

Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois's
Response to MPSC Data Request

In the Matter of the Application of Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois for Other
Relief or, in the Alternative, a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity
Authorizing it to Construct, Install, Own, Operate, Maintain and Otherwise Control and
Manage a 345,000-volt Electric Transmission Line from Palmyra, Missouri, to the Iowa
Border and an Associated Substation Near Kirksville, Missouri.
Data Request

Data Request No.: MPSC 0016 - Michael Stahlman

Please describe the work ATXI or any of its affiliates has performed to identify the location of Amish and Mennonite communities. Please describe the outreach of ATXI or any of its affiliates to the Amish and Mennonite communities. DR Michael Stahlman (Michael.Stahlman@psc.mo.gov).

RESPONSE

Prepared By: Chris Wood
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Date: July 20, 2015

The work that ATXI and its affiliates performed to identify the location of Amish and Mennonite communities and the outreach performed by ATXI and its affiliates to the Amish and Mennonite communities focused on public open houses and community representative forums. These meetings are designed to encourage public participation in the process, provide opportunities for stakeholders to ask questions, as well as provide information on the resources in the project area and issues and concerns of stakeholders, unique communities, and special interest groups, such as Amish and Mennonite communities. These communities are just one type of resource that public open houses are designed to identify and engage in the process. For these public open houses, ATXI and its affiliates sent public open house invitation letters to all landowners within 2,500 feet of all initially proposed route options for the preliminary route network phase. These invitation letters were sent to 1,837 landowners on July 14, 2014. The public open houses were held throughout the project area in Kirksville, Newark, and Palmyra, Missouri on August 5, 6, and 7, 2014. Additional measures to invite stakeholders to participate in the public outreach process included notifying the general public of the public open houses through posters in public locations including city halls, town halls, post offices, chambers of commerce, banks, retail stores, restaurants, and libraries

throughout the project area and newspaper advertisements in local newspapers. Press releases and media kits were also delivered to local news media. In addition to the public open houses, community representative forums were held for community leaders and representatives to learn about the project and participate by giving feedback on the route options, resources in the area, and potential issues and concerns of area citizens and landowners. This was also utilized as a time for participants to notify the Project Team of any constraints or opportunities regarding the study area and the proposed route options. Invitation letters were sent to invitees on July 3, 2014. These forums were held the morning of each of the public open houses at the same locations with the same materials provided at the public open houses.

Opportunities for landowners and other stakeholders to provide input were made available through computer stations at the public open houses, where an Amish community near Kirksville, Missouri was identified and captured within the GIS database. Additional opportunities for input included paper questionnaires, online questionnaires, project website, project hotline, project email address, and a mailing address for post mail in order to reach a variety of stakeholders with unique situations. For the reduced route network phase, ATXI and its affiliates once again sent invitation letters to all of the landowners within 2,500 feet of the originally proposed route options, as well as additional stakeholders who were not located within that distance but asked to be added to the mailing list. A total of 1,894 letter invitations were sent on October 6, 2014. Letter recipients were notified in the letter of the reduced route network and were invited to a second round of public open houses to get their feedback about the remaining route options. The public open houses were once again held within the project area in Palmyra, Newark, and Kirksville, Missouri on October 28, 29, and 30th, 2014. A second round of community representative forums were held over lunch, prior to each of public open houses. Additional measures to invite stakeholders to participate in the public outreach process included notifying the general public of the public open houses through posters in public locations including city halls, town halls, post offices, chambers of commerce, banks, retail stores, restaurants, and libraries throughout the remaining route network area, and newspaper advertisements in local newspapers. Press releases and media kits were also delivered to local news media. Public meeting materials were also available at local libraries for stakeholders that were unable to attend the public meetings or did not have internet access.

Opportunities for landowners and other stakeholders to provide input were made available through computer stations at the public open houses, where other Amish communities near Greentop and Queen City, Missouri were identified and captured within the GIS database. Additional opportunities for input included paper questionnaires, online questionnaires, project website, project hotline, project email address, and a mailing address for post mail in order to once again reach a variety of stakeholders understanding that some may have unique situations.

Additional specific outreach to the Amish and Mennonite communities is as follows:

1. August 5, 2014- Clemens Borntrager attended the Kirksville public open house and marked an Amish school on his property in the GIS computer stations.

2. August 5, 2014- Menno Borntrager attended the Kirksville public open house and marked an Amish school on his property near the northern route.
3. October 30, 2014- Clemens Borntrager attended the Kirksville public open house and marked some additional barns and concerns on his property (part of the Amish community) in the GIS computer stations.
4. October 30, 2014- Jason Haxton attended and brought Bishop David Schwartz (a leader in the Amish community) to the public open house in Kirksville and sat down and spoke with Peggy Ladd. Jason referred to himself as the “Amish Helper”. Ms. Ladd noted that we needed to determine the best way to have a conversation with the Amish and denote Amish lands.
5. November 11, 2014- Jason Hunsicker called Peggy Ladd of ATXI saying that he had been speaking with some Amish in the area and he had some questions about the project for her. Ms. Ladd returned Jason’s call and talked about outreach to the Amish and Mennonite communities. She explained that we would continue outreach to those communities in the near future.
6. November 11, 2014- Peggy Ladd of ATXI visited the home of Bishop Laverne Schmucker (a leader in the Amish community), and met with the Bishop and his wife of the Amish community in Greentop, Missouri, to discuss the project. Ms. Ladd offered to speak to his congregation should they make a request. No request was received.
7. November 12, 2014- Peggy Ladd of ATXI spoke with Jason Haxton on the phone discussing the need to talk with the Amish/Mennonite community.
8. December 11, 2014- Peggy Ladd of ATXI called Josh Hurlbert, field representative of Congressman Sam Graves’ office and asked if they have a way of identifying locations of Amish properties. Mr. Hurlbert said they have no way of tracking the Amish because they do not vote and the government does not maintain the religious affiliations of persons.
9. December 11, 2014- Peggy Ladd of ATXI met with Bishop David Schwartz of Queen City, Missouri to discuss the project and to answer any questions for the Amish community. Bishop Schwartz stated that the parishioners hadn’t requested any meetings about the project. Ms. Ladd offered to meet with any member of his congregation if a member requested a meeting. No requests were received.
10. December 11, 2014- Peggy Ladd of ATXI met with Jonas Schwartz (a member of the Amish community) to discuss the project and to gather his concerns regarding the route nearest his property.
11. February 10, 2015- Peggy Ladd of ATXI met with Bishop David Schwartz (a leader in the Amish community) and his son, Jonas, about the project again and showed them the selected route. They had no additional questions.