

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

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

Case No. EA-2016-0358

**RECOMMENDATION OF GRAIN BELT EXPRESS CLEAN LINE LLC
ON LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC (“Grain Belt Express” or “Company”) provides the following recommendations regarding the scheduling and venue of local public hearings in this case.

1. Grain Belt Express recommends that four local public hearings be scheduled by the Commission. The proposed route of the Project, which includes several revisions as a result of landowner input provided during and since the prior case (No. EA-2014-0207), still involves the eight counties in which local public hearings were conducted in that proceeding. Because the Commission can take official notice of the testimony provided at the 2014 local public hearings,¹ the Company believes that conducting four hearings in this case will permit members of the public with ample opportunities to provide their opinions to the Commission regarding the Grain Belt Express Project.

¹ Section 536.070(6), Mo. Rev. Stat. (2000), as amended, states: “Agencies shall take official notice of all matters of which the courts take judicial notice.” “Courts may take judicial notice of their own records in prior proceedings which are between the same parties and are concerned with the same basic facts involving the same general claims for relief.” In re C.M.W., 813 S.W.2d 331, 333 (Mo. App. W.D. 1991).

2. Grain Belt Express recommends that the Commission conduct local public hearings at the following venues, each of which allows for convenient access by landowners and other members of the public interested in participating in a hearing:

(a) Cameron Community Center in Cameron (Clinton County) -- available during the day and evening of December 5, 6, 7 and 8, and the week of December 12 through 16, 2016;

(b) Rupe Center in Carrollton (Carroll County) -- available during the day and evening of December 5, 6, and 7, 2016, as well as December 13 and 14, 2016;

(c) Municipal Auditorium in Moberly (Randolph County) -- available during the day and evening of December 5, 8 and 9, 2016, as well as December 15 and 16, 2016; and

(d) University Theatre Auditorium at Hannibal-LaGrange University in Hannibal -- available during the day and evening of December 5 and the week of December 12 through 15, 2016 (Ralls County).

Each of these venues is proximate to the counties in which local public hearings would not be conducted (Buchanan, Caldwell, Chariton and Monroe), and is large enough to accommodate several hundred persons. The operators of these facilities have advised the Company that they will permit the presence of armed security personnel at the hearings, as may be required by the Commission.

Regardless of the number of hearings that the Commission decides to hold, the Company recommends that two public hearings be conducted per day, as occurred during the 2014 case.

WHEREFORE, Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC submits this recommendation for the Commission's consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Karl Zobrist

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by email on all counsel of record this 14th day of October 2016.

/s/ Karl Zobrist

Attorney for Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC