

**BEFORE THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

In the Matter of the Investigation into the)
Sustainability Transformation Plan of)
Eversource Energy Inc., Eversource Energy Kansas Central) Docket No. 21-EKME-088-GIE
Inc., and Eversource Energy South, Inc. (collectively)
Eversource Energy))

PETITION FOR INTERVENTION OF GRAIN BELT EXPRESS LLC

Grain Belt Express LLC (“Grain Belt”), through counsel, hereby petitions to intervene in the above-captioned Docket pursuant to K.S.A. 77-521 and K.A.R. 82-1-225. In support of this Petition, Grain Belt states:

1. Grain Belt is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Invenenergy Transmission LLC, which is itself a wholly-owned subsidiary of Invenenergy Investment Company LLC and is headquartered at One South Wacker Drive, Suite 1800, Chicago, IL 60606.¹ Grain Belt is the owner of all of the current assets and rights of the Grain Belt Express Project, an overhead, multi-terminal ±600 kilovolt (“kV”) high voltage direct current (“HVDC”) transmission line anticipated to be approximately 780 miles and associated facilities that will connect over 4,000 megawatts (“MW”) of low-cost generation in western Kansas to load centers further east.

2. On August 19, 2020, The Staff of the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas (“Staff” and “Commission”, respectively) filed a petition initiating a general investigation into the Sustainability Transformation Plan (“STP”) as discussed in a filing by Eversource Energy Metro, Inc. d/b/a Eversource Energy Kansas Metro, Eversource Energy Kansas Central, Inc., and Eversource Energy South, Inc. (collectively, “Eversource”) on August 13, 2020, in Docket No. 20-EKME-514-GIE (the 20-514

¹ Invenenergy Transmission LLC’s acquisition of Grain Belt’s was approved by the KCC in Docket No. 19-GBEE-253-ACQ on June 18, 2019.

Docket). *See* Petition of Commission Staff for Order Initiating Investigation (“Petition”), p. 1. In its Petition, Staff stated:

As part of the STP, Evergy acknowledges the need for stakeholder collaboration with respect to its proposed plan. In light of Evergy's election to pursue its STP, Staff hereby requests the initiation of a new investigative docket to provide Staff, stakeholders, and Evergy an avenue to collaborate and fully vet the STP.

Petition at p. 2, ¶ 5.

3. Moreover, in Staff’s Report and Recommendation, Attachment A to the Petition, Staff recognized the importance of stakeholder input, and noted Evergy’s agreement that stakeholder input is very important in the proposed STP plan in developing better long-term planning, in stating:

We believe that stakeholder engagement leads to better long-term planning. Engagement with stakeholders is an integral component of Evergy's STP and long-term IRP. The stakeholder process will inform the final plan balancing the pace of decarbonization against other desired outcomes, including rate impacts that reflect associated changes in investments and total operating expenses. Our approach to collaboration will consist of ongoing engagement with a broad group of stakeholders around the STP and the long-term IRP and will include customers, government officials, environmental groups, consumer advocates and community organizations. The IRP portion of the stakeholder engagement process is more formal and usually includes stakeholders that have experience with resource planning activities. The STP encompasses not only resource planning, but cost efficiency and infrastructure investment across the entirety of Evergy. Therefore, the STP stakeholder process will include a broader group of interested parties as well as broader community input and customer research.

Attachment A to Petition, pp. 3-4.

4. The Commission’s August 27, 2020 Order Opening General Investigation adopted Staff’s Report and Recommendation in its entirety. Order Opening General Investigation, p. 4, ¶ 7. The Commission adopted an intervention deadline 15 days after the date of its Order, or September 11, 2020.

5. Grain Belt is interested in a number of issues raised in Evergy's STP because Grain Belt is developing the Grain Belt Express Project with the announced intent to deliver up to 2,500 MW of cost-effective energy to Missouri and Kansas. As such, Grain Belt has an interest in Evergy's resource planning and investments.

6. Under K.S.A. 77-521(a), the Commission *shall* grant a petition for intervention if the petition states facts demonstrating that the petitioner's legal rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other legal interests may be substantially affected by the proceeding and the interests of justice and the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings will not be impaired by allowing the intervention.

7. Grain Belt's legal rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other legal interests may be substantially affected by the proceedings, as the STP may impact the development of the Grain Belt Express Project. Grain Belt's interest cannot be adequately represented by any other parties to the Docket. Further, Grain Belt is filing its petition within the 15-day deadline set by the Commission, so the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceeding will not be impaired.

8. Under K.S.A. 77-521(b), the Commission *may* grant intervention upon determining that such is in the interests of justice and will not interfere with the orderly and prompt disposition of the matter.

9. Grain Belt will bring significant experience to this proceeding, as it has both project development experience and energy resource cost modeling experience. Grain Belt is a Commission certified transmission-only public utility and thus has rights and obligations that other interveners do not. Grain Belt's expertise and position in Kansas is fundamentally different from other parties in this Docket.

10. Grain Belt does not plan to seek confidential information in this Docket.

11. Grain Belt requests electronic service of all pleadings, orders, and other documents in the above-captioned proceeding and agrees to receive service of all documents by electronic service without hard copy follow-up as required by K.A.R. 82-1-216(a)(6). In addition to the undersigned, Grain Belt requests electronic service to the following individuals:

Orijit Ghoshal
Senior Manager, Regulatory Affairs
Invenergy
1401 17th Street, Suite 1100
Denver, CO 80202
oghoshal@invenergy.com

Tyrone H. Thomas
Deputy General Counsel, Legal
Invenergy
One South Wacker Drive, Suite 1800
Chicago, IL 60606
tthomas@invenergy.com

WHEREFORE, Grain Belt respectfully requests that it be permitted to intervene and be made a party to this Docket for all purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Andrew O. Schulte
Andrew O. Schulte (#24112)
Polsinelli PC
900 W. 48th Place, Suite 900
Kansas City, MO 64112
Telephone: (816) 572-4754
Facsimile: (816) 817-6496
aoschulte@polsinelli.com

ATTORNEY FOR GRAIN BELT EXPRESS LLC

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing pleading has been emailed to the following:

JOSEPH R. ASTRAB, ATTORNEY
CITIZENS' UTILITY RATEPAYER
BOARD
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
j.astrab@curb.kansas.gov

TODD E. LOVE, ATTORNEY
CITIZENS' UTILITY RATEPAYER
BOARD
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
t.love@curb.kansas.gov

DAVID W. NICKEL, CONSUMER
COUNSEL
CITIZENS' UTILITY RATEPAYER
BOARD
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
D.NICKEL@CURB.KANSAS.GOV

SHONDA RABB
CITIZENS' UTILITY RATEPAYER
BOARD
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
s.rabb@curb.kansas.gov

DELLA SMITH
CITIZENS' UTILITY RATEPAYER
BOARD
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
d.smith@curb.kansas.gov

CATHRYN J. DINGES, CORPORATE
COUNSEL
EVERGY KANSAS CENTRAL, INC
818 S KANSAS AVE
PO BOX 889
TOPEKA, KS 66601-0889
Cathy.Dinges@evergy.com

ROBERT J. HACK, LEAD
REGULATORY COUNSEL
EVERGY METRO, INC D/B/A EVERGY
KANSAS METRO
ONE KANSAS CITY PL, 1200 MAIN ST
19TH FLOOR
KANSAS CITY, MO 64105
Rob.Hack@evergy.com

ROGER W. STEINER, CORPORATE
COUNSEL
EVERGY METRO, INC D/B/A EVERGY
KANSAS METRO
ONE KANSAS CITY PL, 1200 MAIN ST
19TH FLOOR
KANSAS CITY, MO 64105
roger.steiner@evergy.com

JOHN GARRETSON, BUSINESS
MANAGER
IBEW LOCAL UNION NO. 304
3906 NW 16TH STREET
TOPEKA, KS 66615
johng@ibew304.org

BRIAN G. FEDOTIN, GENERAL
COUNSEL
KANSAS CORPORATION
COMMISSION
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
b.fedotin@kcc.ks.gov

MICHAEL NEELEY, LITIGATION
COUNSEL
KANSAS CORPORATION
COMMISSION
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
m.neeley@kcc.ks.gov

TERRI PEMBERTON, CHIEF
LITIGATION COUNSEL
KANSAS CORPORATION
COMMISSION
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
t.pemberton@KCC.KS.GOV

SUSAN B. CUNNINGHAM, SVP,
Regulatory and Government Affairs,
General Counsel
KANSAS ELECTRIC POWER CO-OP,
INC.
600 SW CORPORATE VIEW
PO BOX 4877
TOPEKA, KS 66604-0877
scunningham@kepco.org

MARK DOLJAC, DIR RATES AND
REGULATION
KANSAS ELECTRIC POWER CO-OP,
INC.
600 SW CORPORATE VIEW
PO BOX 4877
TOPEKA, KS 66604-0877
MDOLJAC@KEPCO.ORG

REBECCA FOWLER, ATTORNEY
KANSAS ELECTRIC POWER CO-OP,
INC.
600 SW CORPORATE VIEW
PO BOX 4877
TOPEKA, KS 66604-0877
rfowler@kepco.org

MARK CHESNEY, CEO & GENERAL
MANAGER
KANSAS POWER POOL
100 N BROADWAY STE L110
WICHITA, KS 67202
mchesney@kansaspowerpool.org

JAMES GING, DIRECTOR
ENGINEERING SERVICES
KANSAS POWER POOL
100 N BROADWAY STE L110
WICHITA, KS 67202
jging@kansaspowerpool.org

LARRY HOLLOWAY, ASST GEN MGR
OPERATIONS
KANSAS POWER POOL
100 N BROADWAY STE L110
WICHITA, KS 67202
lholloway@kansaspowerpool.org

ROBERT E. VINCENT, ATTORNEY AT
LAW
SMITHYMAN & ZAKOURA, CHTD.
7400 W 110TH ST STE 750
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66210-2362
robert@smizak-law.com

JAMES P. ZAKOURA, ATTORNEY
SMITHYMAN & ZAKOURA, CHTD.
7400 W 110TH ST STE 750
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66210-2362
jim@smizak-law.com

AMY FELLOWS CLINE, ATTORNEY
TRIPLETT, WOOLF & GARRETSON,
LLC
2959 N ROCK RD STE 300
WICHITA, KS 67226
amycline@twgfirm.com

TIMOTHY E. MCKEE, ATTORNEY
TRIPLETT, WOOLF & GARRETSON,
LLC
2959 N ROCK RD STE 300
WICHITA, KS 67226
TEMCKEE@TWGFIRM.COM

THOMAS R. POWELL, GENERAL
COUNSEL
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 259

201 N WATER ST RM 405
WICHITA, KS 67202-1292
tpowell@usd259.net

BRIAN WOOD
WICKHAM & WOOD, LLC
107 W. 9th St., 2nd Flr.
Kansas City, MO 64105
brian@wickham-wood.com

FRANK CARO, ATTORNEY
POLSINELLI PC
900 W 48TH PL
STE 900
KANSAS CITY, MO 64112
fcaro@polsinelli.com

WILLIAM DOWLING, VP
ENGINEERING & ENERGY SUPPLY
MIDWEST ENERGY, INC.
1330 CANTERBURY DRIVE
PO BOX 898
HAYS, KS 67601-0898
BDOWLING@MWENERGY.COM

PATRICK PARKE, CEO
MIDWEST ENERGY, INC.
1330 Canterbury Rd
PO Box 898
Hays, KS 67601-0898
patparke@mwenergy.com

ANNE E. CALLENBACH, ATTORNEY
POLSINELLI PC
900 W 48TH PLACE STE 900
KANSAS CITY, MO 64112
acallenbach@polsinelli.com

/s/ Andrew O. Schulte
