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Christopher J. Wood Surrebuttal Testimony Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois EA-2015-0146 November 16, 2015

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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File No. EA-2015-0146

SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY

OF

CHRISTOPHER J. WOOD

ON

BEHALF OF

AMEREN TRANSMISSION COMPANY OF ILLINOIS

Kansas City, Missouri November, 2015

Reporte Date \ File No.E -2015

SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY

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OF

CHRISTOPHER J. WOOD

FILE NO. EA-2015-0146

1	Q.	Please state your name and business address.	
2	A.	My name is Christopher J. Wood. My business address is P.O. Box 419173,	
3	Kansas City, Missouri 64141, and my office headquarters is located at 9400 Ward Parkway in		
4	Kansas City, Missouri, 64114.		
5	Q.	By whom and in what capacity are you employed?	
6	Α.	I am employed by Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc. ("Burns &	
7	McDonnell") in the Environmental Studies and Permitting Global Practice as a Project Manager		
8	and Department Manager.		
9	Q.	Are you the same Christopher J. Wood who filed direct testimony in this	
10	case?		
11	Α.	Yes, I am.	
12	Q.	What is the purpose of your surrebuttal testimony?	
13	Α.	The purpose of my surrebuttal testimony is to respond to the rebuttal testimony of	
14	Jason Haxton regarding the outreach efforts of Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois		
15	(ATXI) to the Amish and Mennonite communities during the routing process and the selection of		
16	the proposed route in relation to these communities. In addition, I am responding to concerns		
17	raised by witnesses at the various local public hearings held on October 19, 26, and 27, 2015,		
18	who raised concerns about the routing of the proposed Mark Twain Transmission Project,		
19	including the routing of the transmission line across some properties in a diagonal manner, and		

consideration of the Missouri Department of Conservation's comments regarding the proposed
 routes.

3 Q. In his rebuttal testimony on page 4, Mr. Haxton states that a representative 4 of ATXI was "surprised and completely unaware of any Amish or Mennonite populations" 5 that would be impacted by the two remaining potential routes for the transmission line. At 6 the time that ATXI had narrowed down the potential routes to two, had ATXI taken any 7 efforts to determine the identity of the property owners impacted by the routes? 8 I was not present at the meeting Mr. Haxton references; therefore, I cannot Α. 9 comment on his assertion that the representative was "surprised and completely unaware of any 10 Amish or Mennonite populations." However, I am aware that a number of activities were 11 conducted throughout the routing of the Project that provided information on the identity of 12 property owners within the study area and along the alternative routes. 13 When ATXI had developed the preliminary route network (discussed in my direct 14 testimony at pages 7-10), it identified, through county records, all landowners within 2,500 feet 15 of any alternative route and invited them to public open houses where they could learn about the 16 Project and provide input. When the preliminary route network was narrowed to the reduced 17 route network, all landowners who were mailed letters during the first round of public open 18 houses were again mailed letters informing them of the reduced route network and inviting them 19 to a second round of public open houses in October 2014, which is described in more detail in 20 my direct testimony on pages 14 and 15.

The county parcel records we relied upon to identify landowners understandably do not contain information about the religious affiliation of any landowner, so it is not surprising that ATXI personnel at that time may not have had a complete understanding of the location of any

particular Amish or Mennonite property unless the landowner expressly informed them of that
 fact. As I testified in my direct testimony, the routing process involved field verification of the
 preliminary route network along publicly-accessible roads in which those who worked with me
 drove the potential routes to physically observe the lands and adjacent resources that they would
 traverse.
 Q. Mr. Haxton states that the presence of Amish and Mennonite communities

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should have been obvious. Please respond.

8 A. Although Mr. Haxton suggests that a physical drive of the routes would easily 9 disclose the presence of these communities, this was not always the case. My team was able to 10 determine particular Amish and Mennonite properties in some instances, but they were not 11 readily obvious in every instance. As a result of the field work, however, those involved in the 12 routing process were aware of the presence of Amish and Mennonite residents along the 13 proposed routes.

Q. Was ATXI able to identify with more particularity the location of Amish or
Mennonite properties impacted by the preliminary routes?

16 A. Yes. The public open houses served their purpose in this regard. At the first 17 round of public open houses, members of the Amish community attending the Kirksville open 18 house identified the locations of two Amish schools. As Mr. Haxton suggests in his rebuttal 19 testimony, members of the Amish community also attended the second round of open houses in 20 October 2014 and identified other properties owned by the Amish. It was at the October 30, 2014 21 open house in Kirksville that Mr. Haxton and Bishop David Schwartz provided information to 22 ATXI. A conservative estimate of the general boundaries of the Amish communities is identified 23 in the diagram attached as Schedule CJW-SR1. Although Mr. Haxton refers to the Project as

1 running "over" a Mennonite church and school area and "over" Amish homes and an Amish 2 school, the closest a route alternative was located in relation to the two schools that were 3 identified was 1.85 miles, as shown in Schedule CJW-SR2. 4 Q. Following this second round of public open houses, did ATXI take any other 5 steps to identify the impact of the proposed routes on Amish and Mennonite communities? 6 ATXI engaged in specific outreach efforts to members of the Amish and Α. 7 Mennonite communities, as described in my response to Staff's Data Request No. 16, a copy of 8 which is attached as Schedule CJW-SR3. In addition, we were provided with surnames 9 common to Amish and Mennonite families; with those surnames, my team prepared maps in 10 November 2014 of the reduced route network in relation to properties owned by persons with 11 those surnames. I have attached those maps as Schedule CJW-SR4 and Schedule CJW-SR5. 12 This provided ATXI with additional information on the Amish and Mennonite community within 13 the project area for consideration during the route selection process. 14 **Q**. How was the information ATXI had regarding Amish and Mennonite 15 communities considered when determining the final route? 16 While it was not the only consideration, one of the results of selecting Route 4 for A. the Zachary to State Line portion of the Project¹ was the fact that it impacted far fewer of the 17 18 potential Amish and Mennonite properties that ATXI had identified. Route 4 (the westernmost 19 route on Schedule CJW-SR4, identified on the maps entitled "Reduced Routes-Zachary to State 20 Line"), crossed only one property and ran along the boundary of one other property that we had identified as a potential Amish or Mennonite property. In contrast, the other reduced route for the 21

¹ My direct testimony mistakenly refers to "Route 1" instead of "Route 4" in the question beginning on line 3 of page 27; however, the answer to the question and surrounding testimony clearly indicate that Route 4 was the final route selected by ATXI for the Zachary to State Line portion of the route.

I Zachary to State Line section of the Project crossed four properties and ran along the boundary of one other property identified as potential Amish or Mennonite properties. In addition, the route that was not selected as the final route was near several other properties identified as potential Amish or Mennonite-owned properties and crossed a much broader area of an estimated Amish community boundary. It was also much closer to the schools that had been pointed out to us.

7 For the Maywood to Zachary portion of the Project, Route 1 was selected as the final 8 route (the southernmost route on Schedule CJW-SR5, identified on the maps entitled "Reduced 9 Routes-Maywood to Zachary"); Route 1 crossed two potential Amish- or Mennonite-owned 10 properties and did not run along the boundary of any properties identified as potential Amish or 11 Mennonite-owned properties. The route that was not selected crossed 11 properties and ran along 12 the boundary of 6 other properties identified as potential Amish- or Mennonite-owned properties. 13 Additionally, contrary to Mr. Haxton's testimony that ATXI's final route runs "down the 14 middle of the Amish community," Cory Anderson, a geography professor who tracks the 15 presence of Amish communities in Missouri and who testified at the Commission's local public 16 hearing held in Kirksville, is more accurate by concluding that the final route passes near or 17 along, not through, Amish communities.

Based upon our current understanding, the proposed route crosses three potential Amish or Mennonite-owned properties and is adjacent to only one potential Amish or Mennonite-owned property, while the route that was not selected crosses 15 potential Amish or Mennonite-owned properties and is adjacent to 7 potential Amish or Mennonite-owned properties. In summary, the proposed route would likely have minimal impacts to potential existing Amish or Mennonite properties, and far less impact than other alternatives.

1 Q. Witnesses at the local public hearings suggested that the proposed 2 transmission line would interfere with pivot irrigation. To your knowledge, does the 3 proposed route interfere with any known pivot irrigation systems? 4 A. No. During the routing process, we sought to determine the existence and location 5 of pivot irrigation systems in the proposed paths. When the final two preliminary routes were 6 being selected, they were specifically routed to avoid known pivot irrigation systems. Schedule 7 CJW-SR5 identifies known pivot irrigation systems in pink that were located on the Maywood 8 to Zachary portion of the Project and demonstrates that the route was designed so as to avoid 9 known pivot irrigation systems. There were no known pivot irrigation systems on the Zachary to 10 State Line portion of the Project. 11 Q. Several witnesses at the Commission's local public hearings complained that 12 the proposed transmission line diagonally cuts through their properties. Why does the final

route include segments that cut diagonally across tracts of land rather than running on the
boundary of those tracts of land?

15 Because the end points of the proposed line are the Maywood substation near A. 16 Palmyra, Missouri, and the Iowa State line near Lancaster, Missouri, the route generally has to 17 follow a northwesterly (diagonal) direction as it traverses toward Iowa from Palmyra. During the 18 development of route alternatives, attempts were made to follow property lines, field lines, fence 19 lines, and other linear features, as appropriate, but parcels are often irregularly shaped and often 20 use drainages and other irregular features. As a result, property lines don't necessarily line up 21 from one parcel to the next. In addition, property lines take on all different shapes, sizes, and 22 orientations, making it difficult to completely follow property lines without extra angles and 23 additional length, which typically result in greater overall project impacts. Also, one landowner

may desire an easement in a location not conducive to following the property line on adjacent
 landowners or an obstruction on one property precludes following property lines on adjacent
 parcels.

Overall length is an indicator of potential impacts; a longer route generally has more 4 5 impacts, whereas a shorter route has fewer impacts. To accommodate property boundaries for 6 that entire distance would require a transmission line route that would likely be longer than 95 7 miles, which would increase its costs. Completely following property boundaries would also 8 increase the base cost because of the additional structures necessary to support the line as it 9 follows property boundaries. This is the case because heavy angles (necessary for following 10 boundary lines) generally require more detailed design and require larger structures and 11 foundations. ATXI witness James Jontry discusses these issues in his surrebuttal testimony. 12 Following property boundaries would, in some instances, place the transmission line 13 nearer to homes, as they are often located near the boundary of rural tracts. Finally, it is my 14 understanding that when ATXI engages in negotiations with individual property owners, it will 15 work with them to make minor adjustments to the line location when it is possible to place the 16 lines in a manner that minimizes impacts on farming operations or other land uses under and 17 adjacent to the line.

Q. Related to the routing of transmission along boundary lines, some witnesses at the local public hearings asked why ATXI couldn't use existing transmission line rightof-way placement for the line. Are their reasons that an existing transmission line right-ofway could not be used?

A. Although I am aware that there can be reasons—for example, the existing
transmission line right-of-way is not large enough to accommodate a 345-kV line—that an

existing transmission line right-of-way cannot be used, ATXI witness Jeffrey Hackman is
 providing surrebuttal testimony as to why ATXI generally did not use existing transmission line
 right-of-way for the Mark Twain Transmission Project.

Q. Some witnesses have suggested that ATXI should have placed the Mark
Twain transmission line parallel to existing transmission lines. Was placing an extended
portion of the Mark Twain transmission line parallel to existing transmission lines a viable
option during the planning process?

8 It is my understanding that it was not. As Mr. Hackman explains in his testimony, A. 9 placing a new transmission line parallel to an existing transmission line over 100-kV for an 10 extended distance presents reliability concerns, particularly where part of the benefit of the new 11 line is to address reliability concerns and where the line that one might consider paralleling is 12 also needed for reliability, which as I understand Mr. Hackman's testimony is the case here. 13 Consequently, the routing team preliminarily examined whether placement of portions of the 14 Mark Twain transmission line was appropriate along existing 69-kV lines which are part of the area's distribution system. Schedule CJW-SR6, for example, shows existing 69-kV lines 15 16 (depicted in purple) for the Maywood to Zachary portion of the line in relation to possible preliminary routes under consideration (shown in yellow). Most of the existing 69-kV lines did 17 not traverse a direction that would connect the substation endpoints. There was a section of 18 19 existing 69-kV line located just south of the towns of Brashear and Hurdland that generally 20 traveled the direction we needed to go, but there were various homes and structures near that 21 line; in addition, following the existing line would have placed the Mark Twain transmission line 22 near these two towns and near an airport location. Another existing 69-kV line is located north of 23 Newark between Lewistown and the Novelty Substation. This existing line is located near

1 several homes and structures, is near an airport, crosses the Troublesome Creek watershed 2 easement, and terminates at the location of several other existing transmission lines (Novelty 3 Substation). Consequently, it was determined that there was no suitable 69-kV line that could be 4 paralleled in the Maywood to Zachary portion of the route. 5 The routing team also evaluated existing 69-kV lines in the Zachary to State Line portion 6 of the route. Schedule CJW-SR7 shows the existing 69-kV line (in purple) and potential 7 preliminary routes (in yellow) in this section of the Mark Twain Project area. This particular 8 route was not suitable because it crossed the Big Creek Conservation Area and Thousand Hills 9 State Park, had residences fairly close to both sides of the route—particularly at the south end, 10 and crossed some difficult typography. Therefore, we determined that paralleling the 69-kV 11 route here was simply not suitable. 12 I should note that the very northern portion of the final route (approximately 2.7 miles) 13 parallels an existing 161-kV line. As I said earlier, ATXI advised that parallel placement of lines greater than 100-kV should generally be avoided and only considered on a case-by-case basis. 14 15 Here, the parallel placement was necessary as the Mark Twain transmission line had to connect 16 with the transmission line in Iowa at about the same location on the state line. Because of the 17 fairly short distance of the parallel placement, this placement was acceptable to ATXI. 18 Q. Margaret Wilson testified at a local public hearing that the proposed route 19 will destroy over 50,000 acres of farmland in northeast Missouri; other witnesses testified 20 similarly. Do the easements that are required for the Mark Twain Project total 50,000 21 acres?

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1	А.	No. The Project requires a 150-foot wide right-of-way. For the entire line, which	
2	is about 95 miles long, a total of approximately 1,727 acres will be needed. I have no idea how		
3	Ms. Wilson calculated the 50,000 acres.		
4	Q.	Teri Page, a witness at the Commission's local public hearing in Kirksville,	
5	testified that	she home schooled her children. Did ATXI take any measures to identify non-	
6	traditional e	ducation centers, such as home schools, during the routing process?	
7	Α.	This would be information that we would only know from public comments or	
8	input at the o	pen houses that ATXI held. I am not aware of another way to determine whether a	
9	particular home site is being used to home school children.		
10	Q.	Assuming that Ms. Page educates her children at her home, were you able to	
11	determine how far the proposed Mark Twain transmission line is from her home?		
12	А.	Attached as Schedule CJW-SR8 is an aerial map showing the property owned by	
13	Ms. Page and	Mr. Brian Thomas. The proximity of the closest structure that I can identify on	
14	their property	to the proposed transmission line is approximately 1,660 feet. As the map	
15	demonstrates,	the transmission line does not actually cross their property, but is on an adjacent	
16	property.		
17	Q.	Assuming that structure is used as a school, would you consider the location	
18	of the propos	ed transmission line in proximity to the structure an acceptable distance when	
19	routing a transmission line?		
20	А.	Yes. It is located outside the right-of-way, and the transmission line will be	
21	designed to m	eet or exceed the National Electrical Safety code. In addition, ATXI witness Bill	
22	Bailey is testifying that the presence of the transmission line would not be detected by		
23	measurements of EMF at a distance of 1,660 feet.		

1 0. Witnesses at the local public hearings questioned why ATXI did not select 2 the route recommended by the Missouri Department of Conservation. Are you familiar 3 with the Department's letters? 4 A. Yes. ATXI received two letters from the Department, one dated October 16, 2014, 5 and a follow-up letter dated November 21, 2014 (both are attached as Schedule CJW-SR9). 6 Neither of these letters recommended a particular route for this project. The October 16, 2014 7 letter stated a modified segment of the northern route from Maywood to Zachary (identified as 8 Segment A2) that avoided bisecting the Bringer Conservation Easement would be the least 9 environmentally damaging route segment. The November 21, 2014 letter stated that the northern 10 route between Maywood and Zachary (containing the Bringer easement) appeared to create "the 11 fewest impacts" to forest, fish and wildlife resources, but segments of the other routes (including 12 the proposed route which crosses the Bevill easement) could be modified to mitigate impacts to 13 forest, fish and wildlife resources. 14 0. Did ATXI consider the comments of the Department of Conservation in its 15 final route selection? 16 A. Yes. ATXI considered the Department of Conservation's comments in its final route selection, including impacts to forest, fish, and wildlife resources and conservation 17 18 easements as part of the route comparison and selection process. Forested lands, federal, state, 19 and local conservation easements, protected species, wetlands, and streams were considered as 20 part of the route selection process, as well as several other engineering and social criteria. In 21 particular, the selected route (Route 1) crossed only 0.8 acre of a privately owned, State-operated 22 Stream Stewardship Agreement Easement, while Route 2 crossed 3.95 acres of a privately 23 owned, State-operated Stream Stewardship Agreement Easement.

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- 1 The final route selected provided a route between the project connection points that
- 2 avoided or minimized adverse impacts on natural and social resources and provided a cost-
- 3 effective and technically-feasible alignment.
- 4 Q. Does this conclude your surrebuttal testimony?
- 5 A. Yes, it does.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

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.

File No. EA-2015-0146

AFFIDAVIT OF CHRISTOPHER J. WOOD

STATE OF MISSOURI)) ss **COUNTY OF JACKSON**)

Christopher J. Wood, being first duly sworn on his oath, states:

1. My name is Christopher J. Wood. I work in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri, and I am employed by Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc.

2. Attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes is my Surrebuttal Testimony on behalf of Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois consisting of 12 CJW-SR1 - CJW-SR9 pages, and Schedule(s) all of which have been prepared in written form for introduction into evidence in the above-referenced docket.

I hereby swear and affirm that my answers contained in the attached 3. testimony to the questions therein propounded are true and correct.

Christopher J. Wood

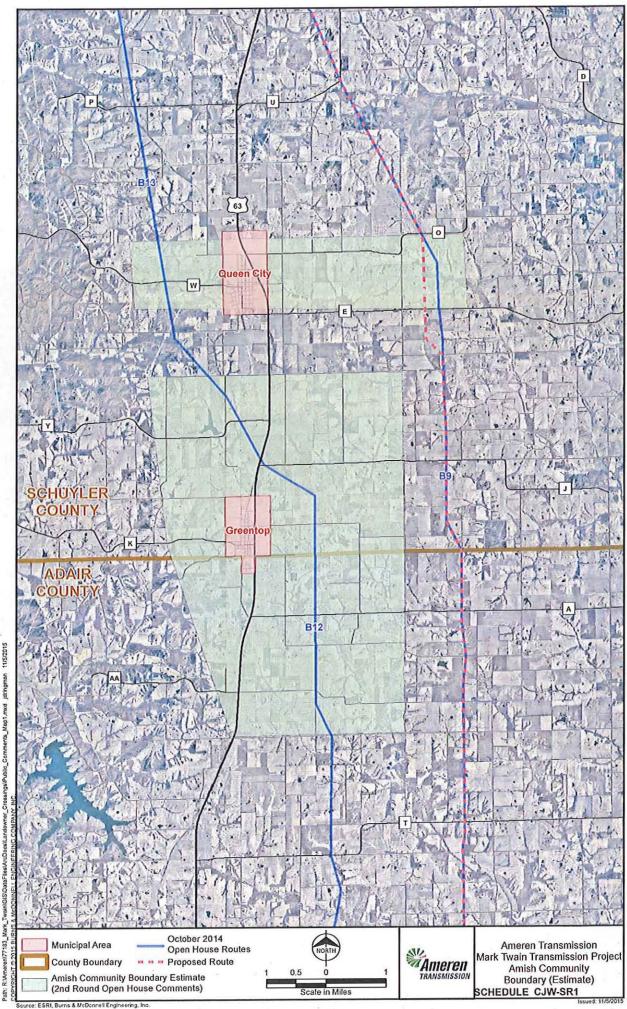
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15^{46} day of November, 2015.

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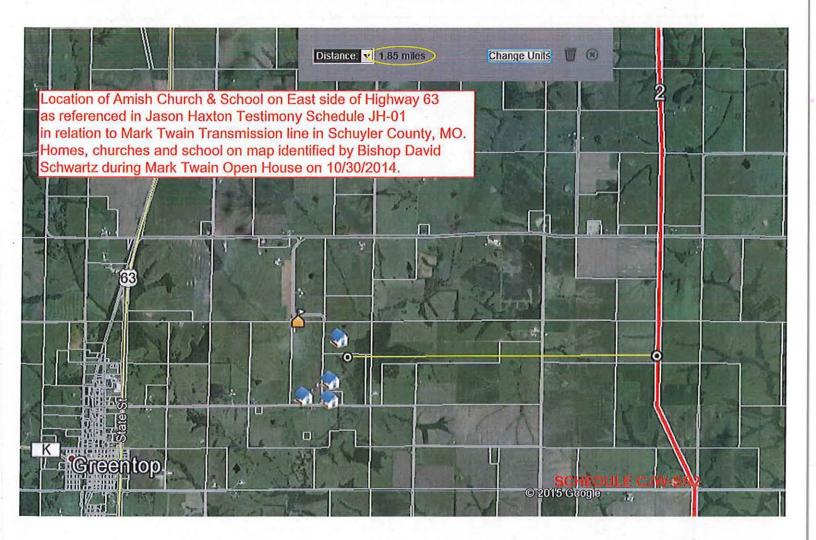
Notary Public

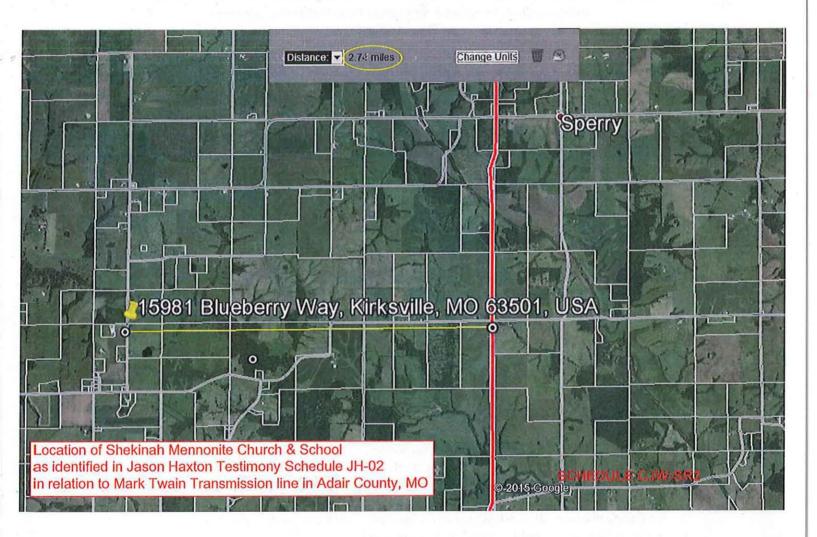
My commission expires:

ELIZABETH J. WALKER Notary Public - Notary Seal STATE OF MISSOURI **Jackson County** My Commission Expires May 22, 2018 Commission # 14619609



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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).

Prepared By: Chris Wood

Title: Project Manager, Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company

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

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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.

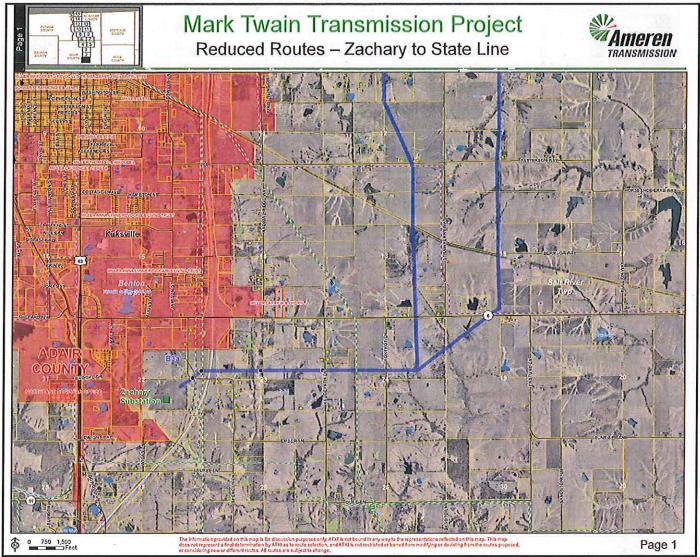
Opportunities for landowners and other stakeholders to provide input were made available through computer stations at the public open houses, where an Amish community near Kirksville, Missouri was identified and captured within the GIS database. Additional opportunities for input included paper questionnaires, 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.

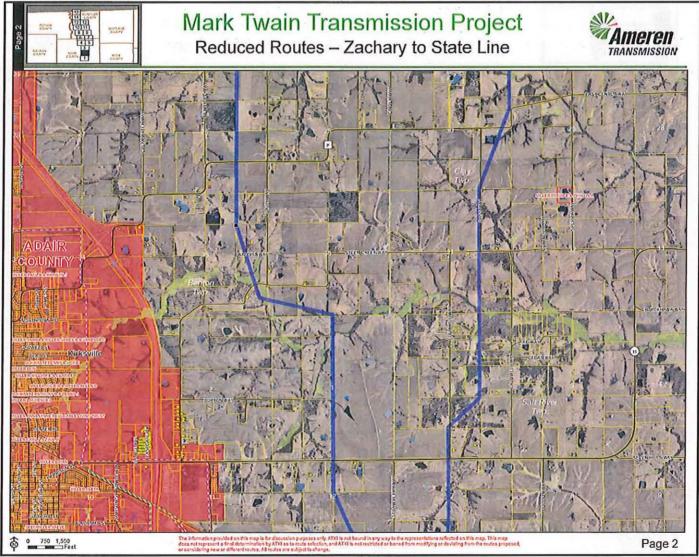
Opportunities for landowners and other stakeholders to provide input were made available through computer stations at the public open houses, where other Amish communities near Greentop and Queen City, Missouri were identified and captured within the GIS database. Additional opportunities for input included 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.

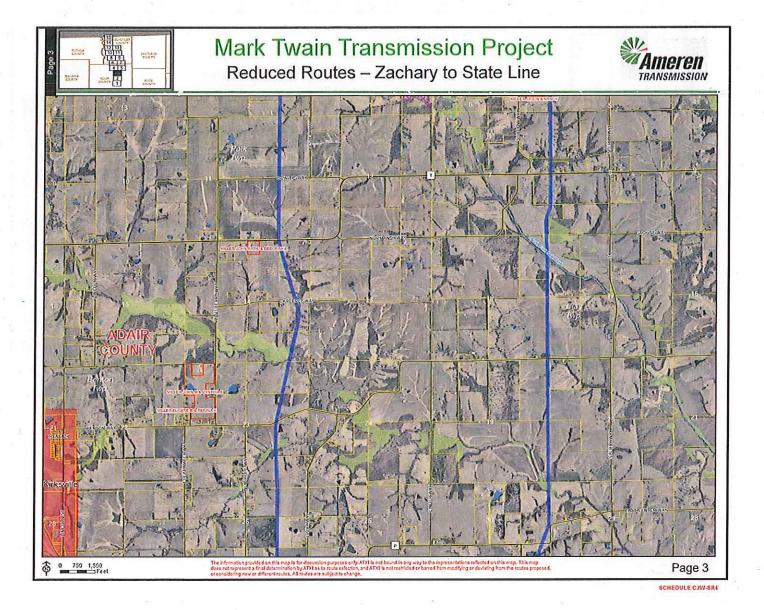
Additional specific outreach to the Amish and Mennonite communities is as follows:

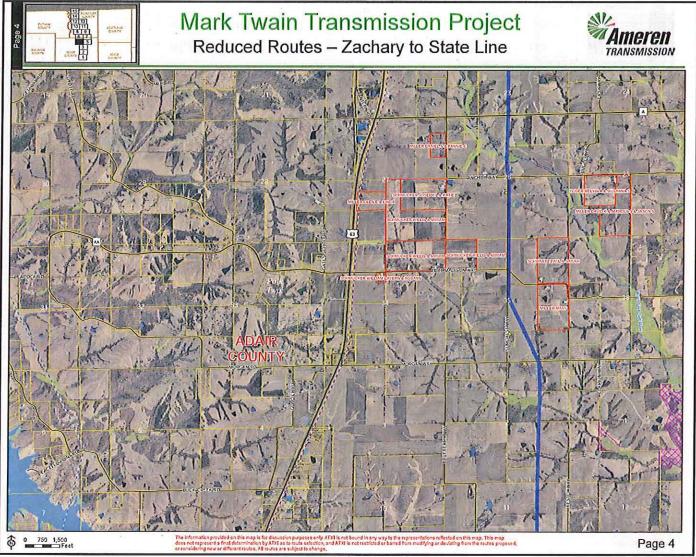
1. August 5, 2014- Clemens Borntrager attended the Kirksville public open house and marked an Amish school on his property in the GIS computer stations.

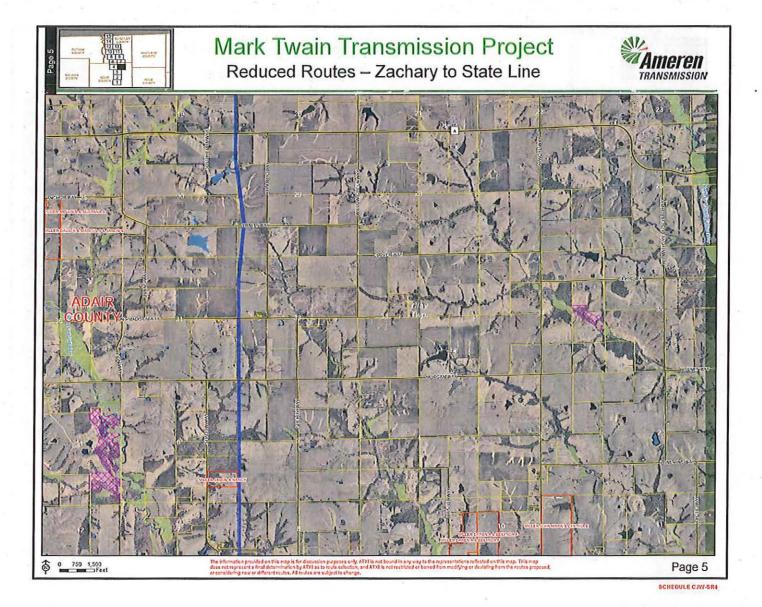
- 2. August 5, 2014- Menno Borntrager attended the Kirksville public open house and marked an Amish school on his property near the northern route.
- 3. October 30, 2014- Clemens Borntrager attended the Kirksville public open house and marked some additional barns and concerns on his property (part of 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.

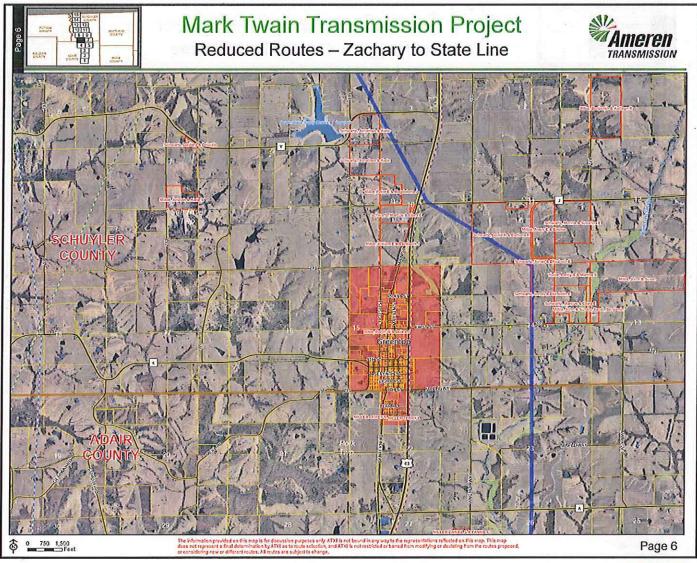


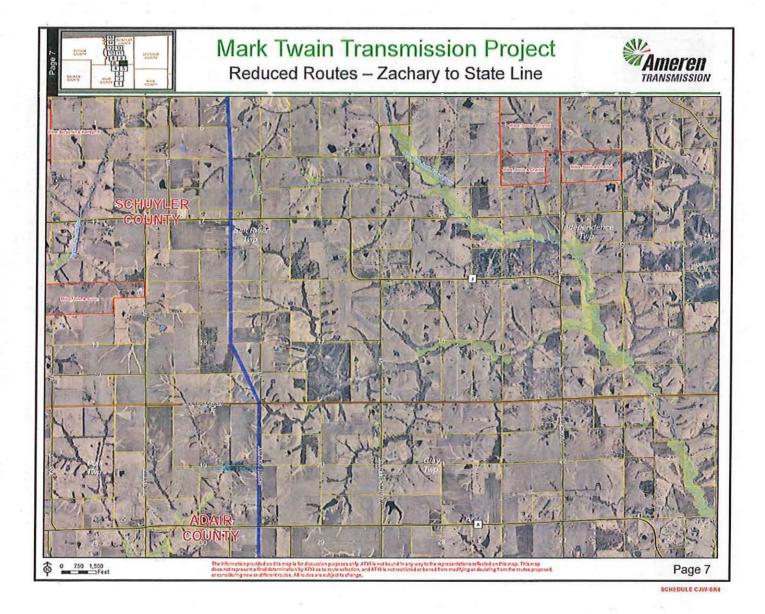


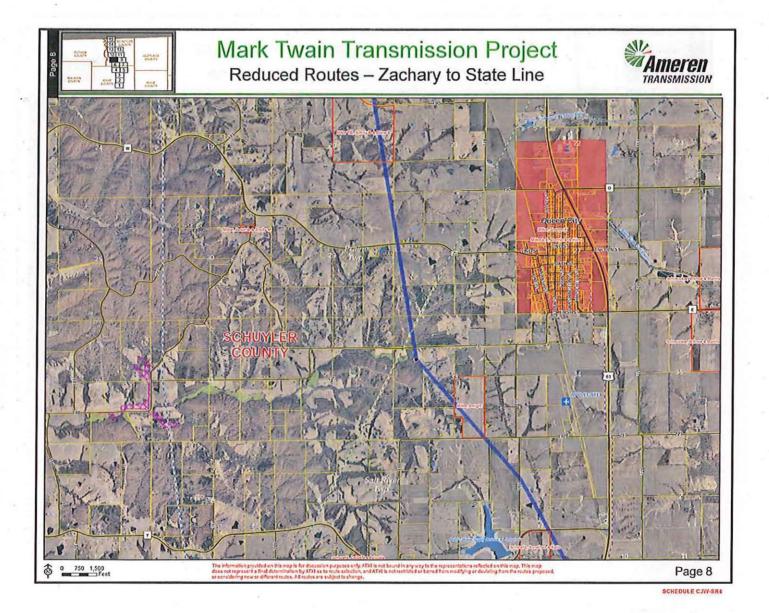


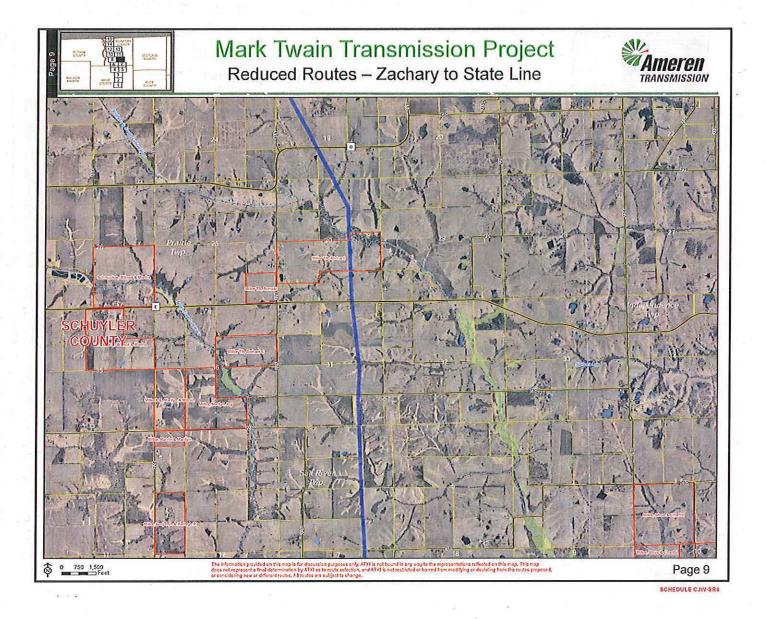


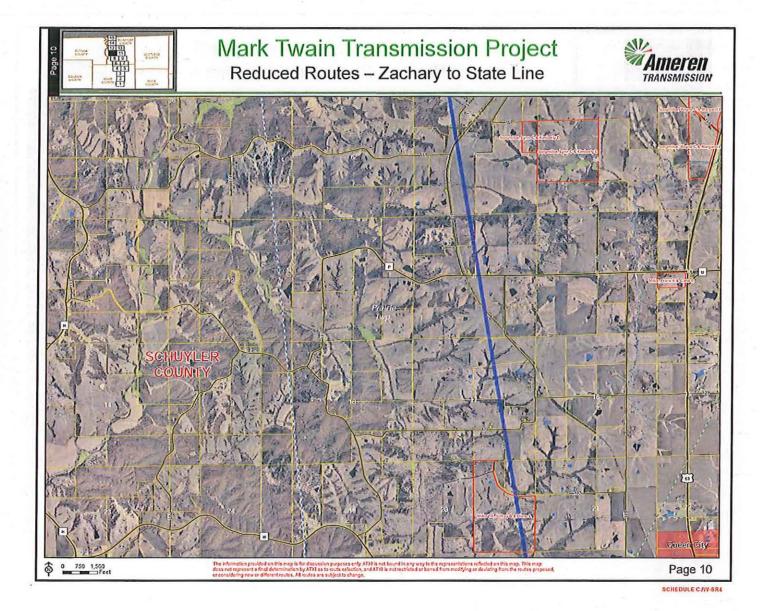


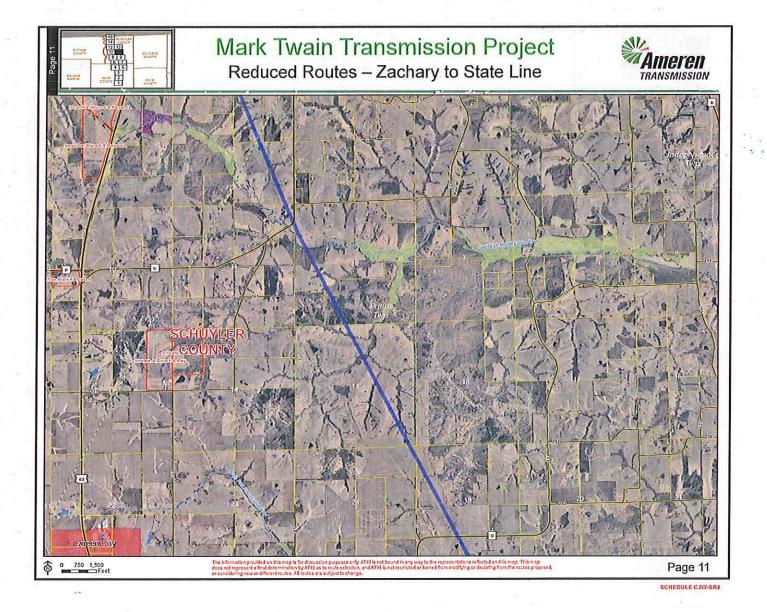


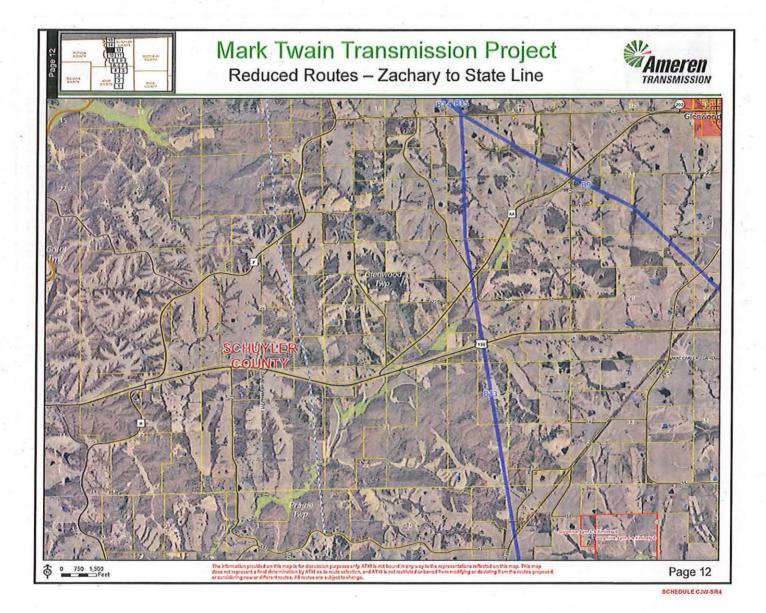


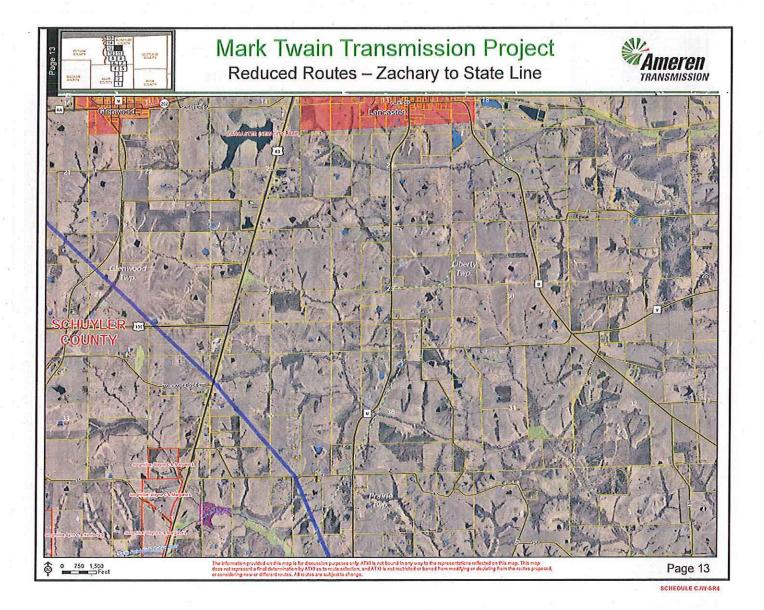


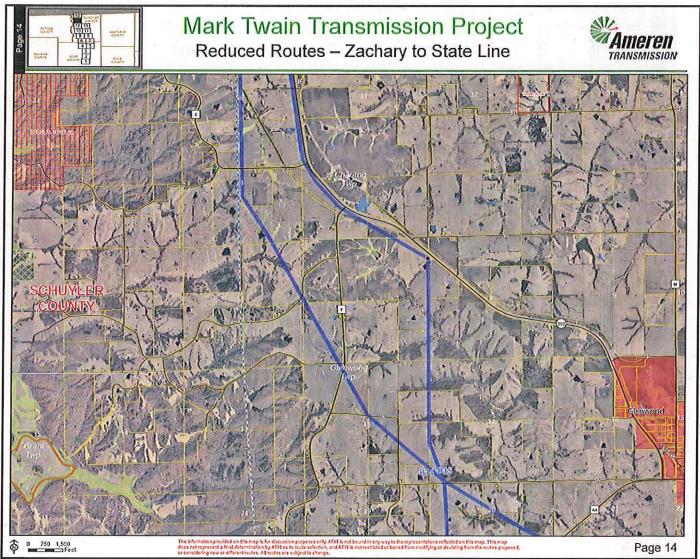


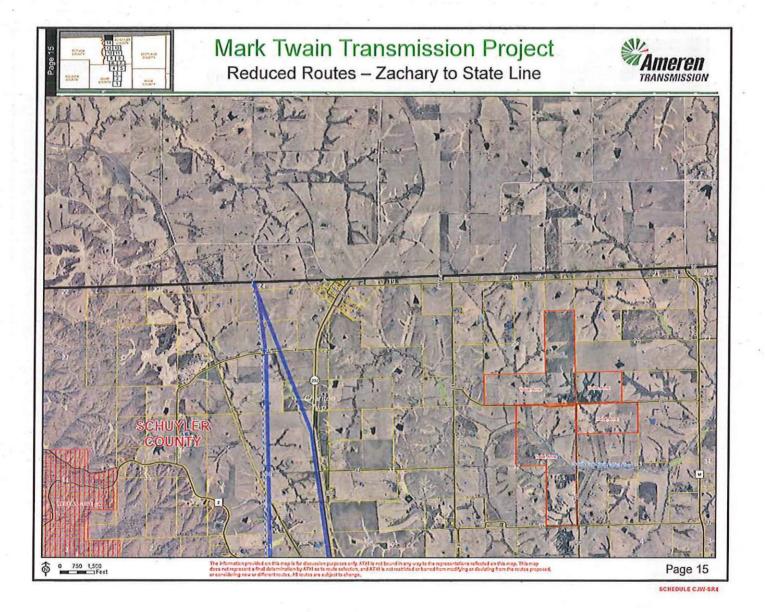


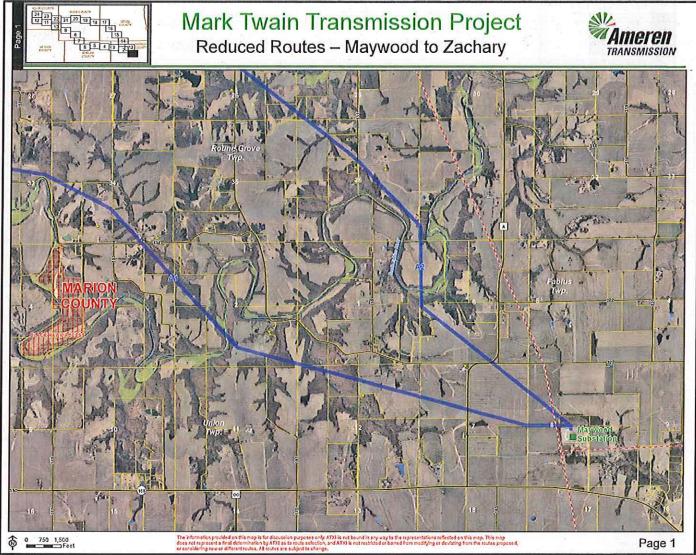


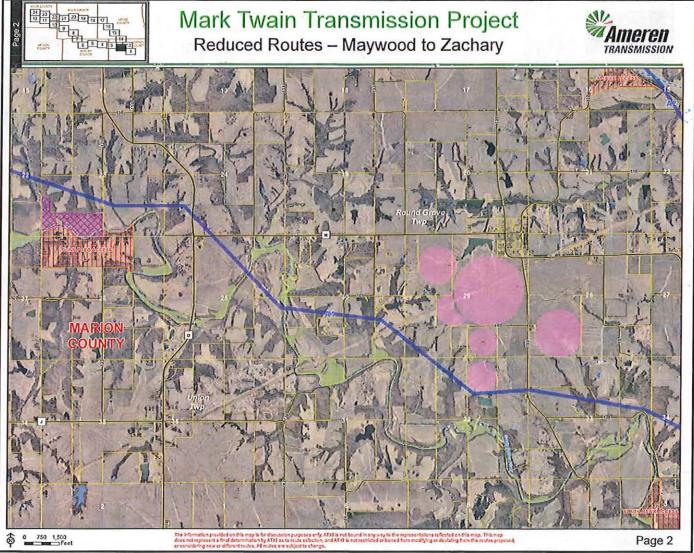


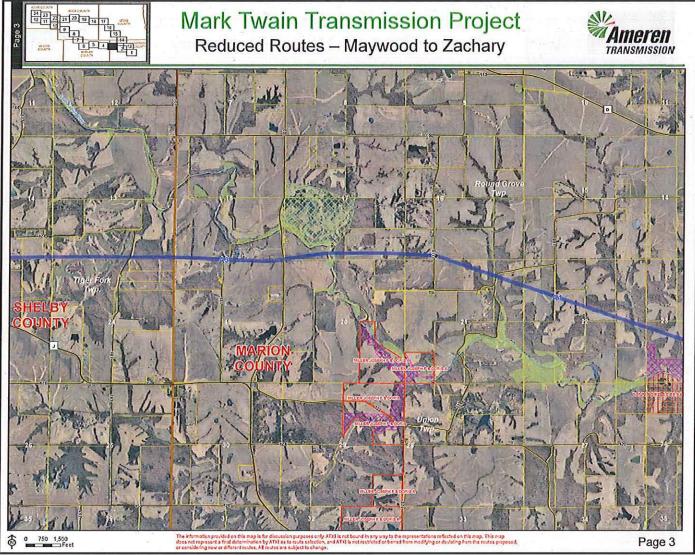




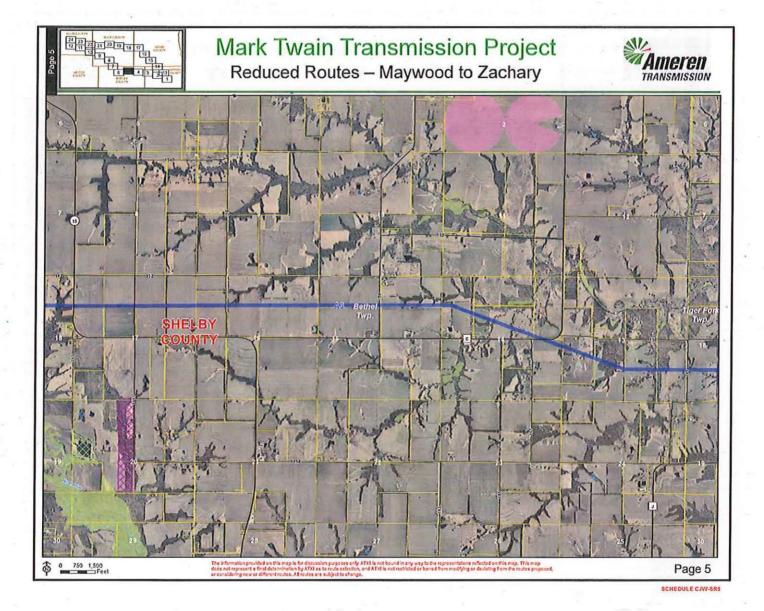


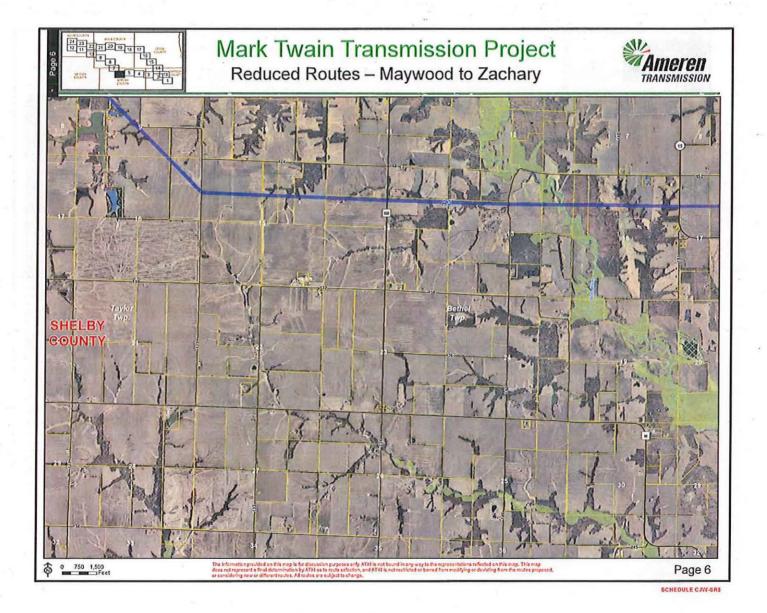


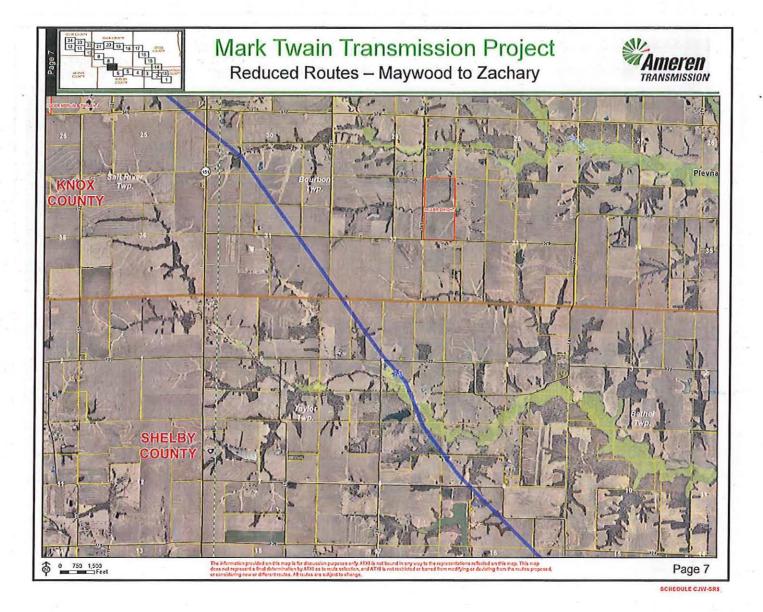


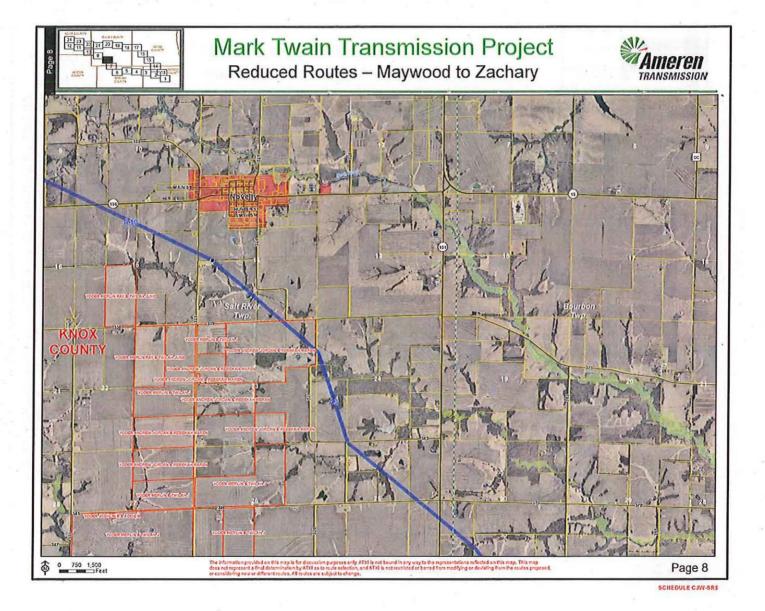


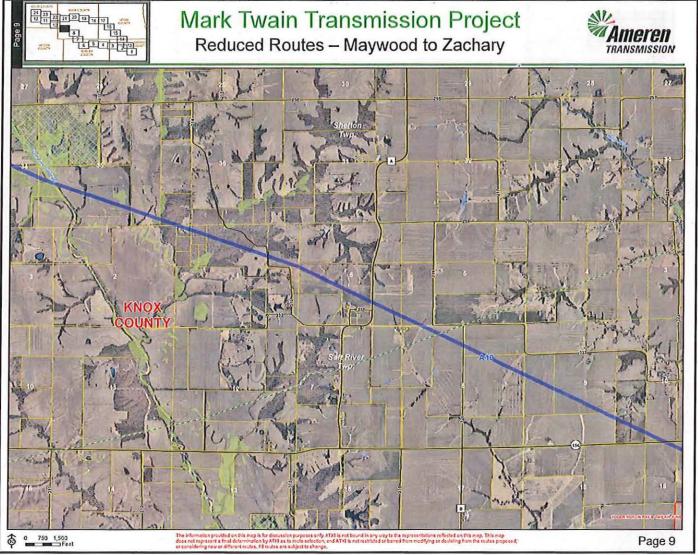


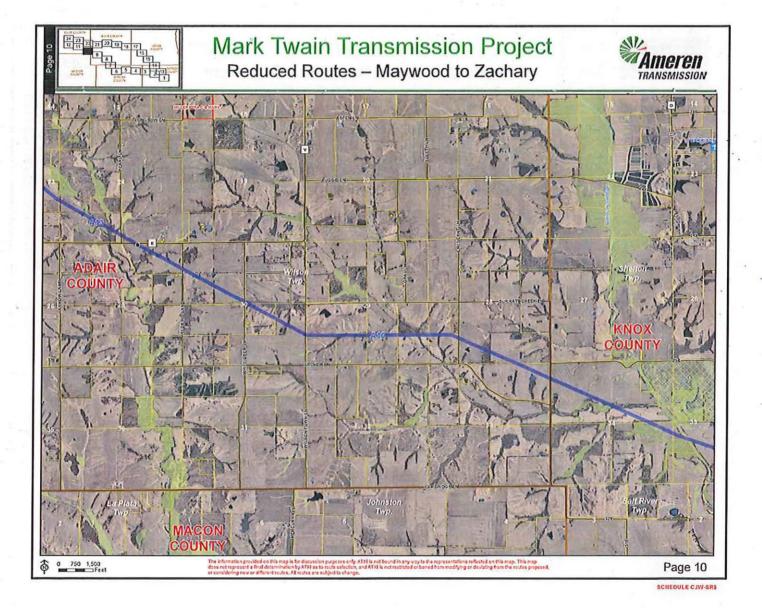


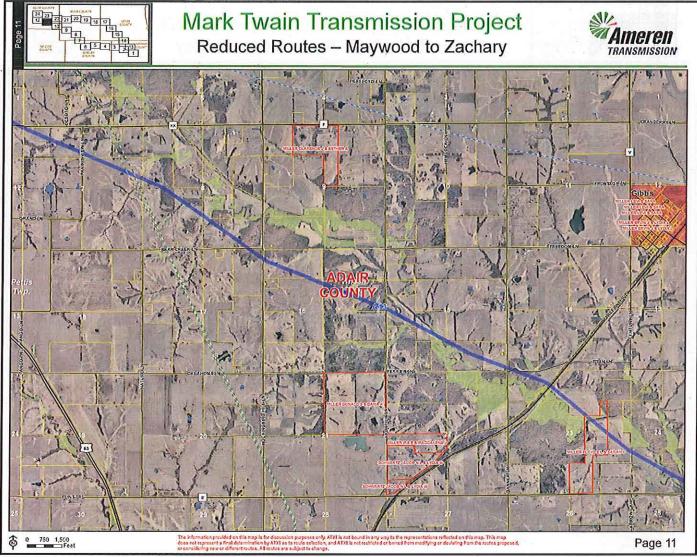


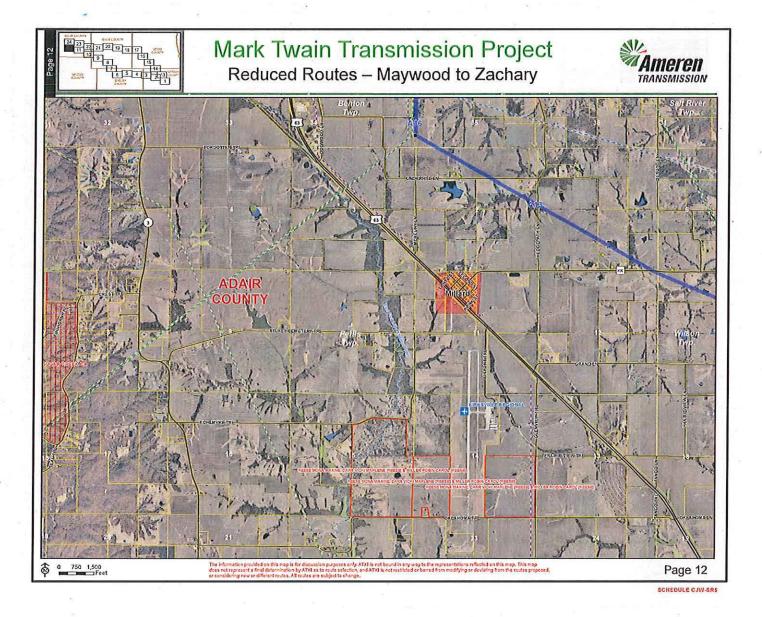


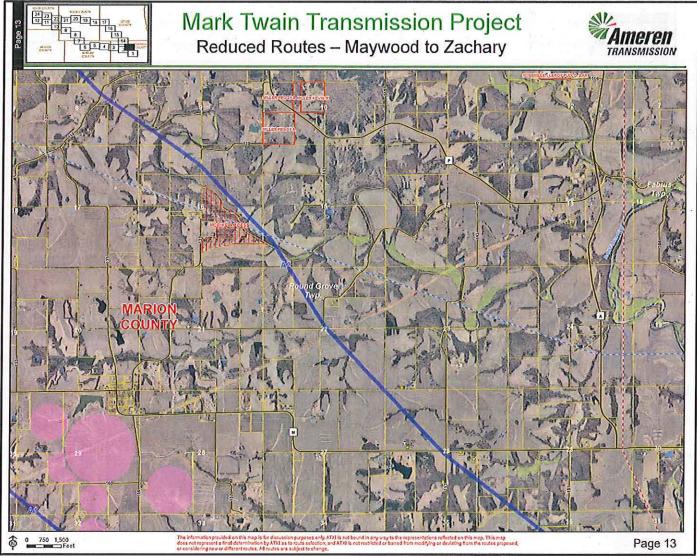


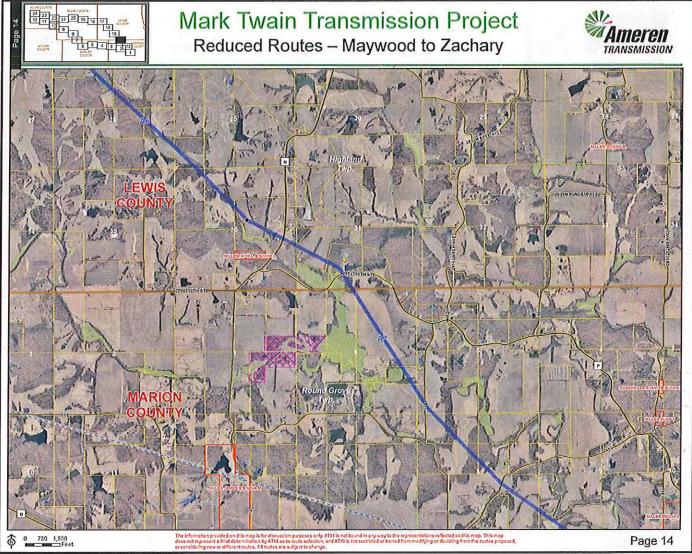


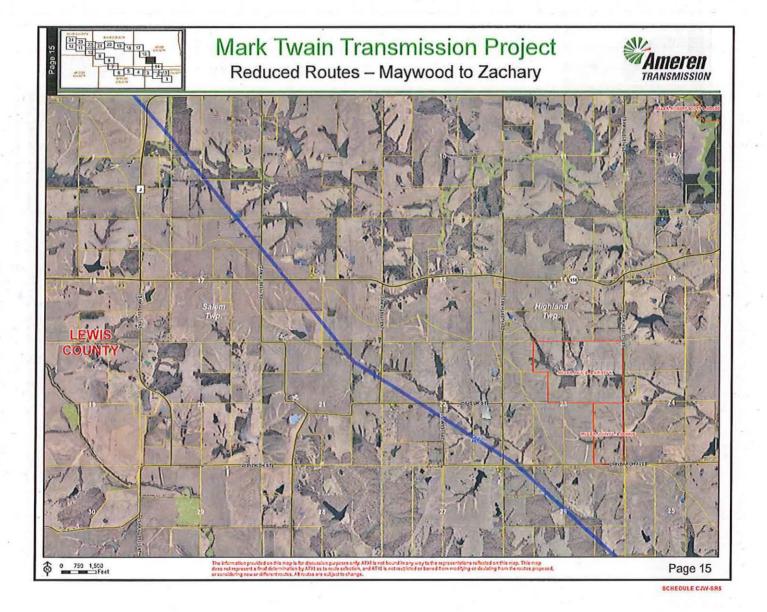


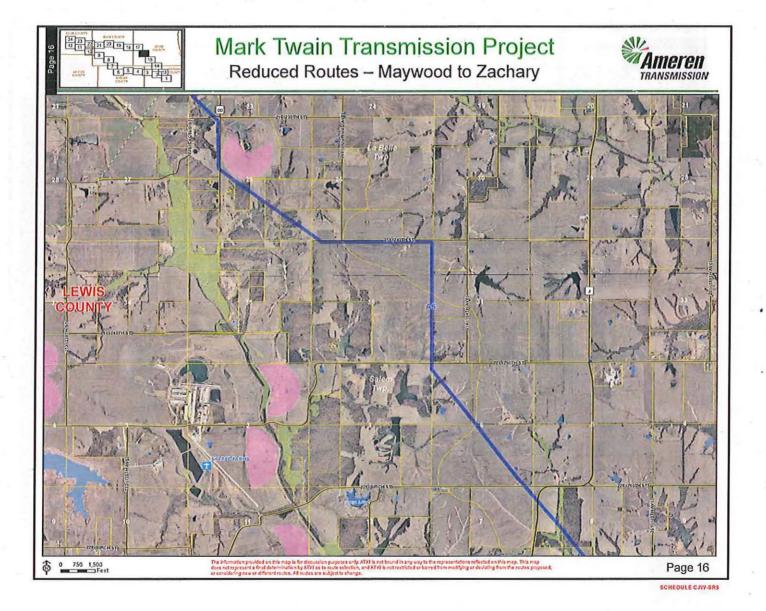


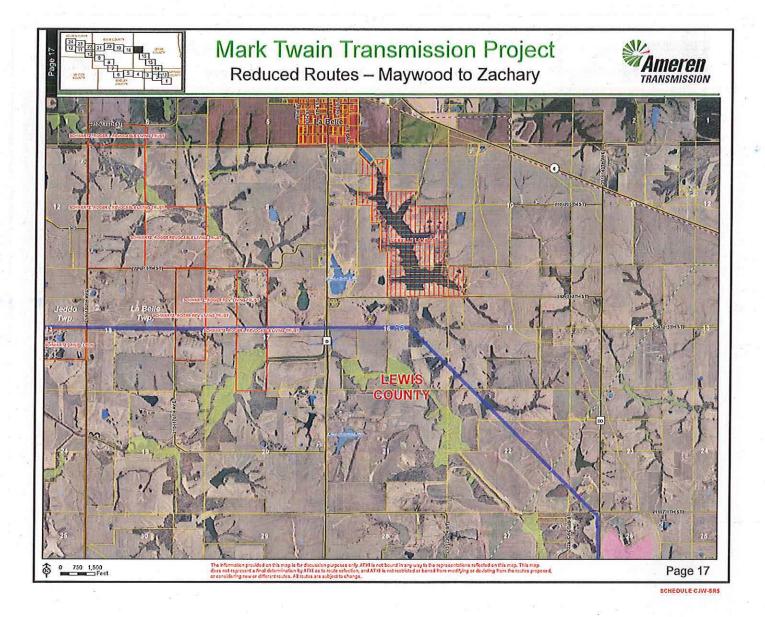


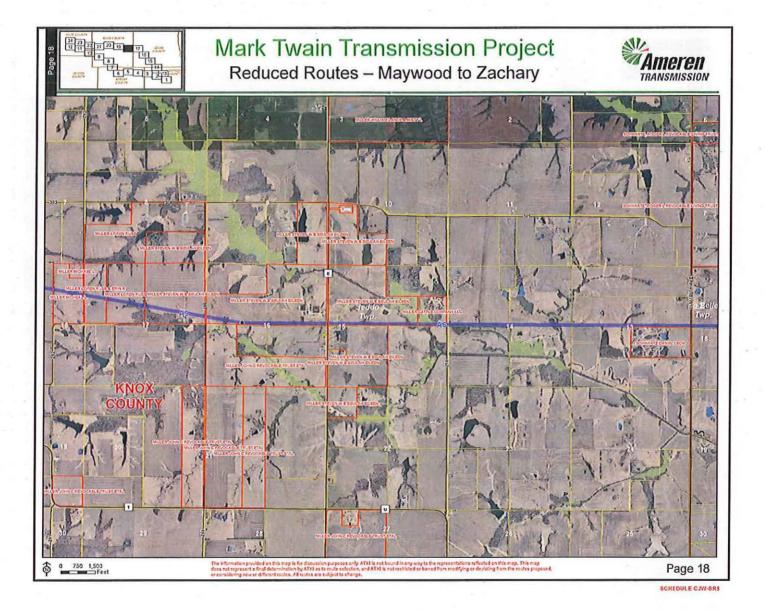


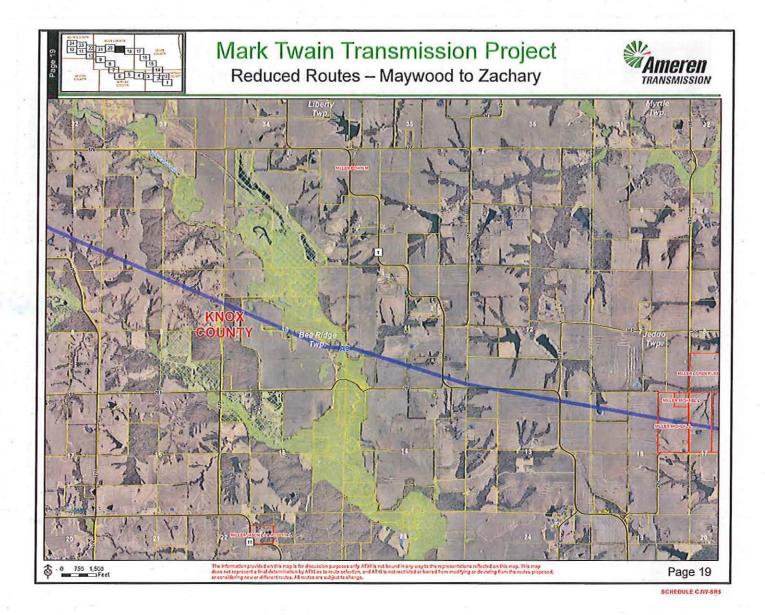


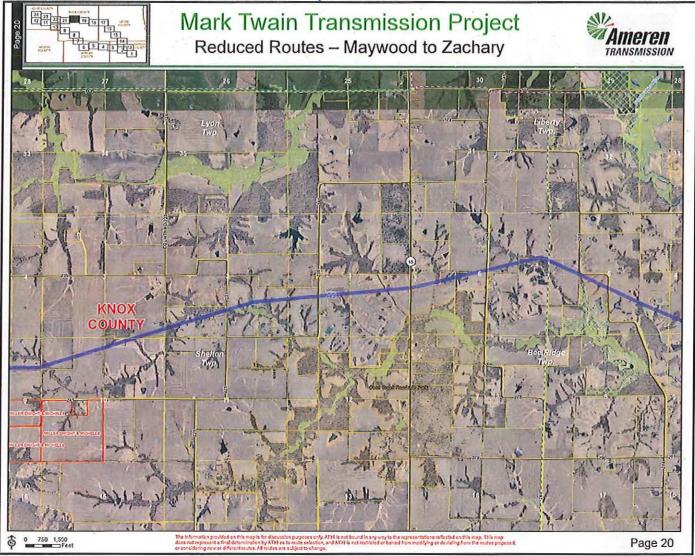


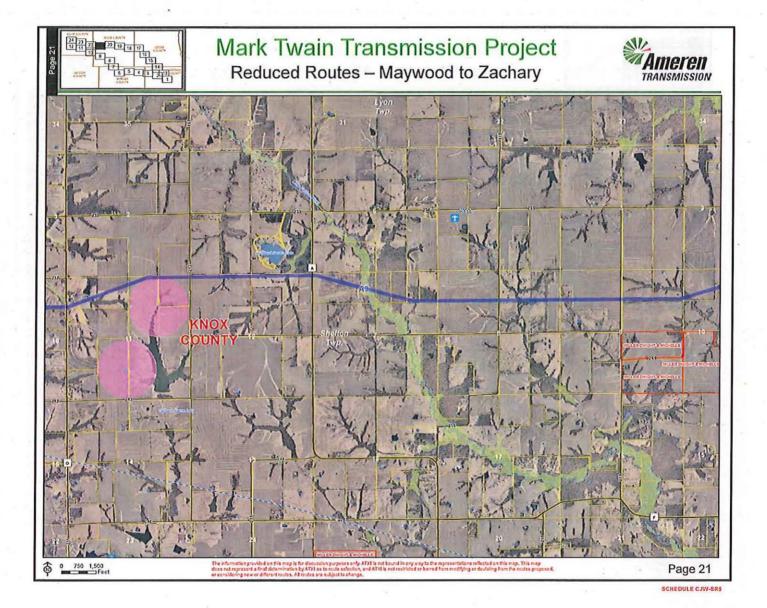


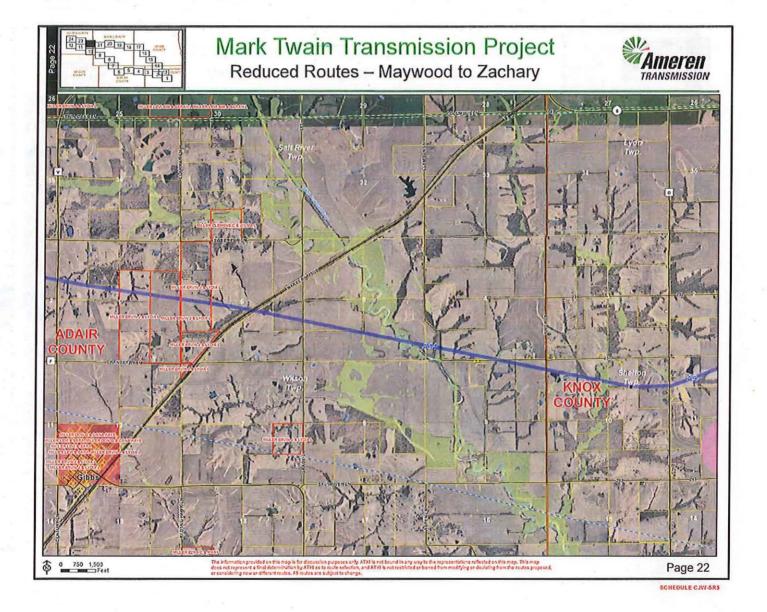


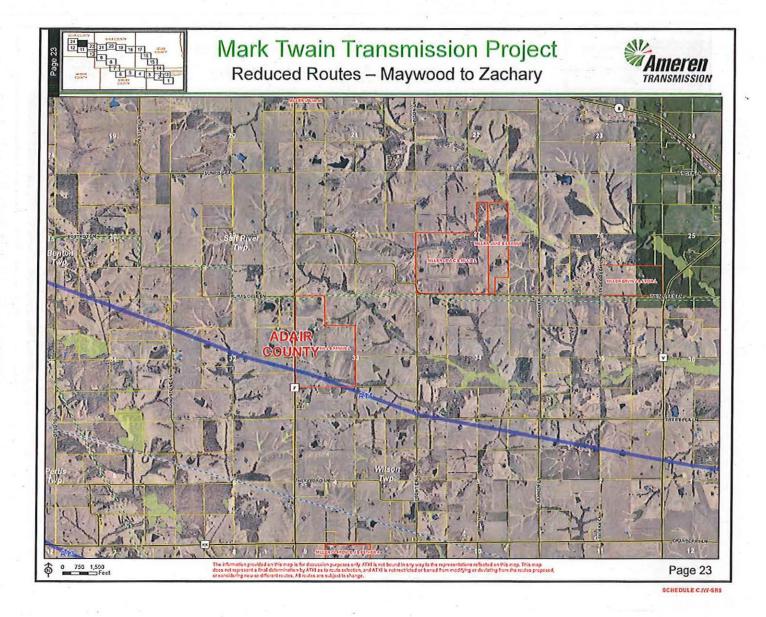


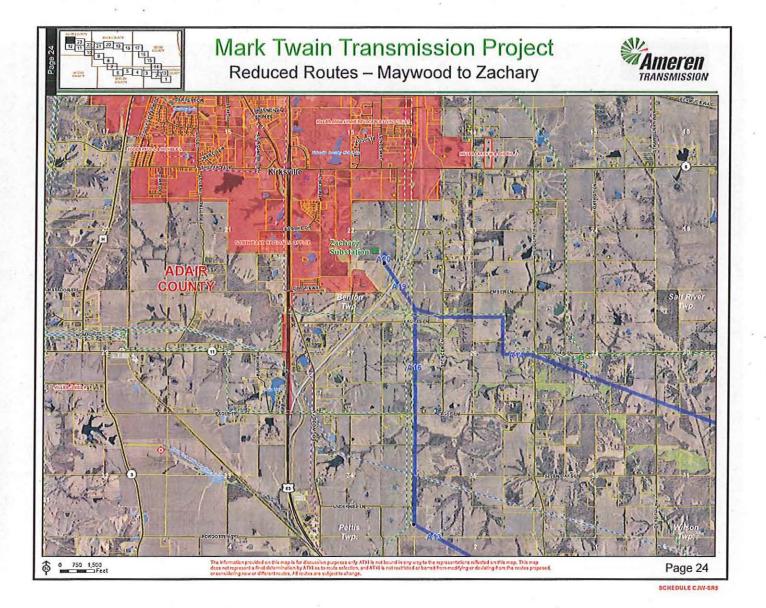


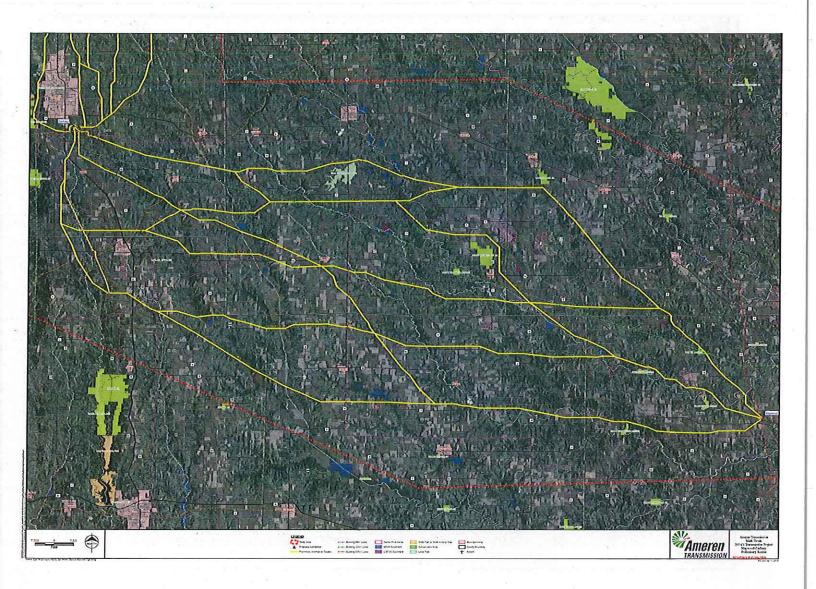


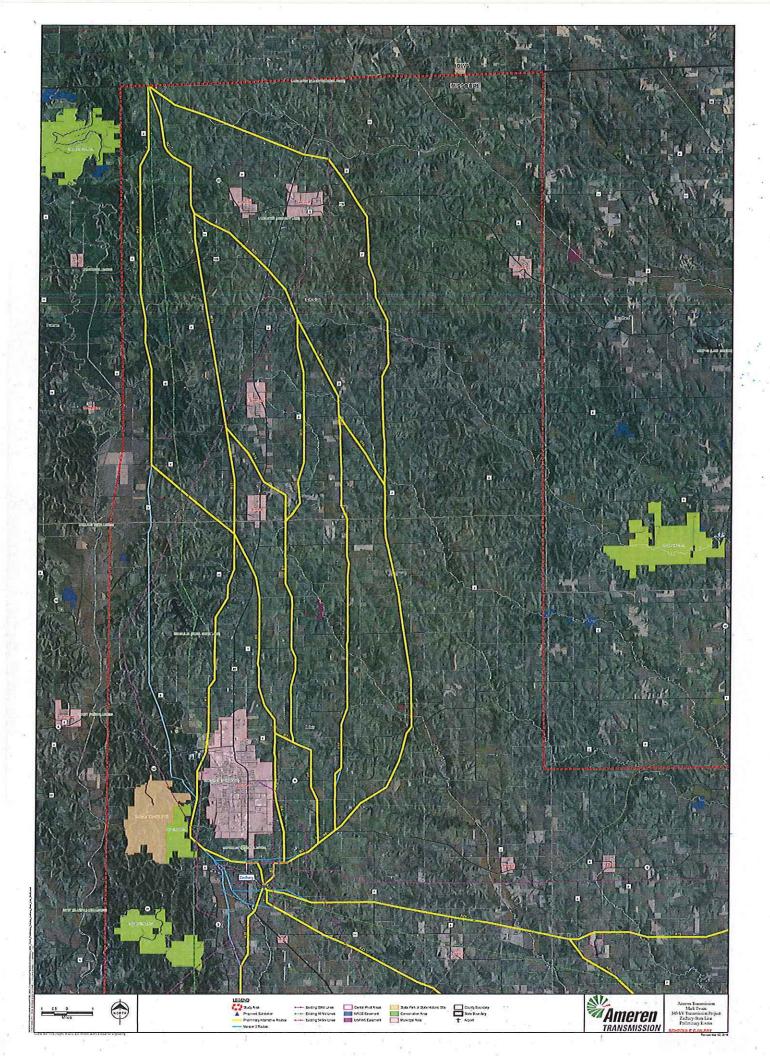


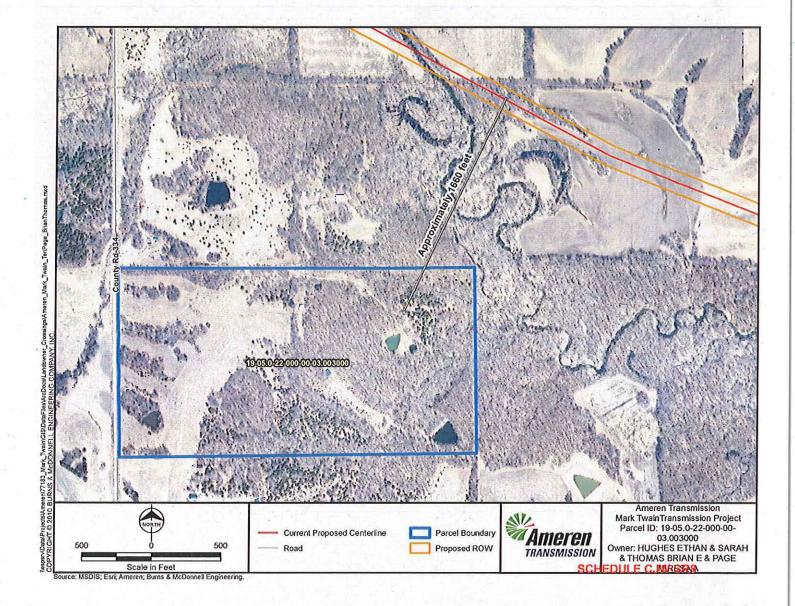














MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Headquarters 2901 West Truman Boulevard, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0180 Telephone: 573-751-4115 🛕 www.MissouriConservation.org

ROBERT L. ZIEHMER, Director

October 16, 2014

Mark Twain Transmission Project C/O Burns and McDonnell Attention: Jennifer Berry 9400 Ward Parkway Kansas City, MO 64114

RE: MARK TWAIN TRANSMISSION PROJECT - ENVIRONMENTAL COMMENTS

Ms. Berry:

The Missouri Department of Conservation (Department) is in receipt of your request for environmental concerns related to the Mark Twain Transmission Project.

The Department is the state agency responsible for forest, fish and wildlife resources in Missouri. As such, the Department participates in project review when a project might affect those resources. Department comments are for your consideration to avoid, minimize and mitigate project impacts in Missouri.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed transmission line would total approximately 100 miles from Palmyra to Kirksville to the Iowa border. Version 10 of the route network (provided by Ameren UE staff) includes the counties of Schuyler, Adair, Knox, Lewis, Shelby and Marion. Transmission line support towers would have dimensions of up to 130 feet in height with a cleared right-of-way of approximately 150 feet.

LISTED AND PROTECTED SPECIES

Enclosed find a Natural Heritage Review Report for the proposed Mark Twain Transmission Line based on Alignment Version 10 provided by Ameren UE to the Department by email on August 15, 2014.

Multiple natural heritage records for Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) exist adjacent to the proposed routes. You or your client may be required to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to the Endangered Species Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may be contacted by phone at 573-234-2132 or by mail at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 101 Park Deville Drive, Suite A, Columbia, Missouri 65203-0007.

COMMISSION

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Bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), a federally protected species under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, are known to nest near streams and rivers within the range of this project. Work managers should be alert for nesting areas within 1500 meters of project activities and follow federal guidelines at:

<u>http://www.fws.gov/midwest/MidwestBird/EaglePermits/baeatakepermit.html</u>. In addition, you may wish to request assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as described above.

SPAWNING STREAM SEASONAL CONSTRUCTION RESTRICTIONS

The following waterways have seasonal restrictions that could impact construction timing, if work would occur below the ordinary high water mark: South Fabius River and Troublesome Creek (Marion County). The affected locations are described in the enclosed Natural Heritage Review Report and shown in the enclosed map. Any work conducted below the ordinary high water mark in these stream segments should be avoided between March 15 and June 15. Management recommendations for construction projects affecting Missouri streams and rivers are also enclosed for reference.

The South Fabius River watershed supports a diverse aquatic community. Surveys conducted from 1941 to 1999 in the watershed revealed the presence of 58 fish species, four crayfish species, and 19 freshwater mussel species. Three species have been collected in the watershed that are part of the Communities of Conservation Concern Checklist, namely American eel, ghost shiner, and Mississippi silvery minnow. Special designation has been given to the watershed because of these robust aquatic communities. A portion of the watershed was designated an Aquatic Conservation Opportunity Area in 2006, and a Priority Watershed in 2011. Sampling in 2008 showed robust aquatic communities in the South Fabius Aquatic Conservation Opportunity Area near the potential project sites. Many of the aquatic species found in the watershed rely on clean, cool and high-quality habitat. Forested riparian corridors are critical to maintaining these high-quality aquatic systems. Degradation of these high-quality habitats could result in losses of biological diversity.

EXISTING CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

The Department holds interest in two conservation easements that precede proposed route segments A1 and A2.

Proposed segment A2 crosses the Bringer Stream Stewardship Trust Fund Easement (Marion County, T59N, R07W, Section 15 and 16) as seen in Figure 1. This easement is part of an In-lieu-Fee Mitigation (ILF) instrument originally purchased by the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation in 2006. This perpetual easement compensated landowners to maintain the existing condition of a wooded riparian corridor along the October 16, 2014 Ms. Berry Page 3

watercourse for the purpose of sustaining fish, wildlife, forest and riparian values, as described in the enclosed Stream Stewardship Trust Fund Conservation Easement. A change of condition, such as removal of riparian vegetation, would violate the terms of the Bringer Conservation Easement and the In-lieu-Fee instrument. At a minimum, a change of condition of this parcel would require an amendment to the agreement and repayment of the purchase price plus interest to the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation for the affected portion of the easement parcel.

The proposed route A2 would impact two portions of the Bringer easement for an estimated total of 3.95 acres. The proposed route A2 would bisect the easement into two unconnected portions. Short term impacts of the proposed route segment A2 at the Bringer easement would likely include conversion of riparian corridor to shrubs and grasses, and possibly soil compaction. Long term impacts of this conversion would likely result in a diminished riparian function offered by existing trees along the watercourse. Shrubs and grasses provide a lesser level of stream bank protection from erosion than trees because their root networks are more shallow than those of trees. Unlike trees, shrubs and grasses provide no shade for the stream channel. Riparian trees offer stream shading which maintains lower water temperatures and increased dissolved oxygen levels during the warm seasons. Many aquatic wildlife have an upper thermal tolerance for survival, growth and reproduction that is better served by stream shading. In addition, aquatic wildlife require a minimum dissolved oxygen content in river water which cannot be sustained diurnally during the warm season without stream shading.

Pages 12 and 13 of the enclosed ILF mitigation instrument between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District and the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation Stream Stewardship Trust Fund describe allowed and restricted activities on the parcels for which the perpetual easement applies.

Proposed segment A1 crosses the Bevill Stream Stewardship Agreement Easement (Marion County, T59N, R08W, Section 25), as seen in Figure 2. This perpetual easement was purchased by the Department in 1996 as part of a Stream Stewardship Agreement. The agreement compensated landowners to maintain the existing condition of a wooded riparian corridor along the watercourse for the purpose of sustaining fish, wildlife, forest and riparian values, as described in the enclosed Stream Stewardship Agreement Easement. A change of condition, such as removal of riparian vegetation, would violate the restrictions contained in the easement. At a minimum, a change of condition of this parcel would require repayment of the purchase price plus interest for the affected portion of the easement parcel.

An estimated 0.80 acres of the Bevill easement would be impacted by proposed route segment A1. The proposed route A1 would bisect the easement into two unconnected October 16, 2014 Ms. Berry Page 4

portions. Short term impacts could include vegetation conversion from riparian corridor to shrubs and grasses, as well as soil compaction. Similar to the impacts on the Bringer Easement, long term impacts of this conversion on the Bevill easement would likely result in a diminished riparian function.

CONCLUSION

In consideration of the Department's responsibility to manage fish, wildlife, and forest resources held in the public trust, the least environmentally damaging route segment would be a modified form of route A2 that would completely avoid the Bringer Stream Stewardship Trust Fund Conservation Easement.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. Note that this response does not preclude other comments the Department may provide under the Clean Water Act permitting process or the National Environmental Policy Act, if applicable. If you have any questions about these comments, please contact me at (573) 522-4115, Extension 3159 or by email at jennifer.campbell-allison@mdc.mo.gov.

Sincerely,

Jenil Campbell A.

JENNIFER CAMPBELL-ALLISON POLICY COORDINATOR

JCA/ak

C:

Enclosures

Chris Wood, Burns & McDonnell Peggy Ladd, Ameren UE Kenny Lynn, Ameren UE Brian Holderness, Ameren UE Shauna Marquart, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Marvin and Loretta Bringer, Bringer Stream Stewardship Trust Fund landowner Edward and Betty Bevill, Bevill Stream Stewardship Agreement landowner Chris Vitello, Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

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ROBERT L. ZIEHMER, Director

November 21, 2014

Mark Twain Transmission Project C/O Burns and McDonnell Attention: Jennifer Berry 9400 Ward Parkway Kansas City, MO 64114

RE: MARK TWAIN TRANSMISSION PROJECT - ENVIRONMENTAL COMMENTS

Ms. Berry:

This letter provides a supplemental response to Ameren's request for environmental concerns related to the Mark Twain Transmission Project and is a part of the Department of Conservation (Department) response provided in a letter to you dated October 16, 2014.

As indicated previously, the Department is the state agency responsible for forest, fish and wildlife resources in Missouri. As such, the Department participates in project review when a project might affect those resources. Department comments are for your consideration to avoid, minimize and mitigate project impacts in Missouri.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed transmission line would total approximately 100 miles from Palmyra to Kirksville to the Iowa border. Version 10 of the route network (provided by Ameren UE staff) includes the counties of Schuyler, Adair, Knox, Lewis, Shelby and Marion. Transmission line support towers would have dimensions of up to 130 feet in height with a cleared right-of-way of approximately 150 feet.

CONTIGUOUS FOREST BLOCKS

A number of the alignments proposed as of the October 2014 Open House will result in fragmentation of woodland habitat, including forest blocks greater than 150 acres. The northerly route from Maywood to Zachary (comprised of segments A2, A6, A9, A14) fragments the fewest forest blocks.

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Large forest blocks provide important habitat for wildlife. These habitat types are rare in present day northern Missouri and are utilized by neotropical migrant birds, currently in decline, as well as both game and non-game wildlife. Some neotropical migrant bird species are forest interior species and fragmentation of timber blocks leaves them vulnerable to brood parasitism from the brown-headed cowbird and predation. While edge habitat benefits habitat generalist species of birds, specialized species that require forest/woodland interiors are vulnerable to fragmentation caused by forest/woodland disturbances and would likely decline from a transmission line transecting the forest/woodland block.

Large forest blocks are associated with diverse wildlife species. For example, Henry Sever Lake Conservation Area is approximately 300 acres of forest and woodland habitat that supports 29 neotropical migrant bird species. Large timber blocks on the proposed routes range from 173 to 1,222 acres and likely include the same bird species, as well as additional species.

Forest blocks that would be impacted by the remaining proposed route segments on the Maywood to Zachary route are as follows:

- A2 would fragment a forest block approximately 300 acres in size at T60N, R8W Section 36 and T60N, R7W, Sections 31 and 32.
 - Two Myotis sodalis (Indiana bat) records are located within six (6) miles of where the A2 route segment and the subject forest block intersect.
- · A3 would fragment the following forest blocks:
 - Approximately 1,222 acres: T59N, R9W, Sections 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 22, and 23;
 One (1) *Myotis sodalis* record within five (5) miles.
 - Approximately 181 acres: T60N, R12W, Sections 23-24;
 - Approximately 206 acres: T59N, R11W, Section 13 and T59N, R10W, Section 18;
 - Approximately 440 acres: T60N, R13W, Sections 1 and 2; and T61N, R13W, Section 36; and T61N, R12W, Section 31.
- The eastern portion of A7 includes a large forest block. According to Department records, this area includes a known Blue Heron rookery. The landowner reports that this rookery is still active.
- A13 would fragment the following forest blocks:
 - Approximately 293 acres: T61N, R14W, Sections 22 and 23;
 - Approximately 223 acres: T61N, R14W, Section 24.

Forest blocks that would be impacted by the remaining proposed route segments on the Zachary to State Line route are as follows:

- B9 would fragment a forest block (approximately 652 acres) at T65N, 15W, Section 12 and T65N, 14W, Sections 7,8 and 18.
 - Eight (8) Myotis sodalis and one (1) Lasionycteris noctivagans (silver-haired bat) records are known within four (4) miles of this forest block.

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- B13 would fragment a forest block (approximately 270 acres) at T66N, R15W, Sections 31 and 32.
 - Five (5) Myotis sodalis and one (1) Lasionycteris noctivagans (silver-haired bat) records are known within 3 miles of this forest block.
 - Two known roosting sites are located 1.4 miles from this forest block, and are located within 0.17 miles of the proposed B13 route segment.
 - This block is adjacent to another 204 acre block at T66N, 15W, Section 31, separated by a farm road. These two blocks effectively form a 474 acre block, and it is located within four (4) miles of several other large timber blocks.

You or your client may need to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (573-234-2132) regarding Endangered Species Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act compliance.

EXISTING EASEMENTS

Please refer to the earlier letter to you, dated October 16, 2014, regarding impacts to the Bringer and Bevill easements that would be impacted by route segments A2 and A1, respectively.

The South Fabius River is an important river in the northeastern portion of Missouri. Its ecological integrity and diverse aquatic community are reflective of the relatively wide and contiguous riparian woodlands and stable stream channels found in the watershed. As currently proposed, segment A2 would impact 3.95 acres of the Bringer easement, or segment A1 would impact 0.8 acres of the Bevill easement. Impacts of the proposed transmission line route segments on these easements will include riparian woodland fragmentation and an increased risk of stream channel instability.

An alternative to crossing one of these easements should include avoidance of the easement by routing around the parcel. Shapefiles of these easements were provided to Chris Wood by email on October 22, 2014.

If it is not possible to avoid the subject easement, impacts should be minimized by crossing perpendicular to the stream to reduce the area of land disturbed by right-of-way clearing.

As previously stated, a modified form of route segment A2 would appear to be the least environmentally damaging to forest, fish and wildlife resources and the Department's interest in these existing stream easements.

CONCLUSION

As presented in October 2014, the routes from Maywood to Zachary and the routes from Zachary to State Line appear to create potential impacts to forest, fish and wildlife resources in Missouri. The northerly route from Maywood to Zachary comprised of segments A2, A6, A9, A14 appears to create the fewest impacts to these resources. Alternatives and modifications to the remaining proposed route segments could focus on

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first avoiding, then minimizing, and finally mitigating impacts to forest, fish and wildlife resources.

Avoidance measures could include upgrade of existing transmission lines rather than clearing a new right of way.

Minimization measures could include paralleling the new line to existing transmission lines to avoid new fragmentation events and minimize the total number of cleared acres for the project. Another minimization measure could consider routing around forest and woodland blocks of greater than 150 acres, rather than bisecting these forest blocks.

Avoidance and minimization of impacts to the Bringer or Bevill easements are strongly encouraged. Avoidance could include routing around the easement. If avoidance were not possible, minimization could include crossing at a different location within the easement or crossing perpendicular to the waterway.

If it would be helpful, the Department would be willing to meet with Ameren, its consultant, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss Department comments provided for this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. Note that this response does not preclude other comments the Department may provide under the Clean Water Act permitting process or the National Environmental Policy Act, if applicable. If you have any questions about these comments, please contact me at (573) 522-4115, Extension 3159 or by email at jennifer.campbell-allison@mdc.mo.gov.

Sincerely,

gennifer Campbell - Allison

JENNIFER CAMPBELL-ALLISON POLICY COORDINATOR

JCA/pb

Enclosures

c: Chris Wood, Burns & McDonnell Peggy Ladd, Ameren UE Kenny Lynn, Ameren UE Brian Holderness, Ameren UE Shauna Marguart, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service