

**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 ) **File No. EA-2016-0358**  
Maintain a High Voltage, Direct Current )  
Transmission Line and an Associated Converter )  
Station Providing an Interconnection on the )  
Maywood-Montgomery 345kV Transmission Line )

**REPLY OF THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC COUNSEL  
TO THE RECOMMENDATION OF GRAIN BELT EXPRESS  
CLEAN LINE ON LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**COMES NOW** the Office of the Public Counsel (“Public Counsel”) and for its Reply to the Recommendation of Grain Belt Express Clean Line on Local Public Hearings states:

1. On June 30, 2016, Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC (“GBX”) filed its Application for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity.
2. On July 22, the Commission rejected GBX Application because GBX did not file the required 60-day notice before filing its Application.
3. On August 30, GBX filed for a certificate of convenience and necessity and attached its Direct Testimony.
4. On August 31, 2016, the Commission issued its Order Directing Notice, Setting Intervention Deadline, and Setting Procedural Schedule, for September 28.
5. At the procedural schedule parties differed on the number of public hearings that should be held and the dates of those scheduled.

6. Public Counsel supports the recommendation of the Missouri Landowners Association recommendation to hold a public hearing in each of the counties affected by GBX's proposed high voltage power line.

7. It is clear from the number of landowner intervenors that there is interest in participating in this case including testifying before the Commission.

8. Public Counsel recommends the Commission schedule at least the number of hearings at locations in Staff's October 5 filing Suggested Potential Local Public Hearing Locations so that all landowners who elect to testify are given the opportunity to do so.

9. While GBX maintains sufficient testimony has been received since they filed their previous case, by its own admission in public statements, this proposal has changed since its previous case and landowners may have different or more thoroughly considered concerns.

10. It is in the public interest for the Commission to welcome testimony from these landowners in order to exercise a fair and enlightened judgment.

WHEREFORE Public Counsel respectfully requests the Commission schedule public hearings at times and places designed to allow as many landowners to testify as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Lera Shemwell  
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Attorney for the Office of the Public Counsel

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, emailed or hand-delivered to all parties of record electronically on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of October 2016.

*/s/ Lera Shemwell*

Lera L. Shemwell