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ROCK ISLAND CLEAN LINE FILES FOR UTILITY STATUS IN ILLINOIS
WIND ENERGY TRANSMISSION PROJECT WILL ENABLE \$7 BILLION IN RENEWABLE ENERGY INVESTMENTS

HOUSTON (October 6, 2010) – Today Rock Island Clean Line LLC, a subsidiary of Clean Line Energy Partners of Houston, Texas, filed an application with the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) to become a public utility in Illinois. The development of the Rock Island Clean Line is an important step in solving one of the most challenging problems curtailing the growth of renewable energy—the lack of available transmission. The Rock Island Clean Line will make possible approximately \$7 billion worth of investments in new wind energy projects, which today cannot be constructed due to the lack of transmission.

The Rock Island Clean Line will deliver approximately 3,500 megawatts of clean energy from Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota to communities and businesses in Illinois and other states to the east. The clean energy will be transported via an approximately 500 mile long overhead, high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line. The project will encourage the manufacturing of wind turbine components and create thousands of jobs for local residents. The Rock Island Clean Line will not only generate millions of dollars in state and local tax revenues, but will also address the nation’s ongoing efforts to increase energy security.

Clean Line President Michael Skelly said, “There is a remarkable supply of untapped renewable energy resource in the Midwest, but we lack the infrastructure to move the electricity from the windiest areas of the United States to consumers in distant markets. This transmission line will provide utilities with access to low-cost wind power and consequently connect more Americans to cleaner energy.”

“Lack of transmission is a key factor limiting demand for new wind projects in the Midwest,” said J. Cameron Drecoll, CEO of Broadwind Energy. “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.”

The \$2 billion project is in the early stages of development and is expected to take five to seven years to complete. Clean Line will fund all development costs. Clean Line has acquired an option to construct the transmission line on the Rock Island railroad corridor that stretches across Iowa and into Illinois as part of its effort reduce land and environmental impacts.

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.