

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Cheri Meadows,	)	
	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	Case No. EC-2025-0136
v.	)	
	)	
	)	
Grain Belt Express, LLC,	)	
	)	
Respondent	)	

**CHERI MEADOWS’ RESPONSE TO GRAIN BELT EXPRESS LLC’S DECEMBER 30,  
2024 REPLY**

I, Cheri Meadows hereby file this Response to Grain Belt Express LLC’s December 30, 2024 Reply. In support of its Response, Complainant states the following:

**I. Background**

1. On October 15, 2024, I filed a formal complaint with the Missouri Public Service Commission (“PSC”) to require Grain Belt Express, LLC (“Grain Belt Express”) to move their Tiger Connector line (“the Line”, “this Line”) south of my residence and property so the numerous risks the Line would pose to me, my many pets, and my property, including my home and all of my belongings, would be completely avoided. The formal complaint was filed after I was finally informed by Jason Brown at Grain Belt Express this past summer during one of our many phone calls that they could not move the line off of my property because the route had been approved by the PSC.

## **II. Grain Belt Express's Continued Claim that I Was Sent the August 18, 2022 Letter Regarding My Option To Participate in the New CCN Proceeding**

2. Because August 2022 was well over two years ago, and I did not want to be dishonest about what mail I recall receiving that long ago, I stated in my previous response, "I do not have any specific recollection of receiving the above letter Grain Belt is referring to as being sent on August 18, 2022." Nothing about the information Grain Belt Express was stating or eventually showed with a copy of the letter, sounded or looked familiar to me. It still does not.

3. In response to my Data Request No. 0001 to Grain Belt Express, Grain Belt Express was unable to provide any definitive proof that they actually mailed their August 18, 2022 letter to me or that I ever received it. Their argument that they have a mailing list with my correct address on it or their assertion that they did not receive the letter back as undeliverable as proof that I received it is a moot point if there is no proof that the letter was ever mailed to me to begin with.

## **III. Grain Belt Express' Deception about Who Could Move the Line**

4. While I had no experience with how transmission line needs or routes are determined or how any of the permitting or process works, Grain Belt Express did. Yet, during all of our conversations about the Line and my repeated questioning of why my little sliver of land was targeted or raising my concerns about its risks and effect on my property, as referenced below in my email to him, Jason Brown never shared any routing criteria or referred me to the PSC or referenced the August 18, 2022 letter that Grain Belt says landowners were sent notifying them of the Final Proposed Route of the Tiger Connector and Grain Belt Express' intent to file its application in MPSC Docket No. EA-2023-0017.

5. Instead, Jason Brown let me believe that he and Grain Belt Express were the ones responsible for the route of the Line. If I had indeed received the August 18, 2022 letter and known the appropriate protocol and party (PSC) to contact regarding the route of the Line, other than talking to the owner of the line, Grain Belt Express, whom I believed was the party to voice my concerns and objection of this Line and route over my property to, I would not have spent all of the time I did, which was at least a year, being in contact with Jason Brown at Grain Belt Express, as the time available to have the Line moved got less and less.

6. Below is part of the my email to Jason Brown at Grain Belt Express on June 17, 2024 (Staff DR 0004 Attachment F) where I included a picture of a Google earth map of the area and the proposed route where I said, *“In addition to the attached pictures, here's also a picture of where you are putting your line in proportion to eight houses all around me. Notice the center of the picture is wide open with little to no vegetation and would clearly put the line a good distance away from EVERY house in the area, including mine. That seems like the most responsible thing to do. This picture speaks volumes about Grain Belt's/Invenergy's concern for the community and doing what's right.”*. This statement corroborates all of my previous statements where I've contended that there was nothing that was mailed, emailed, or said to me by my contact, Jason Brown, or Grain Belt Express, that indicated that the line being moved off of me was not an option due to the PSC's approval of the route. Up to that point, I was still led to believe that Grain Belt Express could move the line off of my property if they wanted to.

7. As indicated in the Staff DR No. 0004, there is no reply email to me where Jason Brown responded to confirm receipt of my email or the pictures he requested I send him, or to clear up any confusion I obviously had about only the PSC having the ability to move the line off of my property. Instead, he ignored me and my suggestion about moving the Line so that no

residential properties, including mine, would be negatively impacted, and forwarded my email and my attached pictures of the surveyed area and all the land that would be destroyed by the Line to Jordan Connelly, Brad Fine, Seth Wright, Michael Tatum, and Greg Smith with the message “After my conversation with Cherri Meadows last week I received this today. Feel free to include anyone else that is necessary.” None of those five people or anyone else ever sent me an email clarifying that only the PSC and not Grain Belt Express, could move the Line as I had proposed.

8. In addition to not receiving a reply email of any kind from Jason Brown, I was also ignored by Kevin Chandler, the Director of Transmission Business Development at Invenergy, LLC. Desperate to get the Line and all of the risks it will bring with it moved off of my property, I sent a lengthy email (Item No. 23 - Copy of email sent to Kevin Chandler on 7-12-24.pdf) to him on Friday, July 12, 2024. I had reached out to Mr. Chandler in hopes of getting the attention of someone who was higher up in the company and could make some progress to get the Line moved off of my property.

#### **IV. Why Grain Belt Express Should be Required to Move The Tiger Connector Line**

9. My formal complaint was filed pursuant to the EA-2023-0017 CCN Order that stated on page 42, line 138 “The Project is designed to have a minimal impact to land.” Contrary to that claim, this Line will have a very disproportionately large and permanent negative impact on my land while nearby land with no houses, buildings, trees, wildlife habitat, or any residential enjoyment value, will be left untouched.

10. My drive, with its natural barrier of trees, bushes, and underbrush on the sides, naturally keeps all of my animals in a line as we talk our daily walks. Having a 150 foot wide

section of that barrier missing from each side of the drive, will make it harder, if not impossible for me to keep my nine cats and dogs in the drive and away from the unmowed areas that they will undoubtedly see and want to explore, while potentially picking up ticks and requiring thorough checks of each individual animal before we go back into the house.

11. Losing such a large section of wildlife habitat and the privacy that it provides from motorists on the gravel road will also be a monumental impact on what makes my property so special. The opened area will also allow strong wind to blow through from the open fields on the east and west, creating yet another negative from this intrusive Line and making our walks less enjoyable.

12. Noisy, ugly giant cables running overhead will create noise during my once very peaceful walks, while ruining the beauty and ambience of that area of my land, while also definitely negatively affecting my property value and taking the only area of land on the whole property that would be ideal to subdivide if I ever wanted or needed to raise cash.

13. Despite section '2.3.1 GENERAL GUIDELINES' of the 'Tiger Connector 345 kV Transmission Line Route Selection Study' (Schedule AB-2) stating "Minimize substantial visual impacts on residential areas..." this will definitely not be the case with my residential property. It would be hard for Grain Belt Express to create much more negative visual impact or destruction to my property than what they are currently proposing with the route of the Tiger Connector Line. All of my concerns about the impact their Line will have on my land and my enjoyment of it have fallen on deaf ears from Grain Belt Express.

14. In their rebuttal to my December 18, 2024 reply Grain Belt Express submitted on 12-30-24, on page 5, line 12., Grain Belt Express states "It is neither logical or feasible to design

a route that results in zero impacts to landowners that reside or own property along the route of the Tiger Connector.” While that statement is correct that there cannot be “zero” impact to landowners along the route of the Tiger Connector, there can definitely be minimization of impact.

15. In the case of my property, a residential piece of land with many unique features probably not found with many, if any other houses along the route of Tiger Connector, that make running a high-voltage power line over it not only very impactful, but also extremely dangerous. Features such as the property only being 400 foot wide at the widest point of the property where the Line will cross, making a 150 foot wide open swath of land through dense trees and underbrush very intrusive to the property. Also, having only one viable entry/exit to get in or out of the property that the Line will cross, as well as an exceptionally long, ¼ mile long drive with an existing electrical line running parallel to it, and an all-electric earth contact home with an attached garage that houses all vehicles and belongings, that cannot be seen from the road through all of the trees, underbrush, and lay of the land, with a deep well, limited exits, and with a very weak cell phone signal.

16. All of the above combined characteristics should have added up to my property being excluded from the Tiger Connector route, or at the very least, gotten Grain Belt Express’ attention to learn more about my property to make sure running the Tiger Connector line over it didn’t turn it into a potential death trap.

17. For some reason, Grain Belt Express didn’t do their homework, or possibly didn’t care about the safety of the residents whose property they were taking to build their line. If they had even followed their own rule of ‘The Routing Team for the Project also tried to avoid built-

up areas, residences,....' on page 42, line 140 of the Order and Report EA-2023-0017, my house should have been avoided.

18. While it can be argued that the greater good of The Tiger Connector and Grain Belt Express outweighs the costs to some landowners, the risk of death or loss of everything one owns should not be on the table for any landowner along the Grain Belt Express or Tiger Connector, especially when moving the line just a bit can completely eliminate such serious risks.

19. Given all of the risks, evidence, and arguments presented regarding this matter, I respectfully request that the PSC require Grain Belt Express to move the Tiger Connector line off of my property so I can enjoy my unique property with my pets for the next several decades without fear of injury, death, or loss of everything I own.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Cheri Meadows