

Families take case against power line project to court

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KIRKSVILLE, MO. --

Five northeast Missouri families are taking their case against the Mark Twain Transmission Project to court.

The families, part of Neighbors United Against Ameren's Power Line, filed Monday to intervene in a lawsuit between Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois and the Missouri Public Service Commission.

Ameren brought the suit against the Public Service Commission in 2012 over eminent domain authority, saying that Ameren does not need to seek the commission's approval to exercise eminent domain for projects in Missouri like the Mark Twain transmission line.

The utility company contends that because Mark Twain is part of a regional project connecting lines in Missouri, Illinois and Indiana, the commission does not have jurisdiction.

An attorney for Neighbors United says that the families he represents are filing because they believe Ameren is trying to take eminent domain authority without involving property owners.

A hearing is scheduled for October 20 in Jefferson City.

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