

Exhibit No. 1

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MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FILE NO. EA-2024-0302

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

LEAH DETTMERS

ON

BEHALF OF

AMEREN TRANSMISSION COMPANY OF ILLINOIS

St. Louis, Missouri
July, 2024

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DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

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FILE NO. EA-2024-0302

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Q. Please state your name and business address.

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

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

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

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

A. My role is to lead, develop, and execute public outreach strategies for transmission
portfolios and programs on behalf of Ameren Services' transmission-owning affiliates, including
the transmission projects which are the subject of this proceeding for Ameren Transmission
Company of Illinois (ATXI). I also implement those tasks and the related materials as necessary
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

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1 outreach responsibilities specifically, I manage project information via written materials and
2 digital resources. My role includes meeting with the public, agencies, community leaders, and
3 other stakeholders during open houses, agency review meetings, local government discussions,
4 and other meetings concerning anticipated transmission projects. During my tenure at Ameren
5 Services, I have, on behalf of its transmission-owning affiliates, coordinated and managed public
6 outreach processes for nearly 980 miles of transmission lines in Illinois and Missouri and have
7 implemented public outreach processes for several greenfield Missouri transmission projects.
8 These greenfield, Missouri projects include, among others, the Mark Twain Transmission Project
9 and Limestone Ridge Project.

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

11 A. I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Organizational Development/Public Relations
12 and a Master of Arts in Organizational Development/Public Relations from Southern Illinois
13 University Edwardsville. I have been employed by Ameren Services since October 2015. My
14 initial role at Ameren Services was Stakeholder Relations Coordinator working on public outreach,
15 media messaging, material development and project support on both greenfield and existing
16 transmission lines. My current title is Stakeholder Relations and Training Manager. I assist with
17 the strategy for stakeholder outreach in developing, training and implementing the required
18 regulatory processes for Ameren transmission projects as well as best management practices for
19 outreach processes for all transmission programs. I also oversee the management of our external
20 engagement consultants, support our other internal ATXI workgroups in routing/siting, provide
21 public outreach strategy for our transmission business development services, and manage ATXI's
22 corporate training for all workgroups. During my career, I have been involved in developing and

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1 implementing public process strategy via regulatory requirements and utilities' best management
2 practices for over 1100 miles of Ameren's electric transmission projects across the nation.

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

5 A. No, I have not testified before the Missouri Public Service Commission
6 (Commission), but I have testified before the Illinois Commerce Commission on behalf of Ameren
7 Illinois.

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

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

10 A. I support ATXI's request for a certificate of convenience and necessity (CCN) and
11 related Commission approvals authorizing ATXI to construct, acquire, and operate certain
12 transmission assets as part of its Northern Missouri Grid Transformation Program (Program)
13 described in the direct testimony of ATXI witness Mr. Shawn Schukar. The facilities included in
14 this proceeding address the first phase of the overall Program in Missouri (Phase 1), which includes
15 two projects: the Fairport-Denny-Iowa/Missouri border (FDIM) Project in Worth, Gentry, and
16 DeKalb counties, and the Maywood-Mississippi River Crossing (MMRX) Project in Marion
17 County (collectively, the Projects or Phase 1 Projects). Specifically, I explain ATXI's compliance
18 with certain public meeting and notice requirements related to the Phase 1 Projects, including
19 notice of the application to directly affected landowners. I also explain ATXI's public outreach
20 process for the Phase 1 Projects, including how that process solicited public input to help inform
21 the proposed route for the Phase 1 Projects (the Proposed Route). I also describe ATXI's notice
22 coordination activities with regulatory agencies. ATXI's public outreach process went above the

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1 minimum public meeting and notice requirements, as I understand them, to ensure robust public
2 understanding of the Phase 1 Projects and active participation by the public in the development of
3 the routes.

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

5 A. Yes. I am sponsoring:

- 6 • Schedule LD-D1 – an engagement summary which illustrates the integrated
7 outreach process, including notifications of the public outreach process; and
- 8 • Schedule LD-D2 – a copy of the letter that ATXI sent to each directly affected
9 landowner as notice of its application.

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

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

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

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

15 A. Following selection of ATXI's FDIM Project proposal by the Midcontinent
16 Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO), in April 2024, ATXI conducted a series of public
17 information meetings for both the FDIM and MMRX portions of Phase 1.¹ ATXI provided the
18 public with both in-person, virtual, and other engagement opportunities to learn more about the
19 Phase 1 Projects and provide input on the Projects' Study Areas² and Route Corridors. To ensure

¹ Because of the MISO application process, this was the first opportunity ATXI had to present all of Phase 1 to the public and receive their input.

² The Study Areas are described in the direct testimony of ATXI witness Mr. James Nicholas.

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1 robust participation, those opportunities included: (1) two in-person open houses, one in the
2 morning and one in the evening, for the counties affected by the Phase 1 Projects; (2) a website
3 dedicated to the Program as a whole; (3) a self-paced, self-guided virtual open house with an
4 interactive mapping tool, parcel maps and county level maps, and a comment feature; and (4) other
5 ways to learn about and provide feedback on the Projects and connect with the Public Engagement
6 Team. I explain each public engagement opportunity further below.

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

8 A. The objectives of the first phase of the public engagement process were several.
9 The Public Engagement Team sought to introduce the Phase 1 Projects to the public, explain the
10 need for the Projects and their benefits, explain the routing, and begin to collect public input on
11 the Phase 1 Projects' Study Areas and Route Corridors.

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

14 A. Yes. The intent of the multi-faceted public outreach approach itself is to provide
15 ample opportunities for engagement with the broadest and largest group by accommodating
16 diverse schedules and engagement preferences. ATXI encouraged robust participation by, among
17 other means, providing early notice of the various engagement opportunities through a variety of
18 communication channels, including advertisements in local newspapers, direct notices to
19 stakeholders and landowners within the Study Areas, and posts on the Project website, as I explain
20 further below.

1 **A. In Person Public Engagement: Open Houses**

2 **Q. What public meetings did ATXI host for the Phase 1 Projects?**

3 A. ATXI's public outreach efforts included multiple opportunities for the public in
4 each county within the Phase 1 Projects' Study Areas to attend an in-person public open house
5 meeting. A series of meetings was hosted during April 2024. The meetings were held with two
6 sessions per meeting: one in the morning / afternoon from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM, and one in the
7 evening from 5:00 PM-7:00 PM:

8 • Fairport-Denny-Iowa/Missouri border open houses:

9 ○ Worth County: Tuesday, April 9, 2024

10 ○ Gentry County: Wednesday, April 10, 2024

11 ○ DeKalb County: Thursday, April 11, 2024

12 • Maywood-Mississippi River open houses:

13 ○ Marion County: Tuesday, April 16, 2024

14 **Q. Who was invited to the April 2024 public meetings?**

15 A. ATXI sought to invite all potentially affected landowners and other stakeholders by
16 mailing invitation postcards and a map of the Study Area to landowners within the Study Area,
17 according to tax records. The Public Engagement Team identified potentially affected landowners
18 via tax parcel information obtained in March of 2024 for the FDIM and
19 MMRX Projects. ATXI then mailed invitations to over 232 landowners and 119 stakeholders within
20 the Study Areas in March 2024, based on the open houses schedule. The Engagement Summary
21 attached as Schedule LD-D1 includes a total count of landowners by county who were mailed this
22 invitation as well as an exemplar invitation. Email invitations were also sent to over

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1 119 stakeholders notifying them of the upcoming in-person open houses and online engagement
2 opportunities. In some cases, the U.S. Postal Service returned an invitation as undeliverable. When
3 that happened, if possible, ATXI obtained the correct mailing address, attempted again to send the
4 invitation, and updated the mailing list for future notifications. The Engagement Summary
5 attached as Schedule LD-D1 contains examples of all these notifications. Additionally, as I explain
6 below, the Public Engagement Team on behalf of ATXI launched a website for the Phase 1 Projects
7 on March 22, 2024 at Ameren.com/NorthernMoGrid. The site provided notice of the public open
8 house meetings and served as yet another means to inform the public of the many opportunities to
9 engage with ATXI representatives and provide feedback regarding the Phase 1 Projects. The team
10 included the Program website address in the mailed and newspaper notices of the meetings that I
11 mentioned.

12 **Q. Did ATXI provide any other notice of the April 2024 public meetings?**

13 A. Yes. ATXI also published general notice within the affected counties of the public
14 open house meetings in multiple local newspapers for two to three consecutive weeks, depending
15 on the publication schedules, prior to each of the meetings. In the case of the Marion County public
16 open houses, the ad ran additionally 2 times in the week prior to the open houses due to the
17 publication schedule. The Engagement Summary includes copies of the newspaper advertisement
18 and tear sheets. Additionally, the Public Engagement Team mailed a letter with information
19 regarding the Phase 1 Projects and the various public engagement opportunities available to each
20 affected county's clerk. The Engagement Summary also includes a copy of each such letter. In
21 addition, in March 2024, the team sent to over 73 local, state and federal officials as well as to the
22 Missouri Farm Bureau and local cooperatives a letter notifying those persons of upcoming

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1 engagement opportunities throughout the Phase 1 Projects' Study Areas. The letters attached a
2 Project overview map. Exemplars of these letters are also included in the Engagement Summary.

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

4 A. Yes. ATXI sent letters to Commission representatives inviting them to the April
5 2024 public meetings and providing other general information regarding the Projects, such as an
6 overview map.

7 **Q. How many people attended the April 2024 public open house meetings?**

8 A. In total, 97 people attended the April 2024 public open house meetings, per sign-in
9 sheets available at each meeting. The Engagement Summary includes a breakdown of attendance
10 information at each meeting.

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

12 A. The public was offered many ways to participate at the meetings. Attendees had the
13 opportunity to speak to individual members of the Public Engagement Team at various stations,
14 where information specific to certain Project-related topics was presented. The stations included:
15 Welcome/Registration table, About the Program, Program Need, Energy Reliability, Anticipated
16 Routing Schedule, Civil/Line/Structure Design, Environmental, Vegetation Management, Real
17 Estate, and Construction. The Engagement Summary includes exemplars of the banners and boards
18 that were presented at the public open houses. Attendees also could view their area of interest along
19 Route Corridors as displayed on large tabletop aerial maps and a large free-standing county map
20 at the meetings and could provide comments and feedback to the Public Engagement Team on
21 those maps. Interactive GIS mapping stations were also available to provide meeting attendees an

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1 opportunity to further examine their area of interest along the Phase 1 Projects' route. And
2 attendees could print and keep personalized maps to provide further comments via email, website,
3 or the hotline. The Public Engagement Team also actively solicited comments from meeting
4 attendees. The team collected responses during the meetings or asked that they be emailed or
5 mailed to the team afterwards, at the attendee's option. The Public Engagement Team presented
6 the same types of information and opportunities to engage at each public open house meeting, with
7 no formal, scheduled presentation, and participants could come and go as they pleased during each
8 meeting's two-hour window.

9 **Q. What input was received from the public meeting attendees?**

10 A. The Public Engagement Team received over 30 formal comments during or mailed
11 after the April 2024 public open house meetings. Most comments were provided at the GIS
12 mapping stations and tabletop maps during the meetings. Common comment categories included
13 utility corridors, residential development areas, future land use, structures, and impacts to specific
14 property.

15 **Q. Did that input inform the routing process?**

16 A. Yes. The input was used as part of the integrated public outreach and routing
17 process, as further described in the direct testimony of ATXI witness Mr. James Nicholas.
18 Comments received at the April 2024 meetings and through other communications around that
19 time were collected, reviewed, and considered to microsite along the proposed route.

B. Online Public Engagement: Program Web Site

Q. You mentioned that ATXI established a website for the Northern Missouri Grid Transformation Program. When did that site go live?

A. The dedicated website for the Program, Ameren.com/NorthernMoGrid, went live on March 22, 2024.

Q. Is the site still active today?

A. Yes. ATXI intends to maintain the website until the construction of the Phase 1 Projects and other future projects associated with the Northern Missouri Grid Transformation Program are complete.

Q. What information was provided on the site during the public engagement process?

A. The Northern Missouri Grid Transformation Program website (“Program website”) provided general information about the Phase 1 Projects, including maps, graphics, explanatory text of the public involvement process, and milestones throughout the implementation of the Program. The Program website also allowed members of the public to submit a direct comment to the Public Engagement Team and join the Program email or mailing list through digital submission forms. Additionally, the website provided the team’s contact information, to provide community members and landowners the opportunity to discuss the Projects through a hotline and email correspondence. And, as I’ve explained, it provided notice of the public open house meetings as well as a link to the self-guided virtual site and interactive mapping tool, which I explain below. Below are several screenshots illustrating the Program website’s digital comment submission form

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- 1 page during ATXI's public engagement process and the types of other information available on the
- 2 website:

 RESIDENTIAL BUSINESS OUR COMPANY

Search

OUTAGES SUPPORT ACCOUNT

< Back to Transmission

Northern Missouri Grid Transformation Program

Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois (ATXI), Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission (MJMEUC) and Ameren Missouri are working together to build a more reliable and resilient energy grid for the future.

The Northern Missouri Grid Transformation Program includes approximately 53 miles of new transmission lines across northern Missouri. It also includes building a new substation and upgrades to existing substations. The program includes two projects: one in Worth, Gentry, and DeKalb counties and a second in Marion County.

Just as additional roads need to be built or expanded over time, the program will prepare the grid for the future by adding transmission capacity. The program will also ensure energy reliability and resiliency while promoting greater access to energy sources for Northern Missouri communities and the region.



Program Benefits

- Increasing transmission capacity to meet changing energy needs.
- Supporting lower energy supply costs.
- Improving energy reliability for the surrounding region and local communities.
- Promoting access to diverse energy sources.

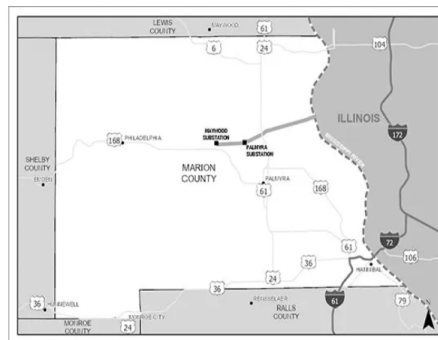
11

3



Fairport-Denny-Iowa/Missouri Border Project (FDIM)

The Fairport-Denny-Iowa/Missouri border (FDIM) Project includes the construction of approximately 44 miles of 345-kV transmission lines and a new 345-kV substation. The proposed FDIM project will route through DeKalb, Gentry and Worth counties and will include two transmission line segments. The first new 345-kV transmission line segment will connect Associated Electric Cooperative Incorporated's (AECI) existing Fairport substation in DeKalb County to ATXI's new Denny substation approximately one mile away, also in DeKalb County. The second new 345-kV transmission line segment will



Maywood-Mississippi River Crossing Project (MMRX)

The Maywood-Mississippi River Crossing (MMRX) Project includes the construction of approximately nine miles of 345-kV transmission line from ATXI's existing Maywood substation near Palmyra, Missouri across the Mississippi River to Illinois. Approximately eight miles of the project will be rebuilt along existing corridors and co-located with Ameren Missouri's existing 161-kV transmission line. The project includes upgrades to the Maywood substation.

4

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Stakeholder and Public Involvement

The program team is planning robust stakeholder and community engagement opportunities as we prepare to apply for a CCN from the MoPSC. Community leaders and members of the public are encouraged to get involved in several ways throughout the routing process, including attending in-person public meetings and visiting our online engagement opportunities.

Project/County Name	Meeting Date	Meeting Times	Meeting Location
FDIM: Worth County	Tuesday, April 9	11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 5 - 7 p.m.	Grant City Golf Clubhouse 409 East 1st Street Grant City, Missouri 64456
FDIM: Gentry County	Wednesday, April 10	11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 5 - 7 p.m.	Discovery Center Auditorium 1109 South Birch Albany, Missouri 64402
FDIM: Dekalb County	Thursday, April 11	11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 5 - 7 p.m.	4H/Youth Building 225 MO-6 Maysville, Missouri 64469
MMRX: Marion County	Tuesday, April 16	11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 5 - 7 p.m.	American Legion 600 Short Street Palmyra, Missouri 63461

Visit our [online open house \(PDF\)](#) here.

How can I provide comments?



Environmental and Agency Coordination

Is the Program coordinating environmental planning with any agencies or organizations?



Will the Program impact birds?



Will the Program impact threatened or endangered species?



Let's talk

Leave Us a Message

Hotline: 1.833.799.1633

Email Us

connect@AmerenGridMO.com

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

A. Yes. Again, the Program website address was included in all mailings and newspaper notifications regarding the Phase 1 Projects so that landowners could continue to, via the website, review the Route Corridors and provide comments at their convenience on a desktop computer, tablet, or mobile smartphone.

1 **Q. Did the Public Engagement Team track visits to the Program website?**

2 A. Yes. From March 22 through June 1, 2024, the site’s main “Northern Missouri Grid
3 Transformation” page had nearly 814 pageviews. While our data here includes unique visitors
4 through June 1, 2024, the public may continue to visit the Program website and communicate to
5 the Public Engagement Team through the various channels provided.

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

7 A. Engagement via the website was observed at a rate of 59% (i.e., percent of unique
8 visitors who clicked on links of interest at the Program website). The links that were most often
9 clicked were FAQ questions, with “Where is the Program located?” having been clicked by
10 77 visitors. The next most-clicked link was for the FAQ “What is the Northern Missouri Grid
11 Transformation Project?” with 76 clicks by web site visitors. While the Program website
12 experienced an average of 13 pageviews per day, a spike in visitors occurred on April 9, the first
13 day of in person open houses for the Phase 1 Projects, with 75 visits that day.

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

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

17 A. The Public Engagement Team offered a self-paced, self-guided, virtual open house
18 that provided the same information made available at the in-person public open house meetings to
19 those members of the public who were unable to attend an in-person meeting or who preferred the
20 convenience of an at-home virtual experience. The virtual open house was available via a link on
21 the Program website from April 8, 2024 to April 26, 2024.

1 **Q. Why did ATXI offer a virtual engagement opportunity in addition to in-person**
2 **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
5 preferred by some landowners because of the convenience of having a GIS-based interactive
6 mapping tool through their digital devices. Virtual engagement also allows community members
7 to effectively go through the open house information on their own schedule, and to backtrack or
8 fast forward through the information as they wish. Thus, virtual engagement opportunities for the
9 Phase 1 Projects offered ATXI yet another channel to solicit and receive public input regarding the
10 Phase 1 Projects and ensure even more robust public participation, which only further enhanced
11 the Projects' routing analysis.

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

13 A. The self-paced, virtual open house launched on April 8, 2024. We collected data
14 regarding public interactions via the virtual open house through June 1, 2024, though the virtual
15 open house officially closed on April 26, 2024.

16 **Q. How did the virtual open housework during April 2024?**

17 A. The virtual open house provided visitors the opportunity to step through a series of
18 informational sections. Those sections included an overview of the Phase 1 Projects with a link to
19 a video about the Projects, a Study Area map, information regarding reliability and the need for
20 the Projects, an anticipated regulatory approval and construction schedule, information regarding
21 structure designs, and information regarding the anticipated construction and routing processes, as
22 well as real estate impact information and agency and environmental coordination information.

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County-specific information was also provided on the virtual site, including county-specific or segment-specific structure snapshot images. The virtual open house also provided opportunities for visitors to connect with the Public Engagement Team via email, hotline, an interactive GIS map, and the Program website. The interactive map also provided visitors the additional ability to leave detailed comments, with pins on a map, concerning perceived Opportunities and Sensitivities along the Project's Route Corridors. A copy of the online open house PDF can be found in the Engagement Summary. Below are screenshots that illustrate the interactive GIS map and comment feature that were available through the virtual open house:



Thank you for your interest in the Northern Missouri Grid Transformation Program.

We value your input during this routing process. Please explore the interactive map to learn more. The program includes two projects, one in Worth, Gentry and DeKalb counties and a second in Marion County.

The interactive map will be open for comments and feedback from April 8 - April 26.

Please submit questions or comments through the general comment form on this webpage. You can also sign up for the project newsletter to stay up to date on the latest developments. To speak to a representative, call the dedicated project hotline: 1.833.799.1633. If you leave a message, our team will return your call. You can also send us an email at connect@AmerenGridMO.com.

Explore the Map

DISCLAIMER: The information provided on this map is for discussion purposes only. Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois (ATXI), Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission (MJMEUC) and Ameren Missouri are not bound in any way to the representations reflected on this map. This map does not represent a final determination by ATXI, MJMEUC and Ameren Missouri as to route selection, and Ameren ATXI, MJMEUC and Ameren Missouri are not restricted or barred from modifying or deviating from the routes proposed, or considering new or different routes. Missouri Public Service Commission (MoPSC) Staff or other parties may also propose new or modified routes. All routes are subject to change pending MoPSC approval.

Submit a Comment

Do you have a question or comment?
Let us know!

First Name

Last Name*

Email*

County*

#Please select-

Street Address



☐ Hunting/Fishing

☐ Information Request

☐ Land Use

☐ Mailing List Request

☐ Map Request

☐ Materials Request

☐ Meeting Request

☐ MISO

Do you have a question or comment?
Let us know!



Submit a Comment

Do you have a question or comment?
Let us know!

☐ Property Damage

☐ Property Values

☐ Proximity to Homes

☐ Recreation

☐ Renewable Energy

☐ Restoration

☐ Right-of-Way



Do you have a question or comment?
Let us know!

☐ Vendor

☐ Visual Impacts

☐ Wetlands and Water Resources

☐ Wildlife

Comments*

Please complete the CAPTCHA below to submit the survey.



Mailing list

Join our mailing list to receive periodic communications about the project.

First Name

Last Name*

Email*

County*

Please select.

Please complete the CAPTCHA below to submit the survey.

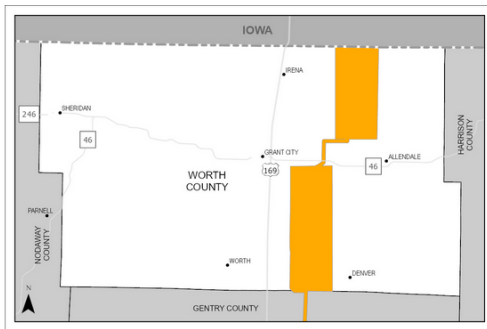
16

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Worth County

Overview

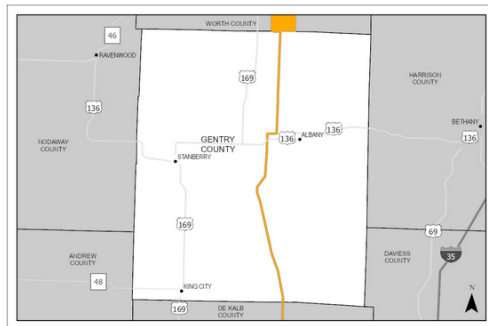
Worth County: The Fairport-Denny-Iowa/Missouri border (FDIM) Project includes a new 345 kV substation and the construction of approximately 44 miles of new 345 kV transmission lines. This includes 15 miles of new transmission line in Worth County.



Gentry County

Overview

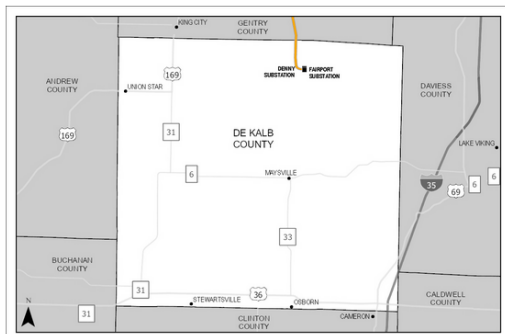
Gentry County: The FDMI Project includes a new 345 kV substation and the construction of approximately 44 miles of new 345 kV transmission lines. This includes 27 miles of new transmission line in Gentry County.



DeKalb County

Overview

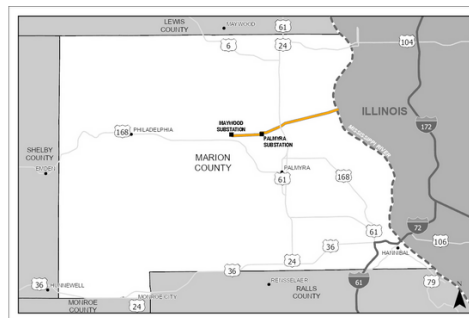
DeKalb County: The FDMI Project includes two miles of new transmission line and a new 345 kV substation in DeKalb County. The project will connect the existing Fairport substation to ATXI's new Denny substation approximately one mile away.



Marion County

Overview

Marion County: The MMRX Project includes 9 miles of transmission line from ATXI's existing substation near Palmyra across the Mississippi River to Illinois. Approximately 8 miles will be rebuilt double circuit facilities, and the remaining mile will be co-located along existing utility corridors.



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

A. Yes. Again, the Program website address was included in all mailings and newspaper notifications regarding the Phase 1 Projects, and the virtual open house was available

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1 via a link on the Program website. In addition, community members were encouraged at the open
2 houses to use the site at their convenience to provide comments during the comment period.

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

5 A. Yes. According to the Public Engagement Team's online engagement statistics
6 report, there were over 360 users on the virtual site from April 8, 2024 through June 1, 2024.
7 Additionally, the PDF for the virtual open house presentation remains available at the Program
8 website and has been clicked on 55 times during this time period.

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

11 A. Yes. ATXI received 2 comments via the virtual open house during the public
12 engagement process.

13 **Q. What sorts of comments were received via the virtual open house?**

14 A. The comments were related to electric distribution service and the Projects'
15 necessity.

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

17 A. Yes. Again, they were considered as part of the public engagement and routing
18 processes that I described above. The route selection process is further described in the direct
19 testimony of ATXI witness Mr. James Nicholas. For example, comments from residents in Dekalb,
20 Gentry and Worth counties were generally favorable to the FDIM Project. There were a few

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1 comments received which were negative, but those seem to be very isolated to a limited number
2 of landowners.

3 **D. Other Public Engagement Opportunities**

4 **Q. What other engagement opportunities did ATXI offer the public during their**
5 **public engagement process?**

6 A. There were several. In addition to the engagement opportunities that I described
7 above, alternative means of public participation were encouraged. For example, ATXI invited the
8 public to provide input on the Projects by calling a dedicated hotline, 1.833.799.1633, emailing
9 the Public Engagement Team at connect @AmerenGridMO.com, or mailing the team at
10 107 N. Main Street, Suite 3B, Columbia, IL 62236.

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

12 A. The Public Engagement Team received 9 hotline calls, 11 emails, and no mailings
13 during the public engagement process. While the data provided in my testimony is limited to that
14 received through June 1, 2024, the Program website remains available and the public is able to
15 continue to provide comment through these channels that we regularly monitor.

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

17 A. Along with general information inquiries, common comment categories during the
18 public engagement included agricultural impact of structures and location of infrastructure.

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

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

1 **E. Notice to Directly Affected Landowners**

2 **Q. Will any landowners be directly affected by the Phase 1 Projects?**

3 A. Yes, based on the Proposed Route (there is no known alternative route or location
4 of the proposed facilities) the Phase 1 Projects directly affect, in total, 128 unique landowners,
5 who own a total of 192 distinct parcels. It is my understanding that, under Commission Rule 4240-
6 20.045(6)(K)(1), “land is directly affected if a permanent easement or other permanent property
7 interest would be obtained over all or any portion of the land or if the land contains a habitable
8 structure that would be within three hundred (300) feet of the centerline of an electric transmission
9 line.” The directly affected landowner and parcel counts I referenced include all land and
10 landowners required by the Commission’s Rule and also include landowners with land within three
11 hundred (300) feet of the centerline of an electric transmission line.

12 **Q. Has ATXI notified the landowners directly affected by the Phase 1 Projects of**
13 **ATXI’s application in this proceeding?**

14 A. Yes. ATXI sent notice to landowners affected by the Projects Proposed Route on
15 July 5, 2024. ATXI’s verification of landowner notice of the application required by Commission
16 Rule 4240-20.045(6)(K)(1) is included as Appendix D to its Application, including a confidential
17 list of affected landowners within 300 feet on each side of the centerline (or a 600-foot wide total
18 notice corridor). A copy of the letter that ATXI sent to each directly affected landowner as notice
19 of its application is provided as Schedule LD-D3 to my testimony.

1 **IV. REGULATORY AGENCY COORDINATION**

2 **Q. Please summarize the ATXI's regulatory approval and agency coordination**
3 **efforts.**

4 A. Agency coordination meetings were offered on June 18 and June 20, 2024, to
5 maximize agency participation and input. Agency representatives were also invited to attend the
6 April in-person public open house meetings and the virtual engagement. Seven of 32 invitees
7 RSVPed and attended the June 18 meeting. Another invitee, a coworker of a June 18 attendee,
8 RSVP'd for the June 20 meeting, but decided against attending and would be briefed by the
9 coworker. As no other invitee RSVP'd to attend the June 20 meeting, it did not occur. Ameren
10 Schedule LD-D1 includes an exemplar copy of the "FDIM/MMRX Overview, and Agency
11 Coordination Virtual Meeting" (via Microsoft Teams) invitations and meetings presentation slides.
12 The June 2024 meeting included routing information for the benefit of Missouri agency
13 representatives. Ameren Schedule LD-D1 also includes a table of agency representatives invited
14 to those meetings and attendees of the June 18th meeting. Ameren Schedule LD-D1 includes a copy
15 of the invitations sent to agency representatives to the in-person public open house meetings and
16 online engagement opportunities.

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

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

1 **Q. Will ATXI need to obtain permits or approvals from any additional regulatory**
2 **agencies to construct the Projects?**

3 A. Yes. The location of the Commission approved route for the Phase 1 Projects’
4 transmission lines will determine whether other regulatory permits or approvals are required. ATXI
5 will obtain all other necessary permits or approvals as required. It is anticipated that at a minimum,
6 a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit will be required and obtained
7 from MoDNR. In compliance with the NPDES permit, ATXI will develop an erosion and sediment
8 control plan to protect water features crossed by or adjacent to the Commission approved route for
9 the Project. This permitting effort will also require project effects concurrences from the MoDNR
10 and SHPO. As part of the NPDES permit, ATXI will also consult the MoDNR to determine
11 potential effects to state listed species. They will also consult with the SHPO to confirm the
12 presence or likely absence of cultural and/or historic resources along the Commission approved
13 route and potential effects to such resources. Further, after the Commission approved route is
14 identified and access locations are known, ATXI will perform ground-level environmental surveys
15 and assess possible Project impacts to potential waters of the U.S. to determine the need to submit
16 a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit pre-construction notification for permit verification and
17 approval by the USACE. Such permitting will require coordination with MoDNR Office of Water
18 Resources, USFWS, SHPO, and potentially applicable tribal historic preservation offices. ATXI
19 will also coordinate with county commissioners to obtain local assents, permits and approvals as
20 necessary.

1

V. CONCLUSION

2

Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?

3

A. Yes.