



For Immediate Release
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Illinois Commerce Commission Approves Grain Belt Express Transmission Line

CHICAGO, IL– The Illinois Commerce Commission today approved Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC’s application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct, operate and maintain a 600 kV, 4,000 MW capacity, high voltage electric transmission line.

The 780-mile long overhead line would begin in Kansas and tap into a power grid in Indiana. Approximately 206.3 miles of the line would be located in Illinois. The line is expected to run across the Mississippi River just south of Quincy, Illinois, from Palmyra, Missouri, to the Illinois/Indiana line and across the Wabash River to Sullivan, Indiana. The line would traverse Illinois through Pike, Scott, Greene, Macoupin, Montgomery, Christian, Shelby, Cumberland, and Clark counties.

The project will provide direct access for high capacity wind generation to the electricity markets in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) and PJM Regional Transmission Organization regions, which both serve Illinois. The project will be capable of delivering up to 500 MW of power from renewable energy projects (approximately 2.6 million MWh per year) into the MISO grid and up to 3,500 MW of carbon-free electricity (approximately 18 million MWh per year) into the PJM grid.

The Commission’s order requires that Grain Belt Clean Line secure funds to cover total project costs before construction commences, prohibits project expansion without Commission approval, and requires further Commission approval prior to recovery of any project costs from Illinois retail ratepayers through regional cost allocation.

The Commission also directed Grain Belt Clean Line to take specific actions to address landowner concerns that included potential impacts from the construction of the line on irrigation operations, soil compaction and erosion, wetland areas, and timber land. The vote was 3-2, with Chairman Brien Sheahan and Commissioners Sherina Maye Edwards and John Rosales voting in favor of the line and Commissioners Ann McCabe and Miguel del Valle opposing it.

Grain Belt’s development schedule calls for construction to begin in 2017 with completion and electricity transmission expected in 2019.

All documents related to the case, including the Commission’s Final Order, can be viewed under docket number 15-0277 via the ICC’s e-docket system at www.icc.illinois.gov.

For more information on Clean Line Energy and Grain Belt Express, click [here](#).

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About the Illinois Commerce Commission

The Illinois Commerce Commission's mission is to pursue an appropriate balance between the interests of consumers and existing and emerging service providers to ensure the provision of adequate, efficient, reliable, safe and least-cost public utility services. The Commission pursues this mission through three bureaus: the Bureau of External Affairs, which provides educational information on utility issues for consumers, governmental entities and communities and through its Consumer Services Division, resolves customer/utility disputes and develops rules on utility service and consumer protection; the Public Utilities Bureau, which focuses on financial and operational analysis, policy development, public safety and enforcement activities related to electric, natural gas, water, sewer and telecommunications companies; and the Transportation Bureau, which includes trucking insurance and registration, railroad safety, relocation towing, safety towing and household goods moving company enforcement activities. The ICC's five commissioners are appointed by the Governor and approved by the Illinois State Senate for five-year terms.