such
8 as an overview map.

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

10 A. About 77 people attended the Callaway County open houses, and about 74 people
11 attended the Montgomery County open houses according to the sign-in sheets available at each
12 meeting. Schedule LD-D1, Part 2, includes attendance information at each meeting. As attendees
13 were not required to sign in, these estimates of attendance do not include those who chose not to
14 do so.

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

16 A. The public was offered many ways to participate in the meetings. Attendees also
17 had the opportunity to speak to individual members of the Project Team at various stations, where
18 information specific to certain Project-related topics was presented. The stations included:
19 Welcome/Registration table, About the Project/ Need, Routing, Project Schedule, Environmental
20 and Agency Coordination, Vegetation Management, Real Estate, Structure Design, Construction,
21 and GIS mapping. Schedule LD-D1, Part 2, includes exemplars of the boards that were presented
22 at the public open houses. Attendees also could view their area of interest along the Route Corridor
23 board as well as on large tabletop aerial maps at the meetings and could provide comments and

1 feedback to the Project Team on those maps. Interactive GIS mapping stations were also available
2 to provide meeting attendees with an opportunity to further examine their area of interest along
3 the Project route and provide further comments on the Route Corridors and Study Area. The Public
4 Engagement Team presented the same types of information and opportunities to engage at each
5 public open house meeting and participants could come and go as they pleased during each
6 meeting's two-hour window.

7 **Q. What input was received from the Callaway and Montgomery County public**
8 **meeting attendees?**

9 A. The Public Engagement Team received 21 completed comment forms and 121
10 tabletop/GIS map comments from attendees at the Callaway and Montgomery County open
11 houses. Common topics of open house public included maximizing distance from homes and
12 historical sites, minimizing crossing of wetlands/floodplains and croplands, verifying presence of
13 center pivot irrigation equipment and other agricultural sensitivities, as well as offering
14 information on historically and culturally important sites. Attendees also discussed concerns about
15 the impact of the project on their properties and suggested to use existing utility corridors or
16 highway instead of crossing private lands.

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

18 A. Yes. The input was used as part of the integrated public outreach and routing
19 process, as further described in the Direct Testimony of Ameren Missouri witness Mr. John
20 Dunham. Comments from landowners and stakeholders received at the Callaway and Montgomery
21 County meetings and through other communications around that time were collected, reviewed,
22 and are taken into consideration in developing the proposed route. In fact, in response to this
23 information received, Ameren Missouri sent out in September 2025, communications to

landowners and stakeholders to indicate that Ameren Missouri has determined its preferred corridor for the Project to be south of an existing Ameren right of way.

C. Online Public Engagement: Project Website

Q. You mentioned that Ameren Missouri established a website for the Montgomery-Callaway Connector Project. When did that site go live?

A. The dedicated website for the Project went live on January 15, 2025. The web address is www.ameren.com/reliability/transmission/montgomery-callaway.

Q. Is the site still active today?

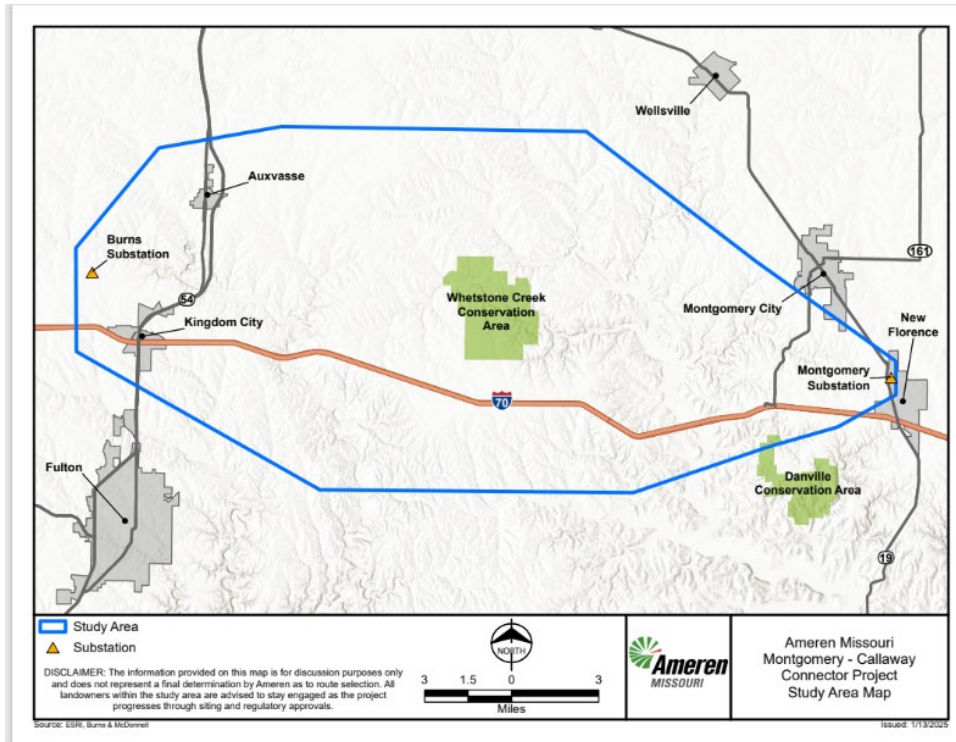
A. Yes. Ameren Missouri intends to maintain the website until construction of the Project is complete, which is estimated to be late 2028.

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

A. The Project website provided general information about the Project, including maps, graphics, explanatory text of the public involvement process, project video, and milestones throughout the implementation of the Project. The website allows members of the public to submit a direct comment to the Public Engagement Team . Additionally, the website provides the team's contact information, to provide community members and landowners the opportunity to discuss the Project through a hotline and email correspondence. And, as I've explained, it provided notice of both sets of public open house meetings as well as a link to the interactive mapping tool, which I explain below. Below are screenshots of the Project website during the Public Engagement Period:



14



Q. Did Ameren Missouri notify the public that the website was available?

A. Yes. As discussed above, the Project website address was included in all mailings and newspaper notifications regarding the Project so that landowners could continue to, via the website, review the preliminary route alternatives and provide comments at their convenience on a desktop computer, tablet, or mobile smartphone. The Project maps on the website, shown above, use satellite imagery to depict the preliminary route alternatives and identify route corridors that were removed from consideration after receiving feedback from the open house public meetings.

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

A. Yes. The site's main page visits were tracked during the public engagement period (January 15 to September 30, 2025). During this time, the website had nearly 3,000 total page views from about 1,600 unique visitors. While our data here includes page views and unique visitors through September 30, 2025, the public may continue to visit the Project website, including

1 the interactive map, as discussed above, and communicate to the Public Engagement Team through
2 the various channels provided.

3 **Q. What engagement via the Project website was observed?**

4 A. In addition to the unique users and total page views from the public engagement
5 period cited above, the Project website experienced on average about 11 pageviews per day, with
6 significant spikes in traffic of 258 views around January 23, 2025, and 185 views the first week of
7 February 2025 as public engagement began. On four other days during the first quarter of 2025,
8 the website experienced traffic from 32 to 59 views on those days. In late August 2025 and early
9 September 2025, when Ameren Missouri provided public information about its preferred corridor
10 for the Project, the website again experienced an increase with the number of visits approaching
11 50 during that time period. Metrics of online engagement are presented in Schedule LD-D1, Part
12 3.

13 **D. Online Public Engagement: Interactive Map**

14 **Q. What was the interactive map engagement during Ameren Missouri's public**
15 **engagement process?**

16 A. The Public Engagement Team offered an interactive mapping tool to those
17 members of the public who were unable to attend an in-person meeting or who preferred the
18 convenience of providing comments at their leisure.. The interactive mapping tool became
19 available via a link on the Project website as of February 4, 2025, and remains active today. Metrics
20 of website engagement, and screenshots of the website and the interactive map with its feedback
21 mechanisms are provided in Schedule LD-D1, Part 3. The public may continue to use the
22 interactive map feature and provide feedback to the Project Team today and until the route is
23 finalized and approved.

1 **Q. Why did Ameren Missouri offer this mapping tool opportunity in addition to**
2 **in-person meetings?**

3 A. Our experience engaging the public regarding transmission projects during the
4 pandemic taught us that virtual engagement opportunities were not only possible but also preferred
5 by some landowners because of the convenience of having a GIS-based interactive mapping tool
6 through their digital devices. Thus, virtual engagement opportunities for the Project offered
7 Ameren Missouri yet another channel to solicit and receive public input regarding the Project and
8 ensure even more robust public participation, which only further enhanced the Projects' routing
9 analysis.

10 **Q. How does the interactive mapping tool function on the website?**

11 A. The interactive mapping tool provides visitors with the ability to leave detailed
12 comments, with pins on a map, concerning perceived Opportunities, Sensitivities, and feedback
13 within the Project's Study Area. Screenshots that illustrate the interactive GIS mapping tool and
14 comment feature that are available through the website are posted in Schedule LD-D1, Part 3. As
15 discussed above, the interactive mapping tool remains active and available for public use through
16 the Project website.

17 **Q. Did the Public Engagement Team track virtual users of the interactive**
18 **mapping tool ?**

19 A. Yes. According to the Public Engagement Team's online engagement statistics
20 report, there were 1,860 visits to the virtual site's interactive map from February 4 to September
21 30, 2025.

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

2 A. Yes. Ameren Missouri received 43 comments during this same period from the
3 interactive mapping comment option.

4 **Q. How would you describe the comments received via the virtual interactive**
5 **mapping tool?**

6 A. The comments received via the interactive mapping tool were related to agricultural
7 use, existing structures, planned homes and improvements, including center pivots for irrigation.
8 Some comments reflected a preference to follow the existing lines.

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

10 A. Yes. Again, they were considered as part of the public engagement and routing
11 processes that I described above. The route selection process is further described in the Direct
12 Testimony of Ameren Missouri witness Mr. John Dunham.

13 **E. Other Public Engagement Opportunities**

14 **Q. What other engagement opportunities did Ameren Missouri offer the public**
15 **during its public engagement process?**

16 A. There were several. In addition to the engagement opportunities that I described
17 above, alternative means of public participation were encouraged. For example, Ameren Missouri
18 invited the public to provide input on the Projects by calling a dedicated hotline, 314.200.4463 or
19 emailing the Public Engagement Team at connect@montgomery-callawayconnectorproject.com.

20 **Q. What measures of public engagement did Ameren Missouri receive from these**
21 **channels?**

22 A. The Public Engagement Team received 80 hotline calls, 43 emails, and 5 mailed-
23 in public comments during the public engagement process. These data are presented in Schedule

LD-D1, Part 3. While the data provided in my testimony is limited to that received through September 30, 2025, the Project website remains available, and the public may continue to provide comment through these channels that we regularly monitor.

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

A. Along with general information inquiries, common comment categories during the public engagement included comments related to agriculture, planned developments, engineering questions, irrigation, wildlife, easement requirements, recreational and floodplains.

Q. Did those comments help inform the routing process?

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

F. Notice to Landowners and Stakeholders of Preferred Corridor

Q. Did Ameren Missouri make any decisions about preferred corridors for the Project prior to filing its Application in this proceeding?

A. Yes. Ameren Missouri responded to public input regarding the various corridors under consideration and shared at the open houses in February 2025. Over the summer of 2025, Ameren Missouri narrowed the corridors of interest to a singular corridor south of an existing Ameren electric transmission corridor.

Q. Did Ameren Missouri communicate with landowners and stakeholders in Montgomery and Callaway County regarding this decision on the preferred corridor?

A. Yes. Ameren Missouri sent affected landowners a letter and a map showing the preferred corridor of interest for this Project on September 8, 2025. Ameren Missouri also sent letters and the preferred corridor map to stakeholders and community representatives regarding

1 this decision on September 10, 2025. Copies of these exemplar communications to landowners
2 and stakeholders are provided in Schedule LD-D1, Part 5.

3 **G. Notice of Filing to Affected Landowners**

4 **Q. How many landowners will be directly affected by the Project?**

5 A. Based on the Proposed Route, Ameren Missouri has identified 121 unique
6 landowners representing 140 distinct parcels that will be directly affected by the Project as I
7 understand that term.¹

8 **Q. Has Ameren Missouri provided notice of its application to these directly**
9 **affected landowners?**

10 A. Yes. Ameren Missouri has provided notice of its application to directly affected
11 Missouri landowners as required by the Commission's Rules as follows: landowners who received
12 notice of the application include all owners of land along the Proposed Route, as determined by
13 the records of the county assessors' offices in Montgomery and Callaway Counties, within sixty
14 days of notice of filing who were owners of land within at least 300 feet of the centerline of the
15 electric transmission line for the Proposed Route, as reflected by the Notification Corridor for the
16 Proposed Route shown in Appendix D to the Application. Ameren Missouri confirmed landowner
17 information (e.g., parcel identification, landowner name, and mailing address) through
18 communications with and data obtained from with the Montgomery and Callaway County
19 Assessors' Offices during October 2025.

20 The list of the directly affected landowners receiving the notice letter is provided in
21 Application Appendix D (Confidential). Ameren Missouri sent this notice to a total of 121 unique

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

landowners, who own a total of 140 distinct parcels. Additionally, Ameren Missouri will send to all landowners in the Study Area and stakeholders postcard notification of the filing depicting the Proposed Route.

H. Commission Conditions Regarding Public Engagement

Q. In File No. EA-2025-0087, the Commission Order granting Ameren Missouri's sister company ATXI a CCN for the Phase 2 Project of the Northern Missouri Grid Transformation Program included various recommendations for public engagement that would apply to future transmission line projects of ATXI, in Missouri. What were those recommendations?

A. According to Appendix A of the Commission *Order Granting Certificate of Convenience and Necessity* in Case No EA-20025-0087 (July 16, 2025), the public engagement requirements for all future transmission projects in Missouri for which ATXI requests a CCN must address the following condition:

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

1 **Q. Did Ameren Missouri follow this recommendation for this Project?**

2 A. Yes. While the Commission conditions in that proceeding do not name other
3 Ameren entities, Ameren Missouri also followed this recommendation for this Project.
4 Specifically, the Ameren Missouri website for this Project displays a map of the Study Area
5 outlined and shaded areas of the corridor under consideration for the Project. The corridor
6 under consideration narrowed after the feedback from the open houses, and the refined
7 corridor for the Project was posted on the website in September 2025. As of the filing date
8 of this Application, the website reflects the proposed route for which Ameren Missouri is
9 seeking a certificate. The satellite image maps with parcels which reflect the Study Area
10 and Preliminary Route Corridors also remain posted at the website. The interactive map
11 remains posted with the corridors no longer under consideration in a different color and
12 identified as such.

13 **Q. Were there other conditions for public engagement applied to ATXI?**

14 A. Yes. There were two additional conditions:

15 Condition 15: ATXI shall, for all projects referenced in Condition 14, include
16 instructions for accessing the website and maps referenced in Condition 14 on all
17 required notifications sent to affected landowners. This condition shall be applied
18 to all ATXI applications for a CCN filed after the Commission grants a CCN in this
19 proceeding, should be considered independently, and any deficiencies related to this
20 condition should not, on its own, affect the validity of a CCN granted in this
21 proceeding.

22 Condition 16: ATXI shall, for all projects referenced in Conditions 14 and 15,
23 refresh its data used to comply with 20 CSR 4240-20.045(6)(K)1 that identifies the
24 owners of land directly affected by the requested certificate, including the preferred
25 route and any known alternative route, and entitled to receive notice of its
26 application. The refresh of the data shall be conducted within 90 days after filing
27 an application for a CCN to confirm the identified parcels and owners of land
28 directly affected by the requested certificate as of the date notice of the application
29 was issued pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-20.045(6)(K)(1) and (2). If such refresh
30 identifies a person entitled to receive notice of the application to whom ATXI did
31 not send such notice, ATXI shall provide a notice to such person(s) in accordance

1 with 20 CSR 4240-20.045(6)(K)(4). This condition shall be applied to all ATXI
2 applications for a CCN filed after the Commission grants a CCN in this proceeding,
3 should be considered independently, and any deficiencies related to this condition
4 should not, on its own, affect the validity of a CCN granted in this proceeding.

5 **Q. Was Ameren Missouri included in the companies to which these conditions**
6 **apply?**

7 A. No. These conditions apply only to ATXI.

8 **Q. Has Ameren Missouri complied with these conditions for this Project?**

9 A. Yes. Even though Ameren Missouri was not included in these conditions, Ameren
10 Missouri also followed these conditions. With regard to Condition 15, all notifications regarding
11 the Montgomery Callaway Connector Project contain information regarding the website and maps
12 posted at the website, as well as the interactive map, as required by this condition. Consistent with
13 Condition 16, Ameren Missouri obtained up to date landowner information within 60 days of filing
14 this application, to provide notice of filing, as discussed above. Ameren Missouri will refresh this
15 information within 90 days of this filing to ensure accuracy of landowner information for
16 landowners affected by this Project. In accordance with Condition 16, Ameren Missouri will
17 provide notice to any landowner who was inadvertently omitted from the notice because of
18 inaccurate or outdated ownership information should that occur.

19 **IV. REGULATORY AGENCY COORDINATION**

20 **Q. Please summarize Ameren Missouri's regulatory approval and agency**
21 **coordination efforts.**

22 A. Virtual agency coordination meetings were offered on August 6 and 7, 2024, to
23 maximize agency participation and input. Agency representatives were also invited to attend the
24 February in-person public open house meetings. A total of 8 invited agency representatives
25 attended the virtual meetings. Schedule LD-D1, Part 4, includes an exemplar copy of the meeting

1 invitations and presentation slides. The virtual meetings included routing information for the
2 benefit of state and federal agency representatives. Schedule LD-D1, Part 4 includes a list of
3 agency representatives invited to those meetings and number of attendees for each agency at each
4 meeting.

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

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

10 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

11 A. Yes.

In the Matter of the Application of Union)
Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri)
Company for a Certificate of Convenience)
and Necessity to Construct, Own, Operate) File No. EA-2026-0058
and Maintain Upgrades to the Transmission)
System in Montgomery and Callaway)
Counties, Missouri)

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss
CITY OF ST. LOUIS)

My name is Leah Dettmers, and on my oath declare that I am of sound mind and lawful age; that I have prepared the foregoing *Direct Testimony*; and further, under the penalty of perjury, that the same is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sworn to me this 10th day of November, 2025.