

Kirksville City Council drafts letter opposing Ameren Transmission Project

by **Ashley Hoak** KTVO

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KIRKSVILLE, MO. -- Kirksville City Council Members have signed a letter opposing Ameren's Mark Twain Transmission Project.

Recently, council members Richard Detweiler and Rick Steele met with Ameren Representatives. Ameren Officials told Steele that the route for the project has not yet been finalized, and that the project could come across city property. City Manager Mari Macomber drafted the letter after concern that the transmission company could implement the use of eminent domain.

"The council asked that a letter be drafted that basically expresses that concern for eminent domain. You know, we value property rights and want to protect that for our citizens," Macomber said.

However, Peggy Ladd of the Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois told KTVO that as of now, the route is not planned to go through the city, but on the outskirts. She said that residents that live within 2,500 feet\* of one of the proposed routes received letters informing them of the project as a precaution.

"At this point, we don't see it going through the city of Kirksville, although the city of Kirksville will benefit from it. At this point, the substation is located south of the city, and our routes will go to the east of the city, towards the Iowa line," Ladd said.

All council members signed the letter opposing the project at their meeting Monday night. That letter will now be sent to Ameren officials.

The final route for the line is expected to be decided by the end of the year. Once the final route is decided, construction on the transmission line is set to begin in 2016.

Kirksville City Council members and residents are not the only individuals opposing the project. Wednesday on KTVO News, Ashley Hoak speaks with members of a Mennonite community that are also opposed to the line.