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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY PUBLISHES NOTICE OF INTENT IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER FOR PLAINS & EASTERN CLEAN LINE NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN EIS FOR 700-MILE HVDC TRANSMISSION LINE

WASHINGTON DC (December 21, 2012) – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has published a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Plains & Eastern Clean Line Transmission Project (DOE/EIS-0486; Plains & Eastern EIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts of participating with Clean Line Energy Partners LLC (Clean Line) in the development of the proposed Plains & Eastern Project (the proposed project). The Plains & Eastern Clean Line would include an approximately 700-mile overhead high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line and associated facilities. The proposed project would have the capacity to deliver approximately 3,500 megawatts (MW) primarily from renewable energy generation facilities in the Oklahoma Panhandle region to load-serving entities in the Mid- South and the Southeast via an interconnection with the Tennessee Valley Authority. The proposed project would traverse Oklahoma and Arkansas and deliver power to western Tennessee.

DOE issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for New or Upgraded Transmission Line Projects under Section 1222(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 in June 2010 to facilitate private sector participation in the development of new transmission facilities. Clean Line submitted an application in July of 2010 in response to the RFP for its Plains & Eastern Clean Line project. DOE has concluded that Clean Line's proposal was responsive to the RFP. Prior to making a determination whether to participate in the proposed project, DOE must fully evaluate the proposed project, in consultation with the Southwestern Power Administration, including reviewing the potential environmental impacts pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the requirements of Section 1222(b).

Clean Line first identified several potential route corridors within a broad study area and subsequently refined the corridors using input from federal and state agencies, municipalities, non-governmental organizations, and thousands of stakeholders. Clean Line recently held 20 open house meetings in



Oklahoma, Arkansas and Tennessee with over 600 participants in attendance to seek additional input on potential routes. Using this information, Clean Line identified and submitted to DOE several potential routes. DOE will analyze the potential routes along with a range of reasonable alternatives proposed in scoping comments and may expand or refine the range of alternatives based on those comments. Maps identifying the potential routes currently proposed for analysis are available on the EIS website at <http://PlainsandEasternEIS.com>.

In January and February 2013, DOE will hold 12 public scoping meetings in Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Tennessee to provide the public with an opportunity to present comments, ask questions, and discuss the scope of the Plains & Eastern EIS with DOE and Clean Line representatives. DOE will announce the public scoping meetings via local news media, industry newsletters, and posting on the DOE NEPA website at <http://energy.gov/nepa/public-comment-opportunities> and on the Plains & Eastern EIS website at <http://PlainsandEasternEIS.com> at least 15 days prior to each meeting.

Developing a project of this scale is a long-term undertaking. The project is currently expected to achieve commercial operation in 2017. For more information about the Plains & Eastern Clean Line, please visit www.plainsandeasterncleanline.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 high voltage direct current transmission projects to move renewable energy to market. For more information please visit www.CleanLineEnergy.com. For more information on the Plains & Eastern Clean Line project, please visit www.plainsandeasterncleanline.com.