

SUGGESTED FORM FOR FILING OBJECTIONS

The use of this form is not required. If you have interest in several properties, you may wish to attach additional sheets for each affected property. Completed forms may be filed electronically at <http://efs.iowa.gov>. Written forms may be mailed to: Executive Secretary, Iowa Utilities Board, 1375 E Court Ave Rm 69, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0069.

A. <u>Rock Island Clean Line</u> (Name of company or utility)	FILED WITH Executive Secretary
	February 04, 2016
B. _____ (Date and Location, if known, of Informational Meeting)	IOWA UTILITIES BOARD
<u>E-22126</u> (Docket Number, if known, of the proceeding)	
C. <u>Objection to RICL erecting transmission line on my property</u> (Statement of the nature of the objection(s))	

The following are my opinions and observations:

First and foremost, any private, for-profit company should NOT be allowed to use eminent domain for their own use and profit. Deny RICL eminent domain. We worked hard for the right to own these acres, we pay taxes on it. Eminent domain strips away the basic right of owning property. Allowing RICL or any private for-profit company eminent domain sets a dangerous precedent for the future of Iowa.

Second: The damage to the land itself is significant. The work site for construction crews to store materials and construction vehicles extends past the easement, so both access and damage is beyond the footage of the easement.

Construction will cause compaction damage that may not be corrected for several years causing decreased yields. The heavier construction equipment used on the project can result in subsoil compaction that is very difficult to alleviate, especially with regular tillage equipment.

Significant rutting causes excessive soil mixing, compaction, and additional erosion control issues. Those areas must be repaired and restored using appropriate equipment.

Construction can cause damage to existing field drainage and tiles long after initial construction. Aerial application of products that increase output will not be available, causing decreased yields. Fungicides are most effective only when they are applied to the fields by an airplane.

The structures create an obstacle because of limitations to the maneuverability of modern farm equipment, plus sprayers and applicators used by elevators.

Stray voltage comes off these lines, causing danger to farmers using large equipment.

The poles may cause interference with GPS, internet, cell phone, and television reception that Rock Island Clean Line will not correct. Precision farming of fields by a variable rate application of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides will be affected.

If abandoned, the line leaves farmers with large cement structures underground. RICL removes only to "a depth such as there is no interference with existing land use", but that depth is not stated in the easement. Removal will again cause significant compaction, damage, and erosion control issues to the ground, and will need repair.

Appraiser Kurt Kielisch from Oshkosh, Wisconsin has researched studies that have been conducted on how land values are affected by transmission lines. He found there was a measureable effect and that effect ranged from a loss of 10% to 30% of the overall property value in Midwestern states.

Third: The Easement Agreement Designed by their lawyers, and weighted heavily in their favor, the easement:

Bars landowners from the easement property during construction or maintenance and repair. Timing is important in farming. RICL has a five-year window in which to complete construction. Potentially, the easement and surrounding area on my property would not be accessible for farming for those five years. RICL has the right to "construct, reconstruct, repair, expand within the easement, improve, alter, replace, operate, use, inspect, maintain, or remove an overhead transmission line, which shall include poles, towers, and structures such as wires and cables as RICL shall suspend from foundations, footings, attachments, anchors, ground connections, communication devices, or other equipment, accessories and appurtenances as RICL may deem necessary or desirable."

States it is entirely RICL's option to decide payment and to determine if damage occurred only for crops, nothing else, using only their own appraisers. There is no third party or mediation process. Damage to the land itself, the actual farming of that land, and the loss of income from that land are important and legitimate considerations.

States the plan is for monopole construction on the land, but there is no restriction on that. They can put up whatever structure "is deemed 'necessary and desirable' by the company".

The time spent negotiating easements can be time-consuming and represents a large cost to the farmland owners.

It is a perpetual agreement, so it's binding for the current landowner, their heirs or anyone else who might purchase the land forever.

There are 10 state governors from east coast States that have already written Congress stating their opposition to this type of project, and stated they don't want wind energy from the western states because it undermines their own attempts at clean energy production. Illinois State Farm Bureau formally opposed RICL last year.

There is a "corridor effect", that once you have an established "line of transmission", then it's considered open for any other types of transmission.

The huge towers age over time and do twist, topple and collapse to the ground as they did in West Virginia.

Lastly: Very few easements have been signed. RICL should be forced to consider alternate routes. They do not want to do this, because it will cost them money. That's their problem.

Their proposal is going to cost us money in many, many different ways. The IUB needs to protect our rights, our monetary costs, and ownership rights.

D. Deny RICL permission to build the transmission line, and eliminate the power of eminent domain by a private, for profit business.

(A description of the remedy or relief that you seek. If you are proposing an alternate route, please attach map.)

E. Linda Frideres

(Name -- typed or printed)

_____ (Signature)

1109 210th Ave

(Mailing address)

_____ (Date)

LuVerne, Ia. 50560

(City & Zip Code)

_____ ()

(Phone)

F. _____

(Email address)

G. NE 1/4 of Section 29, Township 94 North, Range 27, West of the 5th P.M. Kossuth County, Iowa

(Description of affected property, including Section, Township, Range and County)

H. Owner

(Statement of your property interest: such as owner, contract purchaser, mortgagor, lessee-tenant, holder of mineral rights, etc.)

I. Are you the party in possession?

x Yes

 No