

CLEAN LINE EXPRESS

Your direct line to ROCK ISLAND Clean Line updates

MAY 2011

LETTER FROM THE ROCK ISLAND CLEAN LINE TEAM

Dear Friends,

The United States has some of the best wind resources in the world, making it possible for us to obtain a sizable portion of our energy needs from a clean, domestic resource. Unfortunately, the transmission infrastructure does not exist to connect those resources to communities and cities that have a strong demand for renewable energy. Clean Line Energy is developing the Rock Island Clean Line, an approximately 500-mile, overhead, high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line that will run from northwest Iowa to an area near Morris, Illinois. The name of the project originates from the Rock Island Railroad, which stretches across Iowa and Illinois. Just as the Rock Island Railroad allowed farmers to move their goods to market, the Rock Island Clean Line will deliver clean energy to the communities that need it, representing the new farm-to-market road for the 21st century.

The Rock Island Clean Line will make possible approximately \$7 billion in new renewable energy projects, creating thousands of jobs. The project will deliver enough clean energy to power around 1.4 million homes, reduce power prices for consumers, contribute to energy security, increase state and local tax revenues, and reduce pollution.

Over the past year, we have been busy introducing the Rock Island Clean Line to community leaders, conservation and agricultural advocates, economic development officials, legislators, and government agencies across the project area. This is a process that takes years to complete and we are still in the early stages of the project's development. During the winter of 2010, we hosted a series of more than 20 roundtables with local leaders to collect feedback on our potential routing options. Based on this valuable input, we have a deeper understanding of the issues that are important to each community. We will continue to collaborate with local communities as our routing efforts progress. We are grateful for all the feedback we have received thus far and hope that many of you will remain involved as the Rock Island Clean Line moves forward.

As a result of our outreach and research, we developed study corridors—typically 3 to 10 mile-wide study areas—in which we will work with communities and stakeholders to determine the optimal route for the Rock Island Clean Line. The next step in our process is to host a series of public open house meetings across Iowa and Illinois in June to provide more information about the project and to better understand the issues important to each community. We hope that you can join us at one of our meetings and participate in the development process. Please visit www.rockislandcleanline.com/openhouse.html to view a map of the study corridors and a schedule for the open house meetings.

We look forward to hearing from you and answering any questions you may have. Please share this newsletter with friends, neighbors and family. You can always get the latest information on the project by visiting our website, www.rockislandcleanline.com.

Thank You,
Hans Detweiler and Cary Kottler
Clean Line Energy

IN THIS ISSUE

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Get Involved

OUR TEAM

- Charlie Ary
- David Berry
- Sarah Bray
- Beth Conley
- Deral Danis
- Jayshree Desai
- Hans Detweiler
- Wayne Galli
- Jimmy Glotfelty
- Barry Huddleston
- Douglas Jones
- Louisa Kinoshi
- Cary Kottler
- Kathryn Patton
- Michael Skelly
- Erin Szalkowski
- Jason Thomas
- Ty White



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PROJECT NEWS AND UPDATES

Community Outreach



The Rock Island Clean Line is committed to working with local communities in Iowa, Illinois and throughout the project area. As a company, we believe that our outreach process must be methodical, responsible and transparent, and we want to make every effort to talk with the many people who have an interest in the potential impacts of the Rock Island Clean Line. We will continue speaking with and getting feedback from many more people throughout the development, construction and operation of the project.

Roundtables and Open Houses



This past winter, we held a series of roundtable working group meetings where we shared information about the project with local leaders and asked for their input on our preliminary routing efforts. We recently met with county planning, zoning and engineering officials across the project area to discuss routing opportunities and constraints.

The next step in our process is to host a series of public open house meetings across Iowa and Illinois in June to get feedback on the study corridors, to continue our outreach efforts, and to make sure we hear what everyone has to say. Landowners and residents within the corridors will be invited, but we hope that community leaders and anyone with an interest in the project will also

attend. We are looking forward to answering questions and getting feedback from you. Visit www.rockislandcleanline.com/openhouse.html to view a map of the study corridors and a schedule for our open houses.



“LACK OF TRANSMISSION IS A KEY FACTOR LIMITING DEMAND FOR NEW WIND PROJECTS IN THE MIDWEST. 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.”

--J. Cameron Drecoll, CEO of Broadwind Energy.

The Routing Process

We know that finding the optimal route for a transmission line requires understanding local issues and considering a variety of factors. Over the past year, Clean Line met with government agencies, conservation and agricultural organizations, elected officials and other community leaders to discuss routing options. We spent hundreds of hours analyzing available computer data and drove thousands of miles throughout the project area to better understand potential routing opportunities and constraints. As a result of this process, our database now contains more than 40,000 information points related to our routing criteria. The routing criteria include many important factors, such as residences, agricultural lands, state and federal lands, recreational areas, water resources, known cultural resources, sensitive habitats and protected species, airports, land use, development plans, schools and churches, community feedback, agency and stakeholder feedback, legal requirements, and engineering constraints. Visit <http://www.rockislandcleanline.com/updatesrouting.html> for more information on our routing process.

Iowa and Illinois Regulatory Process

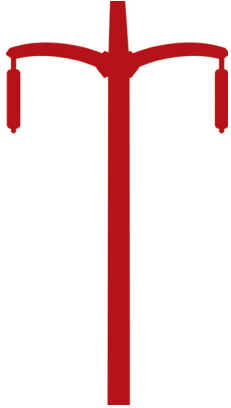
In Iowa, we will seek an electric transmission franchise from the Iowa Utilities Board. In Illinois, we will apply for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the Illinois Commerce Commission. We previously made a preliminary filing with the Illinois Commerce Commission for public utility status, a step that is not needed in Iowa. These filings will describe our mission to connect the vast wind resources of Iowa and the surrounding region to communities that have a substantial and increasing demand for renewable energy. Visit <http://www.rockislandcleanline.com/updatesiailreg.html> for more information.



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GET INVOLVED



Technical Studies

The Rock Island Clean Line team spent the past year working to advance the technical aspects of the project. Clean Line has made progress in the interconnection processes at both ends of the line. At the eastern end of the project, we submitted an interconnection request with the regional transmission operator PJM, the first step in the process of studying the electrical impacts of connecting the Rock Island Clean Line to the grid in Illinois—engineering studies are currently underway pursuant to this request. At the western end of the project, Clean Line began discussions with the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator to ensure that electric reliability is maintained. Clean Line has also engaged leading environmental and technical firms to conduct the necessary environmental, technical and routing studies for the development of the Rock Island Clean Line transmission project. For more information please visit <http://www.rockislandcleanline.com/updatestechstudies.html>.

GET INVOLVED!

There are many ways to show your support for the Rock Island Clean Line:

- Sign a letter in support of our project. Please email info@rockislandcleanline.com for a draft of the letter.
- Come to our Open Houses in June. Please visit <http://www.rockislandcleanline.com/openhouse.html> for details.
- Visit the Get Involved page, <http://www.rockislandcleanline.com/updatesgetinvolved.html> to submit a comment or to join our mailing list.

Thank you for your interest in the Rock Island Clean Line!
If you have any questions or concerns about this project, please call 1-877-907-8516 or email info@rockislandcleanline.com.



CLEAN LINE
ENERGY PARTNERS

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