In the Matter of the Application of Grain Belt Express, L.L.C. for an Amendment Hearing before: Judge Nancy Dippell November 10, 2022 PHIPPS REPORTING is now LEXITAS"

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Procedural Conference

Thursday, November 10, 2022 9:00 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.

WebEx

VOLUME 1 Pages 1 - 18

In the Matter of the Application)
of Grain Belt Express LLC for an)
Amendment to its Certificate of)
Convenience and Necessity) File No.
Authorizing it to Construct, Own,) EA-2023-0017
Operate, Control, Manage, and)
Maintain a High Voltage, Direct)
Current Transmission Line and)
Associated Converter Station)

NANCY DIPPELL, Presiding
DEPUTY CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

Stenographically Reported By: Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

Job No. 281482

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16	Missouri Corn Growers Association, Inc., Missouri Farm Bureau Federation, Missouri Pork Association, and
17	Missouri Soybean Association:
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	10, 2022	
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Page 7 The following proceedings began at 9:03 a.m.: 1 2 JUDGE DIPPELL: Let's go ahead then and go on This is Case No. EA-2023-0017, In the 3 the record. 4 Matter of the Application of Grain Belt Express, LLC for an Amendment to its Certificate of Convenience and 5 Necessity Authorizing it to Construct, Own, Operate, 6 7 Control, Manage, and Maintain a High Voltage, Direct Current Transmission Line and Associated Converter 8 9 Station. 10 My name is Nancy Dippell. I'm the Regulatory Law Judge assigned to this matter. We've come here 11 12 today for a procedural conference to just see where we are, the status of the case, and allow the parties to 13 discuss a procedural schedule going forward. 14 15 I'm going to begin by having the parties make their entries of appearance, and so I will begin with 16 17 Grain Belt Express? 18 MR. CARO: May it please the Commission. This 19 is Frank Caro. On behalf of Grain Belt Express LLC, the 20 applicant, I'm here with Andrew Schulte and Anne 21 Callenbach with the Polsinelli law firm. Also I believe on the line from -- on the call is Nicole Luckey who is 2.2 Vice President of Regulatory Affairs with Grain Belt. 23 24 Thank you. The Public Service JUDGE DIPPELL: 25 Commission Staff?

Page 8 1 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Judge. Kevin 2 Thompson for the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 360, Jefferson City, 3 4 Missouri 65102. On the line are numerous other staff 5 members. JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. The Office of the 6 7 Public Counsel? 8 MR. WILLIAMS: Nathan Williams, Chief Deputy 9 Public Counsel appearing on behalf of the Office of the 10 Public Counsel and the public, PO Box 2230, Jefferson 11 City, Missouri 65102. 12 JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. Then I'm just going to start down with the intervenors as they're kind of here 13 on my service list. I think they're alphabetical. 14 Associated Industries of Missouri? 15 16 MR. ELLINGER: Good morning, Judge. Marc Ellinger, Ellinger & Associates, on behalf of Associated 17 Industries of Missouri. 18 Clean Grid Alliance? 19 JUDGE DIPPELL: 20 MR. BRADY: Good morning. My name is Sean 21 Brady. I'm appearing on behalf of Clean Grid Alliance. Our address is PO Box 4072, Wheaton, Illinois 60189. 2.2 23 I'm also appearing with local counsel, Judith Willis. Would you like her address as well? 24 JUDGE DIPPELL: We have it on the file. So I 25

Page 9 think we can skip the addresses and I can make sure the 1 2 court reporter has those if she needs them. David and Patricia Stemme? 3 MS. STEMME: Good morning, Judge Dippell, 4 5 Dippell. I'm sorry. I don't know how to pronounce your 6 name. 7 JUDGE DIPPELL: Dippell. 8 MS. STEMME: This is Patricia Stemme, and I'm 9 representing myself and my husband. 10 JUDGE DIPPELL: And just to clarify, Ms. 11 Stemme, are you an attorney? 12 MS. STEMME: No, I am not. I might be the 13 only one here that isn't. JUDGE DIPPELL: So today you'll really just be 14 15 representing yourself, but we all understand that your husband's interest and yours are similar. 16 17 MS. STEMME: Yes, he's out harvesting, and I'm 18 probably going to be mainly a listener today. I'm going 19 to be learning. 20 JUDGE DIPPELL: That's perfectly fine. 21 Welcome. 2.2 MS. STEMME: Thank you so much. 23 JUDGE DIPPELL: Dustin Hudson? 24 MR. AGATHEN: Thank you, Your Honor. This is 25 Paul Agathen. I'm at 485 Oak Field Court in Washington,

Page 10 Missouri 63090. And Judge, I represent a number of 1 other clients. Do you want me to list them now or take 3 them in the order you've got them? JUDGE DIPPELL: Go ahead and list your other 4 5 clients. Missouri Landowners Alliance. MR. AGATHEN: 7 The second one is Eastern Missouri Landowners Alliance, d/b/a Show Me Concerned Landowners. Another one is 8 Norman Fishel, F-i-s-h-e-l, and last, Gary and Carol 9 10 Riedel, R-i-e-d-e-l. 11 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you, Mr. Agathen. 12 MR. AGATHEN: You're welcome. JUDGE DIPPELL: Missouri Cattlemen's 13 Association? 14 MR. HADEN: Good morning, Judge Dippell. 15 is Brent Haden here for the Missouri Cattlemen's 16 17 Association, and then I've got the other agricultural 18 associations. I can just sort through those if you'd 19 like me to. 20 Yes, go ahead. JUDGE DIPPELL: 21 MR. HADEN: I'll be representing the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation, the Missouri Pork Association, 2.2 23 Missouri Corn Growers Association and the Missouri 24 Soybean Association. 25 Thank you. Missouri Electric JUDGE DIPPELL:

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- 2 MS. WHIPPLE: Good morning, Judge Dippell.
- 3 Peggy Whipple and Doug Healy of the Healy Law Offices.
- 4 I believe our address is on record, but I'll be glad to
- 5 provide it if the court reporter needs it later.
- 6 JUDGE DIPPELL: I have it. Thank you.
- 7 MS. WHIPPLE: You're welcome.
- 8 JUDGE DIPPELL: Renew Missouri?
- 9 MS. GREENWALD: Good morning. Alissa
- 10 Greenwald and Andrew Linhares for Renew Missouri, and I
- 11 believe that our business address is also on file.
- 12 JUDGE DIPPELL: Yes, it is. Thank you.
- 13 Sierra Club?
- 14 MS. RUBENSTEIN: Good morning. Sarah
- 15 Rubenstein from Great Rivers Environmental Law Center.
- 16 Also with me is co-counsel Madeline Semanisin, and I
- 17 believe our address is on file with the Court as well.
- 18 JUDGE DIPPELL: It is. Thank you.
- 19 MS. RUBENSTEIN: Thank you.
- JUDGE DIPPELL: Union Electric Company?
- MR. LOWERY: Good morning, Judge. Jim Lowery
- 22 appearing on behalf of Union Electric Company d/b/a
- 23 Ameren Missouri. I have a new address. That is 9020
- 24 South Barry, B-a-r-r-y, Road, Columbia, Missouri 65201.
- 25 JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. Thank you for that.

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Page 12 You may need to change that at the Commission in our 1 2 electronic filing system, Mr. Lowery, when you get a 3 chance. I certainly will. Thank you. 4 MR. LOWERY: JUDGE DIPPELL: William Hollander and Amy 5 Hollander? 6 7 MR. HOLLANDER: This is William Hollander. 8 wife Amy and I are landowners here. We are also members 9 of the Missouri Landowners Alliance. I also am an 10 attorney, and I'm representing myself and my wife here 11 today. My address is on the entry of appearance and the motion which we filed. 12 Say that again, Mr. Hollander. 13 JUDGE DIPPELL: You're also members of the Missouri Landowners Alliance? 14 15 MR. HOLLANDER: Yes. 16 JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. Was there any 17 other party that I might have missed? 18 Okay. Very good then. Well, to start I will 19 just kind of run through the things that are pending right now to make sure that I haven't missed anything. 20 21 So we have a request for summary determination, and 2.2 those responses are not yet due. And I realize that 23 should that be granted a procedural schedule would look

schedule, just go with the theory that that will be

very different. But when you're making your procedural

Page 13

- 1 denied and see what you can come up with.
- 2 As the attorneys know, it's very difficult to
- 3 get a summary determination if there's any controversy
- 4 there that the Commission can hear. So just proceed
- 5 with the thought that that will be denied. And if it is
- 6 granted, then obviously that will change the procedural
- 7 schedule or eliminate it, whichever the case may be.
- 8 There's also a request for local public
- 9 hearings. So consider that in your proposed procedural
- 10 schedule. And if the requesters for the local public
- 11 hearings, or the applicant, or anyone has suggestions
- 12 for a place that might be conducive to local public
- 13 hearings or if you want to have them electronically,
- 14 please also include that information maybe in your
- 15 proposed procedural schedule or an additional filing
- 16 after to accompany that.
- 17 MR. AGATHEN: Judge, can I interrupt for one
- 18 moment. This is Paul Agathen.
- 19 JUDGE DIPPELL: Yes. Go ahead, Mr. Agathen.
- 20 MR. AGATHEN: I may have jumped the gun with
- 21 that motion for public hearings. I for some reason just
- 22 assumed that the discussion today regarding procedural
- 23 schedule would concern the procedural schedule for the
- 24 actual formal hearings with the briefing, et cetera, and
- 25 didn't realize that we had this opportunity at this

Page 14 point to suggest local public hearings. So I probably 1 2 jumped the gun on that. I apologize. It certainly was not meant to gain some kind of advantage by any means. 3 4 JUDGE DIPPELL: I appreciate that. Yes, your 5 procedural schedule and the rest can encompass pretty 6 much, you know, how the parties think that the rest of 7 the case should go. Obviously it's all suggestive and the Commission will set the eventual final schedule, but 8 9 it's very helpful to know where the parties think the 10 case should go and the timing. I know that the original application requested a certain final date I believe in 11 12 May; am I correct about that? Does Grain Belt, when was the requested decision date? 13 MR. SCHULTE: The requested decision date for 14 15 the final order from the Commission? 16 JUDGE DIPPELL: Yes. 17 MR. SCHULTE: That was originally requested as May 31, 2023. We have since been in discussions. 18 19 discussed whether that was practical with Staff already and understand that they have some work that they need 20 21 to balance with the Ameren rate case, and so we have 22 circulated a proposed procedural schedule that has a 23 requested Commission order date of June 30, 2023. we've already conceded a 30-day delay in that initial 24 25 request.

Page 15 1 JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. I'm sorry. Can you 2 identify yourself for the court reporter? 3 MR. SCHULTE: Certainly. Sorry about that. 4 Andrew Schulte. JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you, Mr. Schulte. All 5 6 right. Well, hopefully then there's been some 7 groundwork laid already on procedural schedules and that should make things go a little easier for all of your 8 discussions. Along that line typically when these kind 9 10 of cases, an application case starts, I would order the Staff to file a recommendation. I don't believe I did 11 12 that in this case. So Mr. Thompson, do you see Staff filing a recommendation or would you see that as being 13 just initial testimony? I don't know. Should the 14 Commission order Staff to go ahead and file a 15 recommendation? 16 17 MR. THOMPSON: I anticipate Staff will file a 18 recommended procedural schedule. 19 JUDGE DIPPELL: I'm talking about a 20 recommendation on the application itself. 21 MR. THOMPSON: We'll be happy to do that, 2.2 Judge, if that's what you would like. 23 JUDGE DIPPELL: Well, I'll look at that Like I say, typically I would have ordered 24 further. 25 that originally, but I was looking at the order and

Page 16 realized I hadn't done that. So I'm not sure if that's 1 2 necessary. Maybe I'll wait and maybe you can consider 3 that in your procedural schedule as well. When would the proposed 4 MR. THOMPSON: 5 procedural schedules be due, Judge? 6 JUDGE DIPPELL: I think I said the 17th, a 7 week from today. 8 MR. THOMPSON: Very good. JUDGE DIPPELL: Is that sufficient? 9 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. That's sufficient 10 11 for Staff. 12 JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. And then the only other thing I had that was still pending, I think there was 13 still a motion to amend a filing errata. I'm not sure 14 15 if I ever granted that or not. If not, I will look at 16 that. 17 Was there any other motions pending that I 18 might have missed? I'm not hearing anything. Well, 19 like I say, I really brought you all together so that you could discuss the procedures going forward, and I 20 21 will give you the opportunity to do that off the record 2.2 if you want to hold this line and continue with this 23 conference. Is there anything else that the parties wanted 24 to discuss on the record? 25

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	1	Page 17 MR. SCHULTE: Nothing from Grain Belt Express.
	2	JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. All right. Well,
	3	I'm not hearing anything. So we will go ahead then and
	4	I will drop off the call as well as Ms. Bentch when we
	5	go off the record and you all can stay on this line and
	6	have your discussions.
	7	MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Judge.
	8	JUDGE DIPPELL: If there's nothing else then,
	9	we can go ahead and go off the record.
	10	MR. AGATHEN: Thank you, Judge. Paul Agathen.
	11	JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you.
	12	(Thereupon, the proceedings concluded at 9:20
	13	a.m.)
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1	Page 18 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
2	STATE OF MISSOURI)
3	COUNTY OF COLE)
4	I, Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640, do
5	hereby certify that I was authorized to and did
6	stenographically report the foregoing Public Service
7	Commission Procedural Conference and that the
8	transcript, pages 1 through 17, is a true record of my
9	stenographic notes.
10	I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,
11	employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties,
12	nor am I a relative or counsel connected with the
13	action, nor am I financially interested in the action.
14	Dated this 21st day of November, 2022.
15	Roman Tran Routaka
16	Beverly Jean Bertch
17	Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640
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	-	Alissa	Association
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8:10	A	amend	attorney
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	_ a.m.	Amendment	attorneys
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30	accompany	Ameren	Authorizing
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