

# GRAIN BELT EXPRESS

CLEAN LINE

January 15, 2015

Sandy Leitheiser

County Clerk

1 Courthouse Square Room 102

Hillsboro, IL 62049

Re: Notice of the Second Round Public Meeting for the Grain Belt Express Clean Line transmission line project

Dear Ms. Leitheiser,

In accordance with Illinois Public Utilities Act, Section 220 ILCS 5/8-406.1, Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC ("Clean Line") provides notice to the Montgomery County Clerk of a public meeting that will be held on February 3, 2015 at the Raymond Knights of Columbus Hall in Raymond, IL, on the Grain Belt Express Clean Line ("Grain Belt Express") transmission line project. An advertisement of the public meeting will be published in newspapers in your community in advance of the meeting. A copy of the advertisement is also enclosed in this mailing. Clean Line is also mailing invitations to the public meetings to landowners who live along or near potential routes for the transmission line. A full list of the public meetings that Clean Line will hold from February 2 to February 6, 2015 is also enclosed.

## **Project Overview**

Clean Line is developing the Grain Belt Express, an approximately 750-mile overhead, direct current transmission line that will deliver low-cost wind power from western

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Kansas to Illinois and surrounding states. The project will benefit Illinois by adding a new source of cost-competitive renewable energy, reducing wholesale electricity prices, creating hundreds of construction and manufacturing jobs, and providing revenue to local communities. Clean Line will apply for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the Illinois Commerce Commission ("ICC") in order to construct and operate the transmission line in Illinois.

## **Public Meetings**

Clean Line is currently evaluating a number of potential routes for the Grain Belt Express. The first round of public meetings to discuss the potential routes was held in December 2014. A number of potential routes have been revised or eliminated taking into account feedback received at those meetings. The purpose of the upcoming second round of public meetings is to share information about the Grain Belt Express and ask for comments and feedback from landowners and community members on the Project.

On Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015, detailed maps depicting the potential routes currently under evaluation will be available on the Project website, [www.grainbeltexpresscleanline.com](http://www.grainbeltexpresscleanline.com). The detailed maps depicting these potential routes will also be available at the upcoming public meetings. Although the maps show a number of potential routes, the Project will ultimately only require one 150-200 foot wide right-of-way, approved by the ICC.

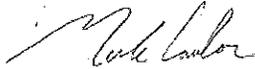
Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions. We look forward to working with your county to develop this project in a way that provides broad benefits. Clean Line is committed to an open and transparent development process, which includes continuous dialogue with all stakeholders.

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For more information about Grain Belt Express Clean Line please visit  
[www.grainbeltexpresscleanline.com](http://www.grainbeltexpresscleanline.com) or call 1 (855) 665-3438.

Sincerely,



Mark Lawlor  
Director of Development  
Clean Line Energy Partners

[mlawlor@cleanlineenergy.com](mailto:mlawlor@cleanlineenergy.com)

## **Attachments**

- A. Potential Routes Overview Map
- B. Public Meeting Schedule
- C. Sample Advertisement of Public Meetings

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## Overview Map of Potential Routes

The below map is meant to provide an overview of the potential routes currently under evaluation. The first round of public meetings was held in December 2014. A number of the potential routes have been revised or eliminated taking into account feedback received at those meetings. On Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015, detailed maps of the potential routes currently under evaluation will be available on the Project website, [www.grainbeltexpresscleanline.com](http://www.grainbeltexpresscleanline.com). The detailed maps depicting these potential routes will also be available at the upcoming public meetings. **Although the maps show a number of potential routes, the Project will ultimately only require one 150-200 foot wide right-of-way, approved by the ICC.**



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## Public Meeting Information for Second Round of Public Meetings

The public meetings will be held in an open house format and no formal presentation will be made, so please come at any time between the listed start and end times.

There are morning and evening meetings. The same information will be shown at each of the meetings, and people are welcome to attend whichever meeting is most convenient.

Greenup (Cumberland County)

**Monday, February 2, 2015**

7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Greenup Municipal Building  
115 East Cumberland Street  
Greenup, IL 62428

Viriden (Macoupin County)

**Wednesday, February 4, 2015**

4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Viriden Knights of Columbus Hall  
1320 North Dye Street  
Viriden, IL 62690

West Union (Clark County)

**Monday, February 2, 2015**

4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

York Township Community Center  
502 East Union Street  
West Union, IL 62477

Winchester (Scott County)

**Thursday, February 5, 2015**

7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Nimrod Funk Building  
Scott County Fairground  
401 North Walnut Street  
Winchester, IL 62694

Raymond (Montgomery County)

**Tuesday, February 3, 2015**

7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Raymond Knights of Columbus Hall  
510 East Sparks Street  
Raymond, IL 62560

Pittsfield (Pike County)

**Thursday, February 5, 2015**

4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

American Legion Post 152  
1302 West Washington Street  
Pittsfield, IL 62363

Strasburg (Shelby County)

**Tuesday, February 3, 2015**

4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Strasburg Community Building  
105 East Commercial Street  
Strasburg, IL 62465

Carrollton (Greene County)

**Friday, February 6, 2015**

7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Carrollton Knights of Columbus Hall  
1 Mile South of Carrollton  
U.S. Highway 67  
Carrollton, IL 62016

Pana (Christian County)

**Wednesday, February 4, 2015**

7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Fraternal Order of Eagles #4109  
186 U.S. Highway 51  
Pana, IL 62557

## GRAIN BELT EXPRESS CLEAN LINE

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Grain Belt Express Clean Line is an approximately 750-mile overhead, direct current transmission line that will deliver low-cost, renewable energy from western Kansas to Illinois and surrounding states. The project will benefit Illinois by reducing wholesale electricity prices and creating hundreds of jobs in the state.

#### **Grain Belt Express will benefit Illinois.**

The Grain Belt Express is designed to benefit Illinois electricity consumers. The project will add a new source of cost-competitive renewable energy, reduce wholesale electricity prices, create hundreds of construction and manufacturing jobs, and provide revenue to local communities. A delivery station will be located in Clark County, Illinois and the project will interconnect with the electric grid in Sullivan, Indiana, which is along the Illinois-Indiana border.

The Grain Belt Express project represents an approximately \$700 million infrastructure investment in Illinois, consisting of approximately 200 miles of transmission at roughly \$2 million per mile and an approximately \$300 million delivery station.

The project will create jobs through the construction of the transmission line, through the manufacturing of the components for the transmission line, and through the construction and manufacturing of the wind turbines needed to supply the line.

#### **Illinois needs more low-cost renewable energy.**

Illinois has a growing demand for new renewable energy resources, driven by the state's renewable portfolio standard (RPS), requiring 25% renewable electricity by 2025, and by the public interest in obtaining more energy from environmentally friendly resources. The Grain Belt Express will enable the development of new wind farms that will use the project to deliver low-cost power to Illinois. A higher percentage of renewable energy in Illinois' electric mix can reduce fuel price volatility, improve air and water quality, and replace older generating capacity that is being retired due to environmental compliance requirements. In order to realize these benefits, enough cost-effective renewable energy resources must be available for Illinois electricity providers and consumers to purchase. New transmission lines like the Grain Belt Express have an essential role to play in providing access to those resources.

#### **Clean Line is committed to compensating landowners fairly.**

Clean Line seeks to voluntarily negotiate 100% of its easement agreements and believes that its landowner compensation package is a fair and good-faith offer. In exchange for a grant of an easement, Clean Line compensates landowners for both 100% fair market value of the easement area and for any structures placed in the easement area. The landowner may elect to receive either a one-time or annual payment for each structure located on the landowner's property. The annual payment for the structures will escalate by 2% each year. Less than 1% of the easement area will be occupied by the structure footprint, and the remainder of the easement area can continue to be utilized for farming, grazing cattle, and any other activities that do not interfere with the operation of the line. Clean Line will also compensate the landowner for any crop losses, marketable timber, and damages to property that may be caused by construction or maintenance activities.

#### **Clean Line is seeking input to develop a proposed route in Illinois.**

Clean Line is committed to working with landowners to site the Grain Belt Express in a way that takes into account feedback from landowners and community members. Clean Line has been working on the Grain Belt Express in Illinois since 2012 and has met with hundreds of people in the route study area. As we move through the routing process and work to develop the route for Grain Belt Express in Illinois, we will continually seek input and provide opportunities to be involved.

