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CITY OF CENTRALIA BECOMES LATEST MISSOURI MUNICIPALITY TO SEEK TRANSMISSION SERVICE ON THE GRAIN BELT EXPRESS

GRAIN BELT EXPRESS EMPHASIZES COST SAVINGS IN APPLICATION WITH MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CENTRALIA, MO (August 30, 2016) – Last night the Centralia Board of Aldermen voted to become the latest Missouri municipal utility to move forward with negotiating long-term transmission service on the Grain Belt Express Clean Line. If approved by the Missouri Public Service Commission, the Grain Belt Express project could save participating municipal utility customers, including Centralia, at least \$10 million per year.

“The Grain Belt Express provides Centralia the ability to secure low-cost, clean power for our families and businesses,” said Centralia Mayor Tim Grenke. “This much needed infrastructure project will also create large work orders for Hubbell Power Systems, Centralia’s largest employer. The City of Centralia stands to benefit greatly from this project.”

John Bliven, the Business Unit Director with Hubbell Power Systems based in Centralia, added, “The Grain Belt Express Clean Line is a win-win for Centralia. Not only will it provide lower cost power to its residents but the project is also supporting the city’s largest employer, by purchasing component parts for the transmission line from Hubbell.” Grain Belt Express is committed to engaging local businesses, including Hubbell Power Systems, to participate in the manufacturing and construction of the transmission line.

This summer, the Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission, a public power agency that serves 67 municipalities throughout Missouri, announced that a group of their municipal utility members will buy transmission service on the project. Subsequently the city councils of both Kirkwood and Hannibal authorized their city utilities to negotiate transmission service on the Grain Belt Express. Last night, Centralia voted to join in. The municipalities have all cited cost savings and diversifying their power portfolios as the primary reasons to participate.

“We are thrilled that yet another Missouri municipality will negotiate transmission service on the Grain Belt Express, providing a significant cost savings for their ratepayers,” said Michael Skelly, President of Clean Line Energy. “The continued interest from Missouri municipalities to purchase capacity on the Grain Belt Express is a clear indication of Missourians demand for the Grain Belt Express.”



This afternoon, Grain Belt Express filed an updated application with the Missouri Public Service Commission requesting approval of the project. The filing emphasizes the energy cost savings that the project will provide to Missourians. The transmission line has recently gained the support of Missouri Governor Jay Nixon, a group of large energy customers in Missouri including General Motors, Target, Unilever, Proctor & Gamble, Kellogg's, Nestlé, and the Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers.

Missouri is the last of four states where regulatory approval is needed for the project. The Grain Belt Express project is an overhead power line that will deliver enough low-cost wind energy for approximately 200,000 Missouri homes each year. Additionally, the Missouri Department of Economic Development commissioned an economic impact analysis that showed the Grain Belt Express will support approximately 1,500 jobs in Missouri each year during the three year construction phase.

To learn more about the Grain Belt Express Clean Line, please visit www.GrainBeltExpressCleanLine.com.