

**Clean Line Energy Partners LLC  
Agricultural Impact Mitigation Policy  
For  
Construction, Operation, and Maintenance of Electric  
Transmission Facilities on Agricultural Lands**

Clean Line Energy Partners LLC and its subsidiaries (Clean Line) seek to identify measures to minimize, reclaim, and mitigate impacts to agricultural lands during the construction, operation, and maintenance phases of Clean Line's projects. This Agricultural Impact Mitigation Policy articulates concerns and addresses issues associated with electric transmission line development on agricultural lands and sets forth a general approach to preserve the utility and productivity of these lands.

This policy has been developed to address agriculture impacts that occur partially or wholly on privately owned agricultural lands. It does not address activities on public lands, public rights-of-way, urban areas, or those lands not dedicated to agriculture.

This Agricultural Impact Mitigation Policy does not take the place of an agreement or policy at the project or state level. Some states require a specific Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA). This policy document offers broad guidance for addressing agricultural issues common to Clean Line's projects and provides the guidance and foundation for more detailed plans.

**Communications**

Clean Line is committed to preserving open communications with all landowners and tenants throughout the development of its projects. Clean Line will communicate with landowners and tenants on the status of projects and discuss potential impacts and concerns with respect to specific agriculture operations. Landowners and tenants are encouraged to contact Clean Line with any and all concerns related to agricultural impacts.

Prior to property access, Clean Line will attempt to notify landowners of upcoming construction-related activities that will occur on their property. For maintenance activities, Clean Line will make every effort to notify landowners prior to accessing their property; however, in emergency situations immediate notifications may not be practical.

### **Facilities**

Clean Line will use commercially reasonable good faith efforts to work with landowners when determining structure placement and designing access roads. The large majority of access roads will be temporary in nature. These will be removed and land reclaimed following construction. Permanent access roads may be necessary in rare circumstances. Both temporary and permanent roads will be designed and constructed so as not to impede water flow and to minimize the potential for soil erosion.

### **Drainage and other Soil Conservation Practices**

Clean Line will coordinate with landowners during the easement negotiation process to identify drainage and soil conservation improvements such as ditches, culverts, drainage tiles, levees, and terraces. Clean Line will seek to avoid impacts to these locations whenever possible; however, if impacts do occur, these improvements will be reclaimed or restored to their pre-construction condition. Temporary repairs during construction may be necessary and will be conducted as appropriate. Any permanent reclamation or restoration work conducted by Clean Line or its representatives will incorporate materials and methods of the same or better quality as that of the original improvements.

### **Irrigation**

Clean Line will work to minimize impacts to surface and subsurface irrigation systems located on agricultural lands. When practical, Clean Line will avoid placement of structures in locations that will permanently affect irrigation systems. Clean Line will make an effort to minimize any permanent impacts to irrigation; however, if permanent impacts are unavoidable, Clean Line will consult with landowners and tenants to identify damages and compensate for the value of these damages. Temporary construction-related impacts to irrigation that result in crop damage, both on and off Right-of-Way, will be mitigated through compensation to the landowner or tenant (as appropriate).

### **Soil Restoration**

Clean Line recognizes the importance of topsoil in agricultural lands and is committed to minimizing impacts to this resource. Soils impacted by construction or maintenance activities will be restored to as near as practical to pre-disturbance conditions. Soil restoration activities may include topsoil segregation, de-compaction, liming, tillage, or fertilization of impacted soils located both on and off Right-of-Way, or as otherwise agreed to with the landowner. These restoration activities are specific to areas directly affected by project construction or maintenance. Clean Line is committed to the timely implementation of restoration practices, weather and landowner permitting. Any restoration activities will be performed during suitable weather conditions, so as not to jeopardize future soil productivity.

### **Construction Reclamation and Clean Up**

Clean Line is committed to responsible and timely reclamation of the construction Right-of-Way and access roads. Clean Line will consult with landowners to determine an appropriate disposal plan for excess aggregate or subsoil materials that are located on the Right-of-Way. Weather and landowner permitting, excess materials will be removed prior to final reclamation activities. Trash and refuse will be removed from the Right-of-Way on a daily basis; and littering by construction personnel or Clean Line representatives will not be tolerated.

### **Damage to Private Property**

Clean Line will repair any damage to private property caused by the construction, operation, or maintenance of its projects. Repairs will take place in a timely manner, weather and landowner permitting. If landowners choose to perform their own repair of damaged property, Clean Line will offer compensation based on the commercial rate to complete the repair.

### **Agriculture and Conservation Programs**

Clean Line will consult with landowners and tenants to identify the location of any agriculture or conservation stewardship programs and to understand the criteria for maintaining the integrity of these commitments. Clean Line is committed to working with landowners and tenants to avoid or minimize

impacts that would otherwise jeopardize the enrollment of these properties in such programs.

### **Specialty Crops and Organic Farms**

Clean Line recognizes that some forms of agriculture, such as specialty crops or organic farming, incorporate special practices, techniques, or standards to facilitate crop production. The operation of a transmission line does not preclude specialty agriculture, nor does it reduce eligibility for organic farm certification. Clean Line will consult with landowners and agriculture specialists to identify these specialty lands, and as appropriate, incorporate construction measures to prevent impacts that could otherwise jeopardize any standards or certifications that support these types of agriculture. Construction measures associated with specialty croplands or organic farms will be discussed with landowners and tenants prior to construction.

### **Aerial Application**

Aerial application of herbicides, fungicides, pesticides, and fertilizers is a common practice associated with certain types of crops. The presence of an above-ground electric transmission facility may affect aerial application within or near a transmission line right-of-way. Clean Line will consider potential impacts to aerial application as well as other permanent agricultural impacts when routing and negotiating easements.

### **AIMA or Project Specific Plans**

Clean Line has developed this Agriculture Impact Mitigation Policy to outline principles for minimizing impacts to agricultural lands. This document is not meant to satisfy the requirements of a state regulated Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA), nor does it identify the detailed mitigation practices that are typically suggested in state- or project-specific plans. Detailed minimization, reclamation, and mitigation practices will be further defined as specific agricultural issues and concerns associated with each project are identified.