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ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION APPROVES THE GRAIN BELT EXPRESS CLEAN LINE TRANSMISSION PROJECT

THE PROJECT WILL REDUCE WHOLESALE POWER COSTS IN ILLINOIS, PUT 1,500 ILLINOISANS TO WORK, COMPENSATE LANDOWNERS AND COUNTIES, AND BOOST LOCAL ECONOMIES

SPRINGFIELD (Nov. 12, 2015) – The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) today approved an Order granting Clean Line Energy a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct and operate the Illinois portion of the 780-mile direct current Grain Belt Express Clean Line. The power line will deliver 4,000 megawatts of low-cost wind power to Illinois, Missouri, and neighboring states.

The Grain Belt Express Clean Line will strengthen and modernize Illinois' power grid while promoting competition in the state's energy market. The project will bring approximately \$700 million of private investment to the state of Illinois, create about 1,500 jobs and support Illinois manufacturing.

"The ICC approval brings the Grain Belt Express Clean Line one step closer to dramatically increasing the low-cost wind energy available to customers in Missouri and Illinois," said Michael Skelly, President of Clean Line Energy. "We appreciate the ICC's careful review of our application and are encouraged by Illinois' recognition of the public benefits brought forth by this critical infrastructure project."

Illinois joins Kansas and Indiana by providing the needed regulatory approvals for the Grain Belt Express Clean Line. Clean Line will focus on advancing the project in Missouri, the final state where it needs approval.

Daniel Mehan, President of the Missouri Chamber of Commerce, said "Missouri businesses stand behind Clean Line's efforts to invest in Missouri's clean energy future. We are encouraged by the Illinois Commerce Commission's Order and hope to see similar progress in Missouri soon."

The project will deliver enough low-cost, clean energy to power approximately 1.6 million homes and will reduce wholesale power prices in Illinois by an estimated \$750 million in the first five years of operation. Clean Line is also committed to supporting local businesses and has designated Southwire Company a preferred supplier for wire for the transmission line. Southwire will manufacture the wire at its plant in Flora, Illinois.

"PAR Electric is ready to put Illinoisans, Missourians and Kansans to work building the Grain Belt Express Clean Line," said John Czaicki, the Illinois Vice President for PAR Electrical Contractors, a Quanta Services Company. PAR, headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri has offices in Bloomington, Illinois, and St. Louis and will manage the construction of the project. "The Grain Belt Express Clean Line is a multi-generational infrastructure project that will provide benefits to our country and our region for decades to come."



Dave Desmond, Business Manager of IBEW Local #2 in St. Louis added “With Clean Line’s infrastructure investment comes the opportunity to support good, American, middle-class jobs. We are pleased to see Illinois move swiftly to approve this project and look forward to working with Missouri’s leaders to advance this project, as well.”

Clean Line submitted its application and proposed route to the ICC in April, after spending three years gathering input from community leaders and considering hundreds of potential routing alternatives. The ICC approved the proposed route of the Grain Belt Express Clean Line with one modification initiated by landowners in Pike County.

Over the last year, Clean Line held dozens of public meetings in communities throughout the nine-county project area in central Illinois. More than 3,000 landowners and other stakeholders attended the meetings and many provided feedback to help develop the route in a way that has the least amount of impact. The route approved by the ICC would travel through Pike, Scott, Greene, Macoupin, Montgomery, Christian, Shelby, Cumberland and Clark counties. Clark County will also host the converter station which will convert the electricity to Alternating Current to feed into the local electricity grids.

"Marshall Schools looks forward to the benefits that the Grain Belt Express Clean Line delivery station will bring to our district. The station is a \$300 million infrastructure investment here that will bring approximately a half million dollars in local tax revenue to our schools at a time when state revenues are becoming less and less reliable," said the Marshall School District’s Superintendent Kevin Ross.

In addition, counties in the project area will receive direct payments estimated at more than \$33 million over the first 20 years of the project’s operation, which can be used for public programs and services. Clean Line also will make separate arrangements to compensate counties and townships for use of their roads during construction.

Clean Line is committed to continuing its close collaboration with landowners and will compensate landowners fairly for an easement on their property. The easement payments will be based on the fair market value of the land, and landowners who host transmission structures will have the option of receiving annual payments or a one-time payment for each of the structures. Landowners will still own the land and can continue to farm directly up to the base of the structures. Clean Line also will compensate for any damages to crops or marketable timber as a result of construction or maintenance activities.

The full text of the ICC’s Order is expected to be available within the next several days. To learn more about the Grain Belt Express Clean Line and review maps of the route approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission, 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 transmission projects to move renewable energy to market. For more information, please visit www.CleanLineEnergy.com.