

Bay Lake Project

137-CE-166

Transcript of Proceedings

Volume 5

Public Session

February 3, 2015

ORIGINAL



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BEFORE THE

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

APPLICATION OF AMERICAN TRANSMISSION)	
LINE, AS AN ELECTRIC PUBLIC UTILITY,)	Docket No.
FOR AUTHORITY TO CONSTRUCT AND PLACE)	
IN SERVICE FACILITIES FOR THE)	137-CE-166
PROPOSED NORTH APPLETON TO MORGAN)	
(BAY LAKE) PROJECT, INCLUDING)	
EXPANDING THE 345/138 KV NORTH)	
APPLETON SUBSTATION LOCATED IN)	
OUTAGAMIE COUNTY, WISCONSIN; NEW)	
138 KV AND 345 KV TRANSMISSION LINES)	
FROM THE EXPANDED NORTH APPLETON)	
SUBSTATION TO AN EXPANDED MORGAN)	
SUBSTATION IN OCONTO COUNTY,)	
WISCONSIN, AND ASSOCIATED SUBSTATION)	
FACILITIES IN BROWN, KEWAUNEE,)	
MARINETTE, OCONTO, OUTAGAMIE,)	
SHAWANO, AND WINNEBAGO COUNTIES,)	
WISCONSIN, AND DICKINSON COUNTY,)	
MICHIGAN)	

EXAMINER MICHAEL NEWMARK, PRESIDING

ORIGINAL TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
VOLUME 5
PUBLIC SESSION

Reported By:

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HEARING HELD:

February 3, 2015

Oconto Falls, Wisconsin

3:00 p.m.

TRANSCRIPT PAGES:

1 - 74, Incl.

EXHIBITS:

NONE

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A P P E A R A N C E S

ON BEHALF OF AMERICAN TRANSMISSION COMPANY

Mr. Trevor D. Stiles, W234 N2000 Ridgeview Parkway
Court, Waukesha, Wisconsin 53188-1022.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Chairman Phil Montgomery

OF THE COMMISSION STAFF

MICHAEL VARDA, Legal Counsel

Alexander Vedvik

Scot Cullen

James Lepinski

(FOR INDEX SEE BACK OF PUBLIC TRANSCRIPT.)

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

(Discussion held off the record.)

EXAMINER NEWMARK: We have Pat Herning.
Come on up.

PAT HERNING, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

EXAMINER NEWMARK: Give us your comment.

DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

MS. HERNING: Mr. Montgomery and
Mr. Costello and Ms. Nowak.

COMMISSIONER MONTGOMERY: I'm the only one
of the three here.

EXAMINER NEWMARK: Yeah. Just so you
know, we have Chairperson Montgomery is the only
Commissioner present today. The other two people
are Commission staff helping out, but all
Commissioners will read the transcript.

I do need to mention that Commissioner
Castillo will not be a commissioner by the time this
case gets to the Commission. The new person -- his
term expires at the end of March. A new person will
be appointed. Governor appoints Commissioners, and
the Senate confirms Commissioners. So at this point
we don't know exactly who that person's going to be,
but just wanted you to know because you mentioned
their names.

1 MS. HERNING: Okay.

2 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Go ahead. And if you
3 can also speak up.

4 MS. HERNING: And I'm also speaking for
5 everybody here besides myself. I feel that
6 everybody here is here for a reason.

7 And I live in Morgan, and I live on County
8 Road C, and so I'm just two houses away from the
9 intersection of E and C. And I've lived there for
10 20 years.

11 And my deep concern with ATC with the high
12 voltage wire of 345 in Morgan is my health, and also
13 property value decrease, and also when it comes time
14 to sell my house for a future buyer. So I hate to
15 scare away a desirable buyer because of this in my
16 area, probably about 700 feet away from the back of
17 my house, our property line. Also I have a concern
18 with the increase of the electrical bill to benefit
19 ATC and to help other customers out of my local
20 area.

21 My health concern is I'm at high risk
22 because I had a kidney transplant. I have to take
23 medications for the rest of my life to suppress my
24 immune system because of the transplant. So this is
25 nothing that's ever going to change for me.

1 And right now I go into the dermatology
2 doctor every three months, and it started
3 immediately since after my transplant. I had no
4 trouble before that. Actually, if you develop --
5 develop skin cancer, small spots, your immune system
6 fights it off, but it doesn't for me. I go in every
7 three months, and I have a problem area that has to
8 be treated, and I have -- end up having -- having
9 skin surgery.

10 Magnetic fields I want to talk about, or
11 EMF. EMF stands for electrical magnetic fields, a
12 type of radiation that takes the form of waves.
13 Magnetic fields easily penetrate walls and bodies.
14 It penetrates cement, wood, and as of now there's no
15 protective shield available.

16 Since the damage is cumulative and
17 permanent, there's no good chance you won't know --
18 there's a good chance you won't know you developed a
19 serious condition until it's too late to reverse.

20 Thousands of scientific studies proven at
21 least four decades ago have continued to prove that
22 EMFs are undeniably and often devastatingly harmful
23 for the bodies of humans, trees, the atmosphere.

24 I have a study from Ohio University, Are
25 Electromagnetic Fields Hazardous to Your Health. I

1 got that off of the internet website.

2 Other studies have focused specifically on
3 the suspected connection between EMF exposure and
4 cancer. In 1979, two universities of Colorado
5 researchers pored through childhood mortality rates
6 in the Denver area and correlated long-term exposure
7 to weak EMFs with a higher incident of cancer.
8 Seven years later, a researcher, a Swedish
9 researcher, found the same relationship between EMF
10 exposure and cancer rates among children in
11 Stockholm.

12 Now, I'm a conscientious citizen, and I
13 turn off lights in my home when they're not needed.
14 I use electricity efficiently. I have energy
15 efficient light bulbs, appliances, a furnace we put
16 in. This past summer we added insulation. We had
17 it blown in in our house, and we added -- replaced
18 new windows that were energy efficient, and we
19 installed better siding that was more energy
20 efficient, and I just think that -- yeah, like I
21 said, this is going to be going in about 700 feet
22 behind our house. So when I'm out in my yard, I'm
23 going to be affected I feel, and my -- and like I
24 say, I have no immune so I feel like cancer --
25 cancer will -- could affect me. I have a high case

1 for that.

2 And there's a farm not too far from us,
3 and they have -- it's a farm that goes 24-7, and
4 they have a lot of -- you can make heat, they're
5 looking into it, with digestive manure systems with
6 electricity, and I've seen that on T.V. on PBS, and
7 they're looking for places to put it, and it could
8 be put to good use. And there's dams, there's two
9 dams in Oconto Falls and one in Stiles that could be
10 looked into, and people are decreasing -- there are
11 studies that have been done that people are
12 decreasing their electricity.

13 So I'd just like to thank you for
14 listening to me and for taking the time to come up
15 here. We all just really appreciate it. Thank you
16 for letting me speak.

17 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Great. Thank you,
18 ma'am.

19 (Witness excused.)
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1 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. We have Janice
2 Sutrick.

3 JANICE SUTRICK, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Have a seat. Go ahead.

5 MS. SUTRICK: Do you mind if I stand?

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: That's fine.

7 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

8 MS. SUTRICK: My name is Janice Sutrick.

9 I live at 8687 County Road E in the Town of Morgan.

10 My husband, Tony, and I live by ourselves.

11 I live in a ranch home on the family farmland. My
12 home is less than two-tenths of a mile from the
13 right-of-way for the 345 high voltage power line. I
14 was raised in Morgan for 20 years, moved away for
15 40, and returned in '98. My husband and I are
16 retired.

17 I oppose the Public Service Commission
18 approval of the high voltage transmission option on
19 all routes. I support the low voltage transmission
20 option. I am opposed to any new right-of-ways and
21 support the use of existing right-of-ways.

22 I own an average family ranch home. We
23 use electricity the same as other family homes. We
24 have energy-rated appliances. I do not have any
25 particular program. I work within energy savings,

1 but we do use the new type bulbs.

2 From the high voltage lines, I'm concerned
3 about the effects of electrical magnetic fields and
4 stray voltage from these big wires. I am also
5 concerned about how safe this high voltage is with
6 my neighbors and their medical devices. Nowhere am
7 I guaranteed my land and my drinking water will be
8 protected.

9 Many people at the town hall meetings
10 spoke about friends with land that was damaged. How
11 do we know if we are guaranteed full protection from
12 the permanent damage that's left by ATC? I know
13 there's no guarantees for anything, but I'm trying
14 to do the best with how I feel.

15 Thank you.

16 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Thank you.

17 (Witness excused.)
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1 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Irene Straub.

2 IRENE STRAUB, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

3 MS. STRAUB: Well, this is just something
4 I wrote.

5 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. That's fine.
6 Perfect.

7 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

8 MS. STRAUB: Okay. Hello. My name is
9 Irene Straub. I am a widow, and I also have a
10 pacemaker and other heart conditions. I spend a lot
11 of time at my son's house and work in the garden and
12 on the fruit trees. I enjoy the peacefulness and
13 the quiet that I get there.

14 I would be scared and afraid to go outside
15 if there was power lines right above me crackling
16 and buzzing. I do not want to take any chances that
17 my pacemaker might fail or be damaged by these high
18 power lines. No one knows the fear that I am going
19 through right now wondering if my life will be
20 changed because of this project.

21 Can you guarantee 100 percent that there
22 is no danger to me being underneath these power
23 lines? Would you sign a document saying there's no
24 damage?

25 I am against this project and ask you to

1 not to go through with it. Thank you.

2 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Great. Thank you very
3 much.

4 (Witness excused.)
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1 EXAMINER NEWMARK: We have Robert Straub
2 next.

3 ROBERT STRAUB, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. Go ahead.

5 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

6 MR. STRAUB: My name is Robert Straub.

7 That was my mom. I live at 8586 Delzer Lane in the
8 Town of Morgan.

9 And I was given a letter -- sent a letter
10 about the possibility of putting some lines through,
11 which when I called up, they confirmed by my address
12 that the power lines are actually going to go about
13 20 feet from the west side of my house. I own two
14 acres. My house sits at the west side of the
15 property, and there's probably about 40 feet from
16 the west side of my house to the property line.

17 At that part over there, there was nothing
18 there. There was nothing on the whole property. I
19 put in over 130 trees from tiny ones that have grown
20 now. On that west side I have about eight fruit
21 trees, and I have a 50x50 garden, which as my mom
22 was talking about, she enjoys coming over and
23 working in the garden, working on the trees.

24 This line would go right over the top of
25 that area and over pine trees that I have grown.

1 There's hickory trees over there, all of which are
2 going to get taller and taller.

3 My concern is, you know, having these
4 power lines there, the crackling, the buzzing, you
5 know, that -- that disturbs the whole peacefulness
6 and quietness of the area. I didn't move out into
7 the country to be next to that stuff. And actually
8 when I bought my property, I was looking at others,
9 and I found four vacant lots on a dead end road,
10 farmland all around me, and never would have thought
11 that I would have to worry about anything like this.

12 I made sure with the realtor and the
13 owners that when they put the power in, their
14 thoughts were they were putting it underground from
15 County C to my home as far as the power that
16 electrifies our homes because I said I would not
17 live there if there were going to be power lines
18 that I had to look at and worry about. So that was
19 a main concern of mine.

20 The other thing I'm worried about is, you
21 know, when my mom does come over, she does have a
22 pacemaker. She's 93 years old, and there's no
23 guarantees that these magnetic impulses or spikes in
24 electricity and pulses would not affect that
25 pacemaker. I can go on about different reports and

1 stuff that say it will and other reports that say
2 there's no 100 percent guarantee, but my fears are
3 the same.

4 And I have a cell phone. That's all I
5 have. I don't have a landline. With Cellcom, my
6 provider, there's a tower seven miles on each side
7 of my house. I'm in what they consider to be a dead
8 zone, or close to it. You get a lot of dropped
9 calls. It's hard sometimes to receive calls.
10 What's the guarantee that now having these lines, if
11 they would come in, that that would not affect my
12 cell phone?

13 I call my mom up every day at 9 o'clock to
14 make sure that she's all right because she lives in
15 Pulaski at her apartment. I have to be able to call
16 her. I cannot have any interruption that might
17 happen because of these power lines.

18 I also have internet that's wireless,
19 comes off the Wahl tower over here off of Wahl Road.
20 I need that for my business. I'm a sales agent for
21 Aflac Insurance. I have to make sure that that's
22 not going to be disrupted either, and I feel being
23 20 feet away from these power lines with magnetic
24 impulses and spikes, you know, nobody's going to
25 guarantee me, or can they, that I will not have any

1 interruption.

2 I have health concerns about cancer. You
3 know, can you guarantee me that it will not impact
4 me or cause any cancer? And I can't fight in court
5 with lawyers in case I would get a cancer to say I
6 think it was because of the power lines, you know,
7 but yet I would be afraid to think that it probably
8 would have been.

9 I also -- I only own two acres, but yet I
10 would have to retitle my property to allow an
11 easement to this tower. And again, there's nothing
12 that says that somebody can't come on my property at
13 2:00 in the morning to maintenance it.

14 I haven't heard anything concrete that
15 says they're going to use safe chemicals. You know,
16 I'm real happy with the water that I get from my
17 well because it's awesome water. I can take and
18 wash a glass, turn it upside down when it dries,
19 there's no water marks. I have very good drinking
20 water, and there is no chemicals in it. But who's
21 going to tell me that I might not have something
22 change because of this impact from these towers?

23 Loss of value. I used to be a realtor for
24 eight and a half years. I showed a lot of homes to
25 people, and one of the things they did not want when

1 a property came up that had towers or things like
2 this, airports, they didn't want to live by them.
3 So if power lines were to come up by me and I would
4 have to sell because I would not live there, who's
5 going to want to buy my property with an easement
6 and with power lines? You know, I'm going to lose
7 value on my property that way.

8 There's going to be construction. There's
9 going to be noise. There's going to be no peace.
10 There's also a lot of geese that land right on the
11 other side of my property in the field, in Delzer's
12 field, that take a break from their journeys and
13 their migrations. They stop there to take a rest
14 before they fly. Who's going to say that these
15 lines aren't going to impact their line of travel
16 and their migration routes? They might change that.

17 There's also a lot of bees. The bees come
18 in, they pollinate my garden and my trees. You
19 know, I don't know what effect it has on wildlife
20 and bees and stuff like that.

21 I don't know if anybody would want to live
22 next to a house that had a power line 20 feet away.
23 And although I'm not against any kind of
24 improvements that we have to make, but prove to me
25 that we really need it because I have energy

1 efficient windows, I have 2x6 construction. You
2 know, my heat bills are usually about \$70 a month in
3 the wintertime. I have energy efficient appliance:
4 washer, dryer, toaster, coffee maker. Everything
5 that I could do to save energy I've got.

6 If this line goes through, are my rates
7 going to get risen because who's going to pay for
8 this, you know. And now my energy bill, what, could
9 it double? Could it triple? I don't know, but at
10 that point in time, I wouldn't know that I could
11 afford that. You know, I don't make a lot of money
12 selling Aflac, and it's just the way it is.

13 I've been told it's a lot safer to go
14 underground with these lines, but it's about a cost
15 factor. Well, are we going to put money over what
16 impacts my life and others.

17 So in closing I just want to say I hope
18 that everybody that's involved really takes these
19 issues to heart because I consider my house to be my
20 castle, and I understand eminent domain but, man,
21 this is just really tough having power lines that
22 could possibly go 20 feet from my house.

23 So I do thank you for your time in coming
24 up here. So thank you.

25 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thanks.

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(Witness excused.)

1 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Joe Jacobs. You didn't
2 check you wanted to speak, so I guess no.

3 Okay. Jayme Sellen, S-E-L-L-E-N.

4 JAYME SELLEN, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

5 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

6 MS. SELLEN: Good afternoon. My name is
7 Jayme Sellen. I'm the government affairs director
8 for the Greater Green Bay Chamber. Thank you for
9 the opportunity to speak today on the ATC's proposed
10 North Appleton to Morgan Project, including the
11 345 kV and the 138 kV lines.

12 This proposal comes as a result of a major
13 outage that occurred in May of 2011. Subsequent
14 studies and reviews have shown that there's a lack
15 of reliability in transmission re-enforcements
16 within this region. ATC's proposal is the least
17 costly solution to resolving our reliability needs.

18 The existing transmission lines and
19 systems in Northeast Wisconsin is frequently
20 congested leaving consumers at risk for power
21 outages, such as the outage that occurred in 2011.

22 Our economy in Northeast Wisconsin is
23 heavily relied upon manufacturing, a sector that is
24 a significant user of energy for the production of
25 goods. Without reliable energy, this sector will

1 suffer, and our economy could suffer and result in
2 job loss.

3 So I urge the Commission to grant approval
4 of this project in a timely manner. And again, I
5 thank you for the opportunity to speak.

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay.

7 (Witness excused.)

8 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Frank Wranosky.

9 MR. WRANOSKY: I changed my mind.

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1 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Jennifer
2 Wilinski.

3 JENNIFER WILINSKI, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay.

5 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

6 MS. WILINSKI: Dear Wisconsin Public
7 Service Commission, Ms. Nowak, Mr. Callisto or
8 whoever is taking his position, and Mr. Montgomery.

9 My name is Jennifer Wilinski, ratepayer
10 who resides at 8590 Morgan Marsh Road, and I'm here
11 today to tell you what I think about the proposed
12 Bay Lake Project, 137-CE-166, and how it could
13 possibly affect my family.

14 We moved to Morgan in 2014 not fully
15 understanding or knowing the volume of the North
16 Appleton-Morgan transmission line project. Our
17 realtor showed us a map and told us a power line may
18 come through in a couple years. The map was a
19 simple picture with no text on it. I was eight
20 months pregnant at the time with our third child,
21 totally preoccupied with a difficult pregnancy. We
22 did not research the project until later. I am and
23 will continue to be devastated if this power line is
24 constructed 175 feet from my front door.

25 In the environmental impact statement, it

1 says on page 91 -- sorry -- that higher-end
2 properties are more likely to experience a reduction
3 in selling price other than lower-end properties.
4 Our home is a beautiful 4,000 square foot Victorian
5 on 10 acres. We do not plan on staying here
6 forever, but will be hard pressed to sell if this
7 line is built next to us. Trying to sell a high-end
8 property with complete aesthetic loss being next to
9 two large high voltage power lines will be nearly
10 impossible. We were never notified from the
11 township or the county of this project. If I would
12 have been given a copy of the Environmental Impact
13 Statement or been notified in detail, I would not
14 have purchased my home.

15 I asked Cindy Burtley, the docket
16 coordinator, to request a route alternative in
17 Morgan. American Transmission came back with an
18 additional bump out of 175 feet. So total, if
19 approved, this line will be 300 feet from my front
20 door if the request was approved. This request will
21 cost an additional amount of approximately \$127,000.
22 I feel that moving the line over an additional 175
23 feet will not fix the problems my family may have to
24 deal with. I also feel because the power line
25 itself will not physically be on my land but right

1 off the lot line, it is unfair that I have to endure
2 all these possible problematic issues and have no
3 compensation.

4 How is it fair that the county and
5 township receive monies for housing these major
6 lines but someone who has to endure long-term
7 impacts and live next to it does not receive
8 anything?

9 I and my family may have to deal with the
10 following: potential reduction in property values,
11 potential stray voltage, permanent aesthetic loss,
12 possible permanent cell signal loss, soil
13 contamination that affects our water, possible
14 health risks associated with living close to a high
15 voltage line caused from EMF, health risks
16 associated with the use of herbicide, especially
17 with children, health risks associated with
18 mechanical disfunction of high voltage power lines,
19 and possibly many more negative things that could
20 arise, including socio-economic impacts, sensitive
21 environmental imbalances affecting our food source
22 garden, and risks living next to a large line that
23 is part of a very large vulnerable grid.

24 My husband and I work from home frequently
25 via internet. I work in robotic surgery and assist

1 in clinical management for an independent group of
2 six surgeons in Green Bay. My husband is Chief of
3 IT for Bank of Marinette. We need to connect into
4 the internet on a daily basis, especially in my
5 husband's area of work. He deals a lot with
6 securing connections and watching the functionality
7 of his operating computer systems.

8 In the area of Morgan, the only good
9 internet where we live is cellular. Electromagnetic
10 frequency from high voltage power lines can disrupt
11 the cellular signal by causing cell signal
12 degradation. This error rate for transferring data
13 over wireless networks increases exponentially as
14 you get closer to the line causing loss of data
15 packets and increasing the latency of the signal.

16 For both of our careers it is so important
17 to have us -- for us to have a good connection, and
18 I'm afraid if this line is built close to our home
19 and this happens, no one will be held accountable
20 and we will struggle with losses. I'm sorry.

21 Another concern is my family's health.
22 This concern is not just focused on effects of EMF
23 and health at the cellular level. It's also
24 mechanical failure that happens within these massive
25 structures. Last August I experienced a very scary

1 incident as I was driving home from work. I took
2 Webster Avenue to Tower Drive bridge in Green Bay
3 and was driving onto the bridge going northbound,
4 and I noticed up in the distance that a very large
5 power line, the metal silver structure-type power
6 line, not the monopoles, was sparked. It sparked a
7 total of four times, and on the fourth spark there
8 was an explosion. I was five to 600 feet away from
9 the spark, which was very concerning because at that
10 distance when the explosion happened, my FM radio
11 went out for 15 seconds and my ears popped. The ear
12 popping was painful, not to mention that the whole
13 ordeal was very unnerving. On that day it was very
14 humid and stormy, perhaps affecting the current of
15 the power lines. I don't know. There are a lot of
16 electrical lines in that area, especially by the
17 mills along the Fox River.

18 If that sort of thing can happen at five
19 to 600 feet away from someone and this line is
20 supposed to be built 175 feet from my front door,
21 how can this be completely safe? My children ride
22 their scooters and play ball down the driveway right
23 next to where this line is supposed to constructed.
24 They will not be able to do that without risks
25 involved.

1 My third child was born last March with
2 Tracheoesophageal Atresia with Fistula, meaning her
3 esophagus was non-existent. She had major
4 reconstructive surgery at two days old and spent the
5 first two weeks of life primarily in an incubator.
6 While in the NICU at Children's Hospital, I learned
7 that babies in an incubator can develop hormone
8 imbalances from the electromagnetic fields given off
9 from the incubator itself. The pineal gland in the
10 brain is super sensitive to different frequencies,
11 and my daughter did not have a problem with this,
12 but it's something that I wanted to share.

13 Being that human beings are sensitive to
14 increased EMFs. Some people are so sensitive that
15 they can develop symptoms such as migraine, skin
16 rashes, headaches, sleeplessness, anxiety and
17 depression from EMF exposure. The outcome for TEF
18 babies is usually not good. Some kids have four to
19 six surgeries before they can eat anything, and some
20 die. Miraculously my child left the hospital at six
21 weeks, which is a very short stay by NICU standards.
22 The normal earliest stay is three months.

23 My daughter is expected to make a full
24 recovery, which we are ecstatic about, but she will
25 always have some hardship and may require more

1 surgeries or procedures. When she gets a cold
2 virus, she usually gets pneumonia and this is from
3 her new esophagus being so short and narrow.
4 Additional secretions flow into her bronchus and not
5 down the esophagus. Her anatomy is not normal, and
6 sometimes the best option per the surgeons at
7 Children's Hospital in Milwaukee is to leave things
8 the way they are, because if you pursue for better,
9 you may do more harm than good.

10 She is somewhat immunocompromised from
11 this organ anomaly, and I fear that living next to
12 these high voltage lines may doubly increase her
13 chances of developing childhood leukemia. One study
14 I came across, the British journal -- Medical
15 Journal in June 2005, researchers found that
16 children living within 650 feet of power lines had a
17 70 percent greater risk for leukemia than children
18 living 2,000 feet away or more.

19 I have many neighbors that have young
20 children, and if the line were to be established in
21 Morgan, it would also affect our daycare on Havlik
22 Road. My children spend 10 hours a day there five
23 days a week.

24 Please don't build this power line in
25 Morgan. We moved out to this beautiful place to be

1 in a scenic country setting with minimal
2 environmental health risks.

3 After discovering the North Appleton to
4 Morgan transmission project, I took an initiative to
5 educate myself on as much as I could absorb. It
6 amazes me the size and sheer volume of every facet
7 that needs to be dealt with. The groups and
8 organizations that are involved put tons of their
9 own energy into the project that is huge in size.

10 I myself have gone to town meetings, asked
11 questions, and made comments. I asked our town
12 chairman, Fran Wranosky, about this permanent
13 financial strain that our children will have to
14 endure, and other people in the future will have to
15 endure in the upcoming next 40 years. All he said
16 was, I don't care, I won't be here in the next 40
17 years. This was so heartbreaking to hear coming
18 from someone who is elected in to be a lead
19 official.

20 We need help in our little township, and I
21 think if these lines were to be built, it would
22 diminish the population in Morgan. Receiving money
23 from American Transmission Corporation for housing
24 these two power lines will not help grow or
25 strengthen the town whatsoever. It will build our

1 township a \$300,000 town hall not truly needed but
2 wanted by our chairman, but for what, we don't
3 really use the town hall that we have now. And if
4 there are no people to come and use it, why would we
5 build it?

6 People in general don't want to live next
7 to these types of structures. The line segments in
8 Morgan are mainly farmland with marsh given a
9 super-sensitive ecosystem. It is beautiful scenery,
10 and as of now, well balanced. How can American
11 Transmission say that it will put the ground back
12 together if nature took 100 years to get it that
13 way?

14 Ask yourself this, Commissioners. Would
15 you want to live in a township where there was a
16 very large substation with three high voltage
17 right-of-ways leading off into every direction?
18 These power lines are permanent, and they are not
19 benign structures.

20 I truly believe in conservation and energy
21 efficiency. It is much more cost-effective not to
22 use a kilowatt than to make one. As of now the
23 energy trend is going down. I always use energy
24 efficient bulbs and appliances, and I am constantly
25 preaching to others about doing the same.

1 In our area we have hydroelectric dams
2 with renewed licenses. The Township of Stiles has a
3 dam, and Oconto Falls has two large dams. Are these
4 taken into account? We have adequate substations
5 and many power lines established already. If
6 needed, why can't these be slightly upgraded.

7 Oconto County has an excessive amount of
8 liquid manure. Some farmers have so much of it that
9 they have to pay to rent to dump the manure on other
10 people's properties just to get rid of it. We could
11 easily utilize manure digesters, and on a positive
12 note, get free byproduct from it. Why isn't our
13 state looking into federal grants for these sort of
14 things? Why were none of these things discussed in
15 the EIS? And when I say things, I mean no wire
16 energy alternatives.

17 Why does it take another part to hire an
18 engineer like Hans to do scientific calculations to
19 show proof that there is no need for this sizable
20 line. Should the State of Wisconsin be doing this
21 already?

22 One thing that Morgan really has going for
23 itself is excellent quality soil. We need to keep
24 it that way so our local farmers can stay in
25 business.

1 Please collect all data from energy
2 options and reanalyze this project. I'm worried
3 that our wonderful state will be damned to a failing
4 plan of excess electricity and financial loss, not
5 to mention huge disruption of environmental balance
6 which comes into play with this massive high voltage
7 expansion.

8 If proven states -- if proven facts state
9 that another line segment must be constructed with
10 power lines, please skip Morgan. Use the existing
11 right-of-way on Map A, B, E, F, I, J, M, N. By
12 using this route, you would affect less people and
13 lessen the impact on the environmentally sensitive
14 areas.

15 For my family's sake please skip N-8. And
16 if that cannot be done, please work with American
17 Transmission Corporation to create a completely
18 different route.

19 Lastly, if all else fails, please give us
20 enough money to clear our bank loan for our home so
21 we can leave the area. As a mother, I will never
22 stop trying to protect my children to the best of my
23 ability, and I feel that if this line goes next to
24 our house, we will be damned to live there forever
25 with many risks. They are the most precious assets

1 one can have, my kids.

2 Thank you for listening to what I have to
3 say. I genuinely appreciate being given the chance
4 to speak. Sincerely Jennifer Wilinski.

5 Thank you. I'm sorry I cried through the
6 whole thing.

7 (Witness excused.)

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1 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. So I called
2 Joe Jacobs before, but I have John Jacobs. I just
3 want to make sure I didn't mix things up here.

4 JOHN JACOBS IV, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

5 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Are you John Jacobs
6 III?

7 MR. JACOBS: I'm the IV.

8 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay.

9 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

10 MR. JACOBS: Thank you for your time
11 today.

12 I'm speaking on behalf of our family
13 businesses, Green Valley Dairy and Jacobs Brothers.
14 There are others here from our family today to
15 listen to the testimony.

16 I have provided -- we, I should say, have
17 provided extensive written testimony to -- for the
18 ag and environmental impact studies.

19 Our main concerns are regarding N-18 or
20 N-18 and N-14. N-1 -- N-18 will travel through
21 within 2,500 yards -- or 2,500 feet, give or take,
22 of our dairy facility and our digesters. We have a
23 dairy facility located at N5365 Hintz Road. On that
24 dairy facility, we have a large number of livestock
25 that we feel will be negatively impacted certainly

1 by this transmission line, and what's more
2 concerning -- what's as concerning, I should say,
3 would be the impact it would have on our digester
4 facility, which is able to produce 1.2 megawatts.

5 There's been some great testimony from
6 others regarding that technology and the ability to
7 utilize distributed generation as an alternative
8 source, and there's also been good testimony on the
9 reduced energy usage and the need for this project.
10 So I'm not going to touch on that too much.

11 But the well-being of our livestock is a
12 primary concern for us, and location of the N-18 is
13 concerningly close to our facility. Additionally,
14 we have spent the last three and a half to four
15 years researching different technology for nutrient
16 concentration and water purification, and also
17 running test pilots on irrigation of clean purified
18 water.

19 We're excitingly close to implementing
20 this technology at our facility, and to do that, we
21 need to utilize center pivot irrigation. And N-18
22 goes right through three different areas that we
23 hope to put center pivot irrigation in place. That
24 center pivot irrigation will allows us to
25 significantly reduce truck traffic, road traffic,

1 and the best, most efficient way to handle our
2 resources that we have.

3 Secondly, and something that hits home for
4 us as a family, my father and my uncle have spent
5 their entire life building this business from
6 nothing. They've worked extensively hard, and now
7 myself and my two brothers are involved and owners
8 of the business, and we now contribute extensively
9 to these projects of taking farmland that has been
10 divided up, turning it into very productive ground,
11 large parcels of land that can be very efficient.

12 We've put a lot of money, effort, into
13 clearing fence lines, cleaning up ditches that have
14 been neglected for years, cleaning up wood lines,
15 and putting in tile lines. These tile lines are
16 every 40 feet. They're a great thing for
17 agriculture. They allow oxygen to get into the
18 soil, provide better crops, build organic matter
19 into the soil. We're also able to drain the land
20 appropriately and effectively. And if those tiles
21 are every 40 feet and the towers are coming in,
22 certainly that's going to damage and affect that
23 situation for us extensively, not to mention the
24 crop loss that we would have in the interim of that.

25 That's something that really hits home for

1 us. It's not something that was done in a day.
2 It's not something that was done in a year. That's
3 something that has been done and developed over the
4 last 30 years of my father building our business,
5 and we can't -- we don't want to see that. There's
6 a significant impact on our business with our
7 ability to be efficient and effective in our
8 operations and how we need to farm the land to
9 produce what we need to produce.

10 We have existing infrastructure in place
11 underground where these power lines and transmission
12 lines are supposed to go. That has all been in
13 place for seven to eight years in anticipation for
14 what we're looking to do in the next year, year and
15 a half to implement our irrigation and move forward
16 with that plan. I just can't stress enough the
17 financial and efficiency impacts that that has on
18 our business and our operations.

19 I would like to touch on -- so that's
20 N-18, N-18. And what's disturbing about that to me
21 is, yes, it is following an existing right-of-way
22 with an underground natural gas line, but it's not
23 following an existing aboveground right-of-way, and
24 there are countless existing aboveground
25 right-of-ways that should have been selected for

1 this project. We have been -- and I'm sure a lot of
2 people in this room have been all over the U.S. and
3 in large cities, and there are transmission lines
4 everywhere following our large highways and
5 interstates and the existing infrastructure where
6 something like this needs to go.

7 N-14, again the Commission so far -- or
8 the plan so far has proven to not follow an existing
9 right-of-way and go right across some more large
10 tillable land base that we have and that we've put a
11 lot of time, effort, and resources into where we
12 also implement pivot irrigation. There is an
13 existing right-of-way about less than a half mile
14 north of N-14, and I believe that's N-13, I'm not
15 sure, that that would meet up with.

16 I guess on a -- to sum this up, it's not
17 that -- we recognize that something is very likely
18 to be done in this scenario, but -- and we are going
19 to be affected, whichever route is chosen. N-4 is
20 our least objectionable route. N-18 and N-14 run
21 right through existing infrastructure that we have
22 and significant plans that we have invested in and
23 are in the -- excuse me -- are in the process of
24 implementing to make our business efficient and
25 effective in order for us to survive in this very

1 competitive agricultural world today.

2 I guess that's all I have to say right
3 now. Thank you.

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Thanks a lot.

5 (Witness excused.)
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1 EXAMINER NEWMARK: So John Jacobs III, do
2 you wish to speak?

3 JOHN JACOBS III, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right.

5 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

6 MR. JACOBS: Thank you for taking the time
7 to come up here today.

8 I just want to follow up with my son
9 John's comments. I got my other two boys up here
10 who are really trying to instill the values of
11 sustainable agricultural and so forth. And I'm not
12 going to repeat all the things that he said, but I
13 am concerned about the old business model that you
14 use for putting in power lines. It rewards ATC, and
15 it rewards the utilities handsomely.

16 And I understand the pressure that you
17 folks are under, but I want to tell you that we --
18 we spent four and a half million dollars to put in
19 the methane digesters. We have three methane
20 digesters. We produce 1.2 megawatts of power. One
21 of these contracts will sunset here within a year,
22 and at that time we'll go from about eight cents a
23 kilowatt hour down to -- we're told somewhere two
24 and a half or three cents a kilowatt hour.

25 The methane digester industry in the State

1 of Wisconsin is just totally absent right now, and
2 it's because we have poor policies. I would
3 encourage the Commission to have the courage to
4 start looking at alternatives and look at the future
5 to have distributed generation, have policies that
6 allow for that. Because then we wouldn't have all
7 these folks here so negatively impacted by these
8 lines crisscrossing and all the things that -- and
9 harm that comes along with it and all the
10 inefficiencies it creates for our farms.

11 And I know you have to do -- you probably
12 have to do something. I beg of you to put it along
13 the existing right-of-way somewhere so none of us
14 have to hurt. And like John said, I worked my
15 entire career trying to -- my entire life trying to
16 make these farms sustainable, and all of a sudden it
17 comes up, yeah, here, we can go right across the
18 Jacobs' land because it's -- you know, they're nice,
19 clear farms and, you know, who cares.

20 Well, you know, it's -- it's just not
21 right that we're pursuing this kind of business
22 model yet in this day and age when we have all these
23 alternative energy sources coming up. So in
24 addition to everything John said, I just wanted to
25 ask you to consider the policies that you're

1 pursuing as a Commission that are in my opinion
2 antiquated, and we have to begin to look at the
3 future of distributed generation so we don't have to
4 have -- impose all this harm on these people, and we
5 can -- we can have the power that we need, we just
6 don't have to use the old business model to do it.

7 So that's all I've got to say. Thank you
8 for your time.

9 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thanks very much.

10 (Witness excused.)

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1 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. David, looks
2 like Behrend, B-E-H-R-E-N-D.

3 DAVID BEHREND, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Go ahead.

5 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

6 MR. BEHREND: My name is Dave Behrend. I
7 reside at the intersection of County C and E in the
8 Town of Morgan. I'm retired with 26 years in the
9 military, and I took my military pension and wound
10 up moving to the Town of Morgan.

11 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Sir. Slow down a
12 little.

13 MR. BEHREND: Okay.

14 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Because she's typing
15 what you're saying.

16 MR. BEHREND: Oh, I'm recorded.

17 EXAMINER NEWMARK: It's not recorded.
18 It's all transcribed.

19 MR. BEHREND: Okay. I retired from
20 St. Mary's Hospital also after 35 years there.

21 Before relocating to the Town of Morgan, I
22 checked into the county website and the Town of
23 Morgan website to see if any major construction or
24 changes were scheduled in the town. Nothing was
25 listed that would affect the purchase of a home if

1 we chose Morgan as our retirement destination, in
2 which we did. On the home inspection sheet, the
3 listing real estate agent listed nothing about
4 changes that would occur in the Town of Morgan.

5 At the time, shortly after I moved in, I
6 received notice that American Transmission Company
7 was coming through the area. I didn't even
8 understand what the word was, but that spring I had
9 erected my flagpole 30 feet high. In the Town of
10 Morgan, which there is no constitution or no bylaws,
11 I could not get into the website because of the poor
12 internet signal, and I went ahead and put up my
13 flagpole. It was suggested that I pay a \$70 fine
14 because I was changing the horizon and altering the
15 ground, but it never happened and they waived it.
16 They waived the penalty.

17 I attend the town hall meetings regularly,
18 and at the meeting in May of 2012 I asked the town
19 counsel and our chairman, Fran Wranosky, if they
20 knew anything of the project. No one knew anything.
21 In the months to follow, the Oconto County
22 Executive, Leland Rymer, stopped by to see if I
23 would be interested in purchasing the property, the
24 land behind my home. He also claimed at that time
25 to know nothing.

1 I noticed that the Town of Morgan was
2 receiving \$22,596 annually from ATC. This was from
3 the existing substation and lines that were built a
4 couple of years ago. Still I asked questions, and
5 none of our board had any information about the new
6 North Appleton-Morgan project to provide me.

7 The \$22,596 went towards a new recycle
8 center, and the money was also set aside for a new
9 town hall. Our chairman desperately wants and needs
10 the line to be kept in Morgan. The closer the line
11 is to the new town hall, the more money the town
12 receives from ATC. I feel that the ratepayer and
13 the taxpayer, the public, should be notified in a
14 more transparent and clear sort of way.

15 The line is definitely not needed in
16 Morgan. All northern projects are deferred, so why
17 are we having such a massive line, which is stopping
18 at the Morgan substation?

19 I am very cognitive of my energy use. I
20 use energy efficiently, light bulbs and appliances.
21 Energy trends are declining and forecasted to
22 decline in the next following years.

23 I am worried for the futures of our
24 people. This line will carry a massive debt, and
25 some areas are 300 billion. When we look at the

1 total cost, depending upon the routes, I think the
2 Wisconsin Public Service Commission should gather
3 information in all forms of energy: solar, manure
4 digesters. Oconto County has lots of manure and
5 provides a lot of byproduct of bedding for the
6 animals and the biodegradable planting pots. The
7 hydroelectric field is there.

8 Personally I feel we are really diving
9 into the project without looking closely at every
10 option. In the area of the -- of the manure by
11 biodigesters, there's a lot of complaints from the
12 DNR that they are inefficient and messy, but they're
13 moved into too fast. No real constructive policy
14 and built projects that are approved. So they're
15 put together very loosely where they spill and leak,
16 but if a very defined and -- project was put
17 together where there would be minimum rules of
18 constructing and the type of materials to be
19 constructed, the problem would be lessened.

20 What we could gain from it here in Oconto
21 County is we could develop another commodity or two.
22 The first commodity would be -- the example I will
23 use, when you go to the greenhouse in the spring and
24 you get your little flowers in the plastic planter,
25 don't use the plastic planter. The byproduct of the

1 manure digester could squeeze off the liquid. The
2 leftover clay product could be used as a planter,
3 fully organic and you put the whole thing in the
4 ground.

5 The second commodity would be the dried
6 fertilizer, use it in your yards, use it in your
7 beds, and the county would not have to budget a
8 \$30,000 computer project to give a 3-D picture of
9 how we contaminate the ground. So we would have the
10 digester as the factory, the byproduct of a powered
11 manure, and a clay pottery. The waste material
12 would be electricity, and ATC doesn't want that.
13 Only their electricity seems to be good.

14 I feel that this line is absolutely -- I
15 feel that this line, if absolutely necessary, and it
16 should be in the routes of M, N, I, J, E, F, A, and
17 B, and these letters come from Chapter 10 of the
18 environmental service manual. They're about --
19 towards the back end, but it lists the environmental
20 impact studies and how the ecological system is
21 being impacted.

22 Every footnote in the environmental impact
23 study in our land here when we talk about -- when
24 Mrs. Wilinski spoke, she's in the N-16 area. To the
25 east of her is an N-8 area on these maps. I live on

1 the N-4 area. Coming cross-a-ways there's an N-7
2 area. All these are routes that have extreme,
3 permanent environmental impact damage.

4 When they place these poles in the ground,
5 what's not said to you is that some poles could be
6 50-feet deep, some poles could be 75-feet deep, and
7 some poles the encasements can go deeper. In our
8 aquifers, that's the body of water under the ground
9 where our drinking well comes from, nowhere does it
10 say the type of drilling that will be used to bore
11 the hole to protect the water from the arsenic that
12 can leach into our drinking water.

13 Then what it turns around and says in the
14 footnotes of the environmental impact study is that
15 a stipend will be given to the homeowner/landowner
16 to any damage to the water, which means whatever
17 they give you, that's what the contract says. The
18 rest of the cost goes on to you. And if you're into
19 the farming and you get the heavy contamination and
20 you can't do what you've been doing anymore, you
21 might lose our farm. You have your businesses, you
22 could lose your business. ATC gets the profit. You
23 get the loss.

24 So in the rapid ramming of this project
25 going north, yes, Green Bay might need more

1 electricity, but give Green Bay more electricity.
2 And Green Bay has the Pulliman plant. What they're
3 saying is shut down the chimney and get rid of the
4 emissions. Over here they want to take another
5 plant and put up another chimney. A chimney is a
6 chimney. Emissions are emissions.

7 And they talk about one product, the O2.
8 When you burn coal or oil -- I'm going to use your
9 water bottles as an example. One bottle of water
10 could be the energy coming off of burning coal and
11 water, which will light these lights. But if you
12 switch over to natural gas, now you have to use
13 three bottles of water to light the lights.

14 And they're going to talk about the CO2.
15 That's the amount of energy that goes up the chimney
16 and doesn't do any work, it's lost. But what they
17 don't talk about are the heavy metals. You burn
18 coal, you burn oil, you burn natural gas, you have
19 heavy metals. The increase of heavy metals in the
20 atmosphere of Green Bay is up around 17 percent.
21 That's mercury. Mercury is a heavy metal that gets
22 into the brain, almost impossible to get out, and it
23 does permanent damage. That's not discussed. They
24 only say that the coal chimney is the bad chimney
25 and natural gas is the good chimney.

1 The other thing that is not discussed with
2 everything going natural gas is where is the gas
3 coming from. With the international market of oil
4 coming down, here in the United States we're doing
5 fracking. About 20 years ago fracking was given to
6 the country of Canada. Canada does pretty much
7 uncontrollable fracking, and that's our tar sands.
8 The tar sands is the Keystone Pipeline. This crude
9 coming down from Canada to go to Louisiana, which is
10 100 percent exportable product, can't come down the
11 pipeline by itself. It needs the gas.

12 To refine the gas and get it out of the
13 oil and put it back into the market for the United
14 States, they have to make a new, larger pipeline to
15 get back to those power plants to operate it. Now
16 supply and demand. These new power plants running
17 on natural gas need a lot of gas. You look at how
18 much energy comes off of gas compared to oil.
19 Anything with a chimney is not perfect, so we're
20 getting rid of one problem and inducing another, and
21 with this they're saying that you will have the
22 better world.

23 In the changing of our electrical grid, we
24 used to have the power outage from the Pulliman
25 Plant to Marquette, Michigan, Presque Isle. From

1 that location to our location, we had large eastern
2 outages that could be from substation to substation,
3 transfer station to transfer station. But now in
4 the recent redevelopment, our electrical grid is
5 from Alberta, Canada. They're part of our --
6 they're part of the electrical project. And go
7 there looking to -- look it up on the internet. You
8 can go to Alberta, you can go to Ontario, you can go
9 into Quebec, you can go into Saskatchewan. Each one
10 kind of has their own Hoover Dam, and they're making
11 massive electricity on the co-op sales, and they
12 want to get that from Canada down to Texas. And one
13 way of doing that is coming through Morgan. They
14 want to come through Wisconsin.

15 Now back in '95 when the utilities said we
16 have a cheap, broken-down grid, they wanted to get
17 rid of the maintenance end of it. So our tax money
18 subsidized the creation of American Transmission
19 Company. At that time they were deregulated and put
20 in as a for-profit group, but Wisconsin didn't want
21 to buy their assets and they let them run free.
22 It's kind of letting oats run over your lawn. You
23 can't stop it.

24 Now they've gained so much power and so
25 much authority and so much control that when I was

1 at my first meeting here, I believe it was in this
2 building, and the lady was from Iowa. And I told
3 her how I felt about the power line coming through
4 my backyard, and her quote words, you don't have
5 enough money to stop us. And I believe that because
6 they will come in and put a pole wherever they wish.

7 So now the product of electricity is no
8 longer a utility, it's now a commodity. The
9 government will not interfere with a commodity. A
10 commodity you put in a box, you put it in a thermal
11 container, you drive it down the highway, you push
12 it down the tracks, you fly it through the air, you
13 sail it across the seas. That's a commodity. What
14 do you do with electricity? Electricity you have to
15 build a whole new freeway system. A freeway system
16 of 345-volt wires.

17 Now what they're not telling the people
18 also, Canada wants to bring another wire down into
19 the United States, and that's about 500-volt wire
20 but instead of being AC it's DC. Everybody talks
21 about electromagnetic fields, but what you don't
22 understand, where is the electromagnetic field
23 created.

24 And because it's winter, I'm going to use
25 your snowblower. It has a headlight on it, and you

1 don't turn the switch on. You start the engine, and
2 the light operates. Why? And there's no battery
3 there to do it. And I'm going to use a row of
4 chairs in front here, they're empty. And we run on
5 an alternating current, and if anybody's an
6 electrical engineer out there, I'm not going to say
7 I'm right, but correct me if I can be corrected.
8 But I'm going to send electricity from the right
9 side of the room to the left side of the room. Now
10 I'm going to send electricity back the other way.
11 That's an alternating current. But at the other
12 end, when that electricity comes back, there's still
13 stray voltage sitting there. The speed of which the
14 electrons travel through another field of electrons,
15 collapses, making a voltage, which makes
16 electricity.

17 So you do that with a telephone, a cell
18 phone, there's no problem. You do that with your
19 microwave, there's no problem because there's only
20 seconds throughout the 24 hour day that you do this.
21 But now you take the 345-volt wire, and when you put
22 it into the environmental environment of which we
23 live in. So you can have a hot humid day, you can
24 have a cold humid day like today, you still have the
25 atmospheric surroundings of the wire, and it happens

1 in 300,000 volts or higher.

2 The other additive to the making of the
3 electromagnetic field is that if you're in an
4 elevation of 500 feet to 1,000 feet about sea level,
5 the conditions can be enhanced. And here in the
6 Morgan area, we are in -- we are at about 850 feet
7 above sea level.

8 So then when a wire comes in and it stops,
9 you have another condition called electromagnetic
10 interference, and the electromagnetic interference
11 can come from a condition where you slide your feet
12 across the floor and you touch the doorknob and you
13 get a little shock. But let's multiply that 300,000
14 times. Let's multiply it by amount of number of
15 which the electromagnetic field bounces back and
16 forth. When that stray voltage sits there, it is
17 not addressed to us, it is not taught to us, it is
18 not explained to us how that voltage releases.

19 So when you go down the -- what I'm going
20 to call roadside electricity, what you see out here
21 in power lines and what you see on the country road
22 when you drove in, that's roadside electricity.
23 That keeps your lights on. That really has nothing
24 to do with the freeway of wires they want to build.
25 The freeway of wires is a private enterprise of

1 people across the country, and it's not just -- it's
2 not ATC anymore. You look into the other states,
3 and a couple years back all the states kind of had
4 their own little electrical grid and their own
5 little business, and ATC was the one who said we
6 want to go multi-state. Wisconsin released them.
7 Still your tax money is paying for it.

8 And then they said we have to do all these
9 other things to buy and sell. So ATC, all they do
10 is transport the electricity. New generating plants
11 are going to make the electricity to put into these
12 lines. Very little thought is given into who is the
13 renewable energy.

14 The other renewable energy in our area,
15 because you don't really know who owns the dams
16 anymore, but World Renewable Energy owns about 450
17 of the hydro dams now in the Midwest, and they're
18 looking at putting on what they can, be it
19 acceptable, but -- but the subsidies almost 100
20 percent goes into American Transmission Company.
21 The people who want to do the good for the
22 environment get peanuts, so why should they even
23 try. So they're saying let 's back out of this.
24 They don't want to put up with the headaches.

25 So if you're paying millions of dollars to

1 make any type of manure-type generation, your
2 efforts to run it are worthless because the money --
3 the government's not there to back you up, but
4 everything behind the creation of ATC and how they
5 operate is subsidized by our tax dollars.

6 To give them a higher safety factor, they
7 went ahead and grew and developed another office
8 called MISO, and MISO says, well, generating plant
9 over there, we need more electricity, and generating
10 plant over here, we can have you back down, and
11 we're going to buy electricity over here and sell it
12 to Canada, we're going to sell it to New York, and
13 we're going to sell it to California, and they're
14 going to decide which line it breaks on. But MISO
15 is manmade, and the electrical grid failed in I
16 believe it was 2003 on the East Coast. And why did
17 New York and the East Coast fail, because there was
18 a tree fallen over in the State of Ohio. Recently
19 they had the same problem out in Arizona.

20 So MISO is a human factor. They're
21 reckless, they're careless, and it's not really
22 perfect. And to put the country at a high risk.
23 Now this is where my military comes into play. ATC
24 is becoming so big so fast telling people you need
25 us to put the lights on.

1 At this point, I look at my military
2 background and I see how easy it's to be a
3 terrorist. I say take four areas in the country,
4 anything intersecting. So we talk about Minot,
5 North Dakota. That's where there's a big generating
6 plant over there. We talk about the Keystone
7 Pipeline. We look at what's coming out of New York.
8 We look at what's down in Texas. All a terrorist
9 has to do, and I talk openly to this. When I talk
10 to our Senators, I talk openly about this. But we
11 take four areas in the country, and you go to the
12 local pharmacy and buy a little two dollar digital
13 watch, and you put today's date 2016 and put a time
14 on it. A year from now those little watches will
15 detonate. And like breaking the back of a ship,
16 this grid's going to sink. And anybody knows in
17 today's world, the bigger you make it, the easier it
18 falls, the harder it is to repair.

19 Now when I ask Dave Hovey, when he came to
20 my house in November when it was after our November
21 meeting in the Town of Morgan, the town chair said,
22 Dave, if you have an issue, go talk to your Senator.
23 I said, yes, I will. So Dave Hovey and Senator
24 Cowles came to my house, and we had a very nice
25 talk. And I asked Dave Hovey, how are you going to

1 fix this? If the wire breaks out there on the
2 roadside electricity, which gives the utility to
3 your house, your farms and your businesses, you go
4 out there and you fix the wire, the local group
5 comes out. But if you're using a helicopter to pull
6 this wire across 500 miles, how do you fix it in the
7 middle of winter? You don't.

8 If you want to look at a failed design,
9 look at the East Coast. Every time there's any --
10 anything inclement, bad, or backwards, they're down
11 for three, four weeks at a time, and they have to
12 somehow rely on their roadside electricity because
13 the big stuff where this large power line comes
14 from, the design failed.

15 So, no, Canada does not have to get their
16 electricity to Texas, and California doesn't have to
17 reach the State of New York, but here locally I
18 always say if we kept our grid reasonable. So let's
19 go from here to Marquette, Michigan. That's 200
20 miles, and you keep it 100 miles wide. If this grid
21 fails here, we can slide over towards Marathon
22 County, we can slide over towards Eau Claire and
23 borrow off of those grids. And likewise, if we went
24 east to west, we could come down and do the same
25 thing at a very manageable, safe way of doing

1 things.

2 But these countries -- these companies are
3 getting big, and they think big and they want big.
4 If they set out to do a project and the goal isn't
5 reached, it goes onto your bill. If they come out
6 and they had to reach a certain investment of money
7 to pay their stakeholders and special interest
8 people, it comes out of your money. They're saying
9 that if we have to build all these new plants, even
10 though what we have is good, it comes out of your
11 money. They are for profit. You never see a loss
12 really of what they're doing, but they put out
13 budgets of what they want to build but it comes out
14 of your money. Look at what your bills have been
15 going up.

16 The other thing that I'd like to read here
17 is -- is that in the footings that go down 75 feet,
18 if they decide they don't want them there, they got
19 to come back in 20 years, and any easement is
20 permanent. It goes on forever, so whoever gets that
21 property gets that easement. But if that cement is
22 in your way, they only have to lower it two feet
23 into the ground and the rest of it, if it's still in
24 your way, so if you're farming and whoever sells
25 land doesn't tell you that there's a big chunk of

1 cement 75 feet in the ground, you might hit it with
2 your drag and break some equipment.

3 The other thing we have is the Morgan
4 substation is going to be larger, but it's really
5 not going to gain that much.

6 I'm going to start down here, and I'm
7 going to go to page 42. ATC assumed all shortages
8 would occur from and after the changes of what to
9 use, a PROMOD model. So if they say the lights go
10 out in Oconto Falls, ATC could come through and say
11 we'll do a study that you don't have a good
12 electrical system because we're going to include the
13 City of Green Bay. Well, if you put the load from
14 the Green Bay on our Oconto Falls electrical grid,
15 it's going to melt. That's basically what they're
16 saying.

17 The environmental impact studies that were
18 done, almost all of them said permanent. Some say
19 we shall, some say we can, but nowhere did it in the
20 environmental impact study say they will take care
21 of you, but everything in it did say permanent.

22 The brown poles when I was -- and I went
23 to almost every community meeting there was, and the
24 brown poles, to sum that up from everybody, they
25 said it was studied and it was applied out in the

1 State of California, and we thought it was a good
2 idea so we'll pull these big brown poles in
3 Wisconsin and that's why we're stuck with them.
4 It's not really an implied science as how they came
5 about, but ATC did say that they are easier to
6 maintain. Are they aesthetically good, no.

7 So then when Dave Hovey was at my house,
8 and Dave Hovey, he's kind of the head of the Bay
9 Lake Project for American Transmission Company
10 because he did say -- I looked into selling my
11 house. I want to move out of Morgan, and I can't.
12 I took my military retirement and walked into a box
13 trap because there's nothing there saying these
14 wires were coming through town.

15 When speaking to Dave Hovey from ATC, he
16 said these wires on 180-foot poles won't affect the
17 horizon, they won't change the landscape, and
18 they'll add to what we see. So he also said that at
19 that time if you put a pole in my yard, it's going
20 to raise the value of my house. And I'm still
21 wondering how, but all the realtors I talk to, they
22 just said they don't know where that's coming from.

23 The generations of spoils, if it takes --
24 on our sensitive environmental impacts that we have,
25 if it takes 100 years, if it takes 1,000 years to

1 make it, ATC is going to turn around and they're
2 going to be like another God and put it all back the
3 way it is, no.

4 And then they went on to say that -- I
5 spoke about the electromagnetic fields. I spoke
6 about the property owners, the rows. Using a row,
7 again, they can do it. And, you know, we talk about
8 we support the 138 wires, but nothing in the
9 Environmental Impact Statement talks about a 138
10 wire. What's the limit it could be poled?

11 But they do not talk about where do they
12 want to put what they call the -- the insulators. I
13 forgot the full name of them, but they're made out
14 of porcelain. They can come in kind of the Y-shaped
15 design. So if you drive over towards Advance and if
16 you drive over towards Bonduel, you can see kind of
17 a Y-shaped hanger coming off the -- the poles.
18 These insulators are not limited to one mile.

19 So in our project here, which is about 500
20 miles, they say that they could only put in one mile
21 of a doubled 138. There's nothing in there in the
22 electrical code. So they say -- use the phrase
23 NERC. NERC is a body of people who interpret code,
24 but the National Electric Code is a law that is used
25 by all the states, and nothing there puts a limit on

1 138. There again, I'm not going to say I'm right
2 because I'm not an electrical engineer, but I want
3 an engineer to correct me if I'm saying it wrong.

4 We also talked about being in the -- in
5 the radius of the electromagnetic fields. The
6 electromagnetic fields they say stay within 200
7 feet. It does say for the electromagnetic field and
8 the electromagnetic interference, that you should
9 not be around them with heart pacers, you should not
10 be around them with medical durable devices. It
11 does say that you should not park your equipment
12 around them. It does say that you should be -- you
13 shouldn't be driving by them because it can affect
14 your cars, it can affect your trucks, your farm
15 machinery. It can affect everything. It comes
16 right out in the Environmental Impact Statement, and
17 I believe I start finding that stuff was in around
18 page 91. So if someone in the back room wants to
19 open that up and go to page 91, and it's in the
20 fifth chapter, the fifth paragraph, and it goes to
21 line one and subline four after that.

22 But it talks about the percent to homes,
23 it talks about the emissions coming off the wires.
24 You hear the buzzing sound. In this weather here,
25 and we can be in the summertime. You talk about

1 seeing -- or you talk about hearing the sounds. We
2 had -- our one statement we talk about here, the
3 crackling coming off the wires, it's called corona.

4 And corona, in the right conditions of
5 daylight, you'll see kind of a purplish light. So
6 if you weld, the gap between the welding stick and
7 your surface, that's kind of the corona. That's the
8 electrons jumping back and forth. And when you deal
9 with 300,000 volts or higher, that's what you're
10 dealing with.

11 We talked about the induced voltage. So
12 we're going to have a pole that's coming up to
13 Morgan, and it's going to be a dead-end wire for the
14 future hopes that they can grow and expand into
15 Upper Michigan. That is kind of on hold, but it's
16 not a promise because Michigan took their -- their
17 state back, and they fought ATC. And the building
18 used to be and the business used to be controlled by
19 the management office of UMPCo, Upper Michigan Power
20 Company. ATC pushed them out -- or ATC was pushed
21 out, and UMPCo took over a couple weeks ago, and now
22 they are managing their own power.

23 But people who come from Upper Michigan,
24 if you look at the Wisconsin -- or if you look at
25 the Presque Isle plant in Marquette, Michigan, the

1 Empire Mine, the Tilden Mine, the Cleveland Cliff
2 mine, Lonce Utilities (phonetic), and all the other
3 small utilities coming out of Escanaba over towards
4 Gladstone, there's plenty of electricity there to
5 take care of the area. If you keep it within 150
6 miles north and south rectangular to about 75 to 100
7 miles wide. So if one square goes out, the other
8 squares can move over.

9 But, no, our little -- our little area
10 cannot feed electricity to Green Bay. We cannot
11 feed electricity to Wausau. So if Wausau,
12 Milwaukee, Green Bay, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, if they
13 needed more electricity, design the grid and the
14 need around them. If they need more power down
15 there, put the power plant where it's most needed
16 when you have just one. That's kind of like saying
17 your car needs four tires to operate but we're only
18 going to put two on it. So it's a failing idea.

19 And they're -- you know, to think to go
20 that big gets very expensive. The other thing
21 that's not really put into the cost, and it's going
22 to be a lot like the wind farms. There's really no
23 maintenance put into the wind farms. When a
24 generator quits, it just kind of sits there. They
25 take the blades off of it. When this power line

1 needs maintenance and a pole comes down, you don't
2 know if they're going to move that pole. But if
3 that casement's on your property, you're stuck with
4 it.

5 The other thing you're stuck with is the
6 loss of the property. And a lot of the numbers fall
7 between 4 and 7 percent, but if you're a high-end
8 farm, you lose more. If you're a high-end house,
9 you lose more. If you're from an older farm where
10 the buildings aren't that good but the property's
11 great, you're going to fall in the middle. They
12 don't tell you this, and there's no realtor who's
13 going to come through except the real estate office
14 of American Transmission. They'll say, oh, you're
15 going to do just fine, but that's not the reality of
16 truth.

17 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Sir, do you have much
18 more?

19 MR. BEHREND: No, I have one more page.

20 In the Environmental Impact Statement, and
21 if someone wants to grab that yellow book, it was on
22 page 240. But in the comprehensive plan back then,
23 because remember when I bought my house, nobody knew
24 about it, and I can't move out of Morgan now. I'm
25 stuck there. But it said the Town of Morgan town

1 comprehensive plan, developments and investments, as
2 well as the intersection of County C and E, these
3 areas offer opportunity of increased tax generation
4 and is identified as a smart growth area.

5 So they did know the wires were coming
6 through, and when I did find out, it was a large
7 path that was narrowed down to what it is now, but
8 all those electric people wouldn't back us up a
9 second. And now we're stuck there. We can't move.
10 And when those wires do come through, if they do
11 come through, that's where the new development area
12 is going to be because that area can support new
13 houses and bring in taxes because people are going
14 to line up to live in between these poles and
15 underneath these wires.

16 Thank you for your time.

17 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Can I get a copy of
18 what you read? Thank you.

19 (Witness excused.)
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1 EXAMINER NEWMARK: So we have Virginia
2 Behrend.

3 VIRGINIA BEHREND, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay.

5 MS. BEHREND: I have a few photos that I
6 took of the area. Can I show those while I'm
7 talking?

8 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Yeah, sure.

9 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

10 MS. BEHREND: My name is Virginia Behrend.
11 I live at 3214 County Road C, Oconto Falls in the
12 Town of Morgan.

13 After working 32 years in Green Bay at
14 St. Mary's and St. Vincent Hospitals, my goal was to
15 retire in a beautiful rural area. After retiring
16 three years ago, my husband and I moved to our
17 country home on six acres in Morgan.

18 Per the Town of Morgan website it states,
19 the Town of Morgan is home to people who value a
20 rural place to live and work. Healthy natural areas
21 contribute positively to the scenic beauty of the
22 town, promote an abundance of wildlife, offer a
23 variety of recreational outlets, and maintain clean
24 ground and surface water for future generations to
25 enjoy. This is why I chose to retire in Morgan.

1 I enjoy photography as my hobby. I'm
2 blessed now that by stepping outside my house in the
3 morning, I can see a beautiful morning sunrise. I
4 can see a beautiful sunset in the evening and enjoy
5 the natural beauty of the land. I enjoy watching
6 the wildlife in my yard, and I don't use toxic
7 chemicals on my lawn so I have seen hundreds of
8 birds passing through my yard as they are migrating.
9 I have participated in the great backyard bird count
10 the past two years. I have also recently joined the
11 Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society and agree
12 with their slogan, making our communities healthy
13 for birds and people.

14 I did not move to Morgan to see ATC power
15 poles. The aesthetic appeal will no longer be
16 present with the high voltage ATC poles and lines
17 towering over us. I oppose the Bay Lakes project
18 and encourage a thorough, complete, healthy
19 environmental study impacting the people of our
20 natural preserves. Thank you.

21 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thanks.

22 (Witness excused.)

23 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. That's all the
24 appearance slips I have for people who wish to
25 speak. Does anyone else want to speak? No? All

1 right. Let's go off the record.

2 (Discussion held off the record.)

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1 MICHAEL SCHINAEL, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

2 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. State your
3 name and go ahead with your comment.

4 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

5 MR. SCHINAEL: My name is Michael
6 Schinael. I'm a landowner in the Town of Morgan
7 where a proposed power line is supposed to go.

8 ATC signed an agreement with me for the
9 last power poles that got put in. It was a lease
10 agreement between me and them. They paid me money
11 for the lease, and I granted them the rights to use
12 it. They said they would not spray under the power
13 lines and not use my private driveway to get to the
14 easement. State Statutes 182.017(7)(d) and (h)
15 clearly state this also.

16 I sent ATC various pictures of their
17 subcontractors on my land, truck and trailer hauling
18 out the equipment on my private drive. They will
19 not admit this. They did not respect the contract
20 that was signed and agreed to. There have been
21 other complaints also from other people: spraying
22 without permission, trespassing, cutting outside of
23 the right-of-way boundaries.

24 Another issue of ATC is the stray voltage
25 from a farmer in Morgan just down the road. He went

1 through two herds of cows and had to sell. The
2 power company came out and tested for stray voltage.

3 I believe this is a conflict of interest,
4 and a private stray voltage tester should have been
5 used. Milk production was good until the new power
6 lines were put in. The farmer/landowner should not
7 have to foot the bill for this.

8 ATC wants land for the new line on my
9 property. They will be taking down trees. The
10 trees that are cut down should be paid for by ATC.
11 We should be paid on a lumber grade for these trees,
12 not just firewood scrap value.

13 Also, they are making some of the adjacent
14 land next to the power line not buildable. A lot of
15 the towns say you're supposed to stay about 60 feet
16 away or different variances. If those power lines
17 weren't there, you could go 10 feet to the lot line.
18 So we're losing another 50 feet that should be paid
19 for by ATC if they want that property.

20 The price of the land that was offered the
21 last time of the easement was low. We don't want to
22 lease our land. The price we should get should
23 reflect the highest possible price paid for the
24 amount of acres leased, not based on a 40- or
25 80-acre tract.

1 These violations by ATC must be
2 investigated before another transmission line is
3 constructed.

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you very much.

5 (Witness excused.)

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. Well,
7 thanks everybody. They're thoughtful comments, and
8 of course they will all get to the Commissioners and
9 they'll be reviewed as they make their decision.

10 We'll be here until 6:00 in case we get
11 more people wanting to speak, but right now we'll
12 stand adjourned until we get a few more comments and
13 then come back into session and take those comments.
14 Thanks.

15 (Break taken from 4:34 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

16 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Well, let's get back on
17 the record and I'll ask one time if anyone else
18 wants to make a comment? Really? Nobody? We
19 waited so long.

20 All right. Thanks very much. We're
21 adjourned.

22 (The hearing adjourned at 6:01 p.m.)

23 * * *

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25

1 STATE OF WISCONSIN)

2 MILWAUKEE COUNTY)

3

4 I, JENNIFER M. STEIDTMANN, RPR, CRR, Registered
5 Professional Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter, with
6 the firm of Gramann Reporting Ltd., 740 North Plankinton
7 Avenue, Suite 400, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, do hereby certify
8 that I reported the foregoing proceedings had on
9 February 3, 2015, and that the same is true and correct in
10 accordance with my original machine shorthand notes taken
11 at said time and place.

12

Jennifer Steidt -

13

14 Jennifer M. Steidtmann

15 Registered Professional Reporter

16 Certified Realtime Reporter

17

18 Dated this 5th day of February, 2015.

19 Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

20

21

22

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