

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service Commission held by telephone and internet audio conference on the 9th day of December, 2020.

Missouri Landowners Alliance, et al.,)	
)	
Complainants,)	
)	
v.)	<u>File No. EC-2020-0408</u>
)	
Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC, et al.,)	
)	
Respondents.)	

**ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR SUMMARY DETERMINATION
AND DIRECTING FILING**

Issue Date: December 9, 2020

Effective Date: December 9, 2020

On June 22, 2020,¹ Missouri Landowners Alliance and Gary Mareschal (“Complainants”) filed a Complaint against Grain Belt Express, LLC; Invenergy Transmission LLC; and Invenergy Investment Company (“Respondents”). It alleged violations of orders entered in File No. EA-2016-0358 requiring that all factual statements made to landowners in easement negotiations be factually correct. It alleged that Respondents’ agents violated this requirement by telling landowners Grain Belt was “no longer involved with this business,” a statement which Complainants contend was legally and factually untrue.²

On September 10, Respondents filed a Motion for Summary Determination. Complainants filed their Response in Opposition to Respondents’ Motion for Summary

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, all date references will be to 2020.

² Complaint, paragraph 9.

Determination and Response to Legal Memorandum in Support of Said Motion (Response) on October 7. On October 9, Respondents filed a Reply to Complainants' Response to Motion for Summary Determination. Complainants' Motion to Strike and Respondents' Response to Motion to Strike³ followed on October 9 and 12. Complainants filed a Response to Reply to Complainants' Response to Motion for Summary Determination on October 16.

The motion for summary determination presents the material issue of whether Respondents' agents told landowners that Grain Belt was "no longer involved with this business." The pleadings that accompany the motion for summary determination cite to the affidavits of the landowners, on the one hand, and to the affidavits of the agents on the other hand.⁴

The affidavit of landowner Gary Mareschal affirms the allegations of paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Complaint, which state that in the course of a conversation with Daniel Walter,⁵ Mr. Walter told Mr. Mareschal he was working for Invenergy and claimed that "Grain Belt is no longer involved with this business." The affidavit of landowner Marvin J. Daniels affirms paragraph 8 of the Complaint, which states Mr. Daniels received calls from Alex Brown and Daniel Walter and was "led to believe that Grain Belt was no longer associated with the proposed transmission line project."

³ The motion to strike asked the Commission to strike Respondent's reply to complaint's response to the motion for summary determination as being incompatible with the Commission's rule on summary determination. Since summary determination is being denied in this order, the motion to strike will be denied as moot.

⁴ Filed July 9, 2020 with Complainants' Opposition to Respondents' Motion to Dismiss and on July 23, 2020 with Respondents' Response to Complaint. All affidavits are cited in Complainants' Response in Opposition to Respondents' Motion for Summary Determination and Response to Legal Memorandum in Support of Said Motion. p. 7.

⁵ Referred to as "Walter" in the Complaint; as "Walters" in Mr. Walters' affidavit.

The motion for summary determination includes the affidavit of agent Daniel Walters. It acknowledges speaking with Marvin Daniels and Gary Mareschal. It denies at any point telling Mr. Daniels that “Grain Belt is no longer involved with this business” or making “any other statement that could be construed as such.” The motion for summary determination also includes the affidavit of agent Alexander Brown. It acknowledges communications with Mr. Daniels, stating that “[a]t no point during this telephone call did I state that ‘Grain Belt is no longer involved with this business,’ ‘Grain Belt is no longer involved with the business’ or any other similar statement.”

According to Missouri court rules and cases, summary determination is appropriate, “in cases in which the movant can establish that there are no genuine issues of material fact and that the movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law.”⁶ A central material issue here is whether the agents said Grain Belt was no longer involved with the business. The parties’ affidavits are in conflict on that issue. The Commission will deny the Motion for Summary Determination and order the parties to consult and file a proposed procedural schedule.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. Complainants’ Motion to Strike Respondents’ Reply to Complainants’ Response to Motion for Summary Determination is denied as moot.
2. Respondents’ Motion for Summary Determination is denied.
3. The parties shall consult and file a proposed procedural schedule no later than December 19, 2020.

⁶ *ITT Commercial Fin. Corp. v. Mid-Am. Marine Supply Corp.*, 854 S.W.2d 371, 377 (Mo. 1993).

4. This order shall be effective when issued.



BY THE COMMISSION

Morris L Woodruff

Morris Woodruff
Secretary

Silvey, Chm., Kenney, Rupp, Coleman, and
Holsman CC., concur.

Graham, Regulatory Law Judge

STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

**WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission,
at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 9th day of December, 2020.**




Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

December 9, 2020

File/Case No. EC-2020-0408

**Missouri Public Service
Commission**

Staff Counsel Department
200 Madison Street, Suite 800
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
staffcounsel@psc.mo.gov

Office of the Public Counsel

Marc Poston
200 Madison Street, Suite 650
P.O. Box 2230
Jefferson City, MO 65102
opc@psc.mo.gov

Gary Mareschal

Paul A Agathen
485 Oak Field Ct.
Washington, MO 63090
paa0408@aol.com

Grain Belt Express, LLC

Anne E Callenbach
900 W. 48th Place, Suite 900
Kansas City, MO 64112
acallenbach@polsinelli.com

Grain Belt Express, LLC

Frank A Caro
900 W. 48th Place, Suite 900
Kansas City, MO 64112
fcaro@polsinelli.com

Grain Belt Express, LLC

Andrew O Schulte
900 W. 48th Place, Suite 900
Kansas City, MO 64112-6411
aschulte@polsinelli.com

Invenergy Investment Company, LLC

Anne E Callenbach
900 W. 48th Place, Suite 900
Kansas City, MO 64112
acallenbach@polsinelli.com

Invenergy Investment Company, LLC

Frank A Caro
900 W. 48th Place, Suite 900
Kansas City, MO 64112
fcaro@polsinelli.com

Invenergy Investment Company, LLC

Andrew O Schulte
900 W. 48th Place, Suite 900
Kansas City, MO 64112-6411
aschulte@polsinelli.com

Invenergy Transmission LLC

Anne E Callenbach
900 W. 48th Place, Suite 900
Kansas City, MO 64112
acallenbach@polsinelli.com

Invenergy Transmission LLC

Frank A Caro
900 W. 48th Place, Suite 900
Kansas City, MO 64112
fcaro@polsinelli.com

Invenergy Transmission LLC

Andrew O Schulte
900 W. 48th Place, Suite 900
Kansas City, MO 64112-6411
aschulte@polsinelli.com

Missouri Landowners Alliance

Paul A Agathen
485 Oak Field Ct.
Washington, MO 63090
paa0408@aol.com

**Missouri Public Service
Commission**

Travis Pringle
200 Madison Street, Suite 800
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Travis.Pringle@psc.mo.gov

Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Morris L. Woodruff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first letter "M" is large and prominent, followed by "orris L." and then "Woodruff".

**Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary**

Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.