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Sponsoring Party: Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC
Case No.: EA-2016-0358
Date of Testimony: August 30, 2016

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE NO. EA-2016-0358

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

JAMES L. ARNDT, Ph.D.

ON BEHALF OF

GRAIN BELT EXPRESS CLEAN LINE LLC

August 30, 2016

GB Exhibit No. **101**
Date **3-2-17** Reporter **FB**
File No. **EA-2016-0358**

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1 **I. WITNESS INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY**

2 **Q. Please state your name, present position and business address.**

3 A. My name James L. Arndt. I am a Senior Project Manager at Merjent, Inc. (“Merjent”). My
4 business address is 800 Washington Avenue North, Suite 315, Minneapolis, MN 55401.

5 **Q. Please describe your education and professional background.**

6 A. I received my Bachelor of Science Degree in 1980 from the University of Wisconsin –
7 Stevens Point with a major in Soil Science. I then received my Masters of Science and
8 Doctorate degrees in Soil Science from North Dakota State University in 1987 and 1995,
9 respectively. My educational and research specialties are in soil interpretations, soil
10 nutrition, soil pedology and survey, and soil chemistry, physics, and hydrology.

11 **Q. What work experience have you had that is relevant to your involvement in the Grain
12 Belt Express Clean Line transmission project (“Grain Belt Express Project” or
13 “Project”)?**

14 A. I am currently licensed as a Professional Soil Scientist in Minnesota (#30684) and
15 Wisconsin (#112), Professional Soil Classifier in North Dakota (#64), and a nationally
16 Certified Professional Soil Scientist (American Registry of Certified Professionals in
17 Agronomy Crops and Soils #24904). I successfully completed Environmental Inspector
18 Organic Training developed by the Independent Organic Inspectors Association and am
19 certified to perform Agricultural Compliance Inspection services on National Organic
20 Program Certified Organic Farms. I have served as President of the Minnesota Association
21 of Professional Soil Scientists.

22 All of these certifications require me to take and pass written tests, and show
23 educational and professional experience in the area of soil science. I have had to sign ethics

1 pledges for all four certifications that require me to provide ethical services to my clients
2 and the greater community. The certifications I currently hold are the highest certifications
3 that can be obtained for Soil Scientists in the United States. A complete list of my
4 qualifications and research is attached as **Schedule JLA-1**.

5 From 2005 to present, while working for various companies (including Merjent),
6 my primary responsibilities have been to provide clients in the pipeline, electric
7 transmission, and mining industries with environmental permitting services, including the
8 preparation of Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements under
9 the National Environmental Policy Act and/or relevant state programs, and preparation of
10 permit applications under Sections 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act. With specific
11 reference to agriculture and soil quality, I have been the lead author of several "Resource
12 Report 7 - Soils" reports, which are an element of comprehensive Environmental Reports
13 submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC"), pursuant to its
14 regulations regarding proposed natural gas pipeline projects. Resource Report 7's provide
15 a detailed assessment of soil properties and limitations along pipeline rights-of-way
16 ("ROWs"), and include construction-related practices that avoid, minimize, and mitigate
17 impacts to soil quality and agricultural use.

18 I also provide environmental survey and technical support involving the
19 characterization and interpretation of land-use, soils, agricultural issues, wetlands, and
20 hydrologic features along linear ROW projects. I routinely work with commercial scale
21 utility applicants and agencies to develop and implement Agricultural Impact Mitigation
22 Plans ("AIMP"), and related plans and agreements, including Organic Farm Crossing
23 Plans, Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure ("SPCC") Plans, Stormwater

1 Pollution Prevention Plans (“SWPPP”), and land restoration plans. I have trained
2 Agricultural and Environmental Inspectors and Monitors in the implementation of various
3 plans during construction, and perform on-site inspections during construction.

4 From 1995 to 2005 I was Vice President of Peterson Environmental Consulting,
5 Inc. In this role, I was in direct charge of performing natural resource assessments along
6 linear ROWs in the upper Midwest. As a preferred sub-contractor to the Corps of
7 Engineers, I provided wetlands and soils support for several large Environmental Impact
8 Statements, including an assessment of soil salinization hazards and their effects on
9 irrigable land associated with the proposed outlet to control flooding in Devils Lake, North
10 Dakota.

11 From 1980 to 1995 I worked in various capacities for the North Dakota State
12 University Department of Soil Science. My duties included the collection, processing,
13 evaluation and interpretation of soil and water data. I attended and assisted in the U.S.
14 Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service field reviews of
15 county soil surveys, and collected typifying soil profile descriptions, and soil correlation
16 samples for characterization and presentation in interpretative tables in county soil surveys.
17 As Supervisor of the U.S Department of Agriculture’s Soils and Water Environmental
18 Laboratory, I provided assistance to agricultural producers requiring information on soil-
19 water compatibility and interpretation of water and soil analyses from locations throughout
20 the state.

21 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this case?**

22 A. On behalf of Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC (“Grain Belt Express” or “Company”),
23 I discuss the potential agricultural impacts that may result from the construction or

1 operation of the Grain Belt Express Project, and describe the measures the Company has
2 adopted to avoid, minimize, and mitigate for any potential impacts. I will specifically
3 discuss potential impacts to agricultural operations in Missouri, including soil resources.
4 Grain Belt Express' proposed avoidance, minimization, and mitigation efforts during
5 construction and post-construction restoration are documented in the Missouri Agricultural
6 Impact Mitigation Protocol ("Mo Ag Protocol"), which is attached as **Schedule JLA-2** to
7 my testimony. My testimony will also focus on Clean Line Energy Partner LLC's ("Clean
8 Line") understanding of agricultural impacts and concerns as documented in Clean Line's
9 corporate Agricultural Impact Mitigation Policy ("AIM Policy"), attached as **Schedule**
10 **JLA-3** to my testimony, as well as the process by which Clean Line has proposed to address
11 these issues.

12 **Q. Have you previously testified before any regulatory commissions?**

13 A. Yes. During 2012 I testified on behalf of Xcel Energy's CapX2020 Monticello to St. Cloud
14 Project on soil quality issues to assist in farm valuation under Minnesota's "Buy the Farm"
15 legislation (Minn. Stat. 216E.12).

16 During 2012, I was retained by Enbridge Energy to evaluate pipeline construction
17 impacts to agricultural land placed into the Wetland Reserve Program by a landowner in
18 Wisconsin.

19 In 2009, I was retained by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission to provide
20 testimony evaluating the Soils Section and the Erosion and Sedimentation Section of the
21 TransCanada Keystone, LP application to the South Dakota PUC for a permit to construct
22 the Keystone XL Project. In this role, I evaluated portions of Keystone's Construction,
23 Mitigation, and Reclamation Plan to determine whether important soil limitations

1 identified in the application were addressed such that areas affected by construction-related
2 activities would be restored to pre-construction conditions within a reasonable timeframe.

3 In 2008 and 2009, I provided testimony at two condemnation hearings involving
4 alleged damages to certified organic farm operations crossed by the MinnCan Pipeline
5 project located in Scott and McLeod Counties, Minnesota. I also provided testimony at
6 several other condemnation hearings regarding alleged damages to various aspects of soil
7 quality for the MinnCan Pipeline project.

8 In 2004 I examined agricultural and soil quality issues, and presented testimony on
9 behalf of the City of Hutchinson regarding alleged violations of the Agricultural Impact
10 Mitigation Plan prepared by the Hutchinson Utilities Commission and approved by the
11 Minnesota Department of Agriculture for the construction of the City of Hutchinson Gas
12 Transmission Pipeline.

13 **II. MERJENT QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

14 **Q. Please describe the business of Merjent.**

15 A. Merjent is an environmental and social consultancy firm that provides a wide range of
16 permitting, technical support, and compliance inspection services to the oil and gas,
17 biofuels, electric transmission, wind and solar energy, and mining sectors. Merjent also
18 assists and advises government agencies across North America. Our goal is to help our
19 clients achieve high standards of environmental and social performance, while effectively
20 managing issues and challenges that arise in large-scale, commercial utility infrastructure
21 projects.

22 **Q. Does Merjent have experience with agricultural impact mitigation related to linear**
23 **projects, including overhead electric transmission lines?**

1 A. Yes. Merjent has experience in developing and implementing AIMP's (or equivalents),
2 including drafting and editing AIMP's, and serving in the role of inspector or monitor to
3 ensure compliance with AIMP requirements during construction. Merjent currently serves
4 as the independent Environmental Monitor on the 345 kilovolt Badger Coulee
5 Transmission Line in Wisconsin, reporting to state agencies including the Wisconsin
6 Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection. Merjent served as Agency
7 Inspection Reporting Lead during the installation of Otter Tail Power Company's Bemidji
8 to Grand Rapids 230 kilovolt Transmission Project in Minnesota, with trained monitors
9 reporting to State agencies that included the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Merjent
10 provided independent Environmental Monitors, reporting to the Minnesota Department of
11 Agriculture, during construction of Enbridge Energy's LSr and Alberta Clipper Pipeline
12 Projects in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

13 **Q. Please describe your direct personal experience with agricultural impact mitigation**
14 **associated with linear infrastructure.**

15 A. I have been involved as author, collaborator, and editor of AIMP's and Environmental
16 Mitigation Plans ("EMP's") for several linear oil and gas pipeline and electrical power
17 transmission projects in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and South Dakota, as noted
18 above and as described in **Schedule JLA-1**.

19 **III. INDUSTRY STANDARD PRACTICES**

20 **Q. Are there any federal or state requirements that outline specific agricultural impact**
21 **mitigation practices governing the construction of an overhead electric transmission**
22 **line?**

1 A. There are no federal level or Missouri requirements regarding the implementation of
2 specific agricultural impact mitigation practices to intra or interstate linear projects,
3 including overhead electric transmission lines. Some states provide guidance for the
4 construction of electric transmission ROW projects through agricultural land. Illinois has
5 a voluntary agreement (Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (“AIMA”)) for the siting
6 and construction of electric transmission lines that can be tailored for each project. The
7 AIMAs are reviewed, approved, authorized and administered under the Illinois Department
8 of Agriculture. The Illinois AIMA can be made mandatory by county governments under
9 applicable Special Use Permits. New York has guidelines for electric transmission ROW
10 projects through the New York Department of Agriculture and Markets. In Wisconsin,
11 utility projects such as oil and gas pipelines and electric transmission lines are subject to
12 impact evaluation via an Agricultural Impact Statement prepared by the state of Wisconsin
13 based on its agriculture land information and project information supplied by the applicant.

14 **Q. Are there industry standards regarding the mitigation of agricultural impacts in**
15 **relation to the construction of an electric transmission line?**

16 A. Generally yes. In practice, AIMP's applicable to electric transmission lines are sometimes
17 developed and proposed voluntarily by project proponents and are implemented to: (1)
18 ensure that landowner and tenant concerns regarding impacts are addressed, and adverse
19 impacts to conventional agriculture are avoided, minimized, or mitigated to the extent
20 practicable; (2) streamline applicable state and/or federal environmental review; (3) ensure
21 consistency in interstate construction; and (4) ensure compliance with applicable Organic
22 System Plans developed by each organic farm operation to certify and maintain
23 certification under the National Organic Program.

1 AIMPs developed for linear projects like transmission lines typically include the
2 following construction protocols:

- 3 1. In conjunction with landowner consultation, and subject to engineering and
4 environmental constraints, “micro siting” adjustments to structure placement across
5 a given parcel to minimize to the extent practicable potential impacts to site-specific
6 grower and related agricultural operations;
- 7 2. Incorporation of excess sub-soil and rock (excavation spoil typically associated
8 with foundation structure installation) into the soil is avoided, and spoil removal
9 requirements are specified;
- 10 3. Maintenance of topsoil quality in agricultural land is addressed by implementing
11 certain soil protection mechanisms. These protections are dependent on site-
12 specific criteria, but generally may include matting, topsoil stripping, segregation
13 and replacement within the construction workspace, including temporary and
14 permanent access roads;
- 15 4. Ensure timely repair of damaged subsurface tile and ensure that drainage systems
16 affected by construction are repaired to pre-construction or better condition. This
17 may include installation of additional tile or implementing minor tile redesign, as
18 necessary;
- 19 5. Removal of construction debris during construction and post construction clean-up;
- 20 6. Ensure that soil quality in areas affected by compaction or rutting is restored to pre-
21 construction conditions, as practicable, by implementing appropriate de-
22 compaction, fertilization, liming, tillage, and related soil restoration techniques;

- 1 7. Ensure that all damaged conservation practices are returned to their pre-
2 construction state;
- 3 8. Ensure that invasive weeds are not brought into the site by construction equipment,
4 and that invasive weeds present within the construction ROW are controlled;
- 5 9. Manage construction and transmission line configuration to avoid impacts to the
6 operation of existing and proposed irrigation systems;
- 7 10. Ensure appropriate restoration of temporary roads to the pre-construction
8 condition;
- 9 11. Avoid and minimize compaction and rutting by developing wet weather
10 construction protocols, including wet weather shutdown;
- 11 12. Provide specific procedures for determining construction-related damages and
12 providing adequate compensation;
- 13 13. Provide each landowner with advance notice of access during construction, and
14 comply with access notice requirements specified in the landowner easement
15 agreement; and
- 16 14. Provide a construction compliance inspection and monitoring program, including
17 information on inspector training and background requirements, compliance and
18 non-compliance reporting protocols, and procedures and contact protocols for
19 landowners to use to advise a project proponent of non-compliance and other issues
20 observed during construction and post-construction reclamation.

21 Conditions in AIMP's do not supersede conditions attached to other required state
22 and federal permits, but are developed to augment such permits where necessary to protect

1 the agricultural resource and to address landowner and tenant concerns regarding
2 agriculture land use.

3 All construction plans, permits, and their respective conditions are usually collected
4 into a permit book kept on the construction site to be consulted by contractors,
5 environmental and agriculture inspectors, and agricultural monitors, as needed. Permits
6 with conditions potentially related to AIMP include: a National Pollution Discharge
7 Elimination (NPDES) Permit (i.e., construction stormwater discharge permit); a SWPPP;
8 a SPCC Plan; and, Section 401 Water Quality Certification. The crossings of waters of the
9 United States including wetlands and streams in agricultural land is regulated by the Corps
10 of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit. Others permits with conditions
11 applicable to agricultural land are possible and are discussed in the Direct Testimony of
12 Company witness James Puckett.

13 **Q. Does Clean Line have an Agricultural Impact Mitigation Policy that incorporates**
14 **these best practices?**

15 A. Yes. As I will describe further in my testimony, Clean Line has a company-wide
16 Agricultural Impact Mitigation Policy (AIM Policy) that is consistent with these practices.
17 Clean Line's AIM Policy is attached as **Schedule JLA-3**.

18 **Q. Please provide a summary of Clean Line's AIM Policy.**

19 A. Clean Line has implemented its AIM Policy as a commitment to stakeholders to ensure
20 that construction and operation activities on private agricultural land avoid or minimize
21 adverse impacts (including impacts to current and planned agricultural operation, soil
22 quality and crop yield) to the extent practicable, and that appropriate mitigation actions
23 will address any unavoidable impacts.

1 Clean Line’s AIM Policy specifies: (1) the measures that the Company will
2 undertake to ensure necessary communications occur between potentially affected
3 landowners and Grain Belt Express during the easement acquisition process; (2) measures
4 that will be employed to avoid and minimize construction impacts to agricultural
5 operations, soil quality, and yields; (3) measures to ensure a successful restoration of lands
6 affected within the construction ROW; and (4) measures that will maintain agricultural
7 operations after construction and restoration. Clean Line’s AIM Policy includes a
8 commitment to establish communication and mitigation measures that are consistent with
9 industry best practices as implemented in the Mo Ag Protocol. Most importantly, these
10 include:

11 **1. Open Communication with Landowners and Tenants.**

12 Grain Belt Express will continue to collaborate with landowners during the
13 easement acquisition process to avoid or minimize potential impacts associated with final
14 siting and design of Project facilities, including structure and access road locations. The
15 Company will also schedule construction to minimize operational impacts to agricultural
16 operations and soil quality, while considering constraints imposed by conditions adjacent
17 to the agricultural operations.

18 **2. Avoid and Minimize Construction Impacts to Agricultural Operations,**
19 **Soil Quality, and Yields**

20 During the easement acquisition process, Grain Belt Express will, with input from
21 landowners and/or tenants, identify all surface and subsurface drainage features, soil
22 conservation practices, and type and configuration of irrigation systems, and will avoid and
23 minimize impacts to the extent practicable.

1 The Company will return all agricultural infrastructure (including conservation
2 measures) affected during construction to pre-construction quality or better. Landowners
3 and/or tenants damaged by any unavoidable impacts will be fully compensated.

4 Grain Belt Express will identify areas requiring topsoil stripping and segregation,
5 post-construction decompaction, specific fertilizer amendments, tillage, or planting
6 procedures (temporary and permanent cover) to ensure successful ROW reclamation. The
7 Company's standard construction Best Management Practices ("BMPs") will be adjusted
8 to accommodate specific reasonable landowner and tenant requests where these requests
9 differ from routine restoration procedures.

10 **Q. What additional steps has Grain Belt Express taken to address impacts to agricultural**
11 **operations in Missouri?**

12 A. Grain Belt Express has adopted the Missouri Agricultural Impact Mitigation Protocol
13 ("MO Ag Protocol") to further avoid and minimize impacts to agricultural lands. The MO
14 Ag Protocol is attached as **Schedule JLA-2**. The MO Ag Protocol builds on the
15 commitments made in Clean Line's AIM Policy by identifying specific protection
16 measures and practices that, when implemented, will provide greater certainty that
17 agricultural issues are avoided, minimized, and mitigated throughout construction and
18 operation of the Project.

19 **Q. Do the AIM Policy and the MO Ag Protocol meet or exceed the industry best**
20 **practices?**

21 A. In my opinion, they meet or exceed industry best practices. The AIM Policy establishes
22 Clean Line's commitment to landowners actively engaged in agriculture on lands crossed
23 by the Grain Belt Express Project. These commitments are implemented in its Mo Ag

1 Protocol, and provide a clear, organized, and practical approach to avoiding, minimizing,
2 or mitigating potential agricultural impacts of Project construction in Missouri.

3 **IV. POTENTIAL AGRICULTURAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE**
4 **GRAIN BELT EXPRESS PROJECT**

5 **Q. How much farmland will be removed from production due to structure placement**
6 **associated with the Project?**

7 A. The amount of agricultural land potentially removed from production by foundations and
8 associated support structures (e.g., guy wires) depends on structure type and location.
9 These can be generally placed into two location categories (in-field/edge of field and field
10 corner), and three structure type categories (lattice, lattice mast, and monopole). Land
11 removed as a result of the footprint of the foundation is a direct impact.

12 Guy wires that may be used to stabilize and provide additional support to certain
13 structures remove additional agricultural land from production. However, Grain Belt
14 Express is not proposing to use structures with guyed wires in cropland areas. Therefore,
15 guy wires are not anticipated to be a significant consideration regarding removal of
16 agricultural land from production along the Project route in Missouri.

17 Graphics illustrating the various structure types are found in **Schedule JLA-4**.
18 Based on the three varieties of structures, the total amount of land that will be directly
19 removed from production by the Project is set forth below in Table 1 by county. Between
20 approximately .4347 (monopole or lattice mast) and 8.694 (lattice) acres would be removed
21 from production depending on structure type.

22 Potential indirect impact resulting from the physical and practical inability of
23 agricultural equipment to operate within a specific distance of the structure foundation and

1 guy wires may also occur. Grain Belt Express will coordinate with landowners to better
 2 understand the potential for indirect impacts, and may adjust the final structure placement
 3 to minimize potential indirect impacts, as practicable.

Table 1. Estimated Acres of Agricultural Land Removed from Production by Clean Line Energy's Grain Belt Express Project in Missouri Based				
County	# of Structures	Location ¹		
		Lattice	Lattice Mast	Monopole
		Acres ²		
Buchanan	56	1.008	0.0504	0.0504
Clinton	54	0.972	0.0486	0.0486
Caldwell	39	0.702	0.0351	0.0351
Carroll	29	0.522	0.0261	0.0261
Chariton	79	1.422	0.0711	0.0711
Randolph	34	0.612	0.0306	0.0306
Monroe	97	1.746	0.0873	0.0873
Ralls	95	1.71	0.0855	0.0855
Total	483	8.694	0.4347	0.4347
1 See Exhibit JA-4 for typical drawings of structure locations.				
2 Acreage is a conservative estimate based on current routing configuration. Additional route modification and structure micrositing may result from future coordination with landowners. Per structure acreage is calculated based on typical footprint for each structure type. A typical single foundation lattice mast of monopole structure has a footprint of 0.0009 acre. A typical lattice structure has a footprint of 0.018 acre.				

4

5 **Q. What percentage of the total ROW does that amount to?**

6 A. Based on a conservative estimate, no more than 9 acres of land would be taken out of
 7 production due to the direct effects of the structures located in cultivated lands. Depending
 8 on the structure type, this represents between .008 percent (monopole or lattice mast) and
 9 0.17 percent (lattice) of the total right of way in Missouri¹. Approximately 2,768 acres of

¹ Approximately 4,986.67 acres would be located within the 205.7 mile long, 200 feet wide right of way in Missouri.

1 cropland would be located within the right of way in Missouri, of which between .016
2 percent and 0.3 percent would be directly impacted by structures.

3 **Q. What are the potential impacts to irrigation systems?**

4 A. Irrigation is not expected to be a common agricultural land use along the preferred route in
5 Missouri. Most of the counties crossed have aquifers and soils that are not favorable for
6 large-scale center pivot irrigation. The Missouri Route Selection Study (March 2014)
7 conducted by the Louis Berger Group, Inc. on behalf of Grain Belt Express indicated that
8 there were no center pivot irrigation systems crossed by the Project. The 2016 Route
9 Selection Study Addendum (June 2016, attached to the Direct Testimony of Company
10 witness James Puckett as **Schedule JPG-2**) also confirmed that there were no center pivot
11 irrigation systems crossed by the Proposed Route in Missouri.

12 However, while center pivot irrigation systems are of primary concern because of
13 the nature of the permanent infrastructure associated with center pivot system design, other
14 irrigation systems may be employed by growers along the Project route that utilize surface
15 water appropriation. Carroll and Chariton counties have the Missouri River as their
16 southern boundary, and the Salt River flows through Monroe County. The United States
17 Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service has indicated that these
18 counties have the most irrigated agriculture of the counties crossed by the Grain Belt
19 Express Project. If currently unknown irrigation systems are intersected along the route,
20 Grain Belt Express will coordinate with the landowner and/or tenant to avoid or minimize
21 direct impacts to the irrigation systems in accordance with the MO Ag Protocol.

22 **Q. Please explain the approaches that Grain Belt Express will use to prevent or limit**
23 **impacts to irrigation on agricultural land while constructing the Project.**

1 A. It is unlikely that potential effects to irrigated agriculture will be extensive, and may be
2 completely absent. Avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of potential impacts to
3 irrigation are addressed in Section 7 of Grain Belt Express' MO Ag Protocol.

4 Potential direct impacts of Project construction to irrigation will be temporary. In
5 accordance with the AIM Policy, Grain Belt Express has worked with landowners and/or
6 tenants to identify existing or planned irrigation systems and has adjusted the proposed
7 location of the route to avoid and minimize impacts to potentially affected irrigation
8 agriculture to the extent practicable. During construction, Grain Belt Express will follow
9 the MO Ag Protocol to ensure that all affected farm facilities, including irrigation systems,
10 are returned to their pre-construction or better state.

11 Grain Belt Express will work with landowners and/or tenants to minimize any
12 permanent impacts to irrigation systems and will negotiate appropriate compensation for
13 any permanent impacts in the respective easement agreements.

14 **Q. What are the potential impacts to drainage systems from the Project?**

15 A. Drainage systems consist of: (1) a series of surface ditches dug at intervals sufficiently
16 close to lower the water table to favor suited crops; (2) subsurface drain tiles consisting of
17 interconnected perforated-pipe mains and laterals of a specific diameter, installed at a
18 sufficient depth and constructed with a gradient to lower the water table to a depth that
19 does not affect crop germination and growth; or (3) a combination of surface ditching and
20 subsurface tile drainage.

21 Drainage systems are typically needed in nearly level areas with persistent high
22 water tables that adversely affect crop yields in the absence of drainage. Along the Project
23 route in Missouri, these conditions are associated with: (1) large riparian floodplains of the

1 Missouri, Grand, Chariton, and Salt rivers and other drainages; (2) isolated, generally
2 small, nearly level to sloping areas at the heads of drainage swales in glacial till areas; and
3 (3) on nearly level, broad upland terraces of the Central Claypan Major Land Resource
4 Area, shown in **Schedule JLA-5**. The Project crosses several areas of extensive surface
5 and subsurface drained agricultural lands in Missouri.

6 Avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of potential impacts to drainage systems
7 are addressed in Section 6 of Grain Belt Express' MO Ag Protocol.

8 While structures would be sited to avoid known subsurface tiles, unknown
9 subsurface tile present within the ROW may be encountered during excavation for certain
10 structure foundations. Any change to the grade of a subsurface tile system or the integrity
11 of the tile can adversely affect the operation of the drainage system. Also, depending on
12 installation depth and tile type, tile may be crushed when crossed by heavy construction
13 equipment operating along access roads or portions of the ROW. The presence of old
14 concrete or clay tiles, shallow tiles, and tile systems of unknown configuration can
15 complicate the assessment of tile damage. Recent drainage systems are typically
16 constructed of perforated, corrugated plastic pipe and have an installation schematic
17 available so they can be avoided, to the extent practicable.

18 **Q. Please explain the approaches that Grain Belt Express will use to prevent or limit**
19 **impacts to drainage equipment and drainage system operation on agricultural land**
20 **while constructing the Project.**

21 A. In accordance with the AIM Policy, Grain Belt Express has worked with the landowners
22 and/or tenant to identify existing or planned irrigation systems, surface and subsurface

1 drainage systems, and conservation practices to adjust the planned location and route to
2 avoid and minimize impacts to agricultural operations to the extent practicable.

3 Project structures will not be sited or placed within a known surface drainage ditch
4 to the extent practicable and will be sited to avoid excavation impacts to subsurface tile
5 located within the ROW. When encountered along the construction ROW or construction
6 access roads, surface drainage ditches are typically crossed using a free-span bridge
7 constructed of timber mats, the bed of a railroad car, or equivalent, and do not affect the
8 flow characteristics of surface ditches. Thus, the integrity of the drainage ditch is
9 maintained both during and after construction.

10 Avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of potential impacts to drainage systems
11 are addressed in Section 6 of Grain Belt Express' MO Ag Protocol. During construction,
12 Grain Belt Express will follow the MO Ag Protocol to ensure that drainage systems are
13 identified, located, and avoided to the extent practicable. Drainage systems unavoidably
14 impacted will be returned to their pre-construction or better state by replacement of affected
15 drain tile or through minor avoidance reconfiguration.

16 The Company will complete all temporary repairs of drainage tiles within a
17 reasonable time following the identification of an impacted tile. Unless otherwise agreed
18 to by the landowner, all permanent repairs will be performed within 45 days following final
19 reclamation of the Project, weather permitting. Affected landowners may elect to negotiate
20 a fair settlement with Grain Belt Express for the landowner or tenant to undertake the
21 responsibility for repair, relocation, or reconfiguration of the damaged drainage feature;
22 however, in these cases Grain Belt Express will not be responsible for correcting repairs
23 after completion of the Project.

1 **Q. What are the potential impacts to farm conservation practices?**

2 A. Many Missouri growers have highly erodible land (“HEL”) and wetlands on their farms
3 and may also participate in one or more farm programs. Construction of the Project has the
4 potential to modify or adversely affect several conservation practices installed by the
5 grower under an approved conservation plan or system. Such conservation practices are
6 necessary to comply with the HEL Conservation and Wetland Conservation (“WC”)
7 compliance provisions of the 2014 and earlier Farm Bills, which require growers to certify
8 that they will not plant or produce an agricultural commodity on HEL without following a
9 U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service approved
10 conservation plan or system. In addition, growers planning to conduct activities that may
11 affect their HEL or WC compliance must notify the Department of Agriculture’s Farm
12 Service Agency and National Resources Conservation Service, who will then provide HEL
13 or wetland technical evaluations and issue determinations, if needed.

14 Examples of Conservation Practices in common use in Missouri and potentially
15 affected by construction of the Project include, but are not limited to:

- 16 • Grassed waterways and buffers;
- 17 • Terraces;
- 18 • Contour farming and strip-cropping;
- 19 • Maintenance of field borders and vegetative barriers, hedgerows, and windbreaks;
- 20 • Maintenance of cover crop or permanent cover;
- 21 • Streambank and shoreline protection; and
- 22 • Water control structures.

1 **Q. Please explain the approaches that Grain Belt Express will use to prevent or limit**
2 **impacts to conservation practices on agricultural land while constructing the Project.**

3 A. In accordance with the AIM Policy, Grain Belt Express will work with the landowner
4 and/or tenant to identify existing or planned conservation practices to adjust the planned
5 structure type, location, and route to avoid and minimize impacts to agricultural operations
6 to the extent practicable.

7 Avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of potential impacts to conservation
8 practices are addressed in Section 10 of Grain Belt Express' MO Ag Protocol. During
9 construction, Grain Belt Express will follow the MO Ag Protocol to ensure that
10 conservation practices are identified, located, and avoided to the extent practicable.
11 Conservation practices unavoidably impacted will be returned to their pre-construction or
12 better state by replacement or repair in accordance with county Soil and Water
13 Conservation District standards, consistent with existing farm plans, and any other local,
14 state, or federal requirements, as applicable.

15 Grain Belt Express will repair or pay to have repaired any damage to soil
16 conservation practices within 45 days, weather and landowner permitting, of the
17 completion of the Project.

18 **Q. What are the potential soil compaction, soil mixing and rutting implications?**

19 A. Soil compaction results when susceptible soils are subject to a surface load that can deform
20 and disrupt soil structure, resulting in a temporary to relatively permanent reduction in soil
21 porosity and an increase in soil density. The change in the physical characteristics of the
22 soil can affect seed germination and growth, restrict plant root penetration, reduce water
23 infiltration and percolation, and increase soil erosion.

1 Soil compaction is an issue with normal agricultural equipment traffic, and can be
2 aggravated whenever agricultural land is trafficked by heavy construction equipment, is
3 subject to repeated traffic such as that experienced along a construction access road, or is
4 trafficked during wet periods where the soils are at an optimal moisture content to favor
5 compaction (typically field moisture capacity). Compaction hazards vary with the ground
6 pressure weight of a particular piece of construction equipment and are related to the speed
7 equipment travels, axle load, and tire inflation.

8 Soil mixing is an issue when there is a possibility of mixing topsoil with subsoil,
9 thus diluting the agronomically important characteristics of high organic matter, higher
10 fertility, and better tilth (the condition of tilled soil with respect to the suitability for sowing
11 seeds) with the poorer quality subsoil. Topsoil can be mixed with subsoil directly during
12 excavation, or indirectly by rutting caused by equipment tires traversing soils immediately
13 after high precipitation events or naturally wet soils in and on the periphery of wetlands.

14 Rutting is the breakdown of soil structure that occurs when wet soils are trafficked
15 by heavy equipment, resulting in plastic behavior when the soils are under a load (rutting
16 should not be confused with compaction, discussed above). The resulting plastic soil
17 deformation can produce shallow-to-deep ruts in the soil, depending on the degree of
18 wetness in the surface layer and the depth of wetting. Such deformation can destroy the
19 structure of the surface soil, resulting in a soil that is hard and massive when dry, and
20 “puddled” when wet. Rutted soil is naturally mitigated by freeze-thaw processes and by
21 tillage, but soil mixed by rutting will produce a relatively permanent impact.

22 **Q. What measures will Grain Belt Express employ to prevent or limit soil compaction,**
23 **rutting, and soil mixing on agricultural land while constructing the transmission line?**

1 A. In accordance with the AIM Policy as implemented under the MO Ag Protocol, Grain Belt
2 Express will work with the landowner or tenant to prevent or limit soil compaction, rutting,
3 and soil mixing on agricultural land during construction of the Project. The susceptibility
4 of soils to compaction can be minimized by: (1) identifying compaction prone soils; (2)
5 limiting heavy construction traffic when soils are wet; and (3) using low ground pressure
6 tracked construction equipment. Unavoidable compaction will be remediated by on-ROW
7 versus off-ROW testing and subsequent decompaction using rippers when the soil is within
8 an optimum moisture range for decompaction. Rippers are large curved, knife-like
9 implements that can be variably spaced along an implement bar and pulled through the soil
10 to break up compacted soils to a specified depth, usually 18 to 24 inches.

11 Rutting in upland soils is minimized by having Agricultural or Construction
12 Inspectors shut down construction in susceptible areas during wet weather where soil
13 mixing due to extensive rutting is observed. Construction would proceed after the affected
14 area has dried sufficiently to limit rutting in upland areas that typically drain excess water
15 and dry rapidly. Rutting is avoided in wetlands by placing a timber mat road or equivalent
16 in wet soils and restricting construction traffic to the mat road during the time construction
17 is occurring. If rutting occurs, Grain Belt Express will repair or pay to have repaired any
18 compaction or rutting within 45 days of the completion of construction, weather and
19 landowner permitting.

20 Grain Belt Express will avoid soil mixing and will maintain the topsoil quality in
21 agricultural land. The Company will require topsoil segregation, consisting of stripping the
22 top 12 inches of topsoil or the full depth of topsoil, whichever is greater, separate topsoil
23 storage on the ROW, and replacement to the approximate locations from which the topsoil

1 was removed after the subsoil has been backfilled. Topsoil segregations will occur along
2 portions of the ROW with structure installations, and at all contractor yards and staging
3 areas when these areas are in agricultural land. Details of the approaches to be used by
4 Grain Belt Express to accomplish topsoil segregation are discussed in Section 15 of the
5 MO Ag Protocol.

6 **Q. Should soil compaction occur as a result of construction activities, what measures will**
7 **Grain Belt Express take to remediate it?**

8 A. In areas subject to construction traffic, on-versus-off ROW soil density determinations
9 will be collected using a cone penetrometer to assess compaction. Soil density
10 determinations will be performed by trained agricultural inspectors after construction but
11 prior to restoration. Where on-ROW density is greater than 120% of off- ROW density,
12 agricultural rippers will be used to decompact the soil to a depth not less than 18 inches.
13 Decompaction operations will be scheduled for periods when soil moisture content is not
14 too wet to compromise effective decompaction. In areas affected by construction but
15 receiving light or no construction traffic, the soils will be prepared by using standard chisel
16 plows (after final grading, if any is necessary). Details of the approaches to be used by
17 Grain Belt Express to accomplish this are included in the MO Ag Protocol.

18 **Q. What are the potential erosion implications?**

19 A. Soil erosion is associated with the detachment and displacement of soil particles by the
20 agents of wind or water. It is a complex process that is controlled by the intensity and
21 amount of rainfall, degree and length of slope, amount of vegetative cover, surface soil
22 texture and structure, and antecedent moisture content. Because water moves into and
23 through wet soils slower than dry soils, soils in a wet condition are more easily eroded.

1 Excessive erosion in agricultural land can affect soil quality at the site of erosion and in
2 areas that receive eroded sediment. Topsoil eroded from susceptible soils reduces soil
3 fertility and degrades soil tilth, which can become especially severe when the topsoil is
4 eroded completely. Similarly, sediments deposited downslope can affect plant germination
5 and growth through burial, adversely affect soil tilth, contaminate nearby wetlands, lakes,
6 streams and rivers, with sediment, and compromise farm program enrollment.

7 Several areas of the construction ROW in agricultural areas proposed for
8 disturbance by construction of the Project have potential erosion hazards, including areas
9 of the ROW with erosive soils, steep slopes, long slopes, or that lack vegetative cover.
10 Such areas would also include temporary access roads, support structure construction areas,
11 construction staging, and structure lay-down areas. Erosion associated with construction
12 sites is regulated specifically to minimize the inadvertent delivery of sediment from the
13 construction site to streams, rivers, wetlands, ponds, and lakes.

14 **Q. What measures will the Company employ in constructing the transmission line to**
15 **prevent or control erosion?**

16 A. Avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of accelerated erosion resulting from
17 construction are addressed in Section 11 of Grain Belt Express' MO Ag Protocol. Grain
18 Belt Express will work with the landowner or tenant and applicable regulatory agencies to
19 address, prevent or control soil erosion of agricultural land during construction of the
20 proposed transmission line. The Company will be required to control erosion under the
21 conditions of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that fulfills the
22 requirements of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System.

23 **Q. Please explain the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES").**

1 A. In Missouri, the sponsor of a project that is likely to result in erosion on sites with greater
2 than one acre of aggregate soil disturbance for the entire project is required to develop a
3 SWPPP that implements the NPDES requirements. The NPDES permit and associated
4 SWPPP are authorized for a given project by the Missouri Department of Natural
5 Resources under a Land Disturbance Permit. Because the Project will disturb greater than
6 one acre of soil, it must obtain such a permit and prepare an SWPPP. The applicable
7 Missouri Land Disturbance Permit is entitled “Missouri State General Operating Permit.”

8 The Primary requirement of the permit is the development of a SWPPP which
9 incorporates site specific practices and Best Management Practices (“BMPs”) to best
10 minimize soil exposure, erosion, and the discharge of pollutants. The permit applies to all
11 disturbed land, and must be issued prior to any land disturbance.

12 **Q. Please describe how Grain Belt Express’ Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan will**
13 **address potential erosion in agricultural lands.**

14 A. The purpose of the SWPPP is to ensure the design, implementation, management and
15 maintenance of BMPs that avoid and minimize the delivery of sediment and other
16 pollutants in stormwater discharges associated with the land disturbance activities to
17 receiving water bodies. BMPs authorized in Missouri are found in the manual entitled
18 “Protecting Water Quality - A Field Guide to Erosion, Sediment and Stormwater Best
19 Management Practices for Development Sites in Missouri and Kansas.”²

20 Grain Belt Express will develop a SWPPP that applies to all potentially disturbed
21 sites along the Project. It will provide specific information on site characteristics (e.g. size,
22 configuration, soils, slope degree and length, vegetative cover, etc.) and the suite of BMPs

² <http://dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/wpcp-guide.htm>

1 selected to control erosion, including installation specifics. It will also provide information
2 on compliance inspection. The mandated implementation of the SWPPP within areas
3 proposed for construction will ensure that erosion along the route has been avoided,
4 minimized, and mitigated to the extent practicable. In addition, the SWPPP will require
5 regular inspections, with additional inspections after significant rain events to ensure that
6 the prescribed erosion control BMPs are operational and effective. Those BMPs in poor
7 condition will be repaired or replaced. Post-construction inspections will be required until
8 restoration or revegetation is complete under the conditions of the SWPPP. The
9 implementation of BMPs described in a SWPPP will avoid and minimize the potential for
10 erosion to occur during the construction and reclamation phases of the Project.

11 **Q. What are the potential impacts to global positioning system (“GPS”) commonly found**
12 **on farming equipment?**

13 A. Many growers use “precision agriculture” techniques, which rely on accurate GPS to tailor
14 seeding specifications, and fertilizer, herbicide, and/or pesticide applications to specific
15 areas of the field based on yield and soil maps. Precision agriculture methods have resulted
16 in significant reductions in costs and increases in yields and profits for agricultural
17 operations.

18 Effective use of precision agriculture methods depends on accurate location of
19 compatible farm equipment to tailor seeding and applications. Several recent technical
20 investigations³ have evaluated the potential for stray voltage and electromagnetic fields

³ Bancroft, J.B., A. Morrison and G. Lachapelle. 2012. Validation of GNSS under 500,000 Volt Direct Current (DC) Transmission Lines. *Computers and Electronics in Agriculture* 83:58-67.

Massie, L., A. Halpin, and Michael Wyatt. 2009. Agricultural Impacts. Interference with Precision Farming. P53-56. In L. Massie and P. Nauth eds. *Agricultural Impact Statement American Transmission Company, LLC Rockdale-West Middleton Transmission Line*. Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection DATCP #3487.

1 (“EMF”) from HVDC lines to interfere with GPS system accuracy. The data show that
2 there is no evidence of power lines interfering with GPS but for a possible blockage
3 degradation of signal immediately next to a large monopole. Instances of signal loss
4 associated with support structures are uncommon and typically would only occur for a
5 short period of time, if at all.

6 **Q. Are there available technologies to enable farm equipment to navigate around**
7 **transmission towers?**

8 A. Yes. Structures on agricultural land that represent an obstruction to farming operations will
9 have to be avoided. However, the relatively modest footprint of the Project’s structures will
10 have a minimal effect on these operations. The use of GPS navigation to steer farm
11 equipment will greatly reduce the inconvenience associated with navigating around support
12 structures. A small area adjacent to the structure may be traversed twice. However, current
13 precision farming technologies allow for more efficient farming practices around obstacles
14 that may occur in a field by implementing auto row shutoffs on planters and section control
15 on sprayers, fertilizer spreaders, and toolbars, all of which help to minimize any farming
16 overlap issues. This will decrease or avoid any inefficiencies or impact to crop yields.

17 Grain Belt Express will provide GPS coordinates of installed structures and
18 potential obstructions to agricultural operations (based on an as-built survey) to the
19 landowner or tenant for use in precision agriculture and to facilitate the planning of aerial
20 applications.

21 **Q. What are the potential impacts to aerial application measures?**

22 A. The Project’s structures, guy wires, and conductors do not preclude aerial application, but
23 they must be considered by aerial applicators as one of the many obstructions that are

1 encountered in a rural airspace. Aerial applicators are qualified pilots that commonly deal
2 with structure and wire obstructions, and typically perform a reconnaissance to identify all
3 obstructions and develop a plan for safe aerial applications. The National Agricultural
4 Aviation Association (“NAAA”) has developed a safety video called “Wires and
5 Obstructions” that discusses the considerations that agricultural aviators must consider
6 when working near structures and wires, including those associated with transmission lines.

7 Each agricultural parcel using aerial application will likely have a unique set of
8 obstructions that need to be considered by the aerial applicator, including low electrical
9 distribution lines, shelter belts and fence rows, met towers and cell towers with associated
10 guy wires, large electric transmission line structures, as well as agricultural facilities such
11 as barns, silos, storage tanks, and homesteads. Aerial applicators may fly over or under
12 transmission line conductors, depending on the elevation of the wire, the degree of sag, the
13 proximity to other obstructions, and the configuration of the field.

14 In most situations, aerial applications can occur around electric transmission line
15 structures. However, if the airspace in the vicinity of the line’s structures and conductors
16 is too congested with other above ground features (such as other above ground utilities,
17 farmsteads, barns, silos, shelter belts, fence rows, etc.), the effectiveness of aerial
18 agriculture for the affected parcel may be reduced.

19 **Q. What measures has Grain Belt Express employed to prevent interference with aerial**
20 **applications?**

21 **A.** The specific relationship between pole type, span length, and number of poles per given
22 parcel will depend on a number of factors, including parcel configuration, size, topographic
23 relief, specifics of the landowner operation, potential future land uses, proximity of roads

1 and other utility corridors, and adjacent land uses. During the routing process, Grain Belt
2 Express coordinated with landowners to minimize aerial application impacts by
3 micrositing the alignment to follow adjacent to field edges when practicable.

4 Additionally, the final location of the Project's structures within the ROW easement
5 may be modified as practicable to minimize influence on aerial operations. For example,
6 micro-siting of structure locations to be placed along field boundaries rather than in fields,
7 when practicable, will reduce the overall obstruction impact to a field.

8 Grain Belt Express will work with the landowner or tenant grower and their aerial
9 applicators to appropriately site and mark conductors and structures to facilitate safe aerial
10 seeding and spray applications. This will include avoiding the use of guy wires for structure
11 support in agricultural fields.

12 **Q. Are there alternatives to aerial application?**

13 A. Yes, and they are commonly used. In areas that are congested with a variety of obstructions,
14 aerial agriculture may not be feasible. However, it would be unusual for aerial application
15 to be precluded from all areas of the field because obstructions are generally confined to
16 specific areas. In areas where aerial application is precluded, landowners may develop
17 application plans using ground-based application equipment such as high clearance spray
18 vehicles to cover areas no longer suitable for aerial application. It is not necessary to take
19 farmland out of production because a portion of a given field is no longer suitable for aerial
20 application. In the event a landowner experiences a loss in crop yields that is attributable
21 to the inability to spray certain rows of crops due to the presence of the transmission line,
22 Grain Belt Express will pay the value of such loss in yield for so long as the losses occur.

1 **Q. Has Grain Belt Express committed to open communications and cooperation with**
2 **landowners during this process?**

3 A. Yes. As detailed in the MO Ag Protocol, Grain Belt Express will communicate with the
4 landowner or tenant to address construction and operation/maintenance related to
5 agricultural concerns associated with the Project. The Company is committed to continued
6 open communications and cooperation with landowners throughout easement acquisition,
7 pre-construction planning, construction, post-construction reclamation, and operations.
8 Grain Belt Express will comply with its AIM Policy and MO Ag Protocol that involves a
9 collaborative approach between the Company , the affected landowner and tenant, and
10 contractors to implement specific construction procedures based on: (1) agricultural
11 operations and farming practice data collected from the landowner during the easement
12 acquisition process; (2) appropriate design, siting and routing to optimize the configuration
13 of the transmission line to avoid and minimize potential impacts to the landowner's
14 operations, as practicable; (3) industry standard construction procedures to be implemented
15 by the contractor to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts to soil quality and future yields,
16 and facilitate a rapid and complete restoration of affected land to the pre-construction
17 condition and productivity; and (4) a process to ensure appropriate compensation for any
18 adverse impacts that occur during construction, restoration, and post construction
19 maintenance. Details of the approaches to be used by Grain Belt Express to accomplish
20 this is included in the MO Ag Protocol that has been adopted for construction of the project
21 in Missouri.

22 **Q. Will Grain Belt Express take steps to compensate landowners for any inconvenience**
23 **associated with potential impacts of Grain Belt Express on agricultural operations?**

1 A. Yes. Specific aspects of compensation for temporary impacts to agricultural productivity
2 are covered in the Direct Testimony of Company witness Deann Lanz. However,
3 specifically under the AIM Policy and the Mo Ag Protocol, Grain Belt Express will
4 communicate with landowners and tenants on the status of the Project and discuss potential
5 impacts and concerns with respect to specific agriculture operations. Compensation to
6 landowners for optional, landowner-responsible mitigation is covered in the applicable
7 sections of the Mo Ag Protocol, including for example landowner responsible
8 decompaction, reimbursement for landowner-responsible fertilizing and seeding
9 restoration, and landowner responsible drain tile repairs. Moreover, Grain Belt Express has
10 committed to retain Agricultural Inspectors that will be available to address landowner
11 concerns. Grain Belt Express has also committed to compensate landowners for any
12 construction related damage to property on agricultural land, and any real effects to
13 enrollment in agricultural and conservation programs.

14 V. SUMMARY AND PROFESSIONAL CONCLUSION

15 Q. **Based upon your review of the facts of this case, including the AIM Policy and the**
16 **procedures the Company intends to follow in Missouri, is Grain Belt Express**
17 **proposing to adhere to nationally recognized standards and best practices?**

18 A. Yes, it is. The commitments to landowners that Grain Belt Express has included in its AIM
19 Policy and will implement in its MO Ag Protocols are consistent with the best industry
20 standards for construction of linear projects including HVDC transmission lines. Grain Belt
21 Express has made a commitment to engage landowners well in advance of construction to
22 identify issues, has developed procedures to avoid and minimize impacts to agricultural
23 operations, and will mitigate and appropriately compensate for unavoidable impacts.

1 All large linear construction projects, including construction of alternating current
2 and direct current transmission lines, as well as gas and oil pipelines, have the potential to
3 adversely affect agricultural operations during construction, post-construction restoration,
4 and operations & maintenance activities. However, the construction of such projects is
5 “non-consumptive” in that the agricultural land uses within the construction ROW are only
6 temporarily affected by construction. Pre-existing uses are generally compatible with the
7 post-construction management of permanent easement areas.

8 The Company’s adherence to the AIM Policy and the MO Ag Protocol for the
9 construction of the Project in Missouri addresses impacts to farm operations, landowner
10 and tenant concerns, soil quality, and crop yields while considering appropriate
11 compensation for unavoidable impacts. Based on these considerations, I believe that the
12 construction of the Grain Belt Express Project will not have any substantive impact to the
13 operations, soil quality, or crop yields of individual agricultural operations of landowners
14 and tenants.

15 **Q. Does this conclude your Direct Testimony?**

16 **A. Yes.**



JAMES ARNDT

PH.D., PWS, LPSS, CPSS, PSC

▶ PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Dr. James Arndt specializes in Federal, state, and local environmental permitting and has expertise in applied soil science and acquisition, interpretation, and presentation of natural resources data. He has been involved in the analysis of large mining, high voltage electrical transmission power line, alternative energy, and other public works project impacts to aquatic and related natural resources in support of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (Environmental Impact Statements/Environmental Assessments) compliance and securing environmental permits. Jim has specific technical expertise in the application of geochemistry, the genesis and morphology of hydric soils, general hydrogeology, soil survey and interpretations, and IT methods to natural resource evaluation along linear HVTL and pipeline projects. He has also worked on several large interstate pipeline projects in support of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Sections 7(c), 2.55 and 157 pipeline permitting, including the preparation of Resource Report 7 for the Alaska Pipeline Project (2011) and the Alaska Gas Pipeline Partners gas pipeline (2001). Jim has provided expert witness testimony and technical expert assistance on soils and land-use issues for various types of projects, and has published extensively. He regularly presents on natural resources topics to both technical and non-technical audiences.

▶ SELECTED PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Expert Witness/Technical Assistance

Millennium Pipeline Company, LLC -- Farm Yield Monitoring Evaluation, NY (2013)
Provided subject matter expert (SME) opinion and technical support to Millennium Pipeline on the evaluation of potential reasons for variations in yield monitoring results for a National Organic Program Certified Organic farm in New York. The post-construction monitoring was required by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. Potential sources of yield variability included soil fertility, soil physical characteristics, climate and weather, pre- and post-construction pipeline reclamation practices, and farm management practices. Factors potentially causing initial yield variations were examined in detail, and recommendations were made regarding continued monitoring, evaluation of field drainage, and management practices.

Fredrickson & Byron, P.A. Law Firm for Xcel Energy - CapX2020 Electric Power Transmission Project (MN) (2012)

Provided expert witness testimony and SME opinion to support appropriate compensation for a landowner in Sterns County MN under the State of Minnesota's "Buy the Farm" legislation for Xcel Energy's CapX2020 345 kV electric power transmission St. Cloud to Monticello project.



Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C. Law Firm for Confidential Client – Southern Access Stage 1 Pipeline Wisconsin (2012)

Provide SME and written testimony support to determine effects of pipeline construction on alleged reduction valuation of land in placed in the Wetland Reserve Program that was crossed by the pipelines in Jefferson County Wisconsin. The Southern Access Pipeline Project consisted of co-located installation of a 42-inch crude oil and a 20-in diluent pipeline from Superior Wisconsin to near Whitewater Wisconsin.

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission – Keystone XL Pipeline (2009)

Provide SME opinion, and written and verbal testimony to evaluate and resolve potential soils and agricultural issues associated with pipeline construction. Testimony addressed the suitability of the proposed Keystone XL crude oil pipeline South Dakota Agricultural Impact and Erosion Mitigation Plans. The Keystone XL Pipeline is a proposed 36-inch pipeline extending from Hardisty Alberta Canada, extending south to Steele City, Nebraska.

Confidential Client – Southern Access Stage 2 Project in Wisconsin (2005-2006)

Provide SME support to evaluate and resolve potential soils and agricultural issues associated with pipeline construction and reclamation. Train Agricultural Monitors in the use of field techniques developed to evaluate compaction and soil impacts to land productivity. Provide data to WI Department of Agriculture, Tourism, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) in support of their Wisconsin Agricultural Impact Statement. The Southern Access Stage 2 Project consists of a co-location of a 42-inch crude oil pipeline and a 20-inch diluent pipeline from near Whitewater, WI to near Flanagan, IL.

Hutchinson Utilities Commission – City of Hutchinson/Gislason Hunter, LLP Law Firm (2005).

Provide expert witness testimony and SME support to address alleged adverse impacts to soil quality, agricultural production, and land use valuation resulting from the construction of the Hutchinson Pipeline in support of condemnation hearings. Present direct and rebuttal testimony at condemnation hearings. The Hutchinson Pipeline consists of 16 and 2.75 inch natural gas pipelines constructed in Martin, Watonwan, Brown, Nicollet, Sibley, and McLeod counties, MN.

United States Department of Justice – Unauthorized Wetland Fill ND (2003)

United States v. David P. Burkel, Sr., Douglas Ackling and Duane Moench, Civ. Act. No. A3-00-165. Provide expert written testimony on the extent of historic and current wetlands on a section of land in North Dakota. Case involved review of historic aerial photographs, fieldwork on wetland delineation, forensic soils work, and development of a project GIS. Case involved unauthorized fill activities resulting from expansion of a turkey rearing facility in adjacent wetlands.

Electrical Power Transmission/Alternative Energy Permitting/Environmental Review/Mitigation Planning

Xcel Energy - Transmission Lines 0844 and 0861 Project (MN) (2011)

Project Manager responsible for performing wetland delineations and evaluating potential calcareous fen impacts associated with the rebuild of Xcel Energy's Transmission Lines 0844 and 0861 Project, including the installation and removal of 115 kV lines and structures east of Xcel Energy's



Black Dog Generating Station, Burnsville, Minnesota. Provided permitting, impact, and mitigation strategies under WCA, DNR, and COE 404 regulation.

Xcel Energy - Transmission Line 0478 Project (MN) (2011-2012)

Project Manager responsible for the wetland delineation and WCA, Section 404, and MDNR Protected Waters permitting for Xcel Energy's 69 kV Transmission Line 0478 Project, Brownston Minnesota. Prepared Joint Application, coordinated with WCA, Corps, and MDNR representatives, and secured all required wetland and water body permits.

National Wind, Haxtun Wind Energy Project, Haxtun Colorado (2010-2011)

Lead author for applicant-prepared EA for National Wind's Haxtun Wind Energy Project (30 MW wind farm), Logan and Phillips Counties, Colorado. EA prepared in collaboration with the Department of Energy and Western Area Power Administration. FONSI issued January 2012.

Xcell CAPX 2020 Project - MN Agricultural Mitigation Plan (2010-2011) St. Cloud to Monticello

Review, edit Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan and provide Agricultural Inspector oversight to lead consultant for CapX2020 Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan for the St. Cloud to Monticello 28 mile long, 345 kV project. Involvement at the request of Bob Patton, Supervisor, Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Stillwater Photovoltaic Solar Project Churchill NV - Enel Green Power North America (2011)

Lead for developing a digital assessment and quantification of the impacts of reflected sunlight on potentially sensitive receptors (residences, commercial businesses, and state and county roads). The presence, magnitude, duration, and timing of reflected sunlight on sensitive receptors was determined with Ecotect™ software that specifically models sunlight reflections from reflective surfaces such a photovoltaic panels.

Vaughn Wind Project Guadalupe and Torrance Counties, New Mexico- First Wind, Inc. (2010)

Lead for preparing a scoping assessment of sinkhole and karst hazards, with recommendations. Field and geological data were used to identify potential karst formations. An evaluation of the environmental and cultural settings were used to propose avoidance measures.

Gas and Crude Oil Pipeline Permitting/Construction (Permitting/Environmental Review/Mitigation Planning)

Confidential Clients -

Southern Markets Pipeline Project (GA, AL, FL) (2015)

ExxonMobil Alaska Midstream Gas Investments, LLC - Alaska Pipeline Project (2011-2012)

Advantage Pipeline (ND) (2012)

Alliance Pipeline (ND, MN, IA, IL) (1996-1997)

Lead responsible for preparation of FERC Section 7(c) Resource Report 7 (Soils) pre-application filings. The Vantage Pipeline used FERC pre-filing procedures to prepare the EA required under the Presidential Permit.



Confidential Client - Flanagan South Pipeline Project (IL, MO, KS, OK) (2012-2013)

Responsible for updating the IL Agricultural Mitigation Plan, and Enbridge's Environmental Construction Plan for the project (included reclamation plan, SWPPPs, and spill plans). Provide oversight and assist in preparation of wetland delineation reports, several project permits (CWS Section 404) and Environmental Review. Task manager for Section 7 assessment of potential impacts to the American Burying Beetle in KS and OK, and the Indiana Bat in Missouri and Illinois. Led several Environmental Inspector (EI) training sessions on erosion control BMPs and agricultural impact mitigation plan compliance.

ExxonMobil Alaska Midstream Gas Investments, LLC - Alaska Pipeline Project (2011-2012)

Lead responsible for preparation of FERC Section 7(c) Resource Report 7 (Soils) pre-application filings for the proposed Alaska Gas Pipeline Project, with an emphasis on permafrost soil limitations for pipeline construction. Worked extensively with Worley Parsons Inc. arctic engineers to incorporate engineering limitations assessment into RR 7.

Minnesota Pipe Line - MinnCan Pipeline Project (MN) (2006-2008)

Responsible for preparation of Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan and grower-specific Organic Farm Crossing Plans, managing field wetland delineation efforts, and securing CWA Section 404 and MN State wetland permits. Lead Environmental Inspector supervising pipeline construction through 5 Certified Organic farms in Minnesota. Develop and lead Environmental Inspector training sessions for erosion control BMP implementation and Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan compliance.

Confidential Client - Alberta Clipper/Southern Lights Diluent project (MN, WI, IL) (2008-2010)

Lead for preparation of Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plans and Organic Farm Crossing Plans. Lead for drafting CWA Section 404 Individual Permit, QAQC review of over 1000 wetland delineations.

Confidential Client - Southern Access (Stage 2) Pipeline Projects (MN, WI, IL) (2007-2008)

Assist with preparation of Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plans and Organic Farm Crossing Plans, CWA Section 404 Individual Permit, QAQC review wetland delineations. Responsible for drafting Fen Management Plan required to authorize construction through the State-protected Gully 30 Calcareous Fen.

Confidential Client - Southern Access (Stage 1) Project (WI) (2006-2007)

Developed field testing methods and training materials for Agricultural Inspectors to assess soil texture, soil moisture content, and soil compaction in construction rights-of-way. Train Environmental Inspectors in Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan compliance. Prepare documentation for WI DATCP Agricultural Impact Statement, Principal author of Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan.



Multiple Pipeline Projects (1996 – 2015)

Technical Manager and Lead for use of NRCS digital soils products (STATSGO, SSURGO) to identify soil limitations (including preparation of Resource Report 7) for pipeline construction along proposed construction rights of way, Alaska, Louisiana, Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois for various projects.

SRF Consulting Group for Minnesota Department of Transportation – (2004-2006)

Lead responsible for determination of impacts of proposed TH41 road construction on the ecology, soils, and hydrology of the Seminary Calcareous Fen, a high quality fen in the Minnesota River Valley, Carver County (MNDOT). Included detailed coordination with MDNR and St. Paul District COE.

▶ **EDUCATION**

- Ph.D./Soil Science (Geochemistry)/North Dakota State University, 1995
- M.S./Soil Science (Geology. Chemistry)/North Dakota State University, 1987
- B.S./Soil Science (Natural Resource Management)/University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, 1980
- B.A./Psychology, Anthropology, English/University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, 1976

▶ **CERTIFICATIONS**

- Licensed Professional Soil Scientist, Minnesota #30684
- Licensed Professional Soil Scientist, Wisconsin #112
- Professional Soil Classifier, North Dakota #64
- Certified Professional Soil Scientist, ARCPACS, #24904
- Certified Wetland Delineator, Minnesota #1250
- Professional Wetland Scientist, Society of Wetland Scientists, #2420

▶ **PUBLICATIONS**

Over 40 publications and 22 invited presentations in the following areas:

- GIS, Database, Integrated Natural Resources Information Management, and Regulatory Compliance Strategies
 - Hydric Soils, Hydrology, and General Soil Science
- Soil and Water Biogeochemistry



Missouri Agricultural Impact Mitigation Protocol

for the construction of the

GRAIN BELT EXPRESS
CLEAN LINE

June 2016

CLEAN LINE
ENERGY PARTNERS



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Introduction

Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC ("Clean Line" or the "Company") will enact the following standards and policies as it constructs the Grain Belt Express Clean Line Project (the "Grain Belt Express" or "Project"), an approximately ± 600 kV High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) transmission line and related facilities, on agricultural land in Missouri. The standards and policies in this Missouri Agricultural Impact Mitigation Protocol ("Missouri Ag Protocol", "Protocol" or "AIMP") will serve to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate negative agricultural impacts that may result due to transmission line and converter facilities construction and operation.

The AIMP shall remain valid for the entire construction period of the Project. The AIMP will also apply to future operation and maintenance actions needed for the Project. After the Project commences operations, Clean Line will revise and update the AIMP to reflect the most current standards, policies, and best practices for electric transmission line operational activities in agricultural lands.

The below prescribed construction standards and policies only apply to Project activities occurring partially or wholly on privately owned agricultural land. They do not apply to the construction activities occurring on highway or railroad rights-of-way, on other publicly owned land, or on land owned in fee by Clean Line.

The mitigative actions specified in the construction and operation standards set forth in this Protocol will be implemented in accordance with the conditions listed below.

Definitions

AC – Alternating Current

Agricultural Land - Land used for cropland, hayland, pasture land, managed woodlands, truck gardens, farmsteads, commercial ag-related facilities, feedlots, livestock confinement systems, land on which farm buildings are located, and land in government set-aside programs.

Agricultural Inspector (AI) – A special construction inspector employed by Clean Line Energy to ensure that construction in agricultural land performed by or on behalf of Clean Line Energy complies with the conditions of this Plan. The AI will typically have an agricultural background and has received specific training on the implementation of the Plan.

Clean Line or Company - References to Clean Line or the Company shall refer to Clean Line Energy Partners LLC, Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC, (Clean Line), and any contractor or sub-contractor in the employ of Clean Line for the purpose of completing the Grain Belt Express Clean Line Project or any mitigative actions contained herein.

Compaction – The process where soil loses tilth and porosity as a result of the application of an external load. Compacted soils typically have high physical density, low water infiltration and percolation rates, and may have poor plant root penetration. Compaction can occur at both the soil surface and subsurface. Compare to Rutting.

Completion of Construction - The point in construction when all physical equipment has been installed and inspected for the complete Missouri portion of the Project.

Cropland - Land used for growing row crops and small grains, or hay.

DC – Direct Current

Electric Line - Includes the electric transmission line and its related appurtenances.

Landowner - Person(s) holding legal title to property from whom the Company is seeking, or has obtained, a temporary or permanent easement, or any person(s) legally authorized by a Landowner to make decisions regarding the mitigation or restoration of agricultural impacts to such Landowner's property.

Protocol - This Agricultural Impact Mitigation Protocol (AIMP or Protocol), pertaining to the construction and operation/maintenance of the Grain Belt Express Clean Line HVDC line and related converter facilities located in Missouri.

Project - means the Grain Belt Express Clean Line HVDC transmission line and related facilities to be constructed, owned, and operated/maintained by Clean Line.

Right-of-way (ROW) - Includes the permanent and temporary easements that Clean Line acquires for the purpose of constructing and operating the Project.

Rutting – Soil rutting typically occurs at the soil surface and is caused by plastic and fluid movement of soils when subjected to an external load. The affected soils lose all soil structure and the resulting movement can mix the soil surface with the subsurface under extreme conditions.

Tenant - refers to the person(s) primarily responsible for working or managing the Agricultural Land, if not the Landowner.

Topsoil - The uppermost layer of the soil that has the darkest color or the highest content of organic matter, more specifically defined as the "A" horizon.

Mitigative Action Conditions

- A. All Clean Line employees and representatives of the Project engaged in coordination with landowners regarding agricultural issues will be trained in the implementation of actions and the specific policies described herein.

- B. All mitigative actions are subject to modification through negotiation by Landowners and a representative of Clean Line. Certain policies require Clean Line to consult with the Landowner and/or Tenant of a property
- C. Clean Line will engage in good faith efforts to consult with both Landowners and Tenants of a given property in accordance with the terms of this Protocol.
- D. For all actions described herein, Clean Line may negotiate with Landowners for Landowners to carry out certain mitigative actions that Landowners wish to perform themselves.
- E. Unless otherwise specified, Clean Line will, as practicable, complete the mitigative actions contemplated by these policies within 45 days of the Completion of Construction of the Electric Line, weather and Landowner permitting. Temporary repairs to agricultural drainage systems, conservation measures, or other necessary infrastructure will be made as needed by Clean Line during the construction process to minimize the risk of additional property impact. If weather delays construction or completion of any mitigative action, Clean Line will provide the Landowner with an estimate of the time needed for completion of the mitigative action.
- F. All mitigative actions pursuant to these policies will extend to associated future construction, maintenance, and repairs by Clean Line.
- G. In addition to notifying Landowners of mitigation actions, Clean Line will use good faith efforts to identify all affected Tenants along the route of the proposed transmission line. Clean Line will endeavor to keep Tenants informed of the Project's status and other factors that may have an impact upon their farming operations.
- H. Clean Line agrees to include this Plan as part of its submission to the Missouri Public Service Commission.
- I. Clean Line will implement the mitigative actions contained in these policies to the extent that they do not conflict with the requirements of any applicable federal, state, or local laws, rules, regulations, or other permits and approvals that must be obtained by Clean Line for the Project.
- J. To the extent a mitigative action provided in this Plan is determined to be unenforceable in the future due to requirements of other permits issued for the Project, Clean Line will so inform the Landowner and/or Tenant and will work with them to develop a reasonable alternative. In addition, no other provision herein shall be affected by the unenforceable provision, and the remainder of the Protocol shall be interpreted as if it did not contain the unenforceable provision.
- K. Clean Line will incorporate by reference the terms of this Protocol in easement agreements executed with Landowners on Agricultural Land. However, in the event of a conflict between this the conditions of this Protocol and an easement agreement, the easement agreement will control.

Construction Standards and Policies

1. Landowner/Tenant Coordination

Prior to construction, Clean Line will coordinate with the Landowner and Tenant to identify the types of crops grown or livestock raised on the property, as well as identification and location of any agricultural infrastructure that may be located on the property and be potentially impacted by the Project (e.g., water wells, irrigation equipment, drainage systems, access roads/turn roads, equipment staging pads, etc.)

2. Advance Notice of Access to Private Property

Except in the event of an emergency, Clean Line will provide the Landowner with a minimum of 24 hours prior notice before accessing his/her property for the first time for the purposes of constructing, modifying or repairing the Electric Line.

Prior notice shall first consist of a personal contact or a telephone contact, whereby the Landowner is actually informed of Clean Line's intent to access the Landowner's land. If the Landowner cannot be reached in person or by telephone, Clean Line will mail or hand deliver to the Landowner's home a written notice of Clean Line's intent.

3. Reporting of Inferior Agricultural Impact Mitigation Work

Prior to construction of the Electric Line, Clean Line will provide the Landowner with a phone number and address to contact Clean Line should the Landowner observe inferior work relating to the agricultural impact mitigation work that is performed on the Landowner's property. Clean Line will respond to Landowner and Tenant telephone calls and correspondence within three business days.

In addition, Clean Line will provide the Landowner with the phone number and contact information for an Agricultural Inspector as discussed in Section 14 of this Protocol.

4. Support Structure Type and Placement

- A. The use of guy wires on Croplands will be avoided to the extent practicable. If guy wires are required, they will be marked with highly visible guards. A concerted effort will be made to place guy wires and their anchors out of Croplands, placing them instead along existing division lines (e.g., property lines, section, quarter, and half section lines, field edges, and/or fence lines) and on land not used for Croplands.
- B. Clean Line will discuss structure placement issues with Landowners. To the extent reasonably practicable, support structures will be spaced in such a manner as to minimize their interference with Cropland.
- C. Clean Line will provide the Global Positioning System ("GPS") coordinates of the Project support structure locations, including guy wire anchors, to all Landowners or Tenants.

5. Above Ground Facilities

- A. Permanent above ground facilities in Cropland will be limited to support structures, conductors, communication lines, guy wires, and anchors.
- B. Temporary access roads, if needed, will be designed so as to not impede proper surface and subsurface drainage and will be built to accommodate mitigation measures for soil erosion, other conservation measures, and subsurface tile drainage. Upon abandonment, temporary roads may be left intact through mutual agreement of the Landowner and Clean Line unless otherwise restricted by federal, state, or local regulations.
- C. Permanent access roads, if needed, will be designed so as to not impede proper drainage and will be built to accommodate mitigation measures for soil erosion.
- D. Pull pads, construction pads, and tower pads will be needed on a temporary basis during construction. Pad sites will be designed so as to not impede proper drainage and will be built to mitigate soil erosion on or near the pad site locations. Pad sites will be sited in locations that avoid and/or minimize disturbance impacts to land and the farming operation, to the extent practicable.

6. Drainage Tile

- A. Prior to Construction activities, Clean Line will send out letters to Landowners inquiring about the location of pre-existing drainage improvements (e.g., ditches, culverts, tiles, levees, or terraces) in areas where the Project facilities are planned. Clean Line will also request that Landowners coordinate with any Tenants that may also have information related to the request.
- B. If Clean Line is advised of possible interference with drainage improvements, Clean Line will make good faith efforts to relocate Project facilities to the extent practicable, to avoid and/or minimize drainage interference.
- C. If adverse effects to drainage improvement(s) are unavoidable, Clean Line will relocate or reconfigure the drainage improvement to the extent practicable and pursuant to an agreement between the Landowner and Clean Line. If drainage improvements are damaged as a result of construction and repair is necessary, Clean Line shall reference any available county Soil and Water Conservation District specifications to aid in the repair. Drainage improvements will be repaired with materials of at least the same quality and to an operating condition similar to or better than that which was damaged.
- D. Clean Line will complete all temporary repairs of drainage tiles within a reasonable time following the identification of an impacted tile. Unless otherwise agreed to by the Landowner, all permanent repairs will be performed within 45 days following final construction reclamation of the Project, weather permitting.
- E. Affected Landowners may elect to negotiate a fair settlement with Clean Line for the Landowner or Tenant to undertake the responsibility for repair, relocation, or

reconfiguration of the damaged drainage feature; however, in these cases Clean Line will not be responsible for correcting repairs after completion of the Electric Line.

7. Irrigation Systems

- A. If the Project facilities intersect an operational center pivot or spray irrigation system, Clean Line will communicate with the Landowner or Tenant on the anticipated duration of construction and the amount of time the irrigation system may be out of service.
- B. If, as a result of construction activities, an irrigation system interruption results in crop damages, either on the right-of-way or off the right-of-way, Landowners and/or Tenants (as appropriate) will be compensated.
- C. Clean Line will work with Landowners and/or Tenants to minimize any permanent impacts to irrigation systems and will negotiate appropriate compensation for any permanent impacts in the easement agreements.

8. Restoration of Soils of Compaction and Rutting

- A. Clean Line will attempt to avoid and minimize the potential for compaction or rutting to occur as a result of construction and operation activities. Avoidance and minimization mechanisms for compaction may include, but are not limited to, defining travel corridors to reduce the area traversed by equipment, restricting construction equipment to timber mats, requiring the use of low psi tire or tracked equipment, and limiting construction during wet weather.
- B. Clean Line will restore rutted and compacted land to as near as practicable to its pre-construction condition. For example, soil remediation efforts for compaction may include decompaction or deep tillage as necessary. Depending on the severity, rutted land may require recontouring, liming, tillage, fertilization, or use of other soil amendments.
- C. Unless the Landowner opts to do the restoration work, or specifies other arrangements that are acceptable to Clean Line, the following remediation techniques will be performed on lands directly affected by compaction:
 - (1) Clean Line will decompact soil to a depth of 18 inches any Cropland that has been compacted by construction equipment used for the construction or maintenance of the Project, and
 - (2) Clean Line will chisel to a depth of 12 inches any pasture or hayland that has been compacted by construction equipment used by Clean Line for the construction or maintenance of the Project.
- D. Clean Line will repair or pay to have repaired any compaction or rutting within 45 days, weather and Landowner permitting, of the Completion of Construction.

9. Fertilization and/or Seeding of Disturbed Soil

- A. If desired by the Landowner, within 45 days of Completion of Construction of the Electric Line, weather and Landowner permitting, Clean Line will agree to apply fertilizer and lime to Cropland that has been disturbed by construction and maintenance of the Electric Line in order to help restore fertility to disturbed soils and to promote establishment of vegetative cover. Clean Line will apply the fertilizer at a rate established by the local NRCS, FSA, or Agriculture Extension office, unless the Landowner specifies other arrangements that are acceptable to Clean Line.
- B. If necessary to reduce erosion in cultivated crop lands or to reclaim managed hay or pasture lands, Clean Line will reseed disturbed lands with an appropriate cover crop. Clean Line will coordinate with the landowner as well as the local NRCS office to determine the appropriate seed mixtures.
- C. The Company will reimburse Landowner, on a timely basis, for all agricultural production inputs (i.e., fertilizers of all types and kind) needed to restore crop productivity to the right-of-way, temporary work space(s), or any other portion(s) of Landowner's property where diminished crop yields are directly attributable to the Company's construction, repair, maintenance, and inspection activities. The Landowner must reasonably demonstrate diminished crop yields resulting from the above activities.
- D. If the Landowner chooses to apply fertilizer, manure, and/or lime, the cost of those inputs will be included in the damages paid to the Landowner.
- E. The Company shall make available to the Landowner the name and contact information of a person acting on behalf of the Company with whom the Landowner can communicate information with regard to diminished crop yields, and need for reimbursement of cost of agricultural inputs. That person will have a background related to soil productivity and crop production.

10. Repair of Damaged Soil Conservation Practices

- A. Clean Line will repair any damage to soil conservation practices (e.g. terraces, grassed waterways, etc.), that is caused by construction of the Electric Line.
- B. If Clean Line is responsible for repairing any damage to soil conservation practices, the repairs will be made in accordance with county Soil and Water Conservation District practices, consistent with existing farm plans, and any other local, state, or federal requirements, as applicable.
- C. Clean Line will repair or pay to have repaired any damage to soil conservation practices within 45 days, weather and Landowner permitting, of the Completion of Construction of the Electric Line.

11. Preventing Erosion

- A. Clean Line will work with Landowners to prevent or correct excessive erosion on all lands disturbed by construction by implementing reasonable methods to control erosion. Clean Line will follow the recommendations of the county Soil and Water Conservation District and any other required permit conditions.

- B. Clean Line will use all reasonable efforts to ensure that erosion control measures are implemented within 45 days, weather and Landowner permitting, of the Completion of Construction of the Electric Line.
- C. For soil disturbance activities during construction or operations that would require a permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, Clean Line will incorporate Best Management Practices as identified in a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.

12. Removal of Construction Debris

As agreed to by the Landowner and Clean Line, Clean Line will remove any construction debris from Landowner's property within 45 days, weather and Landowner permitting, of the Completion of Construction of the Electric Line. Litter generated by construction crews will be removed daily.

13. Damage to Private Property

If construction or related activities for the Grain Belt Express Clean Line damage any private property, Clean Line will use commercially reasonable efforts to repair any such damaged private property within 45 days, weather and Landowner permitting, of the Completion of Construction of the Electric Line. If the Landowner is paid to perform the repair work, Clean Line will pay the ongoing commercial rate for that work.

14. Agricultural Inspector(s)

- A. Clean Line will employ one or more Agricultural Inspector(s) for the Project to verify Clean Line's compliance with the provisions of this Protocol. The Agricultural Inspector will work collaboratively with any other Clean Line representatives in achieving compliance with this Plan. The Agricultural Inspector(s) will be directly available to Landowners and Tenants to address their concerns, after construction is underway.
- B. The Agricultural Inspector(s) will have the authority to stop construction activities that are determined to be out of compliance with this Protocol.
- C. Clean Line will document instances of noncompliance and work with construction personnel to identify and implement appropriate corrective actions as needed.
- D. Clean Line will train construction personnel and the Agricultural Inspector on the provisions of this Protocol, company plans and procedures, the Project construction sequences and processes, and provide field training on specific topics as needed.

- E. Clean Line will employ an Agricultural Inspector with a professional background in production agriculture, soil and water conservation, and general farm operations or practices.

15. Topsoil Segregation

In locations where construction activities will include excavating or removing soil, such as for structure foundations, Clean Line will segregate the topsoil layer from the subsoil and maintain separate spoil piles within designated areas of the construction workspace. Upon completion of construction activities, subsoil and topsoil will be replaced in the reverse order removed. Topsoil will be replaced to the approximate locations from which it was removed. After backfilling is completed, the topsoil would be levelled and graded to match pre-construction contours. Some temporary mounding may be necessary to account for settling.

16. Soil and Rock Removal from Support Structure Holes/Foundations

Excess soil material and possibly rocks may be generated from the area displaced by grading or the excavation associated with foundations for the support structures. Clean Line will consult with the Landowner as to the disposition of any excess soil material or spoils generated from foundation construction and will remove the same if necessary.

If Clean Line is to remove excess soil materials or spoils or rocks, Clean Line will do so within 45 days following Completion of Construction of the Electric Line, weather and Landowner permitting.

17. Clearing of Trees and Brush from the Easement

- A. If trees are to be removed from privately owned land, Clean Line will conduct an appraisal of the trees to determine if they have commercial value.
- B. If there are trees of commercial value, Clean Line will allow the Landowner the right to retain ownership of the trees with the disposition of the trees to be negotiated at least thirty (30) days prior to the commencement of land clearing, if it is determined by the parties that the trees can be removed safely.
- C. The Landowner will be compensated for trees of commercial value based on the most current timber market rates based on the age and type of the timber that will be removed.
- D. Clean Line's intent is to chip or mulch trees and brush not of commercial value; however, it will follow the Landowner's desires, if reasonable and legally permitted, regarding the disposition of trees and brush of no commercial value to the Landowner by windrowing, burial, chipping/mulching or removal from any affected property.

18. Organic Farms

Clean Line will send letters to all Landowners and Tenants prior to construction inquiring about the presence of organic farm production methods. When notified by Landowners of

organic farm production and when preferred by the Landowner, Clean Line will avoid use of treated wood for construction matting and avoid herbicide and fertilizer application.

Clean Line will coordinate with the owners of any organic farms crossed by the Project regarding the specific certifications of that farm. Clean Line will work with the organic farmer to develop an Organic Farm Site Plan for the individual farm crossing. The Plan will identify specific certifications or accreditations, and the process by which reclamation will occur on the property to ensure no loss of certifications or accreditations.

19. Indemnification

The Company will indemnify all Landowners and Tenants of Agricultural Land upon which such Electric Line is installed, their heirs, successors, legal representatives, and assigns (collectively "Indemnitees"), from and against all claims by third parties and losses incurred thereby, and reasonable expenses, resulting from or arising out of personal injury, death, injury to property, or other damages or liabilities of any sort related to the design, construction, maintenance, removal, repair, use or existence of such Electric Line, including damages caused by such Electric Line or any of its appurtenances, except where claims, injuries, suits, damages, costs, losses, and expenses are caused by the negligence or intentional acts, or willful omissions of such Indemnitees provided further that such Indemnitees shall tender any such claim as soon as possible upon receipt of notice thereof to the Company.

20. Gates

Construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project may require temporary and permanent gates be installed and maintained where the ROW intersects existing fences. Unless otherwise requested by the landowner, temporary gates will be removed following construction. Permanent gates, as needed, will be constructed and maintained to protect against the escape of livestock. The Company will coordinate with the landowner on the type of livestock that are found on the property, and ensure gates are adequately constructed with the appropriate materials.

During construction and operation ingress/egress, the Project will ensure all gates, including existing off-ROW gates used for access, are left as found. Gates that are found to be closed upon approach, will be immediately closed following entry. Gates that are found open upon approach, will be left open.

21. Communication Circuits

In instances where the Landowner's communication circuits are diminished due to the location of the transmission structures, Clean Line will seek to relocate satellite dishes or similar Landowner communication equipment, at Clean Line's expense, if such relocation would reasonably improve performance of the equipment. If interference should develop between Clean Line's new facilities and a landowner's communication circuits that impair performance of the circuits, Clean Line will seek to eliminate such interference at its own expense within 45 days of receiving a verbal or written notice from the affected Landowner.

22. Agricultural and Conservation Programs

If any impacts associated with the Project cause the landowner's property to be unenrolled from an agricultural land conservation program (e.g., Conservation Reserve Program, CRP), Clean Line will compensate the landowner from lost revenue resulting from removal of the land from the conservation program. Compensation will be based on the previous payments being made to the Landowner by the conservation program administrator.



**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 practicable.

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 practicable, 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 practicable 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.

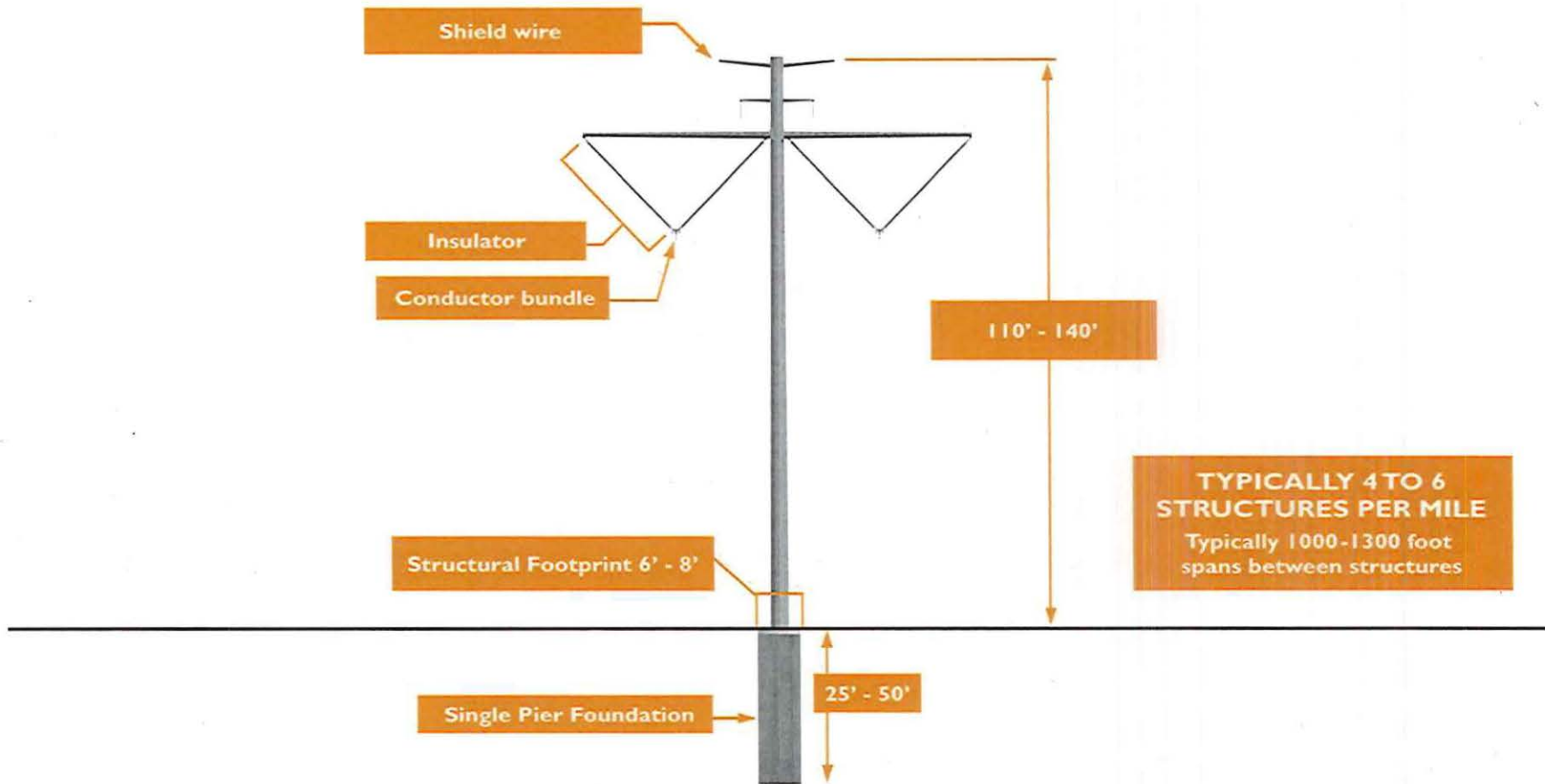
Aerial Application

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

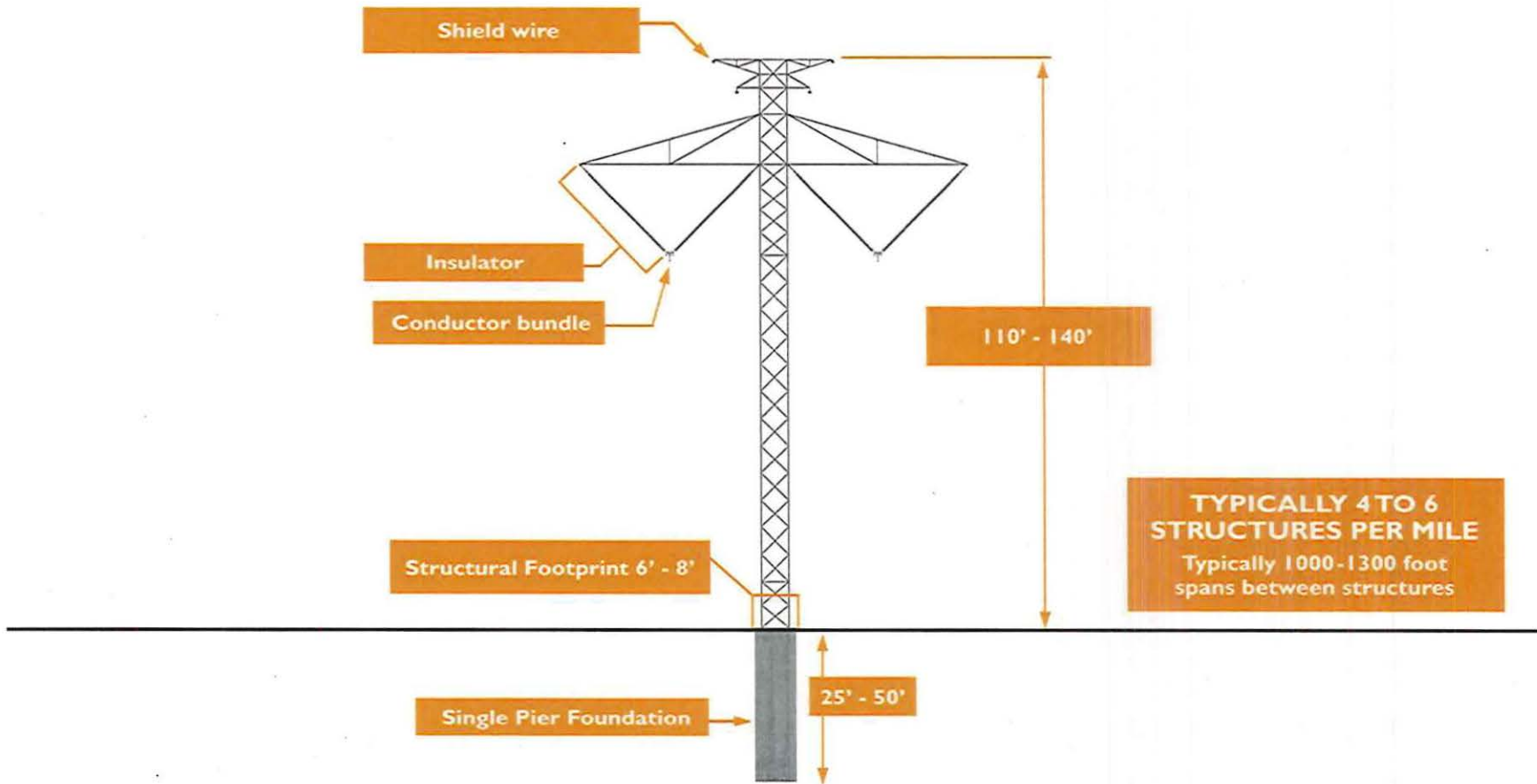
Clean Line has developed this Agriculture Impact Mitigation Policy to outline principles for minimizing impacts to agricultural lands. This document is not meant to satisfy the requirements of a state regulated Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA), nor does it identify the detailed mitigation 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.

TYPICAL MONOPOLE STRUCTURE: 110 - 140 FEET



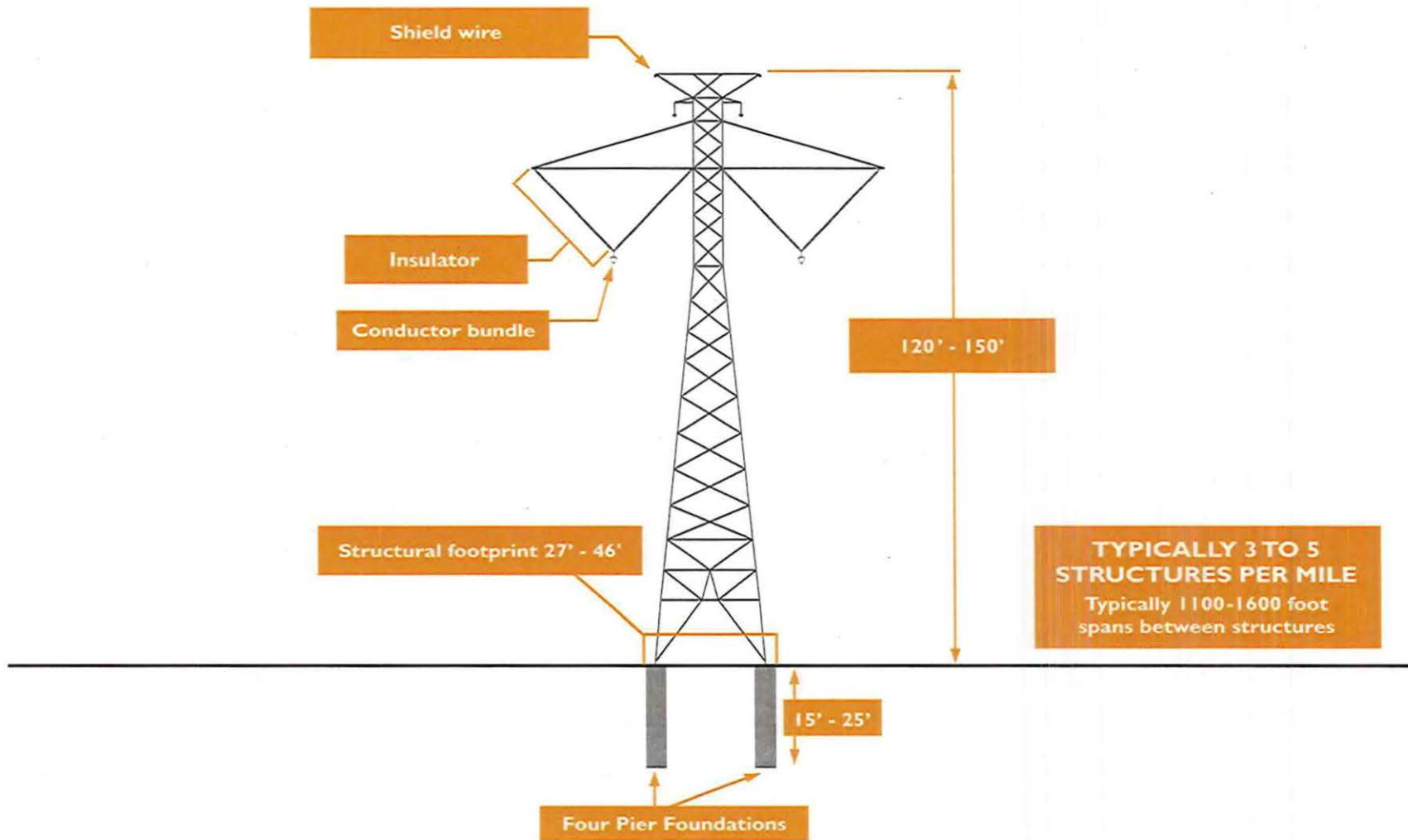
Schedule JLA-4a. Average specifications for a typical steel monopole structure. The average foundation footprint for a typical steel monopole transmission structure is 7 feet in diameter and is roughly circular, resulting in a direct conversion of approximately 39 square feet or .0009 acres of cropland per structure.

TYPICAL LATTICE MAST STRUCTURE: 110 - 140 FEET

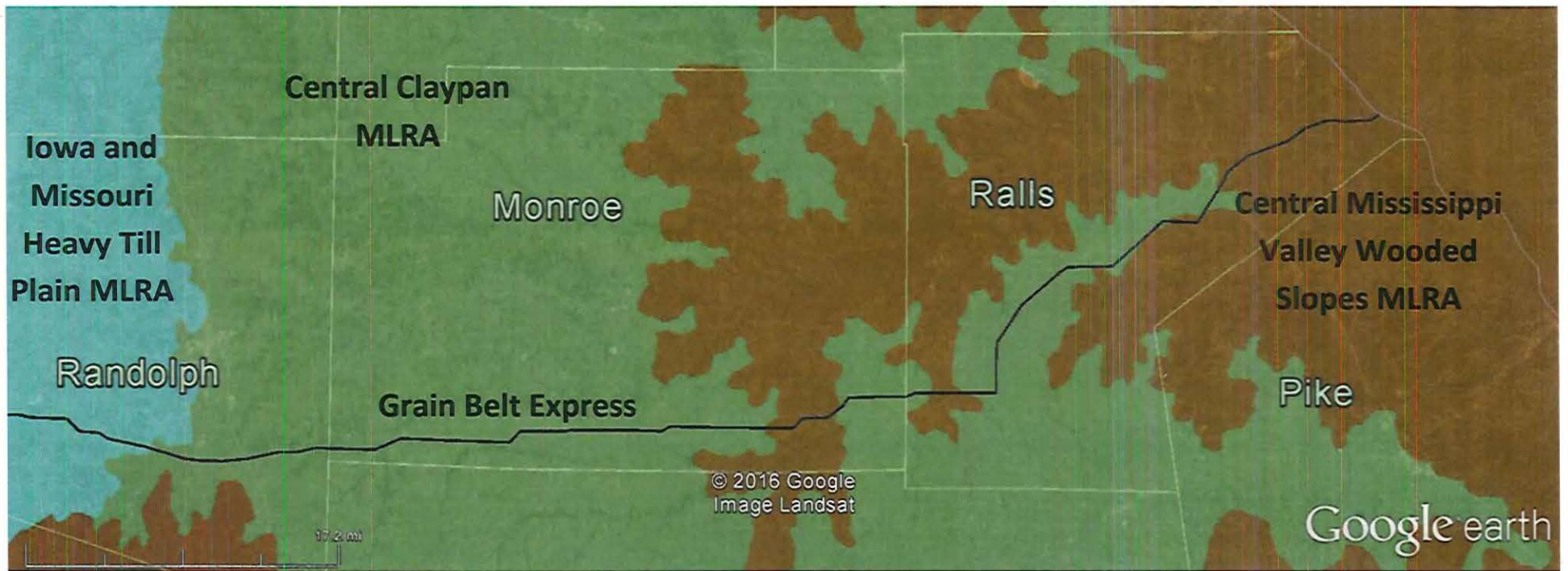


Schedule JLA-4b. Average specifications for a typical steel lattice mast structure. The average foundation footprint for a typical steel monopole transmission structure is 7 feet in diameter and is roughly circular, resulting in a direct conversion of approximately 39 square feet or .0009 acres of cropland per structure.

TYPICAL LATTICE STRUCTURE: 120 - 150 FEET



Schedule JLA-4c. Average specifications for a typical steel lattice transmission structure. The average foundation footprint for a typical steel lattice transmission structure is 28 feet on a side and is roughly square, resulting in a direct conversion of approximately 784 square feet or .018 acres of cropland per structure.



Schedule JLA-5. The Grain Belt Express Project crosses approximately 57 miles of the Central Claypan Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) in Randolph, Monroe, and Ralls counties, Missouri. Agricultural drainage consisting of surface ditches and subsurface tiles are common in this area.