

**THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

Before Commissioners: Shari Feist Albrecht, Chair
Jay Scott Emler
Pat Apple


In the Matter of the Application of Westar)
Energy, Inc. for a Siting Permit for the)
Construction of a 345 kV Transmission Line) Docket No. 15-WSEE-365-MIS
in Riley and Pottawatomie Counties, Kansas.)

NOTICE OF FILING OF PUBLIC COMMENT MEMORANDUM AND REPORT

The Office of General Counsel for the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas (General Counsel and Commission, respectively) files the attached Memorandum and report summarizing the public comments received by the Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection (PACP). This filing is for informational purposes only, and no Commission action is required at this time.

WHEREFORE Assistant General Counsel requests the Commission accept this filing for informational purposes and for such further relief as the Commission deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,


Jay Van Blaricum, #21662
Assistant General Counsel
1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604
Phone: (785)-271-3186
Fax: (785)-271-3314
j.vanblaricum@kcc.ks.gov

1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

Shari Feist Albrecht, Chair
Jay Scott Emler, Commissioner
Pat Apple, Commissioner



Phone: 785-271-3100
Fax: 785-271-3354
<http://kcc.ks.gov/>

Sam Brownback, Governor

MEMORANDUM

To: Jay Van Blaricum
Assistant General Counsel

KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION

From: Steve Boyd *SB*
Public Service Executive

MAR 23 2015

ADVISORY COUNSEL

Date: March 20, 2015

Re: Public Comments
Docket No. 15-WSEE-365-MIS

Attached are two reports summarizing comments received by the Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection in the Matter of Application of Westar Energy, Inc. for a siting permit to rebuild a transmission line from Westar's Jeffrey Energy Center Substation, northwest of St. Mary's, to Westar's East Manhattan Substation, near Manhattan.

There has been one comment received by letter between February 15 and March 20, 2015. The official comment period ends on April 1, 2015. Please note that in addition to the above stated comment, 127 comments were received prior to Westar filing their application. The Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection thought it was important to bring these comments to the attention of General Counsel and the Commission.

A copy of the comment received during the official comment period and a summary is attached as "Attachment A." Copies of the comments received prior to the start of the comment period and a summary of those comments are attached as "Attachment B." By filing a copy of this memo, I am requesting that General Counsel file the comments in the docket.

Attachment "A"

Kansas Corporation Commission
Consumer Protection
Complaint System

February 15, 2015
through
March 20, 2015

Page: 1

Docket Comments
15-WSEE-365-MIS

Docket No	Total Comments	Total Signatures	Total
15-WSEE-365-MIS	1	0	1
Grand Total	1	0	1

WESTAR JEFFREY CENTER TO E. MANHATTAN POWER-LINE PROJECT

COMMENTS TO KANSAS CORP COMMISSION

JOHN W. HUEY

KANSAS BAR #7643

FEBRUARY 27, 2015

The power-line route selected by Westar as reflected in its KCC filing, Docket # 15-WSEE-365-MIS, does not immediately impact my farm property, and I support the route selected as described in that filing.

However, alternate routes that were described and discussed at public meetings several months ago did present issues, the one I will refer to as the Southern Route particularly adversely affected my property. I opposed the Southern Route and submitted written comments and objections to that route. I also attended public meetings and expressed my concern and objections.

Should the preferred route as reflected in the above KCC filing not be approved, and the alternate Southern Route be considered, I want again to make my objections known.

Comments pertaining to the Southern-most alternate route at segment #39 (Southern Route), crossing the Onaga Road south of the intersection with the Oregon Trail Road:

The productive farm land which my family owns, both myself and my niece Carol Cortez, and which is crossed by the above alternate Southern Route, has belonged to my family for over 100 years. I was raised on this farm; the farm house and out buildings still stand on this parcel. My wife and I fully intend that our land will be passed to our three children and with any luck, the land will be in our family for at least another 100 years. As a consequence, this alternate route is very disturbing to us. We oppose this alternate route and will take all necessary steps to resist it before the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC), and beyond should it be selected.

I am told by Westar representatives that this alternate route will "take" 150 foot, entirely along the south end of our land, hampering farming of this productive, irrigated land, and damaging the value not only of that parcel but also the remainder of our land.

Of the 240 acres of farm land controlled by myself and my niece on the east side of the Onaga Road, approximately 150-160 acres are fully irrigated by two separate center pivot units, both of which are fed by a single water well. That well is located approximately 30 feet north of our south property line, which means that this alternate Southern Route line will pass directly overhead. That would appear to present safety as well as environmental concerns.

Operation of the southern center pivot unit may be impaired depending on placement of poles and other obstructions.

At the east side of the Cortez parcel as the alternate line makes a north east turn, it crosses a running stream fed by natural springs to the north. Also would seem to present environmental/wetlands issues.

It boggles the mind that Westar would even consider alternate routes for this line when an existing easement with two existing lines already is in place and has been for the past 30+ years. Much of that easement passes over grassland, which presents much fewer issues, economic and otherwise than one passing over expensive, productive farm land. Even if additional easement is required (which is less than perfectly clear—see following point), the current path/easement is the much less disruptive and perhaps even least expensive solution to this issue.

When I questioned Westar representatives during the public forum about the possibility of constructing a new line over the existing easement, while leaving the two existing lines in place and fully operational until construction of the new line was completed, it was less than clear that such an approach was unworkable. This is an approach that must be studied further, and information concerning the alternative shared with the public.

While I will be out of State during the March public hearing, I do plan to attend the KCC evidentiary hearing in May.

John W. Huey

jwhuey@kc.rr.com

913-620-7956

Attachment "B"

Kansas Corporation Commission
Consumer Protection
Complaint System

December 1, 2014
through
February 14, 2015

Page: 1

Docket Comments
15-WSEE-365-MIS

Docket No	Total Comments	Total Signatures	Total
15-WSEE-365-MIS	23	104	127
Grand Total	23	104	127

Kansas Corporation Commission
Chair Shari Feist Albrecht
1500 SW Arrowhead RD
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

Kansas Corporation
Commission

DEC 30 2014

Dear Ms. Albrecht,

I am writing in regards to the ***proposed 230KV-345KV Westar Energy transmission lines routes from the Jeffrey Energy Center to Manhattan, KS in Pottawatomie County***. Enclosed is a copy of the Westar Energy letter and maps sent to property owners who live within 660 feet of the proposed routes.

I am not denying the fact that our country's dependence on energy is growing at a rapid pace, but I am very concerned on the proposed routes ***Westar Energy is considering that deviate from the existing route.***

My wife and I attended both meetings Westar Energy hosted at the Wamego Senior Center on December 3rd and 4th. ***It was very evident to me that the community's desire is to place the new transmission lines adjacent to the existing routes.*** While speaking with their employees at these meetings, they admitted that siting adjacent to the existing route was the overwhelming desired choice by the community.

I am a banker in Wamego and I have spoken to several customers, business leaders, and political leaders the past few weeks regarding the proposed routes. ***The common message I am hearing from the community is to build the lines adjacent or close proximity to the existing route.***

These power lines have been in place for 30 + years and the public has slowly accepted them overtime. The area has seen significant housing growth in the southern one-half of Pottawatomie County and builders/developers have planned accordingly. ***I would like to remind you that those current home owners who built or purchased near the existing route had a choice where to locate.***

We built our home on our family farm approximately 3 miles northeast of Louisville in 2001 and chose not to be in the vicinity of the existing route for several reasons. In addition to our home, we built my wife's mother a home in 2007 approximately 50 yards from ours since she was a widow and could no longer take care of her place in Topeka. ***With the proposed northeastern route (segment # 32), the new line will be approximately 200 feet from her home and 400 feet from ours.***

After receiving the Westar letter, I have spent countless hours researching the proposed routes and I have made the following observations and conclusions regarding the ***existing route:***

- It is the ***shortest and most direct route.***
- No homes are within 1/8 mile from Highway 99 to the east.
- No pivot irrigation systems are currently being impacted.

- **Common practice** to build adjacent to existing transmission lines.
- Westar Energy **already possesses** right-of-ways, timber clearing, and accessibility.
- **Easier to obtain & more acceptable** by property owners **to extend easements adjacent to the existing route.**
- Home owners near the lines from Hwy 99 to the west have **accepted** the line overtime.
- On-going maintenance and monitoring is **more economical for one route** versus multiple.
- Westar Energy has the ability and procedures to **build adjacent to the existing lines** while they are in service which equals to less down time and lower costs.
- Westar representatives informed us having two lines in close proximity to each other to mitigate risks (ice storms, wind damage, etc.) is **not** a factor for this project.
- Property damage on the **existing route will happen regardless** since the old lines will be torn down AND the other lines will remain in place.
- **Most desired route by the community.**

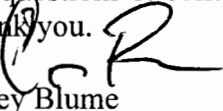
Reasons NOT to build on the northeastern route (segment 32):

- **Additional farm ground** will be impacted.
- **Route is longer** in distance plus more corner bracing needed equals higher expenses.
- Irrigated acreage **will be reduced** due to pivot interferences.
- Would **eliminate future irrigation** pivots from being built.
- Close proximity to confined livestock feeding facilities.
- **14 homes will be impacted within 1/8 mile** from HWY 99 to the east.
- Negative effect on **all property values.**
- **Wildlife habitats will be disrupted** with new timber clearing and will **create soil conservation concerns.**
- **Additional** native prairie grass ecosystems will be altered.
- **Negative public relations** going against the community's desires with possible eminent domain which equates to an increase of time delays and more costs.
- **NO** current easements and right-of-ways.
- **Could** create lawsuits resulting from damages to all agricultural real estate, property rights, wildlife habitat interruptions, and continued decline of the Flint Hills tall grass prairie region.

I do appreciate your time and encourage you recommending that **Westar Energy place the new transmission lines adjacent to their existing route.**

I can be reached at 785-844-0695 or by e-mail at cheryl_blume@yahoo.com if you have any questions or concerns.

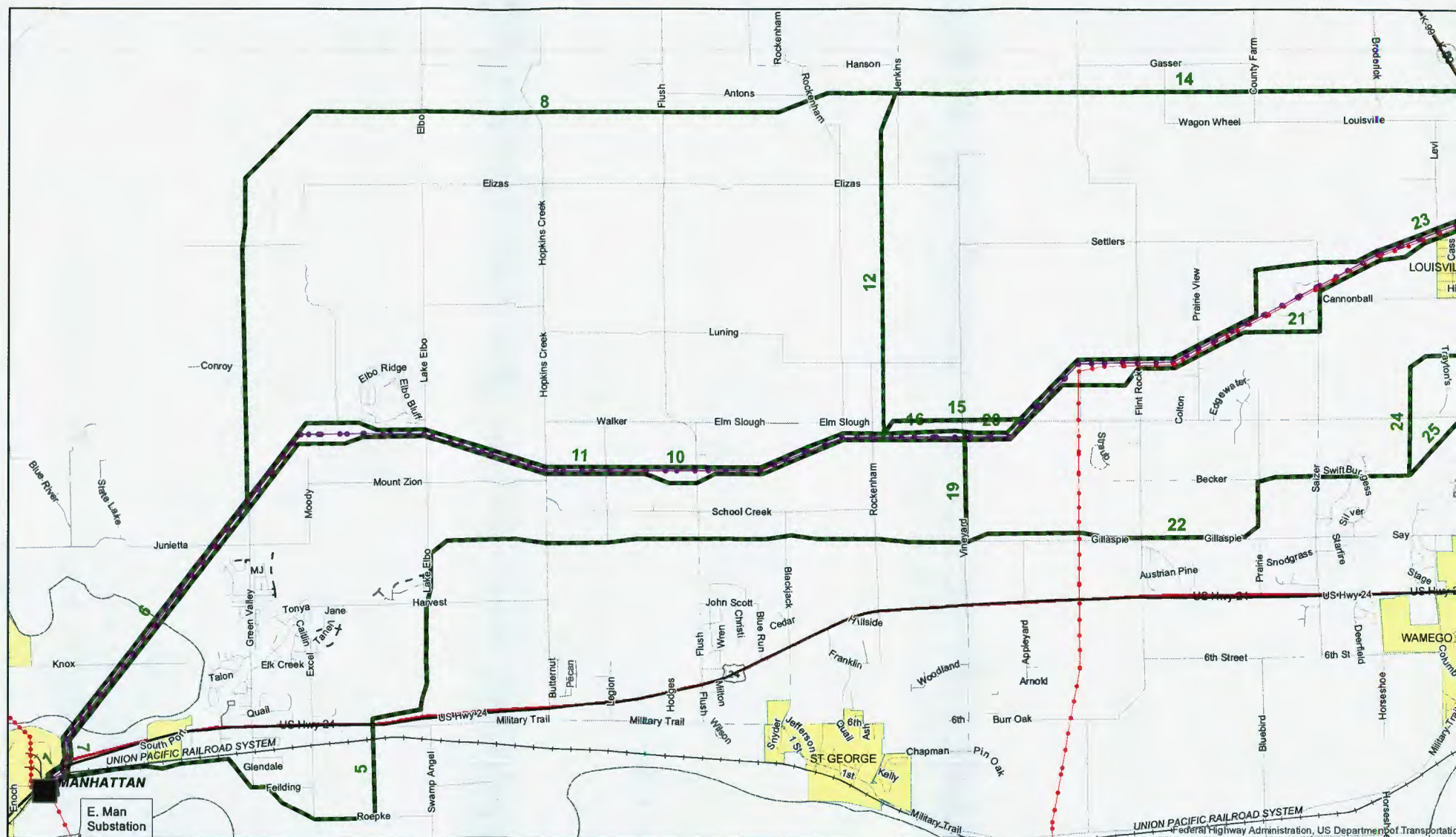
Thank you.



Casey Blume

8795 Adams Creek Rd, Wamego KS 66547

Jeffrey Energy Center to E. Manhattan 230kV Replacement Project



Existing Transmission Lines

●—●—● 230kV Line Being Replaced

●●● Other Existing Transmission Lines

Potential New Routes Under Consideration

— Potential Routes for New 230kV/345kV Line

Date: 12-04-14



(Continued on Other Side)

Jeffrey Energy Center to E. Manhattan 230kV Replacement Project



Existing Transmission Lines

- 230kV Line Being Replaced
- Other Existing Transmission Lines

Potential New Routes Under Consideration

- Potential Routes for New 230kV/345kV Line

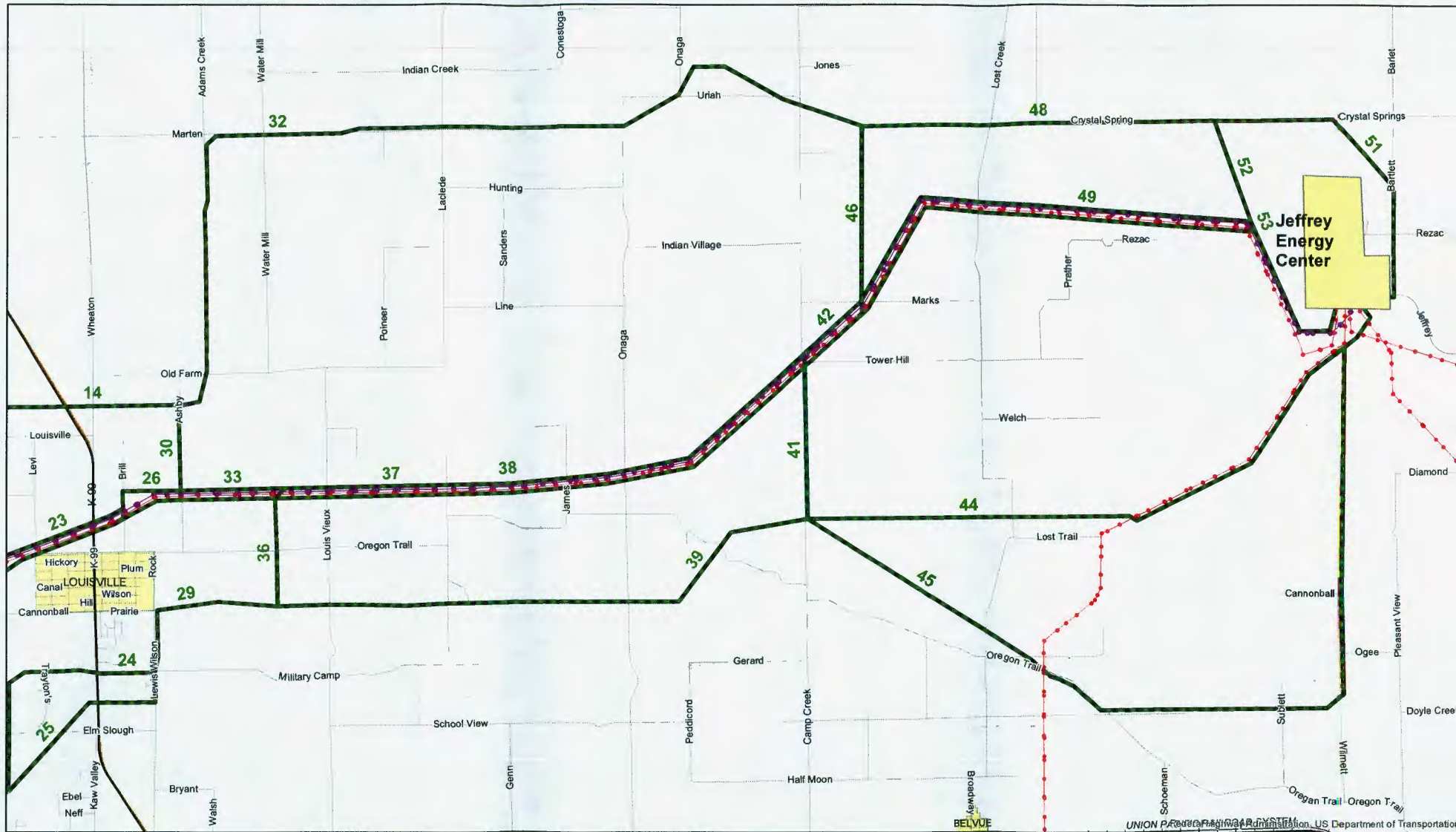
Date: 12-04-14



(Continued on Other Side)

UNION PACIFIC HIGHWAY SYSTEM, US Department of Transportation

Jeffrey Energy Center to E. Manhattan 230kV Replacement Project



Existing Transmission Lines

- 230kV Line Being Replaced
- Other Existing Transmission Lines

Potential New Routes Under Consideration

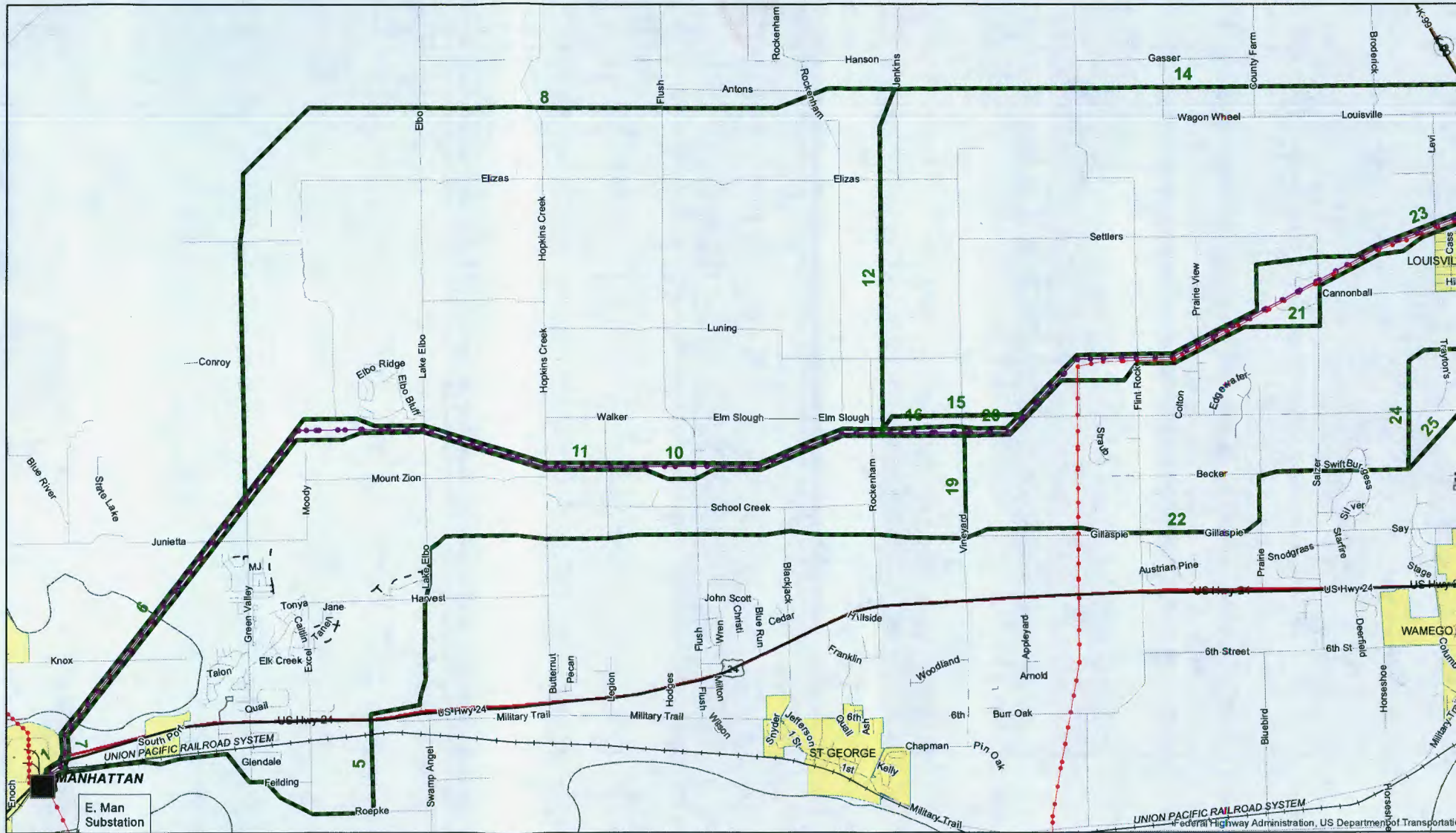
- Potential Routes for New 230kV/345kV Line

Date: 12-04-14



(Continued on Other Side)

Jeffrey Energy Center to E. Manhattan 230kV Replacement Project



Existing Transmission Lines

- 230kV Line Being Replaced
- Other Existing Transmission Lines

Potential New Routes Under Consideration

- Potential Routes for New 230kV/345kV Line

Date: 12-04-14



(Continued on Other Side)

99520

Wilma J Anderson
2304 Grandview
Apt #4
Wamego, KS 66547

December 16, 2014

Kansas Corporation Commission
1500 WE Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

RE: Jeffery Energy Center to E. Manhattan 230 K Replacement Project

Due to my concern for the above mentioned project I am asking for your assistance in the above listed matter for the following reasons.

Westar Energy already has easements and right of way access to current lines from property owners. Current property owners have accepted the easements and are used to the coming and goings of crews. Therefore new lines should be run adjacent to the current lines.

The current route has already impacted grassland, wildlife habitat in this area by making new routes more impact will be felt. Why must more damage be done to service customers that do not ever see the irreversible damage this expansion will cause.

New transmission lines spread out through the county will lower property values for each parcel it runs across.

This property has been in our family for many years and it has always been our desire to keep this property as native grass land so that future generations can enjoy the peaceful beauty as we have over the years.

As a property owner impacted greatly by the possibility of this new routing I ask that you please guide Westar to place new lines adjacent to the existing lines they currently maintain.

Respectfully,

Wilma Jean Anderson

Wilma Jean Anderson

STATE
CORPORATION
COMMISSION

DEC 30 2014

PUBLIC AFFAIRS
AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION

99521

Kansas Corporation
Commission

DEC 30 2014

Westar Energy
818 S Kansas Ave
PO Box 889
Topeka, KS 66601-0889

Re: Jeffrey Energy Center to East Manhattan 230KV Replacement Project

Dear Westar Energy,

We are property owners who have either been notified by Westar Energy regarding the proposed transmission routes from Jeffrey Energy Center to Manhattan or own property near the proposed routes.

We are very concerned and *not* in favor of *any* proposed routes that deviate from the existing routes.

We highly recommend you consider placing the new 230KV-345KV transmission lines *adjacent to the existing* routes for several key reasons including:

- Minimizes adverse effects to residents, their land and the natural environment as the properties along the existing routes have already been impacted. The existing route has been in place since the 1980's and residents along this route have either come to accept it or built with knowledge of its existence.
- The existing route is the shortest and most direct route, reducing costs of the new line. Also, the right of way issues, accessibility issues, and land form issues like timber clearing have already been addressed, which would also reduce the costs of the new lines.
- Choosing an alternate route would impact new ecosystems, wildlife, and other agricultural properties.
- Past practice to build adjacent to existing lines. Examples include:
 - Prairie Wind Transmission Wichita to Woodward 345k project
 - Wichita, Reno County Summit 345kv Project – over 55% of the new lines ran parallel to existing lines.
- Most desired route by the community as a whole.

Sincerely,

Citizens of Pottawatomie County

Name: Will Hartwich Segment #: 32

Yon J. Brown

32

Address: 2000 Cliffwood Dr.

Wamego, KS
11400 Adams Crk Rd
Wamego, KS 66547
20855 Indian Village
Belvue, KS 66407

Jamie Samkins 49 + 46

Citizens of Pottawatomie County

Name:

Segment #:

Address:

Fred Mandell	32	21550 Uriah Rd. Wamego, KS. 66547
Robert A. Summers	8	12200 ANTONS RD. SAINT GEORGE, KS 66535
Kenneth Hefley duplicate see comment 99545	8	7460 Flush Rd. Duplicate
Larry Blume	32	ST. George, KS. 66535
Ellicia M. Peters	32	9010 Watermill Rd Wamego, KS
Brent Euker	14	8100 Onaga Rd. Belvue, KS 66407
Lorrie Beck Mundell	32	Wamego KS 66547
Beck Mundell	32	21550 URIAH Rd Wamego KS 66547
Tim W. Hunter	14	17260 Forty Acre Wamego KS 66547
Dennis Peters	32	8755 WATIMILL RD 66547
Brent Blum	32	17255 Forty Acre Circle
Shelly Johnson	14	17255 Forty Acre Cir.
Vicki L. Robinson	14	1440 Julie Dr., Wamego Low Service Rd
Cara Boggle	30, 32, 33	7810 Hopkins Creek Rd St. George, KS 66535
Don (Dorella) Clarke	8	7810 Hopkins CRK Rd. ST GEORGE KS. 66535
Mike Clarke	8	7580 Hopkins creek Rd. St. George, KS 66535
Kath S. Cephall	8	
Don Blum	32	

Westar Energy
818 S Kansas Ave
PO Box 889
Topeka, KS 66601-0889

Re: Jeffrey Energy Center to East Manhattan 230KV Replacement Project

Dear Westar Energy,

We are property owners who have either been notified by Westar Energy regarding the proposed transmission routes from Jeffrey Energy Center to Manhattan or own property near the proposed routes.

We are very concerned and *not* in favor of *any* proposed routes that deviate from the existing routes.

We highly recommend you consider placing the new 230KV-345KV transmission lines *adjacent to the existing* routes for several key reasons including:

- Minimizes adverse effects to residents, their land and the natural environment as the properties along the existing routes have already been impacted. The existing route has been in place since the 1980's and residents along this route have either come to accept it or built with knowledge of its existence.
- The existing route is the shortest and most direct route, reducing costs of the new line. Also, the right of way issues, accessibility issues, and land form issues like timber clearing have already been addressed, which would also reduce the costs of the new lines.
- Choosing an alternate route would impact new ecosystems, wildlife, and other agricultural properties.
- Past practice to build adjacent to existing lines. Examples include:
 - Prairie Wind Transmission Wichita to Woodward 345k project
 - Wichita, Reno County Summit 345kv Project – over 55% of the new lines ran parallel to existing lines.
- Most desired route by the community as a whole.

Sincerely,

Citizens of Pottawatomie County

Name:

Segment #:

Address:

Brenda Martin
Heather McCarty
Josh Martin

22

22

21

5760 Salzen Rd Wamego, KS
95-1005 Mo'Ohele St
Mililani, HI 96789
13625 Burr Oak Rd Wamego, KS

Citizens of Pottawatomie County

Name:

Segment #:

Address:

ED Bfm BUCK

32

9250 ADAMS CREEK RD
WAMEGO, KS 66547

Russ Umscheid

8-12-14

7505 Rockingham Rd.
St. George, KS 66535

Amy Wenter

8-12

11645 Eliza Rd
St George KS 66535

Mark Nelson

14

8725 County Farm Rd
Wamego, KS 66547

Phyllis Brunyn
P.O.A. for Tom Steinberger

33

208 8th St Wamego
for 7280 Louis Vieux Rd
Wamego

James Winter

8-12

11645 Eliza Rd St George

Nicole Vestad

14-30

407 Redwood Dr.

Cheryl Yanning

14-30

407 Poplar St.

Randy Umscheid

8-12-14

7720 Jenkins Rd.
St. George KS 66535

Larry + Sharon Blume

32

9010 Watermill Rd
Wamego, KS 66547

~~Bob Hepfig duplicate see comment 99540~~

~~7710 Flush Rd St George~~

~~Kayla Hepfig duplicate see comment 99540~~

~~7710 Flush Rd St George KS 66535~~

Wilma Anderson

8

2304 Grandview Apt #4 Wamego, KS 66547

Debra Eich

48

10010 Camp Creek Rd Belvue KS 66407

Tonger

48

10010 Camp Creek Rd Belvue KS 66407

Randy Ryan

33

7280 LOUIS VIEUX RD


Donald Umscheid

8905 Rockingham Rd St George KS 66535

Citizens of Pottawatomie County

Name:	Segment #:	Address:
Ed Martin	22	5460 Salzer Rd Wamego KS
Ann Hartwich	32	19255 Marten Rd Wamego KS 66547
Everett Piper		Wamego, KS 66547
Paul Hart	14	Wamego KS 66547
Cindy Herdman	14	Wamego, KS 66547
Bob Hart	32	Wamego, KS 66547
Kim Watson	32	Wamego, KS 66547
Dustin Bird	32	Wamego, KS 66547
Jim Elden	32	Wamego, KS 66547
Just	32	Westmoreland KS 66549
Diane K. Adhea	8	12435 Antons Rd., St. George KS 66535
Nelbert Umscheid by Diane K. Adhea, POA	14	15360 Gasser Rd., Wamego KS 66547
Frankie Sumner	8	14220 Wilson Creek Road Westmoreland, KS 66549
Robert D Sumner	8	14220 Wilson Creek Road Westmoreland KS
Cheryl Blume	32	8795 Adams Creek Rd Wamego
Karen Nixner	32	8747 Adams Creek Rd, Wamego
Rebecca Nixner	32	19200 Marten Rd, Wamego KS
Marv R. Bar	32+14	17700 Old Farm Rd Wamego KS
Kevin L. Baker	32-14	17700 old Farm Rd Wamego, KS

Citizens of Pottawatomie County

Name:	Segment #:	Address:
Bill Suter	48 + 46	26855 Indian Village Belvue KS 66407
	42 + 46 + 49	9225 CAMP Creek RD Belvue KS 66407
Sabina Sult	42, 46, 49	9225 Camp Creek Rd Belvue, KS 66407
Mary Beth White	48, 46, 32	22080 PITNEY RD. BELVUE, KS 66407
Ellen White Hergeon		20825 Tannerville Road Wamego KS 66547
John White	48, 46, 32	22080 PITNEY RD Belvue, KS 66407
Mike White	48, 46, 32	10705 Camp Creek Rd Belvue, KS 66407
Angie White	48, 46, 32	10705 Camp Creek Rd Belvue, KS 66407
Ann White	48, 46, 32	10705 Camp Creek Rd Belvue, KS 66407
Oliver White	48, 46, 32	10705 Camp Creek Rd Belvue, KS 66407
Tony White	48, 46, 32	10850 Onaga Rd Wamego KS
Carly White	48, 46, 32	(1)
Paul White	48, 46, 32	Laclaw - KS.
Flora White	48, 46, 32	Wamego KS
Brenda R. Spier	42, 32	10150 Onaga Rd Wamego KS 66547
Mike Stouten	42, 32	10150 ONAGA RD WAMEGO, KS 66547
St. Massie	32	9320 Onaga Rd. Wamego KS 66547
Staci Massie	32	1820 Onaga Rd Wamego KS 66547

Citizens of Pottawatomie County

Name:

Segment #:

Address:

Robert M. Martin

32

9700 Onaga Rd
Wamego, KS 66547

Leigh E. Martin

32

9701 Onaga Rd
Wamego KS 66547

Don Eickem

23

17575 Cassball Rd Wamego KS
St. Charles 125

Pott County Plat Map

Section 13

8450 Lake Elbe Rd

Dale R. Bailey

46

21105 Indian Village Rd Belvue KS

A. L. L. L.

46

21605 Indian Village Rd Belvue KS

Cathy McAfee

46

9850 Camp Creek Rd Belvue KS 66407

Robert Evans

46, 32

9920 Camp Creek Rd
Belvue KS 66407

Darrin Evans

46, 32

10575 Onaga Rd
Wamego KS 66547

Sandra Evans

46, 32

9920 Camp Creek Rd
Belvue, KS 66407

Cindy Bailey

46

21105 Indian Village Rd
Belvue, KS 66407

Citizens of Pottawatomie County

Name:	Segment #:	Address:
Linda & Kleiner	8 Sec 13	7925 Lake Elbe Rd St. George
Ralph E Brooks	8	7440 Lake Elbe Rd Mantoloking
Mary Jo Nehan	8	8450 Lake Elbe Rd ST. George

Citizens of Pottawatomie County

Name:	Segment #:	Address:
Mark D. McCoy	22	95-1005 MOBILE ST MILWAUKEE, WI 53229

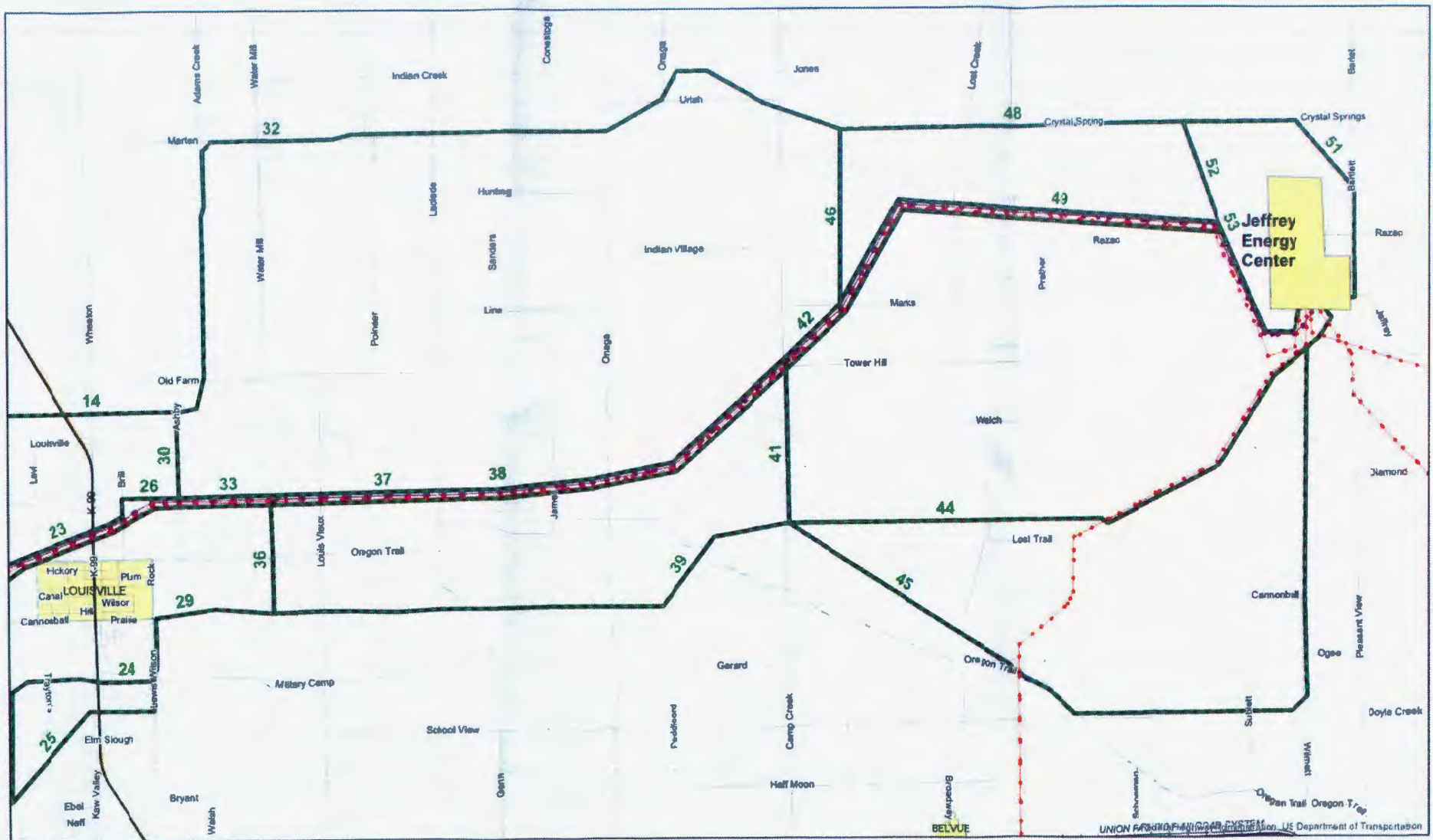
Citizens of Pottawatomie County

Name:	Segment #:	Address:
2 EDD A. HUNTER	32	6511 130TH LN SW
Ed Hunter		OLYMPIA, WA 98512
Amy B. HUNTER		
Ed Hunter		

Citizens of Pottawatomie County

Name:	Segment #:	Address:
Long Rich	30	7555 Ashby Rd
[Signature]	32	8255 Watermill Rd.
[Signature]	32	9325 Watermill Rd
Phyllis Mer	22	12305 Cherokee Ln Leawood, KS 66207
Robin Ebert	8	8200 Jenkins Rd St. George KS
Gary Ebert	8	8200 Jenkins Rd St. George KS
Gi E. Edward	48/32	403 Lawrence Ave Lawrence, KS 66047
Edward & E. Edwards	48/32	12439 Hollingsworth Lawrence City KS 66109

Jeffrey Energy Center to E. Manhattan 230kV Replacement Project



Existing Transmission Lines

- 230kV Line Being Replaced
- ... Other Existing Transmission Lines

Potential New Routes Under Consideration

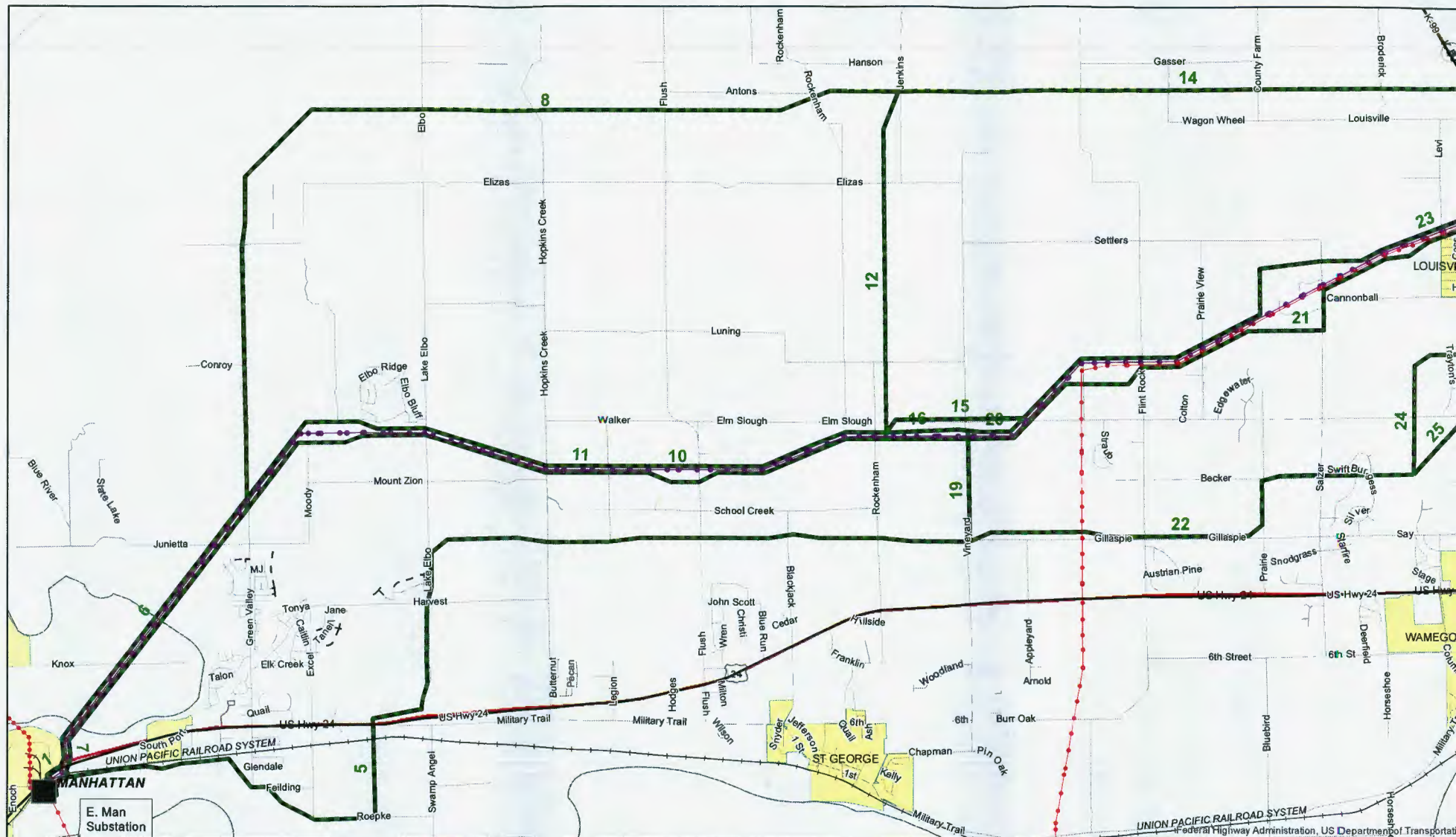
- Potential Routes for New 230kV/345kV Line

Date: 12-04-14



(Continued on Other Side)

Jeffrey Energy Center to E. Manhattan 230kV Replacement Project



Existing Transmission Lines

- 230kV Line Being Replaced
- Other Existing Transmission Lines

Potential New Routes Under Consideration

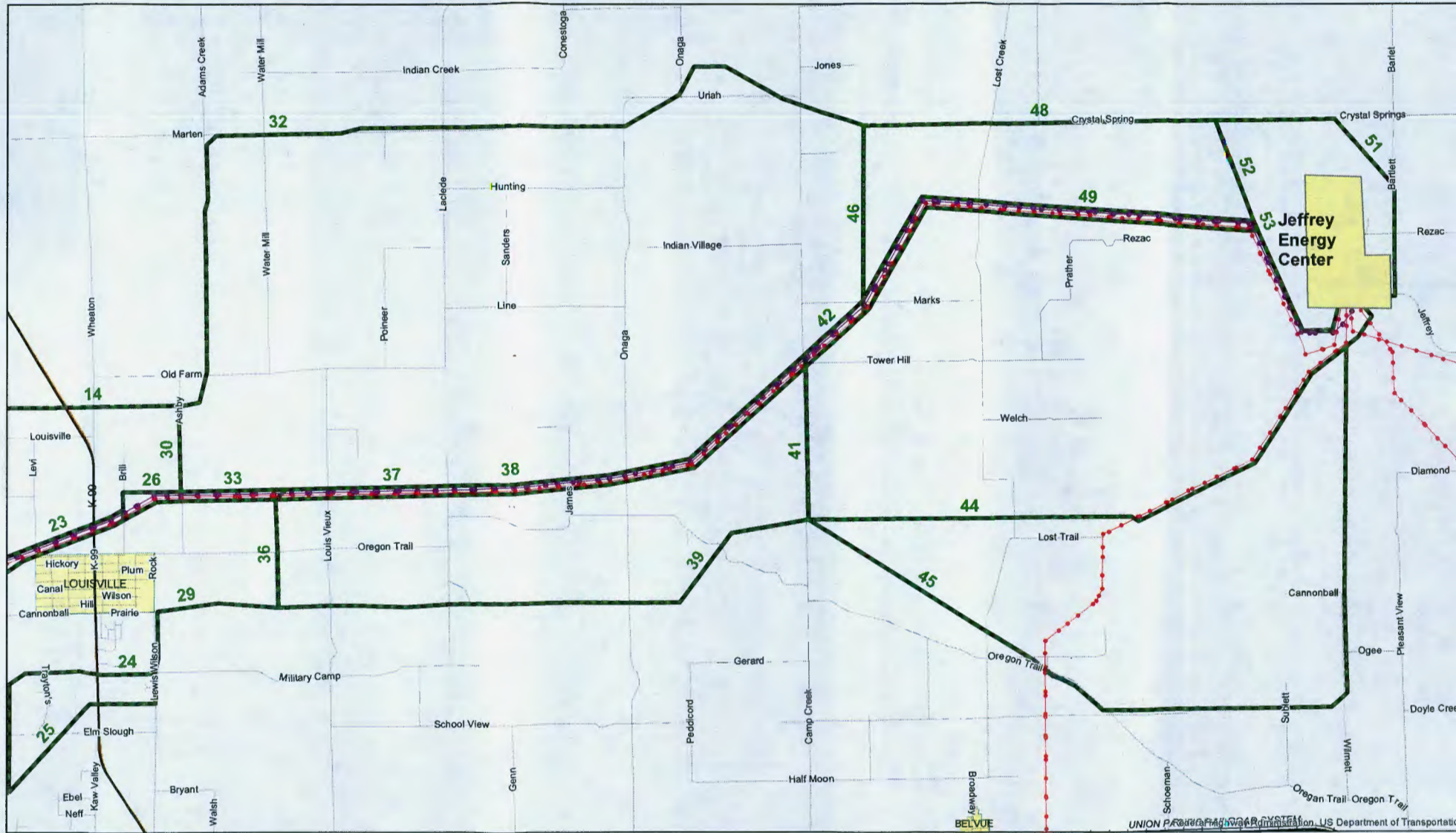
- Potential Routes for New 230kV/345kV Line

Date: 12-04-14



(Continued on Other Side)

Jeffrey Energy Center to E. Manhattan 230kV Replacement Project



Existing Transmission Lines

- 230kV Line Being Replaced
- Other Existing Transmission Lines

Potential New Routes Under Consideration

- Potential Routes for New 230kV/345kV Line

Date: 12-04-14



(Continued on Other Side)

99523

Chair Shari Feist Albrecht
Kansas Corporation Commission
1500 SW Arrowhead Rd
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

Re: Jeffrey Energy Center to E. Manhattan (KS) 230 kV Replacement Project

Dear Ms. Albrecht,

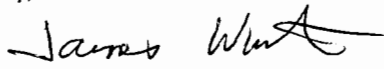
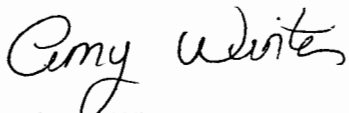
We are writing this letter to express our concern with regard to the Jeffrey Energy Center to E. Manhattan 230kV Replacement Project. We are lifelong residents of the Flush community and own land that will be directly affected by the proposed north route. This land has been in our family for generations (since it was first deeded) and will be passed on to our children. We have very strong feelings about the effect this will have on our property if the north route is chosen.

The **North Route** is the least populated and remains relatively open and unscathed compared to the original route. The north area is a farming community with an abundance of wildlife and native grassland. We have been approached many times by someone wanting to purchase a parcel of land for development or a single family home. We would accept no amount of money for any of our land and will continue to preserve and farm the land. A power line running through our property would greatly affect values and disrupt our cattle and farming operation.

Westar chose the original route in the 1980's. Residents along this route built with the knowledge of its existence. Westar Energy already has the easements and right of way on this existing route. During two meetings hosted by Westar on December 3rd and 4th, the majority of those in attendance stated that the best thing for the area would be to continue the power lines along their existing route.

We would ask that you please help us to persuade Westar Energy not to destroy another path across the prairie for the sake of ease or money. Rural Kansas cannot be replaced once developed. Please look into this matter and run the new lines adjacent to the existing route.

Sincerely,

James and Amy Winter
11645 Elizas Road
St. George, KS 66535

North Route
Section 8

Kansas Corporation
Commission

DEC 23 2014

99524

Commissioner Pat Apple
Kansas Corporation Commission
1500 SW Arrowhead RD
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

RE: Jeffery Energy Center to E. Manhattan 230kV Replacement Project

Dear Mr. Apple,

I am writing this letter to express my concern and ask for your assistance about the Jeffery Energy Center to E. Manhattan 230kV Replacement Project proposal by Westar Energy.

Westar needs to run their new transmission lines adjacent to the existing route for the following reasons:

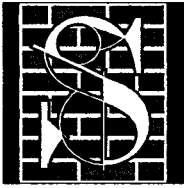
- The majority of the people who attended the open forums, hosted by Westar Dec 3rd and 4th, stated to run the power lines adjacent to the existing route.
- The existing route from Jeffery Energy Center to HWY 99 has ***no homeowner impact within 1/8 mile***. However, by moving the lines to the north as proposed, up to 14 houses will be negatively impacted with regard to property value, use of land, and irrigation pivots.
- Environmental impact to native grasslands and wildlife habitats. Westar already has the easements and right-of-way of the existing route so why cause even more damage?

I'm sure this is not something that you wish to happen in your area and I urge you to ***please*** look into this matter, not just for my family, but for the entire community.

Thank you for your time and consideration in building the replacement transmission lines adjacent to the existing route.

Very sincerely,





SPENCER PRESERVATION

99525

10150 Onaga Rd • Wamego, KS 66547 • 785.456.9857 • SpencerPreservation.com

18 December 2014

Shari Feist Albrecht, Chair
Kansas Corporation Commission
1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

Dear Chairwoman Albrecht:

I live and operate a small business in Pottawatomie County in northeast Kansas. I am writing you today to share my concern and ask for your support regarding the proposed path of the Jeffrey Energy Center to Manhattan 23k V Replacement Project. We live in close proximity to the existing line as well as several of the proposed route options.

At recent local public meetings, Westar reviewed several proposed paths for the new transmission lines. I urge you to encourage Westar to run the new line along the existing line and existing right of way. This position – locating the new line adjacent to the existing line - was supported by the majority of people who attended the public forums hosted by Westar December 3rd & 4th.


It seems that this should be an easy and logical decision – a way to avoid the negative process of condemnation that would be required for all of the proposed new routes. The existing lines were placed thirty-some years ago and there are no homes immediately adjacent to the lines. Land and home owners have gotten used to the presence of the line. One of the proposed new paths – the north route would directly impact up to 14 homes as currently proposed. This would have a significant impact on property values, homes and farmland, and result in lower tax revenue for the county and potentially lower income tax for state and federal coffers. In addition to the impact on private land and economic impact on tax revenues, many of the proposed new routes would have a significant negative environmental impact on grasslands and wildlife habitat.

The right-of-way/easement is already in place for the existing line. Although construction of the new line might be easier in a new location, it seems that Westar should be able to work out the logistics of the transition from old to new lines adjacent to each other.

We would appreciate any assistance or support that you can provide to encourage Westar to locate the new transmission lines along the existing right of way in Pottawatomie and Riley counties to minimize all disruption of private land.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Brenda Spencer

Kansas Corporation
Commission

DEC 23 2014

99526

December 19, 2014

Kansas Corporation Commission
Pat Apple
1500 SW Arrowhead Rd
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

Dear Pat Apple,

I am writing to express my concern over where you plan to relocate the new transmission lines. I am Power of Attorney for my parents, Tom and Anita Steinberger, who own the farm on section 33 over by Louisville. My first concern regards the northwest corner of this section. That is prime crop land which is a primary source of income for my parents. To put lines through this area would take a portion of their income from them. At this point in time all they have to live on is the income from renting the land to crops and pasture plus a very small Social Security income.

Now, let's move to the southern portion of section 33. At the present time the transmission lines run south of my parent's property line. If the lines must run on my parents property then of the two possibilities the southern side of the property or north side of existing lines would be the lesser of two evils. If moved to the north of the present lines this will mean running them in the pastures where access would mean crossing a ravine that is passable only by ATV or pickup. There is also a small crossing over a ditch/creek that would not handle any heavier equipment then a pickup or a small tractor.

Furthermore, following this route will mean tearing down a number of trees the cattle depend on for shade. In this area is a natural spring that supplies water to the cattle and wildlife. We do not want to see this spring damaged in any way. So this will impact not only cattle but wildlife.

I hate to pass the buck but where the neighbors on the south side of my folks already have your transmission lines and this is mostly open, easily assessable land it would make more sense to run the new lines to the south of the existing lines.

Thank you for your time and consideration in building the replacement transmission lines adjacent to the to the south side of the existing route.

Sincerely,



Theresa Breymeyer

Kansas Corporation
Commission

DEC 23 2014

99527

December 19, 2014

Kansas Corporation Commission
Pat Apple
1500 SW Arrowhead Rd
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my concern over where you plan to relocate the new transmission lines. My In-Laws, Tom and Anita Steinberger, own the farm on section 33 over by Louisville. My first concern regards the northwest corner of this section. That is prime crop land which is a primary source of income for my parents. To put lines through this area would take a portion of their income from them. At this point in time all they have to live on is the income from renting the land to crops and pasture plus a very small Social Security income.

The transmission line move could also affect the southern portion of section 33. At the present time the transmission lines run south of my parent's property line. If the lines must run on my parents property then of the two possibilities the southern side of the property or north side of existing lines would be the lesser of two evils. If moved to the north of the present lines this will mean running them in the pastures where access would mean crossing a ravine that is passable only by ATV or pickup. There is also a small crossing over a ditch/creek that would not handle any heavier equipment then a pickup or a small tractor.

Furthermore, following this route will mean tearing down a number of trees the cattle depend on for shade. In this area is a natural spring that supplies water to the cattle and wildlife. We do not want to see this spring damaged in any way. So this will impact not only cattle but wildlife.

I would think that where the neighbors on the south side of my folks already have your transmission lines and this is mostly open, easily assessable land it would make more sense to run the new lines to the south of the existing lines.

Thank you for your time and consideration in building the replacement transmission lines adjacent to the to the south side of the existing route.

Sincerely,

Randy L. Brayman

Kansas Corporation
Commission

DEC 23 2014

99528

Commissioner Jay Scott Elmer
Kansas Corporation Commission
1500 SW Arrowhead RD
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

RE: Jeffery Energy Center to E. Manhattan (KS) 230kV Replacement Project

Dear Mr. Elmer

I am writing this letter to express my concern with regard to the Jeffery Energy Center to E. Manhattan (KS) 230kV Replacement Project. While I'm sure Westar Energy been quite thorough about researching the different routes that would be best for Westar, I am not sure you realize the negative impact the proposed route(s) will have to this community and the nation. And not just in the beginning, but for years – decades – to come.

Clearly, Westar already has the easements and right-of-way on the existing route. What is unclear is why there is even a consideration to destroy more native grassland and woodland areas. According to the Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Program, of the once 170 million acres of native tallgrass prairie, we are down to just 4% in what remains in the Flint Hills region, which includes a large portion of Pottawatomie county. That doesn't even make mention of the fact that countless habitats will be destroyed if a different route is chosen. The area provides homes to quail, pheasant, wild turkey, white tail deer, hawks, several types of owls.....and the list goes on and on.

The precedent has been set to keep replacement lines adjacent to existing routes. That has been done on previous SPP projects and would make the most logical sense. **The existing route is the shortest and most direct** therefore, it would be the most economical for Westar Energy and the SPP.

During two meetings hosted by Westar on December 3rd and 4th, the majority of those in attendance stated that the best thing for the area would be to continue the power lines along their existing route.

As the governing entity over Westar Energy, I urge you to look into this matter **BEFORE** Westar ever officially files with the KCC.

Thank you for your time and consideration in building the replacement transmission lines adjacent to the existing route.

Sincerely,



Kansas Corporation
Commission

DEC 23 2014

Commissioner Pat Apple
 Kansas Corporation Commission
 1500 SW Arrowhead RD
 Topeka, KS 66604-4027

RE: Jeffery Energy Center to E. Manhattan (KS) 230kV Replacement Project

Dear Mr. Apple,

I am writing this letter to express my concern with regard to the Jeffery Energy Center to E. Manhattan (KS) 230kV Replacement Project. While I'm sure Westar Energy been quite thorough about researching the different routes that would be best for Westar, I am not sure you realize the negative impact the proposed route(s) will have to this community and the nation. And not just in the beginning, but for years – decades – to come.

Clearly, Westar already has the easements and right-of-way on the existing route. What is unclear is why there is even a consideration to destroy more native grassland and woodland areas. According to the Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Program, of the once 170 million acres of native tallgrass prairie, we are down to just 4% in what remains in the Flint Hills region, which includes a large portion of Pottawatomie county. That doesn't even make mention of the fact that countless habitats will be destroyed if a different route is chosen. The area provides homes to quail, pheasant, wild turkey, white tail deer, hawks, several types of owls.....and the list goes on and on.

The precedent has been set to keep replacement lines adjacent to existing routes. That has been done on previous SPP projects and would make the most logical sense. **The existing route is the shortest and most direct** therefore, it would be the most economical for Westar Energy and the SPP.

During two meetings hosted by Westar on December 3rd and 4th, the majority of those in attendance stated that the best thing for the area would be to continue the power lines along their existing route.

As the governing entity over Westar Energy, I urge you to look into this matter **BEFORE** Westar ever officially files with the KCC.

Thank you for your time and consideration in building the replacement transmission lines adjacent to the existing route.

Sincerely,

Tim R. Harte
 17260 Forty Acres
 Wamego KS 66547

Russell J. Umscheid
7505 Rockenham Rd.
St. George, KS 66535
December 15, 2014

Commissioner Jay Scott Elmer
Kansas Corporation Commission
1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

RE: Jeffery Energy Center to E. Manhattan KS 230kV Replacement Project

Dear Commissioner Jay Scott Elmer:

I am writing this letter to express my sincere concern with regard to the Jeffrey Energy Center to E. Manhattan KS 230kV Replacement Project. While I am certain Westar Energy has been thoroughly researching the possible routes that would be best utilized for Westar, I am not sure you realize the negative impact the proposed routes will have to this community. This impact will be felt for decades to come because a very high number of family farms will be affected by the proposed route that is not adjacent to the existing one. I am actively employed in supporting agriculture, our state's most vital economic driver. Additionally, according to the Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Program, we are down to only 4% native tallgrass prairie. This doesn't even take into account the countless habitats that will be destroyed if a different route is chosen that is not adjacent to the existing route.

The precedent had been set to keep replacement lines adjacent to existing routes. The existing route is the shortest and most direct therefore it seems most economical for Westar Energy and customers. Additionally, it is easier and quicker to extend an existing ROW than trying to obtain easement and ROW's for an entirely new route.

During the two open houses hosted by Westar on December 3 and 4th the majority of those in attendance stated clearly that the best option is to continue the new lines along the existing route. Please help our economy stay strong with our most powerful business, agriculture.

Sincerely,



Celia Bissen

Kansas Corporation
Commission

DEC 23 2014

99533

Commissioner Pat Apple
Kansas Corporation Commission
1500 SW Arrowhead RD
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

RE: Jeffery Energy Center to E. Manhattan 230kV Replacement Project

Dear Mr. Apple,

I am writing this letter to express my concern and ask for your assistance about the Jeffery Energy Center to E. Manhattan 230kV Replacement Project proposal by Westar Energy.

Westar needs to run their new transmission lines adjacent to the existing route for the following reasons:

- The majority of the people who attended the open forums, hosted by Westar Dec 3rd and 4th, stated to run the power lines adjacent to the existing route.
- The existing route from Jeffery Energy Center to HWY 99 has ***no homeowner impact within 1/8 mile***. However, by moving the lines to the north as proposed, up to 14 houses will be negatively impacted with regard to property value, use of land, and irrigation pivots.
- Environmental impact to native grasslands and wildlife habitats. Westar already has the easements and right-of-way of the existing route so why cause even more damage?

I'm sure this is not something that you wish to happen in your area and I urge you to *please* look into this matter, not just for my family, but for the entire community.

Thank you for your time and consideration in building the replacement transmission lines adjacent to the existing route.

Very sincerely,

Brian Blum

99534

Russell J. Umscheid
7505 Rockenham Rd.
St. George, KS 66535
December 15, 2014

Commissioner Jay Scott Elmer
Kansas Corporation Commission
1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

RE: Jeffery Energy Center to E. Manhattan KS 230kV Replacement Project

Dear Commissioner Jay Scott Elmer:

I am writing this letter to express my sincere concern with regard to the Jeffrey Energy Center to E. Manhattan KS 230kV Replacement Project. While I am certain Westar Energy has been thoroughly researching the possible routes that would be best utilized for Westar, I am not sure you realize the negative impact the proposed routes will have to this community. This impact will be felt for decades to come as my land is very much affected by the proposed route that is not adjacent to the existing one. I am a fourth generation farmer and the fifth generation is already in the business to try continuing this legacy. Additionally, according to the Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Program we are down to only 4% native tallgrass prairie. This doesn't even take into account the countless habitats that will be destroyed if a different route is chosen that is not adjacent to the existing route.

The precedent had been set to keep replacement lines adjacent to existing routes. The existing route is the shortest and most direct therefore it seems most economical for Westar Energy and customers. Additionally, it is easier and quicker to extend an existing ROW than trying to obtain easement and ROW's for an entirely new route.

During the two open houses hosted by Westar on December 3 and 4th the majority of those in attendance stated clearly that the best option is to continue the new lines along the existing route. Please help our economy stay strong with our most powerful business, agriculture.

Sincerely,



Russell J. Umscheid

Kansas Corporation
Commission

DEC 23 2014

18 December 2014

Mike Boatwright
10150 Onaga Road
Wamego, KS 66547

Commissioner Pat Apple
Kansas Corporation Commission
1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

Dear Commissioner Apple:

I am very concerned with Westar's consideration of rerouting the existing electrical transmission line from Jeffery Energy Center to Manhattan.

In my opinion, Westar should use their EXISTING route for the new lines for the following reasons:

1. The existing line, by my measurements, is the shortest route between the two points.
2. Moving the line, particularly the northern route, negatively impacts the property values of 14, and by some counts 28, properties and homes by moving the line within a few hundred feet of the existing homes.
3. The majority of the people that attended the Westar open house strongly expressed their opinion that Westar use their existing route.
4. There is nothing gained by the excessive costs of purchasing new right of ways and condemning properties.
5. This impacts not only grasslands and wildlife habitats and farms and homes....it effects us.
6. If people want to move under a transmission line, let them. Don't move the transmission line to the people who don't.

Westar should use the existing Transmission Line Route to replace the line.

I am asking for your assistance by looking into this matter.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Mike Boatwright

Kansas Corporation
Commission

DEC 23 2014

99536

Chair Shari Feist Albrecht
Kansas Corporation Commission
1500 SW Arrowhead RD
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

RE: Jeffery Energy Center to E. Manhattan (KS) 230kV Replacement Project

Dear Ms. Albrecht,

I am writing this letter to express my concern and ask for your assistance about the Jeffery Energy Center to E. Manhattan 230kV Replacement Project proposal by Westar Energy.

Westar needs to run their new transmission lines adjacent to the existing route for the following reasons:

- The majority of the people who attended the open forums, hosted by Westar Dec 3rd and 4th, stated to run the power lines adjacent to the existing route.
- The existing route from Jeffery Energy Center to HWY 99 has **no homeowner impact within 1/8 mile**. However, by moving the lines to the north as proposed, up to 14 houses will be negatively impacted with regard to property value, use of land, and irrigation pivots.
- Environmental impact to native grasslands and wildlife habitats. Westar already has the easements and right-of-way of the existing route so why cause even more damage?

I'm sure this is not something that you wish to happen in your area and I urge you to *please* look into this matter, not just for my family, but for the entire community.

Thank you for your time and consideration in building the replacement transmission lines adjacent to the existing route.

Very sincerely,

Dennis & Patricia Peterson

Kansas Corporation
Commission

DEC 23 2014

99537

December 19, 2014

Kansas Corporation Commission
Chair Shari Feist Albrecht
1500 SW Arrowhead Rd
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

Dear Ms Albrecht,

I am writing to express my concern over where you plan to relocate the new transmission lines. My parents, Tom and Anita Steinberger, own the farm on section 33 over by Louisville. My first concern regards the northwest corner of this section. That is prime crop land which is a primary source of income for my parents. To put lines through this area would take a portion of their income from them. At this point in time all they have to live on is the income from renting the land to crops and pasture plus a very small Social Security income.

The transmission line move could also affect the southern portion of section 33. At the present time the transmission lines run south of my parent's property line. If the lines must run on my parents property then of the two possibilities the southern side of the property or north side of existing lines would be the lesser of two evils. If moved to the north of the present lines this will mean running them in the pastures where access would mean crossing a ravine that is passable only by ATV or pickup. There is also a small crossing over a ditch/creek that would not handle any heavier equipment then a pickup or a small tractor.

Furthermore, following this route will mean tearing down a number of trees the cattle depend on for shade. In this area is a natural spring that supplies water to the cattle and wildlife. We do not want to see this spring damaged in any way. So this will impact not only cattle but wildlife.

I would think that where the neighbors on the south side of my folks already have your transmission lines and this is mostly open, easily assessable land it would make more sense to run the new lines to the south of the existing lines.

Thank you for your time and consideration in building the replacement transmission lines adjacent to the to the south side of the existing route.

Sincerely,



Kansas Corporation
Commission

DEC 23 2014

Kansas Corporation
Commission

DEC 18 2014

99540

Kansas Corporation
Commission

JAN 5 2015

Commissioner Pat Apple,

Kansas Corporation Commission

RE: Jeffery Energy Center to E. Manhattan 230kV Replacement Project

Dear Mr. Apple,

I am writing this letter to express my concern and ask for your assistance concerning the Jeffery Energy Center to E. Manhattan 230kV Replacement Project proposal.

I believe Westar should use common sense and construct the new proposed transmission lines adjacent to the existing route for the following reasons:

The need for the increased demand for power due to the ever expanding Hwy 24 corridor and Manhattan growth is warranted. However a new electric transmission line should not be burdened onto the landowners of the north who are not creating the expansion, nor use Westar for their electric power delivery needs. Westar should not impede on the northern route property rights of patrons not attributing to the congestion and expansion. The North route remains open land maintained by families for generations and should remain that way. The new proposed power line should remain adjacent to the existing line.

Maximizing the distance along the existing route - should be of the utmost importance. The existing route home owners are supported by Westar distribution lines and Westar patrons receive Westar premium rates. However, in this study Westar is researching to build a substantially bigger distribution power line impeding the boundaries of the Bluestem Electric Cooperative north supported area. To impede onto the northern route in which power is supplied by Bluestem Electric would be unfair and detrimental to the land owners and the values of their land. The proposed possible north route land owners, who pay higher electric Bluestem Electric premium rates if selected, would have Westar transmission lines running directly through their properties supplying power to the Southern Westar patrons paying less for their premiums. This is unethical.

Minimize length through wetlands and number of stream / river crossings - Westar officials and I discussed the north proposed route and the proximity of my home to the north route crossing over the Flush Road at my residence (7710 Flush Rd, St. George, KS) on segment 8. This area is prone to flooding. I have a special interest with Westar NOT to interfere with the buffer zone of any timber along the Northern heavily timbered proposed route. I built my home 32 years ago and my home has never been flooded. If Westar destroys a 150' wide path of timber the distance along my timbered land and home and others of trees along this stream/creek area, I fear my home and many more acres of land will be much more prone to flooding due to the loss of the timber's buffering zone. Not only may my home be flooded due to the increased water speed, but I believe it opens Westar to the possibility of contributing to the additional flooding of the Flush road. In the past 32 years, I have seen the creek banks edge closer and closer to the road. This stream/creek has flooded over the Flush road at my residence. Just 2 miles north of the proposed northern route, crossing over the Flush Road at my home is Rock Creek Jr/Sr High School. The Flush Road is a heavily traveled county road due to Rock Creek schools and the many school activities, sporting events along with the numerous patrons in the area utilizing the Flush road to travel to work. I spoke to Westar representatives and discussed the numerous times the Flush road has been closed due to flooding near my home. Many numbers of times my brother or I have called the Pottawatomie County Sherriff's office to dispatch to the area while my brother or I stopped the traffic. Although one of the new proposed routes (the adjacent route to the existing route) at Segment 10 of the Westar map also crosses the Flush Road just 2 miles to the south, Segment 10 is not prone to flooding and will not have this flood prone issue. You should be aware that the northern route on Segments 8 and 14 of the Westar provided Maps, certainly contains the most wetlands

consisting of many more creeks, creek bottom lands and stream crossings and has considerable flooding issues. Westar should avoid this route for the destruction of the timber along these creeks will only cause more damage to creek banks and flooding to county roads and possibility of my home. A group of the Northern proposed route patrons along with Westar officials in review of the maps at the meeting verified 15 creek crossings within just one map section to contend with while the existing center route consisted of just 5 creek crossings. The destruction of timber along the Northern route creek banks will only cause more damage and flooding in the future.

Westar already has the easements and right-of-way of the existing route so why cause even more damage? Environmental impact to open farmlands, native grasslands, wildlife habitats and timbered creeks should be all avoided. I ask you for your assistance to advise Westar to construct the new proposed transmission line along the existing route.

I'm sure this is not something that you wish to happen and I urge you to *please* look into this matter, not just for my family and home, but for the entire community. **Please advise Westar to run the new transmission line adjacent to the existing route.**

Very sincerely,

Bob & Kayla Heptig

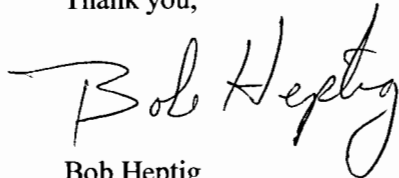
99540

Westar's Webpage.

Attached here is a copy of Westar's website Home Page showing the beautiful landscape along with no power poles. Following it and also pulled from your website is a copy of the area map darkened gray in which you provide service to. The proposed north route west of the Flush Road is much like you show on your website. East of the Flush road on the north route contains much of the same along with very pristine farm ground. This north route is known for the many wildlife habitats and hunting due to the flowing creeks and wetlands. This north route is not within your service area and should not be considered for such. Nor should the beautiful landscape of the north route be damaged by the unsightly view of large power lines.

Please take into consideration my points and select the new proposed route to be placed adjacent to the existing line already in place.

Thank you,



Bob Heptig
7710 Flush Rd
St. George, KS 66535
heptig@wamego.net.

Bob Heptig

Kansas Corporation
Kansas Commission
Committee

JAN 5 2015

December 11th, 2014

Copy

Paul Wallen

Executive Director, Transmission and Substation Construction, Westar Energy

Dave Peck

Project Manager

RE: Westar Energy Jeffery Center to E. Manhattan Project Stakeholder Questionnaire

Mr. Wallen,

First of all, I would like to personally thank you and Mr. Peck for both taking the time to sit with me one-on-one and to answer my questions concerning the Stakeholder's Questionnaire. In addition, when I called upon you again, you took the necessary time to meet with a north route group and answer many additional questions and at least ease some of our concerns. However, regarding the questionnaire in speaking to several representatives of Westar and along with you personally, I believe this questionnaire can provide an unfair advantage to place the proposed route on the north route of the 3 main proposed routes in which I and many others are completely opposed to. As I proceed through this message I will reference items numbers and letters of which I have concern.

PROJECT NEED

1. While I believe I received the overall understanding for the need to upgrade the line, I don't believe everyone received the same message with the open forum presentation. In speaking with many of the Westar representatives with the same questions, I received many conflicting opinions on how to answer the survey. I believe the forum may have been better presented with an overall speaker (you) so that everyone understood and received the same message. The need for the increased demand due to the ever expanding Hwy 24 corridor and Manhattan growth is warranted and this is exactly how to respond to the questionnaire. The increase is due to the southern demand and should not be burdened onto the landowners of the north who are not creating it nor use Westar for their power distribution needs.

LINE ROUTING CONSIDERATIONS

2. a) **Maximum distance from residences** – As discussed, you and many of your representatives informed me of how to rate the questionnaire completely opposite. Many patrons and I received the advice to score it a 5. However after speaking with you, I should score it a 1 and explain "just not by my house", but make sure to include comments on the back and explain why. I don't believe many people received the same message to explain their reason on the back. As you and I discussed most people will answer it a 5. This score of the survey heavily weights the North route placement due to the sheer number or lack of patrons on the north route.
- c) **Maximize distance from public facilities** - The increased demand for power for such locations listed is just that, and as such the reason the proposed line should be built near them. Why should Westar impede on the property rights of patrons not attributing to the congestion and expansion such as the center and south routes and Manhattan account for. The North route remains open land and should remain that way. The north route should not be used for expansion due to the southern portion and Manhattan expansion. The line should remain adjacent to the existing line.
- d) **Maximizing the distance along the existing route** - should be of the utmost importance. This route is supported by Westar distribution lines and patrons receive Westar premium rates. Many people have built homes along that Westar route in the past 30 years knowing the existing line was there. You are researching to build a substantially bigger Westar distribution power line within Bluestem's north supported area. To impede on the northern route in which power is supplied by Bluestem would be unfair to the land owners. The north route owners

would be paying for a higher Bluestem premium rate, yet have Westar transmission lines running directly through their property to Westar patrons paying less for their premiums. It sounds like Westar patrons would have their cake and eat it too.

e) Maximizing the length along highway or other roads – If truly an independent survey was obtained to base the 3 main proposed routes along, segment 32 appears suspiciously questionable as to why it turned south at certain points along the northern propose route. Many landowners formed the opinion it was based on who the land owner is and is unfair.

In addition, the survey group recommended the northern route to be built within a mainly heavily clay tillable soil and crossing over many flood prone areas and creek crossings containing many trees and wetlands far off county roads. For those of us who have lived in the area all of our lives and have seen the flooding in the proposed northern route first hand, not by some Independent Survey group, would be a huge mistake for Westar and the maintenance of your lines. This ground is heavy clay soil which dries out slowly and is very hard to maneuver in during wet periods. It would make the use of your right-away extremely difficult as it is routed in the middle of many tillable fields. To use the middle or central route, which consist of mainly sandy soils would provide a much quicker dry time and more stable to operate your heavy equipment on if and when such a storm would cause damage to your power lines. While I'm only a proponent to use the existing center route, why would the survey group not seek a route headed straight west at segment intersection 14 and 32 instead of turning south at segment 32. A west route continuing here would have maintained a county road path for you to operate from and consist of a much more non tillable or pasture ground to operate within. This un-proposed route would have been of the same total length with considerable less wetlands and creek-crossings to contend with and with the advantage of much more county road frontage. I was informed the survey group for the proposed routes was based out of Kansas City. I question if they actually surveyed the land for such obstacles as wetlands and timber or if they merely drew up the proposed routes from behind the computer. Again I am not recommending the route to be moved north. I am just questioning the proposed northern route recommended by the survey group. When you have lived in an area for all of your life, along with the many others like me on the north route, you know the issues faced within the areas of concern.

g) Minimize length through wetlands and number of stream / river crossings - You and I discussed the north route and the proximity of my home to the proposed line crossing over the Flush Road at my home on segment 8. This area is prone to flooding and I have a special interest with Westar not to interfere with the buffer zone of my timber along this proposed route. I built my home 32 years ago and my home has never been flooded. If Westar clears a 150' wide path of timber the distance along my land and others of trees along this stream/creek, I fear my home will be much more prone to flooding due to the loss of the timber's buffering zone. Not only may my home may be flooded due to the increased water speed, but you also open Westar to the possibility to contributing to the flooding of the Flush road. In my 32 years, I have seen the creek banks edge closer and closer to the road. The creek has flooded over the road at my home. A mere 2 miles north of the proposed crossing zone over the Flush Road at my home is Rock Creek Jr/Sr High School. The Flush Road is a heavily traveled county road due to the school and many school activities, sporting events along with the numerous patrons in the area using it to travel to work. You, and some of your representatives and I discussed the numerous times Flush road has been closed due to flooding at my home. Many number of times my brother or I have called the Pottawatomie County Sherriff's office to dispatch to the area while my brother or I stopped the traffic. Although the proposed new and current line also crosses the Flush Road just 2 miles south, it is not prone to flooding and will not have this flood prone issue. You should be aware that the northern route of the 3 proposed, certainly contains the most wetlands consisting of many more creeks, creek bottom lands and stream crossings. While you and a group of us patrons along the north route discussed at a table, I believe we counted 15 water crossings within just one map section to contend with while the Center existing route consisted of just 5 water crossings.

h, i) Minimize length across tilled agricultural land - The center proposed route already contains the distribution line in use. The area has grown up with homes knowing the line is in place. It is mainly sandy pasture land along the proposed central line. To place an undue burden for farmers to farm around power poles on the northern route and to interfere with farm land and to gain nothing but to lose makes no sense. Again the North route benefits

nothing as we are supplied power by Bluestem at a higher rate than with what Westar patrons are charged. It is unfair to even consider moving the line to within the Bluestem boundaries. Please place the new line adjacent to the existing line.

k) **Minimize visibility of the line.** – The existing line has been there 30+ years and should remain there. Again your survey will be skewed as everyone will probably respond with a 5. This score will lead to placing the line on the north route as there will be more votes casting 5 or **not** along the southern route. Your questionnaire is unfair.

l) **Minimize the length of the line** – Yes reducing cost should be the consideration. However due to the increase of crossing near a more populated area of homes may pose more cost due to the loss of value of home properties when purchasing easements. Please consider the cost of the line only when reducing the total cost.

n) **Minimize impacts to archaeological and historic sites** – My Great Grandfather built a barn in 1883 which still remains in the family, has been restored and is now listed on the National Register of Historical Sites located in Anton's road, segment 8. Again this is the northern route and the area in consideration all along the northern route has been in families for years. The land had not been sold off for expansion such as the southern or central routes in consideration. Westar should give consideration for the preservation of the land in use and the family farms it will invade. The proposed line should be located on the land it serves and for the reason of the expansion need. In addition the proposed line will be in very close proximity to our Family Farm's Barn listed on the National Historical Registry.

3. **Comments to above questions** -While I'm quite sure you had pre-meetings and multiple discussions with the supporting staff to answer questions, I believe you should reconsider ever utilizing Mr. Johnny Onstead at one of your open forums again. He has very poor customer skills and basically stated to a northern route group of 12 individuals, that the north route was the least occupied territory and should be the route to use. In addition he had many more off the wall remarks, upsetting everyone in the group. We had to disperse with him as the conversation went south and ended up heated. He uses very poor judgment in an open forum format and has no people skills.

Again I believe the number scoring to this questionnaire is truly unfair. You and your staff gave me different opinions on how to rate the scoring. Some of you suggested to rate a 1 and some a 5 on the same question. I believe most patrons were led the same to score a 5. Without a weighing scale which did not appear to be in consideration, I believe your rating scale will push the line north due to the overwhelming majority of south patrons to the north. You gave me direction to respond to my scoring with comments on the back and the reason why, but I truly believe the majority of patrons will only score with no comment of what they mean. Thus your scoring will be skewed.

4. **Segment No. Concern** – The proposed new transmission line is due to the southern route and Manhattan expansions in the recent years. This expansion is **NOT** part of the north route. The northern route should not be utilized for something it has not created. The north route is supplied by Bluestem, not Westar. Bluestem patrons pay a higher usage premium over Westar. Westar should maintain its lines within the boundaries to the patrons it supplies and where the power is utilized. Why should Westar's power be offered the ability to be transferred over land not in use by Westar patrons?

Segment 8. Again this segment crosses over the Flush Road at my home with the very high possibility it will cause flooding to my home and the increased flooding to the Flush road with the loss of my extensive tree buffer zone. I can provide considerable evidence that the area is prone to flooding by the Pottawatomie County Sheriff's office. This is highlighted by the number of times that the sheriff office has been dispatched for road closings due to the flooding, and in addition the countless times the Pottawatomie County Road Department has been required to repair the road for such.

See attached info for more resistance to the North Proposed Route.

Philip Straub
13101 W. 139th Street
Overland Park, KS 66221

Commissioner Jay Scott Elmer
Kansas Corporation Commission
1500 SW Arrowhead RD
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

Subject: Jeffrey Energy Center to East Manhattan 230kV Replacement Project

Dear Commissioner Elmer:

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Philip Straub and my family and I own farm land in the affected area of the proposed northeast routing of the power line to serve east Manhattan. My father bought the 160 acres at 15000 Louisville Road; Wamego, KS in 1965. He passed away in 2005 and now my mother continues to own the land with support from my two brothers and I who maintain the property. I have extensive roots in the area since my ancestors migrated here from Germany, so the land and the area is special to me.

I am writing this letter to express my concern and ask for your assistance about the Jeffrey Energy Center to east Manhattan 230kV Replacement Project proposal by Westar Energy. Westar needs to run their new transmission lines adjacent to the existing route for the following reasons:

- The majority of the people who attended the open forums hosted by Westar on December 3rd and 4th supported following the existing routing.
- It has minimal to no impact along the existing routing to within 1/8th mile. The new proposed routing impacts up to 14 additional homes, farm land and irrigation pivots. As I will share in a moment, it also has impact to adjacent properties that may not have been considered.
- A new path will impact additional grasslands and wildlife habitat while the existing path has already made that impact.

As mentioned above, I also wish to share a unique reason for me and my family to not route the proposed power line in this area. My dad purchased a small two-seat 1967 Cessna 150 airplane in the year 1968. At that time he built a hangar on the land and constructed runways. I grew up flying in and out of our little farm strip from the age of 6-months when he first gave me a ride. I'm now 44-years old and have continued to own and maintain the same airplane and the airstrip and hangar on the property. The proposed northeast power line routing would run only 0.5 mile south of our property on adjacent land, and at 160' tall, it represents a significant operational safety hazard for flying out of our farm as we have done for the past 46 years.

I realize there will be challenges with whatever routing is chosen, but I hope you can take these things into serious consideration when evaluating options. If you have questions or wish to further discuss with me, please don't hesitate to write to me at the address above, call me at (913) 685-7446 or send an email to me at phil.straub@sbcglobal.net. Thanks you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Philip Straub

PS: This is a picture of my brother and I sometime around 1976 with the airplane on the farm.



This is a picture from a few years ago of me and my niece after having given her a ride out of the same location for her first flight



STATE
CORPORATION
COMMISSION

JAN 18 2015

PUBLIC AFFAIRS
AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION

99542

Edward M. Straub
5714 W 75th Terrace
Prairie Village, KS 66208

Chair Shari Feist Albrecht
Kansas Corporation Commission
1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604

RE: Jeffrey Energy Center to East Manhattan 230kV Replacement Project

Dear Ms. Albrecht:

My name is Edward Straub, and my family owns farm land near the heart of the area affected by the proposed northeast routing of the new 230 kV power line to serve Manhattan, Kansas. My father bought this 160 acres at 15000 Louisville Road; Wamego, KS; 66547 in 1965. He passed away in 2005, and now my mother continues to own the land with support from my two brothers and I, who maintain the property for her. I have extensive family roots in the area, since my ancestors migrated to the surrounding Flush and Wamego areas from Germany, and my father's family has owned and farmed land in this area for generations. Thus, the care of our land in particular, and the beauty and stewardship of the overall area is very important to me.

I am writing this letter to express my concern regarding the proposed northeast routing of the new 230 kV power line, and I ask for your assistance by helping those in charge to make a better decision regarding this proposal by Westar Energy. For many and serious reasons, I believe Westar needs to run the new transmission lines adjacent to the existing power line route to Manhattan. Among many, please consider the following concerns applicable to the whole community:

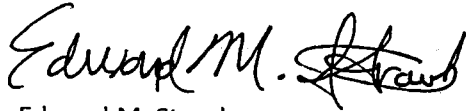
- A completely new path for this power line will negatively impact many additional grasslands (already in decline in Kansas) and fragile wildlife habitat, while using the existing path will create the least additional impact.
- The existing route from Jeffery Energy Center to HWY 99 has no homeowner impact within 1/8 mile. However, by moving the lines to the north as proposed, as many as 14 additional homes will be negatively impacted, as well as negatively impacting additional pristine farm land, and many irrigation pivots.
- The majority of the people in the community who attended the open forums hosted by Westar on December 3rd and 4th, 2014 supported that the new line should follow the existing routing.

I also wish to voice my opposition to this proposed new power line routing, based on my family's personal impact. My brother, Philip Straub, who is a pilot and now owner of my father's original airplane, wrote you recently expressing his concern of the proposed power line routing, specifically in terms of the significant operational safety hazard it would pose for flying out of our family farm. Part of the value and uniqueness of our farm is the fact that it is part farm and part private airstrip (as are many owners' lands in this area). The ability to fly in and out of our farm brings additional value and access to the land in a way that, if obscured by new power lines, could sadly be quite limiting. As an aviation enthusiast myself, with a father and a brother as pilots and aircraft owners, and after our family flying in and out of the farm for nearly 50 years, it's almost impossible to think of that access being limited now by a decision which can be avoided by alternate and better planning.

I understand there will be challenges with whatever routing is chosen for the new power line. However, I hope you will take into very serious consideration the reasons provided above when evaluating the best routing option – which I, my family, and the greater community believe is next to the existing power lines. If you have any questions or wish to discuss the issue further with me, please don't hesitate to write to me at the address above, call me at (816) 805-9064, or send me an email at eddiestraub@aol.com.

Thanks you in advance for your support and earnest action in this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward M. Straub". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name "Straub" being more prominent and stylized.

Edward M. Straub

Chair Shari Feist Albrecht
Kansas Corporation Commission
1500 SW Arrowhead RD
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

RE: Jeffery Energy Center to E. Manhattan (KS) 230kV Replacement Project

Dear Ms. Albrecht,

I am writing this letter to express my concern and ask for your assistance about the Jeffery Energy Center to E. Manhattan 230kV Replacement Project proposal by Westar Energy.

Westar needs to run their new transmission lines adjacent to the existing route for the following reasons:

- The majority of the people who attended the open forums, hosted by Westar Dec 3rd and 4th, stated to run the power lines adjacent to the existing route.
- The existing route from Jeffery Energy Center to HWY 99 has ***no homeowner impact within 1/8 mile***. However, by moving the lines to the north as proposed, up to 14 houses will be negatively impacted with regard to property value, use of land, and irrigation pivots.
- Environmental impact to native grasslands and wildlife habitats. Westar already has the easements and right-of-way of the existing route so why cause even more damage?

I'm sure this is not something that you wish to happen in your area and I urge you to *please* look into this matter, not just for my family, but for the entire community.

Thank you for your time and consideration in building the replacement transmission lines adjacent to the existing route.

Very sincerely,

Cheryl Yonning
407 Poplar St.
Wamego, KS 66547

Segment 14430

99545

Commissioner Jay Scott Elmer
Kansas Corporation Commission
1500 SW Arrowhead RD
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

RE: Jeffery Energy Center to E. Manhattan (KS) 230kV Replacement Project

Dear Mr. Elmer,

I am writing this letter to express my concern with regard to the Jeffery Energy Center to E. Manhattan (KS) 230kV Replacement Project. While I'm sure Westar Energy has been quite thorough about researching the different routes that would be best for Westar, I am not sure you realize the negative impact the proposed route(s) will have to this community. And not just in the beginning, but for years – decades – to come.

The precedent has been set to keep replacement lines adjacent to existing routes. That has been done on previous Westar projects and would make the most logical sense. **The existing route is the shortest and most direct** therefore, it would be the most economical for Westar Energy and the SPP.

During two meetings hosted by Westar on December 3rd and 4th, the majority of those in attendance stated that **the best thing for the area would be to continue the power lines along their existing route.**

As the governing entity over Westar Energy, I urge you to look into this matter **BEFORE** Westar officially files with the KCC.

Thank you for your time and consideration in building the replacement transmission lines adjacent to the existing route.

Sincerely,



Kansas Corporation
Commission

JAN 23 2015

99546

Margaret Straub
3916 N. Bales Ave.
Kansas City, MO 64117
January 17, 2015

Chair Shari Feist Albrecht
Kansas Corporation Commission
1500 SW Arowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

RE: Jeffrey Energy Center to East Manhattan 230kV Replacement Project

Dear Ms Albrecht:

I am a landowner in the area of the proposed Jeffrey Energy Center to East Manhattan Transmission Line and have been following the issue with particular concern. I am especially concerned regarding the possible negative impacts the proposed route, a distance to the north from the present one, will likely have to the land and to home and land owners in the area. It is known that as many as 14 homes will be impacted with the proposed change. Irrigation pivots would be effected. There also would be undesirable effects to grasslands and wildlife habitat.

The 160 acres of land I own and my sons maintain is 0.5 miles north of the proposed route. My sons have written you and others involved with this project stating concerns they have about the proposed route. Besides the negative major impacts noted above, I also hold the concern they expressed regarding undesirable implications a power line running so close to the farm would present for flying a plane to and from the property. Until his death, and now by our oldest son, the same plane has been flown to and from the property for 46 years. Having a power line so close would present operational safety flight concerns which all these years and presently, do not exist.

Undoubtedly there are reasons for and against running the new 230kV power line adjacent to the present one. However considering that the least negative impacts to surrounding land, home owners, and wildlife would result in following the same route, I encourage those involved in decision-making of this project to seriously consider these factors.

Thank you for giving attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Margaret Straub
Margaret Straub

Kansas Corporation
Commission

JAN 23 2015

99554

JOHN D. WATT
POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY COUNSELOR
Mailing Address: County Office Building, P.O. Box 187, Westmoreland, Kansas, 66549
Westmoreland Telephone: 785-457-3455
Wamego Telephone: 785-456-2231
Fax: 785-457-3507

Westar Energy
818 South Kansas Avenue
P.O. Box 889
Topeka, Kansas 66601-0889

December 29, 2014

RE: Proposed Transmission Line(s) from Jeffrey Energy Center to City of Manhattan

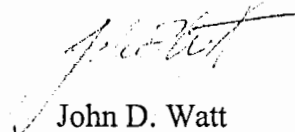
Dear Sir or Madam,

The Board of County Commissioners of Pottawatomie County has received comments from citizens regarding the replacement of power lines from Jeffrey Energy Center to the City of Manhattan, and the potential routes for those lines. The Board of County Commissioners generally believes that the route taken by existing lines would best serve future development patterns in western Pottawatomie County. The Board of County Commissioners would like to meet with representatives of Westar to discuss the potential routes for your transmission lines, and to hear from Westar the pros and cons of the potential routes.

If a presentation of this information by Westar to the Board of County Commissioners is possible, I would appreciate it if your representative would contact Nancy McCarter, Pottawatomie County Clerk, at 785-457-3314, to schedule a meeting with the Commissioners.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,


John D. Watt
County Counselor

STATE
CORPORATION
COMMISSION

JAN 5 2015

PUBLIC AFFAIRS
AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION