

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)

Motion for Expedited Treatment of Request that Grain Belt be Required to Clarify/Correct its Recent Newspaper Notices Concerning the Local Public Hearings

Pursuant to Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.080(14) the Missouri Landowners Alliance and the Eastern Missouri Landowners Alliance d/b/a Show Me Concerned Landowners (Movants) respectfully ask the Commission to direct Grain Belt to publish newspaper notices as promptly as possible to clarify or correct their recently published notices concerning the local public hearings scheduled for March 6, 7 and 8, 2023. In support of this request, Movants state as follows:

1. By its Order of February 8, 2023, the Commission scheduled local public hearings in this case for March 6, 7 and 8. The hearings for March 6 and 8 are be conducted remotely on WebEx.
2. In paragraph 9 of said Order, the Commission directed Grain Belt to provide notice of these hearings through advertisements in newspapers serving three designated counties. The Order specified, among other things, that the newspaper notices “shall provide the call-in and video login information” for the two WebEx meetings.
3. A copy of one such newspaper notice published today on behalf of Grain Belt is attached to this Motion.
4. As indicated, the newspaper notice includes the following bullet point:

To attend a WebEx public hearing by telephone, at the time of the hearing call toll free 1-855-718-6621, listen to the prompt and enter the “meeting number” set out below, followed by a # (pound/hashtag symbol). If prompted for a password, enter 0017.

5. The problem is, there is no “meeting number” set out below (or above) this instruction, or anywhere else in the newspaper notice. In a clarification from counsel for Grain Belt, the “meeting number” was intended to refer to the “Access Codes” which are listed for each WebEx meeting in the left-hand column of the newspaper notice. And the access code for the meeting on March 6 is different from that for the meeting on March 8.

6. Movants respectfully suggest that at least some members of the public who attempt to attend the WebEx meetings by telephone will not be able to do so, due to the ambiguous if not faulty instructions in Grain Belt’s newspaper notices. This is particularly true for what is likely a significant portion of the rural population which may have no experience at all with attendance at remote meetings, particularly those involving WebEx.

7. In an exchange of emails today, counsel for Movants and Grain Belt were not able to resolve this matter.

WHEREFORE, Movants respectfully ask the Commission to direct Grain Belt to publish, as promptly as possible, a “Clarification” or “Correction” in the same newspapers used in its first notice, setting forth complete and accurate instructions on how members of the public can attend the WebEx hearings of March 6 and March 8 by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Paul A. Agathen
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Certificate of Service

A copy of this Motion was sent by electronic mail this 23rd day of February, 2023,
to counsel for all parties.

/s/Paul A. Agathen
Paul A. Agathen