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ROCK ISLAND CLEAN LINE REACHES OUT TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

WIND ENERGY TRANSMISSION PROJECT WILL CREATE 5000 JOBS AND ENABLE \$7 BILLION IN RENEWABLE ENERGY INVESTMENTS

HOUSTON (APRIL 25, 2011) – Rock Island Clean Line LLC, a subsidiary of Clean Line Energy Partners of Houston, Texas, is in the process of conducting outreach meetings in local communities across Iowa and Illinois. Clean Line Energy considers public involvement a crucial component of the project development process and will determine a route based on a combination of public feedback and environmental and engineering data. At these meetings, Rock Island Clean Line is looking to members of the community to identify potential opportunities for siting a transmission line and to express areas of concern.

The Rock Island Clean Line will deliver up to 3,500 megawatts of clean power from Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and South Dakota to communities and businesses in Illinois and other states to the east. The clean energy will be transported via an approximately 500-mile long overhead, high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line. The Rock Island Clean Line will make possible approximately \$7 billion worth of investments in new wind energy projects, which today cannot be constructed due to the lack of transmission. In addition to the new wind farm investments, the Rock Island Clean Line project will cost approximately \$1.7 billion.

Clean Line Energy President Michael Skelly said, “Although siting a long-haul transmission project is a lengthy and complex process, Clean Line Energy is committed to developing the Rock Island Clean Line in a methodical, transparent and collaborative manner. We are working closely with local governmental officials, county staff, federal agencies, conservation and other interest groups across the project area.” He continued, “Wind energy provides benefits to local economies in Iowa and Illinois but in order for the industry to continue to grow, the clean energy must have a way to get to market. Just as the Rock Island railroad allowed farmers to grow product and move it to market, the Rock Island Clean Line will deliver clean, renewable energy to communities that need it, representing the new farm to market road for the 21st century.”

The Rock Island Clean Line is expected to attract wind farm developers to the region and generate millions of dollars in state and local tax revenues while addressing the nation’s ongoing efforts to increase energy security. The project will encourage the manufacturing of wind turbine components and create thousands of jobs for local residents.

“Lack of transmission is a key factor limiting demand for new wind projects in the Midwest,” said J. Cameron Drecoll, CEO of Broadwind Energy. “Companies like ours that can create a lot of jobs in manufacturing wind turbine components can’t hire more people without more demand. Projects like the Rock Island Clean Line would help us sustain and create real jobs like those at our gear facility in Cicero, Illinois.”

The \$1.7 billion project is in the early development stages and is expected to take five to seven years to complete. Last year, the Rock Island Clean Line filed an application with the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) to become a public utility in Illinois, and over the next year will begin the approval process for the routing of the line. Rock Island Clean Line also plans to file for a franchise with the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB). Information garnered from public outreach will be used to inform both applications.

“With U.S. electricity demand continuing to grow, it is encouraging to see Iowa and other states with abundant wind resources take the steps necessary to deliver clean, renewable power for America’s electricity mix. Projects like the Rock Island Clean Line will help upgrade our nation’s electrical transmission grid system and open up new markets for clean wind energy generation,” said Robert Lloyd, Plant Manager of the Clipper Windpower facility based in Cedar Rapids.

For over 12 months, the development of the Rock Island Clean Line has advanced on a number of fronts. A study area for the Rock Island Clean Line was first developed based on the desire to connect the strong wind resource of northwest Iowa and its bordering states to the large market for renewable energy in Illinois and states further east. After the study area was identified, Rock Island Clean Line conducted meetings with community leaders, farming and agricultural associations, legislators, governmental agencies, and environmental advocates in Iowa and Illinois to gather feedback and input on the proposed study area. Rock Island Clean Line is now developing draft corridors, which are typically three to ten miles wide, in which the line could potentially be routed. Following the development of corridors, and extensive public outreach with local residents and governments, Clean Line will develop proposed route alternatives, which are typically 200 feet wide, where the line could potentially be constructed. The ultimate route for the line will then require regulatory approvals from the Illinois Commerce Commission, the Iowa Utilities Board, and various other federal and state government bodies.

For more information about the Rock Island Clean Line, including an introductory project video, please visit www.rockislandcleanline.com.

About Clean Line Energy Partners: Clean Line’s mission is to connect abundant, renewable energy resources to communities and cities that have a high demand for clean, reliable energy. Clean Line is developing a series of high-voltage direct current transmission projects to move renewable energy to market. For more information, please visit www.cleanlineenergy.com.