

EXHIBIT 7

From: Jack Cardetti <jcardetti@tightline.org>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2020 12:41 PM
To: Luckey, Nicole; Whitty, Patrick
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Grain Belt Express Increases Access to Low Cost Clean Energy and Adds 7 Billion in Energy Savings.pdf
Attachments: Grain Belt Express Increases Access to Low Cost Clean Energy and Adds 7 Billion in Energy Savings.pdf

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jack Cardetti <jcardetti@tightline.org>
Subject: Grain Belt Express Increases Access to Low Cost Clean Energy and Adds 7 Billion in Energy Savings.pdf
Date: August 25, 2020 at 7:57:04 AM CDT
To: James Owen <james@renewmo.org>

James — please see the attached news release Invenergy is planning to send out today. The quote from you is slightly different than the one we shared a few weeks ago. Can you review and approve this morning? Thanks



Grain Belt Express to Increase Local Access to Low-Cost, Homegrown Clean Energy, Adding Up to \$7B in Energy Savings for Kansas and Missouri Consumers

Phased construction plan would add a delivery option for Kansas and double investment in Missouri to \$1 billion, in addition to savings, jobs and rural broadband expansion for both states.

KANSAS CITY (August 25, 2020) – Invenergy Transmission, the owner and developer of the Grain Belt Express transmission line project (“Grain Belt”), today announced plans to increase local clean energy access and accelerate billions of dollars in economic investment in Kansas and Missouri. According to an analysis by PA Consulting Group (“PA”), a leading global firm of energy and utility industry experts, with increased local delivery, Grain Belt will enable up to \$7 billion in electricity cost savings for Kansas and Missouri consumers by 2045.

This projected energy cost savings is in addition to \$9 billion of total economic investment in Kansas and Missouri that is associated with Grain Belt. This includes investment in the transmission line and associated new renewable energy generation, which will support thousands of jobs during construction, generate revenues for local governments and landowners, and expand rural broadband at a critical time for both states’ economies.

“Economic recovery and long-term economic competitiveness in Kansas and Missouri depend on new investment, more jobs, and tapping into low-cost, homegrown clean energy, which Grain Belt is moving full speed ahead to deliver,” said Kris Zadlo, SVP, Commercial Analytics, Regulatory Affairs and Transmission at Invenergy Transmission. “Grain Belt is proud to increase our investment in Kansas and Missouri to rebuild the economy, deliver billions of dollars in energy cost savings, and meet growing renewable energy demand.”

As the new owner of Grain Belt, Invenergy Transmission plans to increase the project’s delivery capacity to Kansas and Missouri to up to 2,500 megawatts of the line’s 4,000-megawatt capacity. This is equivalent to the energy usage of up to 2.4 million Kansans and Missourians and responds to growing local demand for clean energy. Previously, 500 megawatts of the transmission line’s capacity was slated for delivery to Missouri.

Grain Belt will provide critical power infrastructure to the region benefiting residents for decades to come. According to PA, in just its first 20 years of operation, delivery via Grain Belt of 2,500 megawatts of wind energy from western Kansas to eastern Kansas and Missouri would reduce electricity rates by approximately \$7 billion. This represents an equivalent savings for the average residential customer of \$50 per year and accounts for the full cost to build the project.

Building upon the unanimous regulatory approvals from Kansas and Missouri in 2019, 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. This will accelerate and enhance substantial economic development for Kansas and Missouri at a critical time for both states’ economies.

Harvesting Low-Cost Homegrown Wind Energy from Kansas

Energy savings created by Grain Belt result from the transmission line’s direct access to one of the country’s strongest and lowest-cost wind energy resources in western Kansas. These savings are in addition to \$8 billion in estimated economic investment to build the transmission line and the new renewable energy generation that will enable electricity cost savings in eastern Kansas, throughout Missouri, and beyond.

“This impressive project is the latest example of Kansas’ place as a wind energy leader in our region and beyond,” Kansas Governor Laura Kelly said. “The Grain Belt Express will be instrumental in helping to power Kansas and other states, and will have a significant economic impact here at home. My administration is committed to supporting investments that will continue to boost Kansas’ production and export of wind and other renewable energy.”

“Kansas had the vision many years ago to commit to wind energy, and the unwavering commitment from Governor Kelly to further support renewable sources is paying off in many ways, including this tremendous step forward in the Grain Belt Express,” Kansas Secretary of Commerce David Toland said. “This major investment will be a huge help to restaurants, motels and other businesses hit hard by COVID-19, and will deliver a significant economic boost to our rural communities in particular. The news couldn’t come at a better time.”

Meeting Growing Demand for Renewable Energy in Missouri

With increased delivery to Missouri, including an expanded DC to AC converter station, Grain Belt will double its overall economic investment in Missouri to \$1 billion. Many of Missouri’s largest companies, communities and energy suppliers have set clean energy goals, and Grain Belt will now make available as much as half or more of the project’s total capacity for Missourians. Grain Belt Express has already executed an agreement with the Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission (MJMEUC) to serve 39 cities across the state. Large Missouri employers have also [voiced support for Grain Belt](#).

“Demand for renewable energy is growing, and Grain Belt will help attract new corporate investment to Missouri, multiplying the economic impact of the line for decades to come,” said James Owen, Executive Director of Renew Missouri. “Cities, workers, customers, and even many of the farmers and community leaders along the line route are for this project, and the benefits of Grain Belt have only grown with billions of dollars of added savings, in addition to the investment and job creation so urgently needed for our economy.”

“Now is the time to move forward with any and all initiatives that provide rate relief to households that are struggling under this current economy,” said John Coffman, Executive Director of the Consumers Council of Missouri, which focuses primarily on protecting low-income utility consumers. “The Grain Belt project will allow cheaper alternatives of energy production to be made available, providing rate relief for all consumers.”

About Grain Belt Express

Grain Belt Express is an approximately 800-mile high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line being developed by Invenergy Transmission. It will deliver up to 4,000 megawatts (MW) of low-cost, homegrown clean energy from western Kansas to millions of Americans in the Midwest and other regions. Learn more at: www.grainbeltexpress.com

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