

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


In the Matter of the Application of Grain Belt Express Clean)
Line LLC for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity)
Authorizing It to Construct, Own, Operate, Control, Manage,)
and Maintain a High Voltage, Direct Current Transmission) EA-2016-0358
Line and an Associated Converter Station Providing an)
Interconnection on the Maywood - Montgomery 345 kV)
Transmission Line.)

NOTICE OF COMMUNICATION

Issue Date: December 19, 2016

Attached is a letter I received from Mayor Brian Treece, City of Columbia, regarding the above referenced case.

The Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission" has promulgated rules denoted as the "Standards of Conduct" at 4 CSR 240-4.010 and 4.020. Section 4 CSR 240-4.20 specifically deals with Ex Parte and Extra-Record Communication Rules. This notice is filed in conformance with the rule.



Daniel Y. Hall
Chairman

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri
On this 19th day of December, 2016



CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

OFFICE OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL

December 6, 2016

Missouri Public Service Commission
Daniel Hall, Chairman
200 Madison Street
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

Dear Chairman Hall,

On behalf of the City of Columbia, I encourage the Missouri Public Service Commission to find in favor of the Application by Grain Belt Express Clean Line. The need for this project and the service it will provide to the State of Missouri is clear.

In 2004, Columbia voters approved a renewable energy ordinance. The Renewable Energy Portfolio currently calls for Columbia Water & Light to provide 30% of the city's electricity from renewable sources by 2028. In 2015, Columbia had 6.82% of the electric portfolio generated from renewable sources. Achieving the goal of 30% by 2028 will require utilization of opportunities such as the Grain Belt Express Clean Line to access low-cost renewable energy.

Columbia Water & Light is pursuing negotiations with the Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission (MJMEUC) to procure wind energy delivered via the Grain Belt Express Clean Line. The low-cost nature of this particular renewable resource will be tremendously valuable to the rate payers in Columbia and other participating utilities. Accessing low-cost wind energy is not possible for many utilities in Missouri without new transmission lines, and the Grain Belt Express is much needed and beneficial to the public interest in Missouri.

In addition to providing access to affordable clean energy, this project will create jobs, stimulate the Missouri economy and bring much needed investment in our state's infrastructure. The project will also bring long-term benefits to local communities through property tax payments.

I have included a Resolution passed by the Columbia City Council endorsing the Grain Belt Express Clean Line. I would like to reiterate the City's support and need for this project. Please approve the Grain Belt Express Clean Line Application and help Columbia and Missouri advance into the new energy economy.

Sincerely,

Brian Treece
Mayor

Introduced by McDavid Council Bill No. R 191-14

A RESOLUTION

expressing support for economically feasible renewable energy options to serve City of Columbia customers.

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia Water and Light Department's (hereinafter "City Water and Light") mission is to deliver reliable, safe and cost effective water and electric service to meet its citizen owners' needs while providing exceptional customer service and environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, City Water and Light serves more than 48,000 customers in and around the City of Columbia, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia voters passed a Renewable Energy Standard that mandates that the City shall cost-effectively generate or purchase electricity from renewable energy sources, including wind energy, at the following levels: 15% by 2017; 25% by 2022; and 30% by 2028; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, renewable energy comprised 6.97% of City Water and Light's electric portfolio; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia's Renewable Energy Standard presents a need for economically feasible renewable energy and City Water and Light is seeking viable options for new renewable energy sources to serve its customers; and

WHEREAS, Grain Belt Express Clean Line is constructing a project which has the potential to provide Missouri consumers with a direct current link to low-cost renewable energy in western Kansas (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Project resource area is characterized by high wind speeds and may offer some of the lowest cost wind energy in the United States; and

WHEREAS, greater access to low-cost renewable energy such as that anticipated to be delivered by the Project serves the public interest and may help the City of Columbia fulfill its Renewable Energy Standard; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia Water and Light Advisory Board has reviewed the Project and submitted its recommendation and request to the City Council to express support for consideration of low cost wind energy produced by the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS: