



**Mary Fallin**  
**Office of the Governor**  
**State of Oklahoma**

June 3, 2013

The Honorable Ernest J. Moniz, Ph.D.  
Secretary  
United States Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington DC, 20585

RE: Plains & Eastern Clean Line

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Please accept my congratulations on your confirmation as Secretary. The Department of Energy (DOE) has many opportunities to usher in the infrastructure and energy resources that will propel the United States in the 21st century and beyond. I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the Plains & Eastern Clean Line transmission project and the potential it represents for Oklahoma and the United States. Clean Line Energy, a Houston based company, is developing this overhead direct current electric transmission line with the capacity to deliver 3,500 megawatts from new wind generation facilities to be built in the Oklahoma Panhandle region. The project will deliver Oklahoma wind to utilities in the Mid-South and southeastern United States via a  $\pm$  600 kilovolt (kV) direct current transmission line. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$2 billion, foster more than \$7 billion in new generation facilities, and provide thousands of jobs.

Your department is working with Clean Line. In December 2012, DOE issued a Notice of Intent to conduct a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). After the NEPA process is complete, DOE will determine whether the Plains & Eastern Clean Line meets the requirements of Section 1222(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and decide whether and how the Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern) will participate in the project. Southwestern's role would be similar to the role played by the Western Area Power Administration in the successful completion of the Path 15 upgrade in California.

We in Oklahoma are excited about the Plains & Eastern Clean Line and the tremendous opportunity it presents for Oklahoma to take advantage of the state's abundant wind resources and contribute clean, affordable energy to other parts of the country. The Oklahoma Corporation Commission recognized the significant impact that execution of this project will have when it approved Plains and Eastern Clean Line Oklahoma LLC as a public utility in November 2011. The development, construction, and operation of the transmission line and affiliated generation facilities will be transformational for Oklahoma's panhandle region, where there are vast wind resources but few wind turbines because of the lack of transmission. The power transmitted by the Plains & Eastern Clean Line is a cost effective way to increase renewable energy's contribution to electric supply to the Mid-South and Southeast, where there are minimal large scale renewable opportunities.

I have seen first-hand Clean Line Energy's development and outreach efforts in Oklahoma. I know the principals of the company. Development of significant infrastructure always requires hard choices, but Clean Line Energy's team has conducted an extensive outreach effort, carrying out a transparent and interactive process that has afforded input from many, many stakeholders.

By facilitating the Plains & Eastern Clean Line, DOE will exercise the leadership necessary to build much needed infrastructure with no risk born by ratepayers or taxpayers, but instead by the private sector. The Plains & Eastern Clean Line can be a model of private-public cooperation envisioned by Congress in passing Section 1222 under EPAct 2005 and can help achieve the goals for a 21st century electric grid that will increase energy security and provide Americans with cleaner energy.

Thank you for taking an interest in this project. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Fallin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Fallin  
Governor