

Exhibit No. 122
Issues: Pre-Construction, Construction, and
Post-Construction Process
Witness: Thomas F. Shiflett
Type: Surrebuttal Testimony
Sponsoring Party: Grain Belt Express
Clean Line LLC
Case No.: EA-2016-0358
Date of Testimony: February 21, 2017

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE NO. EA-2016-0358

SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF

THOMAS F. SHIFLETT

ON BEHALF OF

GRAIN BELT EXPRESS CLEAN LINE LLC

GB Exhibit No. 122
Date 3-21-17 Reporter KB
File No. EA-2016-0358

February 21, 2017

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1 to several weeks. However, while the helicopter lift¹ was given as a restoration option, I
2 do not anticipate utilizing this approach. The right-of-way for the Missouri portion of the
3 Grain Belt Express Line at no point merits the use of heavy-lift helicopters because the
4 terrain is not that difficult. I am not aware of any utility that has utilized heavy-lift
5 helicopters in this portion of Missouri, for either routine construction or emergency
6 repairs to any high-voltage transmission line.

7 **Q. The Draft Restoration Plan lists several potential helicopter contractors that may be**
8 **used during a restoration event. Are these or similar vendors capable of providing**
9 **equipment in Missouri or the surrounding region quickly enough to support**
10 **transmission line restoration efforts for the Grain Belt Express Project?**

11 A. Yes. As stated above, the smaller helicopters used in the initial assessment can be
12 procured from the vendors listed in the Draft Restoration Plan or from local vendors in
13 Kansas City, St. Joseph, or St. Louis on short notice. I am speaking of hours rather than
14 days. As for the heavy-lift helicopters, I do not anticipate utilizing this option.

15 **Q. If lead times for certain types of equipment may vary from hours to a couple of**
16 **days, why would this not hamper the restoration effort?**

17 A. The most time-sensitive aspect of restoration is securing the area to protect public safety.
18 Securing the area can be achieved without needing to wait for heavy equipment, and thus
19 lead times associated with securing this equipment do not hamper this effort. Once the
20 area is secured, work can begin on putting facilities back in operation. For high-voltage
21 transmission lines, it is typical for renewed operation, even utilizing temporary structures,
22 to take several days. For this reason, the entities responsible for ensuring reliability of the

¹ See page 10 of Schedule TSF-5 to my direct testimony.

1 electric system, including Regional Transmission Organizations (“RTO”) and utilities,
2 plan both the transmission system and their generation mix such that the loss of a facility
3 or facilities will not threaten overall reliability of the electric system. These planning
4 requirements are codified in North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”)
5 standards and can be supplemented by individual utility practice.

6 **Q. In your experience, is it necessary for a transmission project to have executed**
7 **contracts with third-party equipment suppliers for support during a restoration**
8 **event, prior to that transmission project receiving regulatory approval or doing**
9 **final engineering?**

10 A. No. Given the lack of certainty prior to regulatory approval or final engineering, third-
11 party equipment suppliers would not execute contracts to provide service for a project
12 that has not achieved those two milestones. Staff witness Mr. Lange, in his response to
13 Grain Belt Express Data Request 10 to Staff, confirms this by stating: “Staff is not aware
14 of a transmission project that had ‘contracts for spare parts or other restoration equipment
15 that had been executed and were in existence for a transmission line that had yet to
16 receive its CCN or achieve its final engineering and design.’”

17 **III. MANPOWER**

18 **Q. What is the availability of skilled, experienced workers capable of restoring high-**
19 **voltage transmission lines in an emergency situation?**

20 A. Two of the largest high-voltage transmission contractors in the United States, PAR
21 Electrical Contractors and Capital Line Builders, maintain their headquarters in the
22 Kansas City area. Both firms currently provide the majority of high-voltage transmission
23 restoration for the electric utilities operating in the area of the proposed Grain Belt

1 Express Project. Further, at any given time, additional high-voltage contractors are
2 actively pursuing transmission projects in this area.

3 There are over 5,000 Skilled Journeyman Linemen who work out of the Missouri
4 IBEW Local Unions and those of adjacent states from whom these contractors would
5 draw their labor resources.

6 **Q. Are these workers capable of restoring high-voltage direct current transmission**
7 **lines like the Grain Belt Express?**

8 A. Yes. When I use the term Journeyman Linemen, I am referring to individuals who have
9 successfully completed the rigorous 4-year IBEW/NECA Joint Apprenticeship Training
10 Program for Outside Electrical Workers. These individuals are fully qualified to perform
11 all repairs on high-voltage direct current transmission lines.

12 **IV. MATERIALS**

13 **Q. In your experience, is it necessary for a transmission project to have specific**
14 **inventories and storage locations for spares or other restoration materials prior to**
15 **regulatory approval or final engineering?**

16 A. No, as is the case with contracts with third-party equipment suppliers, identifying specific
17 inventories and storage locations would come after regulatory approval and final
18 engineering.

19 **Q. Does it conclude your testimony?**

20 A. Yes.

21

