

Dannie Malone, Jerseyville, IL.

My name is Dannie Malone, I am now 87 years old and have owned the property I live on since 1968. I worked hard to earn a living, I worked for 38 years at Olin Corporation in East Alton, IL. After buying my property, while working my full-time job; I also farmed the ground I lived on and raised hogs for many years. Currently I have a herd of approximately 30 beef cattle that graze on my ground that I converted to pasture around 30 years ago.

Over the years I have had utility companies (Water & Telephone) come through my property and even had the county construct a highway that required me to lose 6+acres of land on the west side of my property. I was never treated rudely or felt taken advantage of, like I have during these last 6 years dealing with Spire Energy. In 2016 a representative from the Spire Energy Company, Duane Kinnett, approached me and told me they were going to install a natural gas pipeline in the area and that it was going through the middle of my property. I said I didn't want it in the middle but didn't mind if it was on the east side of the property. A short while later he approached me and said they were coming through my property and offered compensation for the easement. He said if I didn't agree to the offer and sign the papers that they would be forced to impose eminent domain. Then he said the construction would be done by November of 2018. I refused to sign the papers and didn't really like the bullying pressure I felt. The compensation Spire was offering did not seem like it was going to be adequate for what I figured the cost was going to be to restore my pasture. After refusing 3 offers I was greeted in my driveway from an old man in a beat-up old car who served me papers of eminent domain. The ground I owned for fifty years was no longer mine. The courts ruled in Spire's favor and I was at their whims. Construction started March of 2019, 5 months after Spire claimed the construction would be completed.

Today is January 6th, 2022, and the easement is still very poorly vegetated and very muddy. It is easily visible on google earth; it is the dark strip through the middle of my pasture. The damage is not easily seen in crop ground where the soil is tilled, and crop debris is covering the soil, but on my pasture ground, it is very visible. There is a 2 to 3 inch elevation drop from the natural undisturbed pasture down to the easement, which is a sign of major compaction. The hills on the north and south of my property are still poorly vegetated and the potential for erosion has barely been mitigated. It is still a work in progress, Spire sent crews out this fall to try again. They worked extensively on the north end of the property, where it is visible from the road, but the south hillside has very little vegetation and has some mud sliding on the north and east side of the hill. On the eastern side of the south hillside, soil slid from outside the easement onto the easement due to lack of vegetation holding the soil back. They dumped rip rap down the slide and called it good. The environmental representative FERC sent out seen it and heard the snide comment from the construction representative from Spire, who suggested that the problem wasn't even on the easement, which we responded by saying "exactly". Their remediation was so bad that the ground outside the easement slid onto the easement.

I have felt bullied, belittled, lied to, and cheated. I never wanted this project to come through the middle of my property. I never wanted the hassle of dealing with a company who lies, bullies and cheats, they came to me and said I had to have it. They stripped my 5th Amendment rights from me by getting the courts to side with them with the eminent domain clause, which, from the recent articles in the St. Louis Post Dispatch, it sounds like they lied, cheated, and bullied to get FERC's initial approval for their original construction permit. Which in that case I think the whole project is considered false? I have read the letter from Spire INC. to FERC, dated March 23, 2018, pleading for FERC to hurry up and saying Spire had done all FERC required of them and that if FERC didn't hurry up Spire customers were going to get punished by higher prices. Well guess what happened, Spire INC. ruined near 4 acres of my ground by mixing topsoil with sub-soil and major compaction, they have not restored the pasture to an acceptable condition, and there has been no compensation for the damages. The 5th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, states that no persons property shall be taken for public use unless due compensation has been made. The compensation that has been offered is 5 times less than the estimates we have received to restore the property. Spire customers have seen a spike in their utility bills and the area in which they operate has not seen an increase in population that would warrant the need for more natural gas into the area, but the population has decreased. There were never any gas shortages and the Spire holding tanks were at or near 90% capacity all year before the Spire STL pipeline was constructed. Now Spire INC. has monopolized natural gas for the people of St. Louis by becoming the provider and the distributor. I hope the information I have sent to you will help in deciding to side with the court and revoke The Spire STL certificate of public convenience and necessity. I read Spire's google reviews from their customers today and it seems they treat everyone the same, bully, lie, cheat, and steal.

Sincerely

Dannie Malone

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