

## Plainsandeastern

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**From:** Jay Lobit <jlobit@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2015 10:39 PM  
**To:** Plainsandeastern  
**Cc:** mail@dwsllc.net  
**Subject:** Letter of Support from Novus Windpower  
**Attachments:** Novus Windpower\_Clean Line Support Letter\_12Jun15.pdf

Department of Energy,

Attached please find a copy of a letter from Novus Windpower, LLC in support of the proposal from Clean Line Energy Partners, LLC to DOE and Southwestern Power Administration for a new transmission line project under Section 1222 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

As detailed in the letter, we believe the Plains & Eastern Clean Line project is deserving of direct participation by DOE and Southwestern in partnership with Clean Line to ensure the success of this much-needed transmission expansion project.

We appreciate your consideration of Clean Line's proposal, and look forward to notice of a favorable determination from DOE soon.

Best regards,

E. Jay Lobit  
President  
Novus Windpower, LLC  
109 N. Sunset Lane  
Guymon, OK 73942  
818.259.0294 (mbl)



# ***NOVUS WINDPOWER, LLC***

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109 N. Sunset Lane, Guymon, OK 73942, Tel: (580) 338-8922

12 June 2015

The Honorable Ernest Moniz  
Secretary of Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz:

I am writing in regards to the proposal of Clean Line Energy Partners, LLC ("Clean Line") to your Department and the Southwestern Power Administration for a new transmission line project (the "Plains & Eastern Clean Line") under Section 1222 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. As detailed below, there is a demonstrated need for new transmission capacity in the area surrounding the origination point of the Plains & Eastern Clean Line in the Oklahoma Panhandle, and this transmission expansion project can help to accommodate that need.

Novus Windpower is a front-end wind energy development company located in Guymon, Oklahoma, in the center of the Oklahoma Panhandle, one of the best regional wind resource areas in the country. We are a small firm of only four professionals with diversified backgrounds, including the development of thermal IPPs and cogeneration projects starting in the early 1980s. We have worked on the development of wind energy projects, exclusively in the area within sixty miles of Guymon (which includes areas in Oklahoma, the North Texas Panhandle and Southwest Kansas), since late 2001.

Since that time we have been responsible for the successful development of a total of 688 MW of installed wind capacity within our development area (including the first wind energy project to be installed in the Oklahoma Panhandle), and have transferred ownership of another 222 MW of projects to their ultimate owners, which capacity remains to be built despite having valid rights to interconnect with the Southwest Power Pool ("SPP") transmission grid. The main reason that remaining capacity has not yet been built – and the primary current impediment to further build-out of wind generation generally in this high wind resource area – is the lack of transmission capacity to export wind generated electricity from its "mine-mouth" location to demand centers to the east.

At this time, Novus has a portfolio of about 1,500 MW of development-stage wind projects, all of which are located within reach of the Plains & Eastern Clean Line terminal location. As you might expect, we are eager to find a way to overcome SPP grid congestion in our area so those projects can proceed to completion.

Novus has significant experience dealing with SPP, having submitted our earliest interconnection requests in mid-2002, as well as having participated fully in the SPP transmission expansion process which began in 2008 and which led to the approval in 2009 by the SPP Board for regional funding of a set of transmission expansion projects known as the "Priority Projects."

One of those Priority Projects was a double-circuit 345 kV line from western Oklahoma out to a point in our development area that is very near to what later became the planned location of the Plains & Eastern Clean Line terminal. That 345 kV upgrade was placed in service in mid-2014, but in the interim following its approval in 2009 enough new wind projects were installed that by the time the line was placed in service there was very little room left on the grid for any additional generation projects – although there are still vast areas of land for new projects and lots of wind!

Also in 2009 I first met Michael Skelly, the founder and President of Clean Line, at a State energy conference in Oklahoma City and learned of his visionary plan to build a 700+ mile transmission line to deliver low-cost wind-generated electricity from one of the country's highest wind resource areas to areas of high electric demand in the east, including the Southeast U.S. and other regions to the east of SPP. Later that year my partners and I toured Michael and his first Clean Line employee around our development area and demonstrated why it is an ideal location for siting a terminal to pick up 3,500 MW or more of wind generated electricity for delivery to the east.

Apparently that demonstration was compelling, and since that time we have worked to support the Plains & Eastern Clean Line project in any way possible – because we knew the day would come (and indeed is now upon us here) that without aggressive transmission expansion, congestion on the SPP grid would prevent further growth of wind capacity in one of the most suitable, welcoming, efficient and cost-effective areas there is for the installation of such generation.

We applaud SPP for its action to approve the Priority Projects and see them through to completion, but those upgrades simply were not enough to enable the wind resource in this area to be more fully exploited. And for now at least it seems certain that there is no chance for any additional, meaningful transmission expansion projects being regionally funded through SPP anytime in the foreseeable future. But the private sector is prepared to respond.

Our federal government has recognized the need for private sector involvement to address transmission expansion needs, as evidenced in DOE's Request for Proposals for new transmission projects. As an experienced IPP and wind energy project developer, I am convinced that the Plains & Eastern Clean Line project is exactly the kind of project that DOE must have hoped it would see a proposal for. There is a definite and demonstrated need for transmission expansion in the area where the Plains & Eastern Clean Line terminal will be located if the large number of development-stage wind projects in the area are to be realized.

To the extent that it is a desirable outcome to effectively utilize an abundant, domestic, renewable resource to generate electricity for delivery into the national grid, then the Plains & Eastern Clean Line is an ideal project to contribute towards achieving that result. And in such case, we all owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Skelly and his team of people at Clean Line for their very professional commitment and dedication to the pursuit of making possible a seemingly impossible task.

The Plains & Eastern Clean Line project is needed and it makes sense -- it provides a viable, near-term, cost effective means of accommodating a need for transmission expansion to access a valuable and available natural resource for electric power generation. As such, I respectfully encourage you to seize this opportunity and join in partnership with Clean Line to make this project happen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Jay Lobit". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "E" and "L".

E. Jay Lobit  
President

cc: Michael Skelly, Clean Line Energy Partners, LLC