

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) Case No. EA-2014-0207
Current Transmission Line and an Associated Converter)
Station Providing an interconnection on the Maywood-)
Montgomery 345 kV Transmission Line)

**SHOW ME CONCERNED LANDOWNERS RESPONSE TO GRAIN BELT
EXPRESS CLEAN LINE LLC'S RECOMMENDATION FOR LOCAL PUBLIC
HEARINGS**

COMES NOW Eastern Missouri Landowners Alliance d/b/a Show Me Concerned Landowners (Show Me), by and through its counsel of record, and for its response to Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC's (Grain Belt) recommendation for local public hearings, states as follows:

1. On June 5, 2014, Grain Belt filed a proposal for local public hearings at three sites—Monroe County, Chariton County, and Clinton County. For each site, Grain Belt proposed two hearings on the same day—noon and six p.m.—for a total of six local public hearings. For the reasons set forth below, Show me believes that Grain Belt's proposal is insufficient in this case and will not allow an adequate opportunity for the public, especially affected landowners along the proposed transmission line route, to have their voices heard by the Commission.

2. Grain Belt's proposed transmission route runs across eight counties, traversing the entire state of Missouri. Grain Belt lists examples of prior cases as "precedent" for holding local public hearings in only three of the eight affected counties. However, the cases cited by Grain Belt are vastly different from this case in many important ways.

Show Me believes that Grain Belt's proposed project is the first of its kind in Missouri,

on several counts: it is the first proposal for a merchant transmission line, with all the accompanying nuances related to such a model; it is the first line designed to bring large amounts of wind energy into this state; it is the first proposal in this state for a Direct Current Line and DC converter station; it is the largest transmission line ever proposed in Missouri; and it is the first proposal for a transmission line which will traverse the entire width of the state, with the accompanying problems for landowners on and near a 200 mile stretch of transmission right-of-way. More landowners will be affected by this project than any other transmission project ever proposed in Missouri. None of the cases cited by Grain Belt come even close to the scope and impact of this project.

3. This case has generated huge interest in Missouri. A plethora of comments have been filed in this case in the Commission's electronic filing and information system, most opposing Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC's application. According to EFIS, three thousand two hundred and fifty-four (3,254) comments have been filed as of June 6, 2014. Some of these comments were filed by state and local elected public officials, who may want to testify on the record at a local public hearing. And, as staff has pointed out in its recommendations for local public hearings (joined by Show Me), "Given the strong public interest in this case and, thus, the high likelihood of high turnout at the local public hearings, Staff suggests that the Commission anticipate lengthy public hearings and consider allowing those with land that would be traversed or that is within five miles of the proposed transmission line route to testify earlier than others. The Commission may also consider starting the hearings in the afternoon and continuing them into the evening, with a recess for a meal."

4. Local public hearings are very important to the process, especially a case as controversial as this one. The Commission schedules local public hearings to allow the public an opportunity to be heard. *In the Matter of Union Electric Company d/b/a AmerenUE's Tariffs Increasing Rates for Electric Service Provided to Customers in the Company's Missouri Service Area*, 2007 Mo. PSC LEXIS 716,, 257 P.U.R.4th 259. The sworn testimony citizen witnesses offer at the local public hearing is made a part of the record and may be relied upon by the Commission when making its decision. *Id.* For that reason, attorneys for the various parties are given an opportunity to question witnesses if they desire to do so. *Id.* In many local public hearings, exhibits are received into evidence. *See, e.g., In the Matter of Missouri-American Water Company's Request for Authority to Implement a General Rate Increase for Water Service Provided in Missouri*, 2007 Mo. PSC LEXIS 1197. Commissioners and the Regulatory Law Judge also have the opportunity to ask questions of the witnesses that help to clarify witnesses' testimony and issues in the case. Consequently, it is very important that everyone who wants to testify under oath be given an opportunity to do so.

5. The proposed project will affect some of the most productive agricultural farm land in the United States. Many of the landowners are opposed to this project and want to testify under oath. This is the growing season, and many of the landowners work long hours farming their land. As a result, it is difficult for them to take the time to travel long distances to participate in local public hearings that may be hours away from where they live. For their voices to be heard, it is essential that the Commission provide appropriate accommodations so that they can participate in the local public hearing process. Show Me believes that under these circumstances, local public hearings in only three of the

eight counties affected by this project are not adequate, and at least one local public hearing needs to be held in each county as recommended by staff.

6. Missouri Farm Bureau Federation joins in Show Me's response to Grain Belt's recommendation for local public hearings.

WHEREFORE, Show Me respectfully asks the Commission to issue an Order setting local public hearings according to staff's recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

HEALY & HEALY,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW, LLC



Terry M. Jarrett MO Bar 45663
514 E. High St., Suite 22
Jefferson City, MO 65101
Telephone: (573) 415-8379
Facsimile: (573) 415-8379
Email: terry@healylawoffices.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, emailed or hand-delivered to all parties on the official service list for this case on this 6th day of June, 2014.



Terry M. Jarrett