

MEDIA CONTACTS

Sarah Bray
832.319.6340 office
832.226.2116 cell

sbray@cleanlineenergy.com

Kelly Cooper
816.931.8900 office
816.678.8808 cell

kcooper@parriscommunications.com

GRAIN BELT EXPRESS CLEAN LINE ANNOUNCES PROPOSED ROUTE IN MISSOURI AFTER THREE YEARS OF SEEKING INPUT ON POTENTIAL ROUTES, THE PROJECT MOVES A STEP CLOSER TO CREATING JOBS, CONSUMER BENEFITS, AND SUPPORTING PUBLIC SERVICES

HOUSTON (March 26, 2014) – Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC (Clean Line) today released a proposed route in Missouri for the Grain Belt Express project, an approximately 750-mile overhead, direct current transmission line that will deliver low-cost, renewable energy from western Kansas to Missouri and states farther east. The proposed route is the result of an extensive public involvement and routing process, during which Clean Line met with landowners, tenants, conservation and agricultural organizations, elected officials, community leaders, government agencies, and others, recognizing that these stakeholders have valuable insight that should be considered in the routing process. The proposed route includes eight Missouri counties: Buchanan, Clinton, Caldwell, Carroll, Chariton, Randolph, Monroe, and Ralls.

Clean Line began gathering stakeholder input to develop the route in 2011 by holding community roundtable meetings across Missouri. Multiple potential routes were then developed, and landowners across the project area were invited to provide feedback. Since July 2013, more than 1,300 people attended public open houses or submitted routing input online or via telephone. Clean Line is committed to an open, transparent development process that keeps landowners, elected officials, community leaders and the media informed about all facets of the project. “We look forward to continuing to build long-term relationships with landowners as we work to minimize impacts to their land and compensate them fairly for a transmission line easement. Our compensation package includes the option of ongoing annual payments for any structures built on their property,” said Michael Skelly, Clean Line President.

Clean Line gathered a wide range of information through agency coordination, public involvement, existing geographic information sources and field reconnaissance. The Missouri Chapter of The Nature Conservancy’s Director of Conservation Doug Ladd said, “The Nature Conservancy commends Clean Line for its open, proactive approach in integrating conservation and natural resource issues in planning utility infrastructure routing and development to meet the nation’s energy needs. This should be used as a model for avoiding and mitigating potential conflicts in advance, and demonstrates that energy development can be compatible with effective conservation of irreplaceable natural resources.”

Today Clean Line included the proposed route for the Missouri portion of the Grain Belt Express with its application for a certificate of convenience and necessity in a filing with the Missouri Public Service Commission. Filing this application positions the project one step closer to creating new jobs, paying significant taxes to rural communities, and helping Missouri meet its Renewable Energy Standard by providing Missourians access to low-cost, clean energy.

Grain Belt Express will provide substantial economic benefits in Missouri, including a direct investment of approximately \$500 million in the state, creating hundreds of jobs for the construction of the transmission line and providing significant revenues to local taxing districts. “We’re pleased that the proposed route for Grain Belt Express includes Carroll County because this project will bring much-needed jobs to the region and tax revenues for our schools, roads, fire departments, and other public services,” said Sharon Metz, Director of the Carrollton Area Economic Alliance.

Clean Line is committed to working with qualified local businesses to build the Grain Belt Express. Many of the components for the Grain Belt Express Clean Line will be made in Missouri. The company has preferred supplier agreements with three Missouri manufacturers, ensuring the project will create new jobs at factories that employ roughly 1,000 Missourians in St. Louis, Sedalia and Centralia. In St. Louis, ABB Inc. will manufacture transformers for the project’s collector system, where new wind farms will connect to the line. In Sedalia, General Cable will manufacture 23 million feet of steel core for the transmission line conductor and manage ongoing inventory and logistics. To support Clean Line’s goal of developing a local supply chain, General Cable will purchase aluminum rod for the conductor from Noranda Aluminum in New Madrid. In Centralia, Hubbell Power Systems will manufacture hardware and insulator rods and manage deliveries along the 750-mile line. Clean Line seeks similar agreements with local construction and maintenance contractors.

For more information about the Grain Belt Express project, including the Missouri Public Service Commission application, the routing study, maps of the proposed route, and details on landowner compensation and local area meetings, please visit www.grainbeltexpresscleanline.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 transmission projects to move renewable energy to market. For more information please visit www.CleanLineEnergy.com.

1001 MCKINNEY, SUITE 700 HOUSTON, TX 77002 TEL 832.319.6310 FAX 832.319.6311

CLEANLINEENERGY.COM