

**ADAIR COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2017**  
**3RD DAY APRIL REGULAR**

The Adair County Commission convened at 8:30 a.m. on May 3, 2017 in the Courthouse at Kirksville. Commissioner King and Commissioner Thompson were present. Commissioner Thompson will be acting Presiding Commissioner during the absence of Presiding Commissioner Pickens.

The Commission met with Doug Aeilts of Northeast Power. He stated that Northeast Power had been working with Ameren in an attempt to resolve issues that surrounding counties faced regarding transmission lines coming into their counties. Discussion involved Northeast Power and Ameren having co-locations on one structure. Currently two wood pole structures dating back to the 1960's are owned by Northeast Power running through Adair County. The possibility has been researched that single steel pole structures hold all conductors – those of existing Northeast Power lines along with new lines proposed by Ameren. Ameren would pay for the foundation, structure, and the wires. They would also replace the current Northeast Power conductor and Northeast Power would retain ownership of the new/replaced conductor.

Ameren would need to obtain their own easements that would be laid on top of the existing Northeast Power existing easement. The easement between Kirksville and Palmyra is 150 feet wide. They are prepared to negotiate with the landowners to pre-pay ordinary damages for crop loss for five years.

Commissioner Thompson asked if this agreement would affect landowner's whose property was in the CRP Program. This could potentially be a problem to violate a government contract. Mr. Aeilts said he would find out. Discussion was held as to why the proposed Zachary substation was even needed. The location of Zachary had been a question from the start. It was mentioned that the landowner would be willing to sell area around the existing Adair Substation to be utilized instead of constructing the new Zachary Substation. It was noted that there was new opposition of the lines proposed by Ameren between the Adair and Zachary substations. Large areas were needed due to clearances. Mr. Aeilts believed Ameren was planning for 50 years in the future and will overbuild.

Mr. Aeilts stated that Ameren had never done a co-location in rural areas and therefore, had no experience with this matter. Northeast Power had eminent domain authority and ATXI did not as it was a shell corporation. This would be a 30 million dollar savings to Northeast Power as there conductor would need to be replaced sometime within the next 10 to 15 years.

The discussions with Ameren had been positive, however, Northeast Power was concerned about relationships with property owners. Commissioner Thompson told Mr. Aeilts that he had been told not to deal with the devil.

Discussion was held regarding lobbying funds used to support local Missouri Senate candidates in the upcoming 2018 elections. Mr. Aeilts stated that Northeast Power would not support anyone in the primary but may support someone in the general election if they were a friend of the Co-op.

It was estimated that the 250 million dollar cost of the ATXI project would be spread across their entire system. Ameren Missouri's share would be 8% of the 250 million and rates would be determined off of that. The Co-op is concerned with what is the best interest of the people.

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ATTEST:

Sandra Collop  
County Clerk

Mark Thompson  
Presiding Commissioner