

July 5, 2015

Dear Secretary Moniz and members of the U S Department of Energy:

We own a grain farm in Central Missouri which will be negatively affected by the erection of a proposed power line thru Missouri by Grain Belt Express, a Houston, Texas corporation unfamiliar with transmission of power.

Recently, the Missouri Public Service Commission has decided to deny the Grain Belt Express application to build Clean Line power line through Missouri to Indiana for wind power originating in Kansas. As you know, currently, Grain Belt Express is applying directly to the U S Department of Energy for permission to build the Plains and Eastern Project despite the rejection of the line by the state of Arkansas. This is a blatant disregard for the rights of states to regulate utilities.

Grain Belt Express also blatantly disregards landowner rights by not offering to pay them just compensation for the use of their land and not agreeing to pay maintenance of the lines.

Does DOE recognize the potential harm this can cause for crop production? With the high lines and potential windstorms which happen with regularity in the Midwest? Also, the great problems those large tractors have in negotiating these poles??? We must protect our food producing areas, also!

We want you to withdraw your support for the Clean Line Plains and Eastern Project. We need to have the states examine the potential harm that these lines may cause.

Why would you approve a power line across a significant grain producing area when the states these lines cross do not approve it???

The Plains and Eastern Clean Line does not satisfy Section 1222 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16421). Section 1222 requires that the proposed Project is consistent with: (A) Transmission needs identified, in a transmission expansion plan or otherwise, by the appropriate Transmission Organization and (B) Efficient and reliable operation of the transmission grid;

We urge you to deny Clean Line Energy Partner's proposal for its Plains & Eastern Project under Section 1222. The Plains and Eastern Project has not been determined needed by any appropriate transmission organization or included in any regional transmission plan as defined in the Federal Power Act. Clean Line has not even submitted any of its projects to the appropriate regional transmission organizations for review and inclusion in any regional plan. In addition, the Plains & Eastern Project has not been found needed by any regional reliability organization.

Clean Line energy Partners is not a Transmission Organization as defined in the Federal Power Act. Even if Clean Line used a process "consistent" with those used by real transmission organizations, it is still self-determination of a need for its own project, and therefore it fails this statutory test. A Transmission Organization is required to be independent of a market participant with a pecuniary interest in a project. Clean Line stands to financially benefit from its own finding that this project is consistent with a regional transmission expansion plan.

The intent of Congress is clear in the statute. Section 1222 projects must be included in an appropriate regional transmission expansion plan if they are proposed within a regional transmission authority's territory. A finding to the contrary may only lead to prolonged litigation in federal court.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Robert Brown and Linda Lou Brown in cursive script.

Linda Lou and Robert Brown
Madison, Missouri 65263

US Department of Energy

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Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability