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**NATIONAL GRID BECOMES AN INVESTOR IN CLEAN LINE ENERGY**

(January 28, 2013) – National Grid (LSE: NG; NYSE:NGG) and Clean Line Energy Partners LLC (Clean Line) today confirmed the closing of National Grid’s previously announced \$40 million investment in Clean Line, effective January 25, 2013. The investment was subject to various state and federal regulatory approvals which have subsequently been obtained. Clean Line is a leader in the development of long distance, high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission projects to move renewable energy to market. National Grid is one of the largest investor-owned energy companies in the world, with extensive experience building, owning and operating large HVDC electricity transmission interconnectors and transmission networks in the US and the UK. National Grid shares Clean Line’s vision of enabling a cleaner energy future by investing in transmission projects that facilitate the development of renewable energy resources.

Under the terms of the transaction, Clean Line will use proceeds from the National Grid investment to advance the development of its four HVDC transmission projects that will connect onshore wind energy resources in the mid-west United States to communities and cities with demand for low-cost, clean power.

The investment in Clean Line is consistent with National Grid’s long term strategy of developing and operating high quality energy infrastructure. Around 10% of National Grid’s investments over the next eight years are expected to be outside its existing regulated activities in the UK and northeastern USA.

Lazard acted as financial advisor to Clean Line for this transaction. Grid America, a subsidiary of National Grid USA, will make the investment in Clean Line with corporate funds; the transaction is separate from National Grid’s existing regulated businesses in the US and the UK. Under the terms of the transaction, National Grid will have the ability to acquire a significant ownership stake in Clean Line’s HVDC projects. The funds associated with ZBI Ventures and the Houston-based Zilkha family will maintain their existing equity stakes in the company.

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### **About National Grid:**

National Grid (LSE: NG; NYSE:NGG) is an electricity and natural gas company that connects consumers to energy sources through its networks. The company is at the heart of one of the greatest challenges facing society – to create new sustainable energy solutions for the future and develop an energy system that underpins economic prosperity in the 21st century.

In Great Britain, National Grid runs the gas and electricity systems and delivers gas and electricity across the country.

In the US, National Grid delivers electricity to more than 3 million customers in Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island. It manages the electricity network on Long Island under an agreement with the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA), and owns over 4,000 megawatts of contracted electricity generation, providing power to over one million LIPA customers. It is the largest distributor of natural gas in northeastern U.S., serving more than 3 million customers in New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

For more information please visit: [www.nationalgridus.com](http://www.nationalgridus.com).

### **About Clean Line Energy Partners:**

Clean Line's mission is to connect abundant, renewable energy resources to areas that have a high demand for clean, reliable energy. Clean Line is developing a series of long distance, high voltage direct current transmission projects to move renewable energy to market. For more, information please visit [www.cleanlineenergy.com](http://www.cleanlineenergy.com).

### **About ZBI Ventures:**

ZBI Ventures is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ziff Brothers Investments, the private investment firm of the New York-based Ziff family. ZBI Ventures focuses primarily on private equity investments in the energy and energy-related sectors.