

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Application of Grain Belt)
Express LLC for an Amendment to its Certificate)
Of Convenience and Necessity Authorizing it to) File No. EA-2023-0017
Construct, Own, Operate, Control, Manage, and)
Maintain a High Voltage, Direct Current)
Transmission Line and Associated Converter)
Station)

**MISSOURI JOINT MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITY COMMISSION d/b/a
MISSOURI ELECTRIC COMMISSION'S
POSITION STATEMENT**

The Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission d/b/a Missouri Electric Commission (“MEC”) respectfully submits its position on each of the four Issues identified by the parties in the “Joint List of Issues, Order of Witnesses, Order of Cross-Examination, and Order of Opening Statements” filed by Staff in this matter on May 22, 2023.

***Issue 1** – Does the evidence establish that the following amendments to the Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (“CCN”) held by Grain Belt Express LLC (“Grain Belt Express”) are “necessary or convenient for the public service” within the meaning of that phrase in section 393.170, RSMo:*

- a. Relocating the Missouri converter station from Ralls County to Monroe County and increasing the capacity of the Missouri converter station from 500 MW to 2500 MW.*
- b. Relocating the AC connector line (the “Tiger Connector”) from Ralls County to Monroe, Audrain, and Callaway Counties.*
- c. Constructing the Project in two phases.
 - i. If the Commission determines that constructing the project in two phases is “necessary or convenient for the public service,” should the Commission approve a modification to the “Financing Conditions,” as set forth in Section I of Exhibit 1 to the Report & Order on Remand in Case No. EA-2016-0358, to allow for constructing the Project in two phases?**

MEC Position on Issue 1:

It is MEC's position that the amendments requested by Grain Belt Express to its CCN are necessary and convenient for the public service, as required by §393.170 *Revised Statutes of Missouri*. MEC is a joint action agency organized on a state-wide basis to promote efficient wheeling, pooling, generation, and transmission arrangements to meet the energy requirements of the municipal electric utilities in the State of Missouri.¹ MEC's membership now includes 72 municipal entities in Missouri, serving over 350,000 electric customers.² There is a need for Grain Belt Express, and Grain Belt Express promotes the public interest. MEC's Transmission Service Agreement ("TSA") with Grain Belt is quite affordable and will allow predictable, stable cost increases in transmission well into the future.³ The corresponding Power Purchase Agreement ("PPA") that MEC has with Santa Fe Wind Project, LLC will allow low-cost renewable energy to flow across that transmission path and into the Midcontinent Independent System Operator ("MISO") and the Associated Electric Cooperative Incorporated.⁴ Of the 200 MW of wind energy to be transmitted over Grain Belt Express pursuant to this TSA and PPA, 136 MW are already under firm contracts with the 35 municipal members of MEC's Missouri Public Energy Pool, Centralia, Columbia, Hannibal and Kirkwood.⁵ In 2028, the first full year of operation, Grain Belt Express is projected to reduce the marginal energy component of all

¹ Rebuttal Testimony of John Twitty, April 19, 2023, Page 3, Lines 16-18.

² Twitty, Page 3, Lines 18-22 and Schedule JT-2.

³ Twitty, Page 4, Lines 2-4 and Schedules JT-3, 4 5, 6 and 7; Rebuttal Testimony of John Grotzinger, April 19, 2023, Page 4, Lines 16-20 and Schedules JG-2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

⁴ Twitty, Page 4, Lines 4-6 and Schedules JT-8, 9 and 10; Grotzinger, Page 5, Lines 13-19 and Schedules JG-7, 8 and 9.

⁵ Grotzinger, Page 5, Line 22 – Page 6, Line 7 and Schedules JG-10, 11, 12 and 13.

locational marginal prices across the MISO footprint on average by \$1.77 per megawatt hour, and that price drop will result in over \$1.1 billion in marginal energy savings for MISO load.⁶

***Issue 2** – Should the Commission approve a modification of the Landowner Protocols, as referenced and incorporated into the Report & Order on Remand in Case No. EA-2016-0358, to modify the compensation package offered to Tiger Connector landowners?*

MEC Position on Issue 2:

MEC respectfully acknowledges the Commission’s authority, under §393.170.3 *Revised Statutes of Missouri* to “impose such condition or conditions as it may deem reasonable and necessary” upon Grain Belt Express’s CCN. MEC takes no further position on Issue 2.

***Issue 3** – Should the Commission approve a modification of Ordering Paragraph 5 in the Report & Order on Remand in Case No. EA-2016-0358 such that easements obtained by means of eminent domain must be returned to the fee simple title holder if Grain Belt Express LLC does not satisfy the Financing Conditions within seven years, rather than five years, from the date that such easement rights are recorded with the appropriate county recorder of deeds?*

MEC Position on Issue 3:

MEC respectfully acknowledges the Commission’s authority, under §393.170.3 *Revised Statutes of Missouri* to “impose such condition or conditions as it may deem reasonable and necessary” upon Grain Belt Express’s CCN. MEC takes no further position on Issue 3.

***Issue 4** – If the Commission approves any or all of the foregoing amendments, what conditions, if any, should the Commission impose?*

⁶ Rebuttal Testimony of Rebecca Atkins, April 19, 2023, Page 7, Line 17 – Page 8, Line 1 and Schedule RA-3; Grotzinger, Page 13, Lines 18-20 and Schedule JG-14.

MEC Position on Issue 4:

MEC respectfully acknowledges the Commission’s authority, under §393.170.3 *Revised Statutes of Missouri* to “impose such condition or conditions as it may deem reasonable and necessary” upon Grain Belt Express’s CCN. MEC takes no further position on Issue 4.

Respectfully Submitted,

By: /s/ Peggy A. Whipple
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ATTORNEYS FOR MEC

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 30th day of May 2023 a copy of the foregoing **Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission d/b/a Missouri Electric Commission’s Position Statement** has been served on all parties on the official service lists for this matter via filing in the Commission’s EFIS system and/or email.

/s/ Peggy A. Whipple
Peggy A. Whipple