

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

In the Matter of Grain Belt Express Clean )  
Line LLC Compliance Filings as Required ) Docket No. 14-GBEE-527-CPL  
by the Commission in Docket No. 13- )  
GBEE-803-MIS )

**QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT OF GRAIN BELT EXPRESS**

Grain Belt Express LLC (“Grain Belt Express”) hereby files its quarterly report pursuant to Commission Order.

1. On December 7, 2011, the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas (“Commission” or “KCC”) issued its Order Approving Stipulation and Agreement and Granting Certificate in Docket No. 11-GBEE-624-COC (the “11-624 Docket”). As part of the Stipulation and Agreement in the 11-624 Docket, Grain Belt Express was required to provide notice to the parties when submitting to the Commission quarterly status reports regarding the Grain Belt Express transmission line project.

2. On November 7, 2013, the Commission issued its Order Granting Siting Application in Docket No. 13-GBEE-803-MIS (the “13-803 Docket”) directing Grain Belt Express to terminate the notice filings in the 11-624 Docket and instead submit the notice of submittal filings in the 13-803 Docket.

3. Subsequently, on May 22, 2014, the Commission issued in the 13-803 Docket its Order Closing Docket and Opening Compliance Docket (“13-803 Order”), at which time the instant docket was initiated. In its 13-803 Order, the Commission indicated that Grain Belt Express should begin filing notice of its quarterly status reports in this compliance docket.

4. On December 28, 2018, Clean Line Energy Partners LLC, Grain Belt Express Holding LLC, and Grain Belt Express, together with Invenergy Transmission LLC (“Invenergy

Transmission”), and Invenergy Investment Company LLC (“Invenergy Investment” and together with Invenergy Transmission, “Invenergy”), filed a joint application in Docket No. 19-GBEE-253-ACQ (the “19-253 Docket”) requesting approval by the Commission of a transaction involving an upstream change in ownership of Grain Belt Express, whereby Invenergy Transmission would acquire all the assets and rights of Grain Belt Express.

5. On June 18, 2019, the Commission approved the transaction in the 19-253 Docket by issuing an order approving a Unanimous Settlement Agreement (“19-253 Order”) that included a provision requiring Grain Belt Express to file a public version of the quarterly reports in this compliance docket. The transaction closed on January 28, 2020. Pursuant to the Commission’s 19-253 Order, Grain Belt Express hereby files its quarterly report (attached hereto as **Attachment A**).

Respectfully Submitted

/s/ Andrew O. Schulte

Andrew O. Schulte (#24412)

Frank A. Caro, Jr. (#11678)

900 W. 48<sup>th</sup> Place, Suite 900

Kansas City, MO 64112

(816) 691-3731

[aschulte@polsinelli.com](mailto:aschulte@polsinelli.com)

[fcaro@polsinelli.com](mailto:fcaro@polsinelli.com)

COUNSEL FOR GRAIN BELT EXPRESS LLC

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above Quarterly Status Report was served by electronic mail, this 17th day of January 2025 to:

LYNN M. RETZ, SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION  
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION  
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD  
TOPEKA, KS 66604-4027  
[l.retz@kcc.ks.gov](mailto:l.retz@kcc.ks.gov)

JEFF MCCLANAHAN, DIRECTOR, UTILITIES DIVISION  
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION  
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD  
TOPEKA, KS 66604-4027  
[j.mcclanahan@kcc.ks.gov](mailto:j.mcclanahan@kcc.ks.gov)

BRIAN FEDOTIN, GENERAL COUNSEL  
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION  
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD  
TOPEKA, KS 66604-4027  
[b.fedotin@kcc.ks.gov](mailto:b.fedotin@kcc.ks.gov)

SHASHANK SANE  
INVENERGY LLC  
ONE SOUTH WACKER DRIVE, SUITE 1800  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606  
[ssane@invenergyllc.com](mailto:ssane@invenergyllc.com)

NICOLE LUCKEY  
INVENERGY LLC  
ONE SOUTH WACKER DRIVE, SUITE 1800  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606  
[nluckey@invenergyllc.com](mailto:nluckey@invenergyllc.com)

CARLY MASENTHIN, LITIGATION COUNSEL  
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION  
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD  
TOPEKA, KS 66604  
[c.masenthin@kcc.ks.gov](mailto:c.masenthin@kcc.ks.gov)

*/s/ Andrew O. Schulte*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew O. Schulte



# Grain Belt Express

An INVENERGY TRANSMISSION Project

One South Wacker Drive | Suite 1800 | Chicago, Illinois 60606 | 312.224.1400 | [www.GrainBeltExpressLine.com](http://www.GrainBeltExpressLine.com)

January 17, 2025

Lynn M. Retz  
Secretary  
Kansas Corporation Commission  
1500 SW Arrowhead Road  
Topeka, KS 66604

RE: Grain Belt Express Quarterly Report

Dear Ms. Retz:

Pursuant to the December 7, 2011 *Order Approving Stipulation Agreement and Granting Certificate* in Docket No. 11-GBEE-624-COC, the November 7, 2013 *Order Granting Siting Permit* in Docket No. 13-GBEE-803-MIS (the “13-803 Docket”), and the June 18, 2019 *Order on Unanimous Settlement* in Docket No. 19-GBEE-253-ACQ (the “19-253 Docket”) Grain Belt Express LLC (“Grain Belt Express”) hereby submits its quarterly update on the development progress of the Grain Belt Express transmission project (“Grain Belt Express Project” or “Project”).

## General Overview

Grain Belt Express has continued to advance the development of the Grain Belt Express Project in the fourth quarter of 2024, under the direction of Invenergy Transmission LLC (“Invenergy Transmission”).

Development activities in the fourth quarter of 2024 focused on easement negotiations with landowners along the HVDC route in both Kansas and Missouri, advancing engineering design, and continued coordination with counties and utilities along the route regarding road use agreements and crossing agreements, respectively with a goal of advancing development activity. This included:

- maintaining field offices and administrative staff support office hours for addressing landowner questions and concerns and support general development efforts;
- reaching out to landowners individually to negotiate voluntary easements;
- working with landowners to identify micro-siting constraints in the right-of-way area;

- evaluating landowner requests for minor modifications to the transmission line route;
- confirming updated land ownership information from counties' public land records;
- continuing to update project information on the Grain Belt Express website, GrainBeltExpress.com, and respond to comments and questions received from website visits;
- continuing to update and maintain the Grain Belt Express Facebook page;
- continuing to coordinate with environmental agencies and preparing to conduct additional field surveys in the future;
- meeting with and exchanging emails with several counties along the route to negotiate road use agreements for their county roads; and
- meeting with and exchanging emails with several utilities along the route to negotiate crossing agreements;

## Project Development Team

Grain Belt Express did not add any members to the Project Development Team in Q4 2024.

## Regulatory Update

### FERC

On October 6, 2023, Grain Belt Express filed an application to amend its existing negotiated rate authority and request for expedited consideration with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") in Docket No. ER24-59-000. The filing provides an update to FERC on project design and configuration changes that have occurred since the previous approval in 2014 as well as an update on the project's commercial plan and anticipated contractual arrangements, in order to facilitate a Phase 1 open solicitation in Q1 of 2024. On February 29, 2024, FERC granted this request in part, reserving a determination on two remaining issues until the project makes its required compliance filing.

### SPP

The Interconnection Agreement between Grain Belt Express, SPP, and ITC Great Plans LLC ("ITC"), as accepted by FERC on December 21, 2016, in Docket No. ER17-296-000, was replaced by an Amended and Restated Interconnection Agreement, which was fully executed on January 7, 2025, and filed at FERC by SPP on January 9, 2025, with a requested effective date of March 11, 2025. The Amended and Restated Interconnection Agreement includes an increase in the project size of up to 5,000 MW, changed the HVDC technology to Voltage Sourced Converter (VSC), and updated the milestones and cost. In addition, a Facilities Service Agreement (FSA) was executed between Grain Belt Express and ITC on January 6,

2025. The purpose of the FSA is for ITC to self-fund the costs of Network Upgrades and ITC Interconnection Facilities and will recover the initial capital cost of the Facilities from Grain Belt Express through this FSA.

## **Agreements with Kansas Jurisdictional Public Utilities**

Grain Belt Express has no agreements with Kansas jurisdictional public utilities at this time, with the exception of the aforementioned Interconnection Agreement between Grain Belt Express, SPP, and ITC.

## **State Level Updates**

As previously reported, Grain Belt Express has all state level permits required for Phase I and Phase II of the Project. On August 8, 2024 the Illinois 5<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals reversed the decision by the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) to grant a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) to the Grain Belt Express project. On October 3, 2024, Grain Belt Express and the ICC jointly with the Illinois Attorney General's office filed a petition for leave to appeal the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit decision with the Illinois Supreme Court, which stays the lower court's ruling until additional action is taken by the Supreme Court. On November 27, 2024, the Illinois Supreme Court issued an Order allowing the Petition for Leave to Appeal and on December 16, 2024 the court issued an Order approving Grain Belt's request for an extension of time to file its initial brief by February 5, 2025.

On May 31, 2024, Grain Belt Express filed with the Kansas Corporation Commission ("KCC") an application for a siting permit for the construction of two 345 kV transmission lines and associated facilities through Gray, Meade and Ford Counties, Kansas as part of the previously approved "AC Collector System" contemplated in the underlying CCN proceeding (Docket No. 24-GBEE-790-STG). On September 26, 2024 the KCC issued an order approving the application, conditioned upon certain agreed upon conditions.

## **Financial Update**

### **Project Budget**

The following is the estimated total budget for the Grain Belt Express Project. These estimates are subject to change as the Project continues to advance, including conducting preliminary engineering and determining the timing of materials procurement and construction planning.

The estimated cost to construct the Project and place it into operation is \*\*\* [REDACTED] \*\*\*. This includes the cost of HVDC converter stations and associated facilities, the HVDC transmission line, and development costs.

## Spend To Date

Under the ownership of Clean Line Energy Partners LLC (“Clean Line”), Grain Belt Express spent a total of approximately \*\*\* [REDACTED] \*\*\* on the development of the Project, which includes a relevant portion of Clean Line’s estimated overhead through January 28, 2020. As of January 28, 2020, Clean Line is expected to have no further direct investment in the Project.

Additionally, as of December 31, 2024, Invenergy Transmission has spent a total of approximately \*\*\* [REDACTED] \*\*\* on the development of the Grain Belt Express Project, which does not include estimated overhead costs of Invenergy Transmission or its affiliate Invenergy LLC.

## Land Update

### Easements Obtained

As of December 31, 2024, Grain Belt Express has obtained easements for approximately \*\*\* [REDACTED] \*\*\* parcels in Kansas and Missouri and owns the parcel for the Converter Station in Ford County.

### Landowner Contacts

Land representatives from Contract Land Staff, LLC (“CLS”), working on behalf of Grain Belt Express, have been contacting landowners directly by phone and email, as well as through in person meetings when at the request of the landowner, to advance easement negotiations and sign easements for the HVDC portion of the Project. \*\*\* [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] \*\*\*

### Outreach Events

Grain Belt Express continues to work towards finalizing road use agreements and construction mitigation payments in route counties in Kansas. In Q4, Grain Belt Express continued to negotiate with the remaining Kansas Counties on finalizing Road Use Agreements.

The Director of Local and Community Affairs and the community affairs consultant are routinely in contact with municipalities and Kansas County Commission Chairs to address questions and discuss issues about the Project. In addition, Grain Belt Express and CLS staff continue to use the Dodge City office. The Grain Belt Express community affairs consultant also met with Kansas representatives in the following counties: Ford, Hodgeman, Russell, Osborne, Cloud, Washington and Doniphan. The team also met with the following municipalities: Troy, Highland, Hiawatha, Horton, Everest, Fairview, Sabetha, Seneca, Marysville, Blue Rapids, Washington, Home, Concordia, Jamestown, Glasco, Beloit, Glen Elders, Downs, Portis, Osborne, Luray, Russell, Bunker Hill, Hoisington, Great Bend, Larned, Kingsley, Offerle, Dodge City, Jetmore, Hanston, Burdett, Rozel, Spearville, Miltonvale, Brenden, Russell, Denton, and Elwood.

Grain Belt Express also met with the following chambers of commerce over the reporting period: Troy (Doniphan); Hiawatha (Brown); Sabetha (Nemaha); Seneca (Nemaha); Marysville (Marshall); Washington (Washington); Concordia (Cloud); Beloit (Mitchell); Osborne (Osborne); Russell (Russell); Great Bend (Barton); Larned (Pawnee); Kingsley (Edwards) and Dodge City (Ford). The Grain Belt Express team also engaged with the representatives representing the following economic development councils in Q4: Troy (Doniphan); Hiawatha (Brown) Marysville (Marshall); Washington (Washington); Concordia (Cloud); Beloit (Mitchell); Osborne (Osborne); Russell (Russell); Great Bend (Barton); Larned (Pawnee); Kingsley (Edwards); Jetmore (Hodgeman); and Dodge City (Ford).

## **Community Grant Program**

Grain Belt Express continues to offer awards through its Community Grant Program. Grain Belt Express is in its fourth year of support through the community grant program and participation in route area fairs and auctions. Applicants for the community grant program apply through the Grain Belt Express website ([GrainBeltExpress.com](http://GrainBeltExpress.com)). The \$500 grants are evaluated and awarded every quarter. The community grant program provides financial assistance to organizations and groups in the project route counties. These programs empower local initiatives and projects aimed at addressing community needs and improving the quality of life for residents. In Q4, 31 grants were distributed, associated with applications from Q3 of 2024. The Q4 cycle of the community grant program closed on December 31st and will be evaluated and distributed in Q2 2025.



## Project Education

We continue our web presence ([www.GrainBeltExpress](http://www.GrainBeltExpress)) and social media campaign through Facebook to promote project benefits, address questions, the community grant program and stakeholder resources. The staff promotes engagement with community members while continuing to educate stakeholders and the public through this effort.

## Landowner Communications

Inverenergy Transmission and Grain Belt Express continue to work with CLS, an industry-leading land services provider with a 35-year history of executing linear infrastructure projects throughout North America, including several multi-state transmission line projects to assist in its easement acquisition work along the HVDC route.

To date, CLS has investigated property ownership, prepared easement packages for all Kansas and Missouri parcels of land on which the Project will require an easement to construct its facilities and hired and trained qualified land agents to interface with property owners and negotiate voluntary easement agreements for the HVDC portion of the Project. Land progress to date has included:

- 100% of landowners across the route in Kansas and Missouri receiving executable easements through the mail.
- \*\*\* [Redacted]
- \*\*\* [Redacted]
- \*\*\* [Redacted]

Grain Belt Express continues to monitor landowner questions and concerns via the project hotline. The hotline messages are forwarded to CLS land agents to handle direct outreach to the landowners.

## Closing

Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Shashank Sane,  
Vice President, Invenergy Transmission LLC  
On behalf of  
Grain Belt Express LLC  
312-582-1435  
SSane@invenergy.com