

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

Missouri Landowners Alliance, and Eastern)
Missouri Landowners Alliance DBA Show Me)
Concerned Landowners, and John G. Hobbs,)
)
Complainants,)
)
v.)
)
Grain Belt Express LLC, and Invenergy)
Transmission LLC,)
)
Respondents.)

File No. EC-2021-0059

STAFF’S POSITION STATEMENT

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”), through the undersigned counsel, and for *Staff’s Position Statement*, respectfully states as follows:

1. Does the evidence show that Grain Belt’s website and press release demonstrate the Project’s design and engineering is materially different from what was approved in the *Report and Order on Remand* issued in File No. EA-2016-0358?

No, Staff’s review of the Complaint and Complainants’ pre-filed exhibits does not show that Grain Belt’s website and press release demonstrate the Project’s design and engineering is materially different from what was approved in the *Report and Order on Remand* issued in File No. EA-2016-0358.

The Complaint and pre-filed exhibits put forward by Complainants do show that Grain Belt is contemplating changes to the design and engineering of the Project. However, contemplation is not enough to show that the Project, as it is today, is materially different from that approved by the Commission in File No. EA-2016-0358.

2. Did the public announcement of those contemplated changes violate the Commission's *Report and Order on Remand* granting Grain Belt a certificate of convenience and necessity ("CCN") in File No. EA-2016-0358?

No, the public announcement of those contemplated changes did not violate the Commission's *Report and Order on Remand* granting Grain Belt a CCN in File No. EA-2016-0358.

Complainants filed this Complaint following Grain Belt's public announcement on August 25, 2020, via press release and on Grain Belt's website, outlining the contemplated changes listed below:

- **An increase in the project's delivery capacity to Kansas and Missouri up to 2,500 megawatts of the line's 4,000 megawatt capacity;¹**
- **Grain Belt's intention to provide broadband expansion for rural communities along the line route in Missouri;² and**
- **Grain Belt's intention to begin construction of the Missouri portion of the line before obtaining approval from the Illinois Commerce Commission.³**

In addition to the changes outlined above, Grain Belt's press release also states, "Grain Belt Express will seek approvals to the extent necessary for expanded delivery to Kansas and Missouri as well as for beginning the first phase of project construction prior to Illinois regulatory approval."⁴

¹ *Formal Complaint*, pg. 3, ¶ 8, citing Exhibit 1, pg. 1.

² *Id.*, pg. 4, ¶ 12.

³ *Id.*, pg. 4, ¶ 13, citing Exhibit 1, pg. 1.

⁴ *Id.*, Exhibit 1, pg. 1.

The condition in question states:

“If the design and engineering of the project is materially different from how the Project is presented in Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC’s Application, Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC must file an updated application with the Commission for further Commission review and determination.”⁵

As stated in its position to Issue 1, Staff’s review has concluded that the Project, as it is today, is not materially different from that approved by the Commission in File No. EA-2016-0358. The condition in question makes no mention of the public announcement of contemplated changes. Grain Belt also commits to seeking further approvals, as necessary, if it chooses to act on these contemplated changes.

WHEREFORE, Staff hereby tenders its *Statement of Position* for the Commission’s information and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Travis J. Pringle
Travis J. Pringle
Associate Counsel
Missouri Bar No. 71128
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
573-751-4140 (Voice)
573-751-9285 (Fax)
travis.pringle@psc.mo.gov

Attorney for the Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission

⁵ *Report and Order on Remand* issued on March 20, 2019 in File No. EA-2016-0358, pg. 52, ¶ 6.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile, or electronically mailed to all parties and/or counsel of record on this 29th day of March, 2021.

/s/ Travis J. Pringle