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BEFORE THE
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION
TRANSPORTATION REGULAR OPEN MEETING
Wednesday, January 9, 2019
Chicago, Illinois

Met pursuant to notice at 10:30 a.m. at 160
North LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois.

PRESENT:

- BRIEN J. SHEAHAN, Chairman
- JOHN R. ROSALES, Commissioner (Telephonically)
- SADZI OLIVA, Commissioner
- D. ETHAN KIMBREL, Commissioner
- ANASTASIA PALIVOS, Acting Commissioner

SULLIVAN REPORTING COMPANY
BY: JO ANN KROLICKI, CSR
License No. 084-002215

1 CHAIRMAN SHEAHAN: Good morning. Are we
2 ready to proceed in Springfield?

3 CHIEF CLERK: Yes, we are, Mr. Chairman.

4 CHAIRMAN SHEAHAN: Pursuant to the Open
5 Meetings Act, I call the January 9, 2019, Regular
6 Open Meeting to order. Commissioners Oliva, Kimbrel,
7 and Acting Commissioner Palivos are with me in
8 Chicago. Commissioner Rosales is in Springfield. We
9 have a quorum.

10 We have three requests to speak this
11 morning. As a reminder, each of you will have three
12 minutes. Someone in the room will let you know when
13 you have two minutes left, one minute left, and when
14 your time has expired.

15 Please be aware that while the
16 Commission affords the public an opportunity to
17 comment, we will not respond to your comments. Your
18 comments will be made part of the record. However,
19 you cannot rely on them to resolve disputed issues of
20 fact or contest a case.

21 Our first speaker is Vern See.

22 Mr. See?

1 MS. SEE: Chairman Sheahan and
2 Commissioners.

3 My concern relates to the Illinois
4 Rivers Project and all future right-of-way
5 acquisitions.

6 I served on the County Board of Edgar
7 County for six years. Whenever a new plan or rule
8 was put in effect, I tried to attach a five-year
9 sunset clause. Not that it should be done away with,
10 but revisited and adjusted as necessary.

11 I have no faith in FERC reviewing
12 this boondoggle. Supplying New Jersey with wind
13 power -- wind energy from the central plains
14 certainly deserves a second look.

15 Farming practices change. In recent
16 years, pattern tile has been added to many acres,
17 costing \$2,000 or more per acre. I have attached a
18 photo to show how these patterns work.

19 Cover crops are also becoming more
20 and more popular, giving the ground a sponge effect
21 and the ability to hold more water for the crop.
22 This also makes the ground softer and more

1 susceptible to damage by heavy equipment. Repeated
2 heavy truck traffic will pump this tile out of
3 position destroying the entire endeavor. Hence, the
4 need for a sunset clause. Utilities must stay
5 along existing roads; thereby, eliminating damage to
6 the pattern as the pattern does not go under the
7 road.

8 I have attached a Transmission
9 Agreement. It speaks for itself.

10 I hope I have excited your curiosity
11 and ask you to review, examine, and look into this
12 travesty called an energy policy. I believe the
13 Illinois Rivers Project should terminate at the
14 Kansas substation.

15 Commissioners, I just ask that you
16 look into this and find a solution that will be
17 beneficial to both Ameren and the landowner. I
18 believe the solution is within reach if you look into
19 it and help us with this decision.

20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN SHEAHAN: Thank you, sir.

22 Our next speaker is Philip Wright.

1 MR. WRIGHT: Good morning.

2 Thank you for letting me speak again
3 to you today. My name is Philip Wright. I'm from
4 Symmes Township in southern Edgar County, Illinois,
5 and my comments today are in regard to the Ameren
6 Illinois River Project in which I am an adjacent
7 landowner.

8 In a few weeks, we will hear sirens,
9 radio alerts, and TV announcements alerting us of
10 the possibility of severe storms or even tornadoes.
11 Yes, we'll be told to take cover and protect
12 ourselves. I have been through two tornados, and,
13 yes, they are horrible, but in about two-or-three
14 minutes, they are over, and soon after, the cleanup
15 and recovery begins, and things get back to normal
16 down the road.

17 We have a storm coming in the Ameren
18 power line that will change our lives forever, and
19 things will never, ever get back to normal. And
20 guess what? We had no warnings, no sirens, no
21 radio, and no TV alerts. Nothing. I find this in
22 today's news and information overload world

1 unforgivable.

2 In all my life, I have been upfront
3 with people with both good and bad news. I can look
4 at myself in the mirror every day and feel good about
5 the way I have treated others. I hope that people
6 remember me as someone that always used commonsense
7 and honesty.

8 If I was on the other side of this
9 issue, I would have at least warned these landowners
10 about this approaching storm. The lack of
11 transparency means to me that someone is trying to
12 hide something.

13 I will be giving you copies of the
14 maps that show the best route, the primary route,
15 the alternate route, and the route that was unknown
16 to us. It is this unknown route that was approved
17 by the ICC. This route just mysteriously
18 appeared.

19 I first found out about this route
20 from a phone call from a friend. To say the least,
21 I was stunned. It was like being run over by a
22 tornado without any warning. Unforgivable. Can you

1 imagine if the citizens of Springfield, Illinois,
2 were not warned about a severe storm approaching the
3 city? The outcry would be heard throughout the
4 state.

5 I respect the job that you all do. I
6 realize that it's not easy. But please look again at
7 what happened to us. We have done nothing wrong. We
8 were just minding our business when an unannounced
9 storm blew us away.

10 I hope at the end of the day, you can
11 look back on this case and say that I made the right
12 ruling, even though there were no warnings, no
13 sirens, and no alerts. Just silence.

14 Respectfully, Phil Wright, Adjacent
15 Landowner. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN SHEAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Wright.

17 Our final public speaker is Tom Ogle.
18 Mr. Ogle?

19 MR. OGLE: Good morning. My name is Tom
20 Ogle, and I live in Edgar County, Illinois.

21 I'm one of 35 landowners still
22 fighting Ameren in the courts trying to receive due

1 process for over the last five years.

2 Thank you for your time.

3 CHAIRMAN SHEAHAN: Thank you, sir. That
4 concludes our public comments, and we'll now move
5 into our Transportation Agenda.

6 Items RR-1 through -3 concern various
7 railroad safety improvement projects.

8 Are there any objections to
9 considering these items together and approving the
10 Proposed Orders?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRMAN SHEAHAN: Hearing none, the Orders
13 are approved.

14 Item MC-1 concerns Lucky's
15 Automotive's Application for a renewal of a
16 Commercial Relocation Towing License.

17 Are there any objections to approving
18 the Proposed Order approving the Application?

19 (No response.)

20 CHAIRMAN SHEAHAN: Hearing none, the Order
21 is approved.

22 Item MC-2 concerns an Application for

1 a Commercial Relocation Operator Permit.

2 Are there any objections to approving
3 the Proposed Order approving the Application?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIRMAN SHEAHAN: Hearing none, the Order
6 is approved.

7 Items MC-3 through -5 concern
8 applications for authority to move household goods.

9 Are there any objections to
10 considering these items together and approving the
11 Proposed Orders?

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIRMAN SHEAHAN: Hearing none, the Orders
14 are approved.

15 Items CR-1 and CR-2 concern
16 applications for Class E Recovery Permits.

17 Are there any objections to
18 considering these items together and approving the
19 Proposed Orders?

20 (No response.)

21 CHAIRMAN SHEAHAN: Hearing none, the Orders
22 are approved.

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That concludes our Transportation

Agenda.

(WHEREUPON, the meeting was
adjourned.)