

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING

In the Matter of the)
Application of Ameren)
Transmission Company of)
Illinois of Convenience)
and Necessity under) File No. EA-2025-0087
Section 393.170.1, RSMo,)
Relating to Transmission)
Investments in North Central)
Missouri)

April 23, 2025
12:00 p.m.

Jefferson City
via WebEx

VOLUME 1

KEN SEYER, PRESIDING
REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

KAYLA HAHN, Chair
MAIDA J. COLEMAN,
GLEN KOLKMEYER,
JOHN MITCHELL,
COMMISSIONERS

Reported by:
Colin Wallis, Lexitas Legal, St. Louis, MO 63101

* * * * *

(Starting time of the hearing: 1:05 p.m.)

REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: Let's go on the record. Today's April 23, 2025. The time is 1:05 p.m. Before we go any further, I'd ask that everyone make sure that their device is on mute until I call on you to speak. If you're using a landline or a landline phone or an older cell phone without a mute button, star six will mute and unmute your phone. My name is Ken Seyer. I am a regulatory law judge with the Missouri Public Service Commission, and I will preside over this hearing.

The Commission has set this time for a local public hearing to give members of the public a chance to comment about the application of Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois, also known as ATXI, for a certificate of convenience and necessity relating to transmission investments in North Central Missouri, which is Commission File Number EA-2025-0087.

The Commission regulates the rates charged by public-utility companies in Missouri to ensure that those rates are just and

1 reasonable. The Commission also regulates the
2 quality of service and safety of the operations
3 of public utilities. The Commission has five
4 commissioners, although there is currently a
5 vacancy.

6 They are appointed by the governor and
7 confirmed by the Missouri Senate. The
8 commission employs a staff of engineers,
9 accountants, attorneys, financial analysts and
10 other specialists in the field of utility
11 regulation. Joining us online are Chair Kayla
12 Hahn and Commissioners Maida Coleman, Glenn
13 Kolkmeier and John Mitchell. The Commissioners
14 have not made any decision in this case and
15 cannot answer any questions today because they
16 have to remain impartial until after all the
17 evidence is presented at the evidentiary
18 hearing in this matter.

19 At this time, Chair Hahn, would you like
20 to make opening remarks?

21 CHAIR HAHN: Yes, thanks, Judge Seyer,
22 appreciate it. Thank you all for being with us
23 this afternoon. We appreciate the time you
24 have taken to give us your input on this
25 particular case. We are, you know, undergoing

1 a series of local public hearings to try to
2 understand -- better understand the issues from
3 your perspective, so we can make a really good
4 decision in this case. We do take all the
5 feedback that you give us to heart when we're
6 evaluating the case, and we're very thankful
7 that you're here and spending your afternoon to
8 inform us. I'm very thankful to be joined by
9 all Commissioners online: Commissioner Coleman,
10 Commissioner Kolkmeier and Commissioner
11 Mitchell. So, we'll be listening intently, and
12 we look forward to hearing your comments.
13 Thank you.

14 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: Thank you,
15 Chair Hahn. There are attorneys here today
16 representing the various parties in this
17 matter. So, for the record, would each of you
18 identify yourselves and state which party
19 you're representing, beginning with Ameren
20 Transmission Company of Illinois?

21 MR. FOSCO: Thank you, your Honor. This
22 is Carmen Fosco with Whitt Sturtevant, LLP, and
23 also with me is Jason Kumar with Ameren
24 Services Company. We're here on behalf of
25 Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois. Also

1 here is Mr. Morris on behalf of Ameren.

2 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: All right.

3 On behalf of the commission staff.

4 MS. HANSEN: Thank you, Judge. My name is
5 Andrea Hansen. I'm an attorney for the PSC
6 counsel's office, the Public Service
7 Commission. Also today -- or also here today
8 is Mr. Travis Pringle, another attorney on this
9 case, and we also have technical staff here
10 today as well.

11 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: All right.
12 Thank you. For the Office of the Public
13 Counsel.

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Nathan Williams appearing
15 on behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel.

16 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: All right,
17 thank you. Is there anyone online for the
18 Clean Grid Alliance? All right. For
19 Midcontinent Independent System Operator?
20 Missouri Electric Commission? Renew Missouri?
21 Sierra Club? Okay. Hearing none --

22 MR. HEALEY: Judge?

23 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: Oh, I'm
24 sorry, go ahead.

25 MR. HEALEY: This is Doug Healey from the

1 Missouri Electric Commission. I didn't get my
2 unmute button completed in time.

3 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: Got you. All
4 right. And, again, for the sake of the court
5 reporter, you're with the Missouri Electric
6 Commission, correct?

7 MR. HEALEY: Yes. Our mailing address is
8 as filed with EFIS.

9 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: Okay. All
10 right, the way we'll proceed today for this
11 portion of the hearing will be to call the
12 names of the people who have indicated they'd
13 like to testify today. When I call your name,
14 please unmute your device, and I will place you
15 under oath, ask you to state -- state and spell
16 your name, and then you can offer your comments
17 to the Commission. Once you finish your
18 comments, please remain online in case there
19 are questions from commissioners or the
20 attorneys for the parties. The first name I
21 have on my list is Heather Haase. Ms. Haase,
22 are you there?

23 MS. HAASE: Yeah, thank you very much, I
24 appreciate it.

25 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: All right.

1 MS. HAASE: So --

2 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: Well, again,
3 before you continue, I'd like to place you
4 under oath if that's all right.

5 MS. HAASE: Yes, sir.

6 (Heather Haase sworn.)

7 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: All right, go
8 ahead, thank you.

9 MS. HAASE: So, in 1952, my
10 great-grandmother acquired our farm. You have
11 to excuse me, it's a little touchy. She
12 acquired our farm, and my grandparents built
13 their first house there. Currently, I share a
14 driveway with my parents there, which is
15 wonderful as they grow old. I may well take
16 care of them or so I had thought. Four years
17 ago, in this fight against ATXI, they used
18 eminent domain to take a 150-foot easement
19 diagonally through our property. We have
20 27 acres. So, when you split it corner to
21 corner in half, it doesn't leave much to do
22 because you can't build underneath that line.

23 Now, ATXI has wanted to use eminent domain
24 to expand their easement for the placement of
25 their second line, which is going to require

1 the demolition of my grandparents' first home.
2 Sorry. We are a fourth generation there on the
3 farm, and the fifth generation currently is
4 living on the property as well. The placement
5 of this line will cause a major change to our
6 quality of life and the way we live out our
7 day-to-day. Also, we're seeing an influx of
8 the solar and the wind companies coming to hook
9 onto this line, so not only are we being forced
10 to have this line going diagonally throughout
11 our property, but we're also being surrounded
12 now by solar panels, which are coming and more
13 and more.

14 Ameren is a for-profit private utility
15 company that has been given public utility
16 status. It's obvious this project is a
17 for-profit project with very little benefit to
18 our direct area. How it is that an
19 out-of-state private electrical company, with a
20 branch titled Ameren Transmission of Illinois,
21 is being allowed to utilize eminent domain to
22 acquire Missouri land for a project that sends
23 the power out of the area, and that they are
24 saying it is for transmission investment, it
25 doesn't seem like this is for the public good

1 of Missouri, but rather for the public -- for
2 the good of Ameren and its shareholders. Thank
3 you very much for your time. I apologize about
4 being emotional.

5 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: Not a
6 problem, thank you, Ms. Haase. Are there any
7 questions from the commissioners or the
8 attorneys for the parties? All right, again,
9 thank you, Ms. Haase, for your testimony.
10 There's an indication -- I've been given an
11 indication that there is a person with the
12 first name of Josh who would like to testify.
13 Is that person present?

14 MR. KLEINSCHMIT: Yes, your Honor.

15 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: All right.
16 Sir, if you would let me swear you in, please?

17 MR. KLEINSCHMIT: Yes.

18 (Josh Kleinschmit sworn.)

19 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: All right,
20 could you go ahead and state and spell your
21 name for the record?

22 MR. KLEINSCHMIT: My name is Josh
23 Kleinschmit, J-o-s-h, K-l-e-i-n-s-c-h-m-i-t.

24 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: So, c-h --

25 MR. KLEINSCHMIT: M-i-t.

1 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: Not d-t?

2 MR. KLEINSCHMIT: No d-t.

3 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: Okay, all
4 right. Go ahead.

5 MR. KLEINSCHMIT: What I would like to say
6 is Ameren or this company is out to take my
7 land and not even tell what portions of the
8 land they plan on stealing from my family for
9 every other generation to come. I'm honestly
10 at my regular job right now, my 9:00 to 5:00,
11 and I tried to do farming to keep the farming
12 generations alive. And as a part-time farmer,
13 the economy is hard and has been hard hit. And
14 they want to take this land and produce it for
15 generations to come and give me a one-time
16 payout, which does not seem fair, especially
17 considering the value of land will go down; our
18 son will not be able to build his house on the
19 land, and we have to fear -- we have the fear
20 of health consequences.

21 Of the acreage that I do own, I can sell
22 them the entire parcel, but they want to piece
23 it out for a one-time payment, and it will ruin
24 farming for generations to come. After all my
25 hard work, there's nothing left for my family

1 to take over. That's all I have.

2 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: Mr. Kleinschmidt,
3 what county is your land located in?

4 MR. KLEINSCHMIT: DeKalb.

5 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: DeKalb, okay.

6 Are there any questions for Mr. Kleinschmidt?

7 All right. And then Mr. Sullins, it's
8 indicated he'd like to testify. Are you there,
9 Mr. Sullins?

10 MR. SULLINS: I am.

11 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: All right,
12 Mr. Sullins, would you raise your right hand to
13 be sworn in?

14 (Bud Sullins sworn.)

15 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: Okay, go
16 ahead, Mr. Sullins.

17 MR. SULLINS: I -- my wife and I are
18 landowners in Sullivan County. While we
19 haven't owned that land but 18 years, we both
20 grew up in farming families in Missouri,
21 different locations. We love the land. And we
22 love the people that live on the farmland. I
23 was at the meeting last night, and I heard a
24 comment where a gentleman said that he thought
25 the poles, the lines that crossed, you know,

1 the property were ugly, and I agree, you know.
2 But there are a lot of things that come into
3 our lives that aren't pretty, but they're
4 necessary. I just want to say that I
5 personally support this project. I think that
6 while it may be painful, it will be beneficial
7 for the greater good of the people, you know,
8 not only in our county but in our state and the
9 country. That's all.

10 (Court reporter clarification.)

11 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: Mr. Sullins,
12 could you spell your name for the court
13 reporter?

14 MR. SULLINS: Yes, of course, it's Bud,
15 B-u-d. And Sullins, S as in Sam, u-l-l-i-n-s.

16 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: All right.
17 Are there any other questions for Mr. Sullins?
18 All right. Those are the only people that I
19 have been made aware of that indicated they
20 wish to testify. Is there anyone else online
21 who would like to testify?

22 MR. CLEAVER: Yes, I would like to
23 testify.

24 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: And you're
25 Mr. Cleaver?

1 MR. CLEAVER: Yes.

2 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: Mr. Cleaver,
3 I would like to swear you in, please.

4 (Lloyd Cleaver sworn.)

5 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: All right,
6 could you go ahead and state and spell your
7 name, please?

8 MR. CLEAVER: My name is Lloyd Cleaver,
9 L-l-o-y-d, C-l-e-a-v-e-r.

10 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: All right.
11 And, Mr. Cleaver, do you have land that's
12 affected by this project?

13 MR. CLEAVER: Yes, I have.

14 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: And what --

15 MR. CLEAVER: My land --

16 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: -- county is
17 that located?

18 MR. CLEAVER: That's in the Adair
19 County --

20 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: Adair.

21 MR. CLEAVER: -- and I have both -- both
22 power lines affect my land.

23 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: Okay.

24 MR. CLEAVER: They want to dissect my land
25 into quarters.

1 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: Got you. Go
2 ahead.

3 MR. CLEAVER: So, I spoke last night, and
4 there was a major thing that the Ameren staff
5 had directed me to report, and I have been in
6 constant contact with the land agent. I have
7 never personally met him. He has never come
8 out and walked on my land, but they want to put
9 a -- the denny (sic) to Zachary goes right
10 through the middle of my land. The other
11 Thomas Hill to Zachary goes through the other
12 middle of my land, so, they managed to cut my
13 land in four pieces. And it's going to destroy
14 my land. I have a grass runway there for my
15 flying, and it goes right through the middle of
16 that.

17 I, in multiple discussions, the land
18 agents said, well, we're looking at going north
19 through Thousand Hills State Park, and I also
20 suggested to him that if that didn't work,
21 there was a person I know who is well-known to
22 Ameren, who has land that she is happy to have
23 them to go through the top and the north
24 portion of her land. On Thursday, I was told
25 that it's going to be too much trouble to go

1 through Thousand Hills State Park, so that
2 they've abandoned that project.

3 You know, this is supposedly for the
4 public good. I sort of have some questions
5 about that, but if it's too much trouble,
6 they're going to destroy my property, it's not
7 too much trouble. They need to look at other
8 options and going through the state park if
9 this is for public good, this is in the south
10 portion of Thousand Hills State Park, this
11 isn't utilized. It's very difficult to get to.
12 Part of the park is used daily by thousands of
13 people, but this is in the very southern
14 portion of that park, where I -- other than to
15 hike a good distance to even get into it, I
16 don't know that it's possible.

17 So it's -- because it's too much trouble
18 is not a reasonable excuse. And those things
19 need to be explored. This is a major deal. I
20 made multiple points last night, and I
21 appreciate you allowing me to make these
22 additional points.

23 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: All right.
24 Are there any questions for Mr. Cleaver? All
25 right. Thank you, Mr. Cleaver.

1 MR. CLEAVER: Thank you.

2 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: Is there
3 anyone else who would like to offer their
4 testimony today? All right --

5 MS. MURPHY: I would, I'm sorry.

6 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: Oh, go ahead,
7 go ahead.

8 MS. MURPHY: Yeah, I would. I sort of
9 raised my hand. Yes, my name is Brenda Murphy.

10 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: Okay.

11 (Brenda Murphy sworn.)

12 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: If you would
13 go ahead and state and spell your name.

14 MS. MURPHY: Yes, B-r-e-n-d-a. Last name
15 is Murphy, M-u-r-p-h-y.

16 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: All right.

17 MS. MURPHY: And the county is Marion
18 County.

19 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: Uh-huh.

20 MS. MURPHY: I just want to sort of, you
21 know, voice the concern is we actually have a
22 100 -- 100-year family farm as of next year.
23 And our biggest concern is that, you know, we
24 have one major power line already going through
25 our property that is already, basically, in our

1 opinion, devalued the property; and we know
2 when we go to sell this property, if we have to
3 sell it, it will make a significant impact
4 because the power lines are, in our opinion,
5 going to be closer to the house even further;
6 and we were told they couldn't put it on -- put
7 the new line on the other side. So, you know,
8 for us, it's a major health concern, and the
9 reason why I say that is, you know, I lived
10 there my whole life, you know. I ended up with
11 thyroid cancer at around 30. I know it may
12 have no relevance to it, but there are, you
13 know, factors and considerations that -- major
14 concern for me is bringing the power line
15 closer to the house is from a health benefit,
16 if you have small children, for other reasons,
17 you know, there are studies out there that
18 support some -- some relevance to that. So, I
19 just wanted to voice that concern. And, you
20 know, I'm hoping that, you know, they take this
21 information into consideration and not have to
22 bring power lines closer to the house for
23 health reasons.

24 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: All right,
25 thank you, Ms. Murphy. Are there any questions

1 for Ms. Murphy? All right, thank you for your
2 testimony. And are there any other people that
3 would like to offer their testimony today? All
4 right. Whether you testified tonight -- today
5 or not, if you have questions -- I'm sorry,
6 comments that you would like to submit, you can
7 submit those on the Public Service Commission's
8 website. It's P-S-C, Public Service
9 Commission, dot, MO, dot, gov. On the right
10 side of the home page, there's a link that is
11 titled Submit Comments. If you click on that
12 link, you can enter your comments, and I would
13 just ask that you also include a reference to
14 this file number. It is EA, dash, 2025 (sic),
15 dash, 0087. Before we conclude the hearing
16 today, Chair Hahn, would you like to make
17 closing remarks?

18 CHAIR HAHN: Happy to. Yes, thank you so
19 much. Really appreciate the input that we've
20 heard this afternoon on how this case would
21 affect you as landowners. So, we will take
22 that into consideration when we're reviewing
23 the case to make a good decision, and I just
24 really appreciate everyone's time. I know some
25 of you were on your regular workday trying to

1 make time for this, so I know that's not easy.

2 Just appreciate your time. Thank you.

3 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE SEYER: Thank you,
4 Chair Hahn. And thank everyone for your
5 participation today. So, with that, I'll
6 adjourn the hearing, and we'll go off the
7 record.

8 (Ending time of the hearing: 1:27 p.m.)

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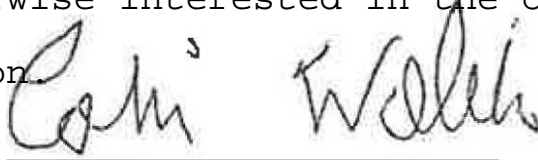
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1 I, Colin Wallis, in and for the State of
2 Missouri do hereby certify that the witness
3 whose testimony appears in the foregoing
4 Examination Under Oath was duly sworn by me;
5 that the testimony of the said witness was
6 taken by me to the best of my ability and
7 thereafter reduced to typewriting under my
8 direction; that I am neither counsel for,
9 related to, nor employed by any of the parties
10 to the action in which this examination was
11 taken, and further that I am not relative or
12 employee of any attorney or counsel employed by
13 the parties thereto, nor financially or
14 otherwise interested in the outcome of the
15 action.



17 within and for the State of Missouri
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