

AMEREN | The Missouri Public Service Commission hosted a public forum at Truman State to listen to community concerns about the Mark Twain Transmission Project

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Ladd said the project is one of 17 multi-value projects proposed by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. during 2011. She said MISO requested ATXI build the line, but she said MISO would pay for the project's \$202 million construction cost using funds from a tariff filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. She said the project first needs to be approved by the PSC after it reviews hearing testimonies. She said ATXI hopes to have an answer by late February 2016.

Ladd said ATXI requested the transmission run diagonally through property instead of following landowner property lines because doing so would reduce the line's length from about 120 miles to an estimated 100. She said AXTI would do its best to financially compensate landowners by meeting with them to appraise the value of their property needed for the line. She said appraisal values would depend on how the PSC approves ATXI to build the lines. If the project were approved, Ladd said other benefits would include an estimated \$4 million in annual tax revenue divided among the five counties in northeast Missouri the line would travel through, with Adair County getting an estimated \$1 million, the largest share of the revenue. Ladd said the project would provide about 200 jobs, roughly two people per mile of line, for the full year needed for construction. She said ATXI wanted to employ as many local workers as possible, but she said that depends on which companies bid for the subcontracts.

Ladd said ATXI did its best to address landowners' concerns in their testimonies at the PSC hearings. She said there

was fear the land would lose its value when the lines are built, but Ladd said the lines would not take up as much land as people might think. She said there would be an 8-10 foot pier in every 700-800 feet of land to hold up the line, which she said still leaves plenty of space to grow crops or graze cattle. She also said the electromagnetic field surrounding the lines would not have a significant effect, if any, on farming equipment or people. She said many who testified against the line in the hearings were small, vocal groups that she said were not representative of overall communities, since she said many people have reached out to ATXI in support of the project. However, Ladd said she encourages everyone to talk with ATXI because she said she thinks many people will be more supportive of the project when they look into the facts.

"Talk to us," Ladd said. "Know the facts, not just the fears."

However, the majority of testimonies during the PSC hearing at Truman were opposed to the project. State Representative Nate Walker said he opposes the project and testified against it at all three public hearings. Walker said the concerns came from the majority of landowners that would be affected by the project, not just a vocal minority. He said he thought that was clear at the Truman hearing, when he said more than 40 local residents testified against the project while the few who testified in support were non-locals. He said he does not think the line is necessary for Ameren's power grid or that it would be beneficial overall to the public. He said ATXI cannot benefit Missouri residents since it is an Illinois-based, for-profit Ameren subsidiary that provides and transports electricity to other



Jonah McKeown/Index

Missouri Public Service Commission members listen to citizens' concerns about a proposed Ameren transmission line. Ameren representatives came to Truman State during the last of three public hearings to respond to questions and comments about the project.

companies located outside Missouri. Walker said the additional tax revenue brought in by the lines would be offset by the decrease in overall land quality and value. He said all five county commissioners whose counties would be impacted by the project — Schuyler, Adair, Knox, Shelby and Marion — actively oppose the project. Walker said commissioners oversee the county budgets and know what is best for counties, and he said it is significant if all five oppose the project.

Walker said he thinks ATXI has been dishonest and unfair to him and other residents, and said community suggestions and efforts to cooperate went unheard. Walker said he has a lot of respect for Missouri-based Ameren and said the company does a lot of good projects, but he said he thinks ATXI's transmission project is wrong. He said he thinks the farther forward the project goes, the more it needs to be stopped. But he said that decision ultimately is up to the Missouri PSC.

"I know the people in

[Adair] County, and they are all reasonable people," Walker said. "But we're a lot smarter than they give us credit for. Our land rights, our individual rights, are being trampled on."

Senior Chloe Jackson said she has been opposed to the project since hearing about it nearly a year ago. Jackson said she is involved with Neighbors United, a group of landowners throughout the region who have been organizing against ATXI's project. She said she and other members have many concerns about the project, including the potential loss of income and farming ability, increase in energy costs, environmental damage and potential use of eminent domain. She said there are also several health concerns, because some studies conducted by agencies such as the World Health Organization have found correlations between certain types of cancer and the electromagnetic fields associated with transmission lines. She said there were concerns about

the effect the EMFs would have on nearby electronic equipment, pacemakers and livestock. Jackson said regardless of ATXI's stance on these studies, any time the potential effects of such projects are not known, it would be best to err on the side of caution. Jackson said it would be safer not to do the project, at least until more is known about potential hazards on serious topics such as cancer, pacemakers, and effects on wild and domestic animals alike.

Jackson said she heard several powerful statements from local residents, and hopes a good example will be set for future generations when debating on important issues. She said she encourages Truman students to keep up to date with the project and get involved if they are interested.

"This is not just an economic problem," Jackson said. "This is also a moral problem that will impact our lives and future generations."

TITLE IX | Discrimination case involving Truman students moves to new administrative review panel for ruling

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After the incident, Holahan said he filed a request for an ex parte restraining order against Brown, Guignon and Howard, which the city granted. He said he contacted Truman officials about the incident and pressed charges against all three students.

"I thought that Truman students were better than this," Holahan said. "And I still believe a vast majority of them are."

Holahan said he approached the Title IX coordinator at Truman, and went over the incident and possible methods of prosecuting the group through Truman.

Jamie Ball, Title IX coordinator and institutional compliance officer, said when a student approaches her about an incident relating to gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or non-conforming gender-based behaviors, the University first discusses what would be best for the student. She said these solutions could range from seeking university counseling services to pressing formal charges.

Ball said she serves as most

formal investigations and gathers information about incidents. She said she interviews the student pressing charges — known as the complainant — and the student or students against whom charges are being pressed — known as the respondent.

"There's not a one-size-fits-all approach to discipline ..."

— Jamie Ball, Title IX coordinator and institutional compliance officer

After gathering information, Ball said she writes an investigative report. She said she allows the complainant and respondent to view and suggest amendments to this report. After approval from both parties, Ball said she makes a recommendation based on the preliminary evidence regarding whether a violation of Title IX occurred. Ball said

the report is then sent to an administrative review panel, comprised of three faculty or staff members who have a chance to meet with the students involved and hear both sides of the case.

"In addition to giving the parties a chance to speak about what they feel is important for the panelists to understand about their case, those meetings are also an opportunity for questions to be asked," Ball said.

Once the panel has reviewed all the evidence, Ball said the panel makes a decision regarding whether a violation has occurred. She said unlike criminal cases which require a high standard of evidence "beyond a reasonable doubt" that a party is responsible, the panel uses the preponderance of evidence standard. Ball said this means panelists must determine if it is "more likely than not" that a student is in violation of the Title IX policy. She said it is important to note the panel finds students responsible, not guilty. If a student is found responsible, the panel determines what kind of disciplinary action should be applied, which can vary case by case.

"There's not a one-size-fits-all approach to discipline and at this time we don't have specific guidelines to prescribe," Ball said. "For folks who are going to continue to be a part of the Truman community especially, it's important that they learn from their experience and do better, so if we can figure out a way to do that through the disciplinary process, then great. But suspensions and expulsions are not outside the realm of possibility."

Ball said another factor when determining disciplinary action is whether the respondent has a history of disciplinary issues. She said in serious cases where the respondent's behavior is inconsistent with the values of the Truman community, more serious actions such as suspension and expulsion are possible.


Ball said both the complainant and the respondent each have one opportunity to appeal the administrative review panel's decision, but she said the decision is final on appeal.

Students are expected to abide by the Student Conduct

Code at all times, meaning it can apply to off-campus behavior when the administration determines an incident affects the Truman community and university interest, according to the Student Conduct Code. If a complainant's race, religion, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation or disability were violated, more severe sanctions might be implemented, according to the Code.

Title IX protects gender, gender identity, gender non-conforming behavior and sexual orientation from discrimination. Title IX requires universities to respond promptly and effectively to such incidents that create a hostile environment. Under the Clery Act, all universities are required to disclose aggregate data about crime reported on campuses, including Title IX violations and other crimes, such as burglary, arson or theft, in a yearly report. Truman publishes these statistics in the Annual Security and Fire Report.

Brown, Guignon and Howard could not be reached for comment.



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