

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



Received  
on

**JUN 28 2013**

by  
State Corporation Commission  
of Kansas

In the Matter of the Application of Grain Belt )  
Express Clean Line LLC for a Siting Permit for )  
the Construction of a High Voltage Direct )  
Current Transmission Line in Ford, Hodgeman, )  
Edwards, Pawnee, Barton, Russell, Osborne, )  
Mitchell, Cloud, Washington, Marshall, )  
Nemaha, Brown, and Doniphan Counties )  
Pursuant to K.S.A.66-1,177, *et seq.* )

Docket No. 13-GBEE-803-MIS

**PETITION INITIATING DOCKET**

Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC (“Grain Belt Express” or “Company”) hereby files this petition with the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas (“Commission”) to open a docket and obtain a docket number assignment in advance for its transmission line siting application (“Application”) to be filed with the Commission on July 15, 2013.

1. Grain Belt Express is a limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of Indiana and qualified to conduct business in the state of Kansas for the purpose of carrying on any lawful business purpose, or activity allowed under Kansas law, which includes the siting, constructing, owning, operating, and maintaining of bulk electric transmission facilities in the state of Kansas.

2. Grain Belt Express is a certificated public utility under K.S.A. 66-104 and pursuant to the Commission’s Order Approving Stipulation and Agreement and Granting Certificate issued December 7, 2011 in Docket No. 11-GBEE-624-COC (“624 Order”), *In the Matter of the Application of Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC for a Limited Certificate of*

*Public Convenience to Transact the Business of a Public Utility in the State of Kansas* (“624 Order” and “624 Docket”).<sup>1</sup>

3. Specifically, Grain Belt Express has a Transmission Only Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity pursuant to K.S.A. 66-131 to operate as a public utility in Kansas for the purpose of constructing and operating the Grain Belt Express Clean Line project (“Grain Belt Project” or “Project”), an HVDC transmission line and associated facilities as contemplated by its Application in the 624 Docket, including converter stations, transmission lines to connect the Kansas converter station to the Southwest Power Pool (“SPP”), and a collector system comprised of alternating current transmission lines needed to connect wind generators in western Kansas to the Kansas converter station (“AC Collector System”). The proposed Project is designed to facilitate the development and exportation of wind resources in western Kansas to load and population centers in Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, and states farther east.

4. On July 15, 2013, Grain Belt Express will be filing in this docket its line siting Application seeking siting authority to construct in Kansas approximately 370 miles of the approximate 750-mile HVDC transmission line that continues to Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana, a converter station in Ford County, Kansas, and facilities to interconnect the converter station with SPP.<sup>2</sup> In anticipation of the Application filing, Grain Belt Express has been in contact with the Staff of the Commission (“Staff”) to keep them apprised of the timing of the filing and to work with them on preliminary matters related to notice and hearings. This preliminary work is necessary due to the 120-day time period for the Commission to process the filing, pursuant to K.S.A. 66-1,178. Grain Belt Express originally intended to file the Application on July 1, 2013,

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<sup>1</sup> In the 624 Docket, Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC was referred to in shorthand as “Clean Line”, whereas in this Application it is referred to in shorthand as “Grain Belt Express”.

<sup>2</sup> A subsequent line siting application pursuant to K.S.A. 66-1,177 et seq. will be filed at a later date for the AC Collector System after wind generators that will connect to the Project are identified.

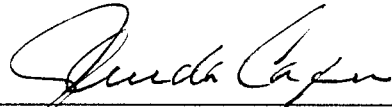
but after learning of constraints with regard to the Commission's calendar, agreed to delay the filing until July 15, 2013, to help alleviate those constraints.

5. Grain Belt Express understands from its conversations with Staff that it is the preference of the Commission to conduct four public hearings, as opposed to one public hearing as is typical for recent transmission siting dockets. Grain Belt Express understands the reason for the difference in the number of public hearings is due to the length of the transmission line being proposed by Grain Belt Express. However, having four public hearings presents certain challenges to the 120-day schedule. Therefore, Grain Belt Express is filing this petition in order to open a docket and obtain a docket number in advance of the filing of the Application, which will allow the Company to begin preparations to meet the notice requirements outlined in K.S.A. 66-1,177 *et seq.* ***Grain Belt Express understands and expressly acknowledges that the running of the 120-day statutory timeline will not start until the filing of the Application and supporting testimony on July 15, 2013.***

6. Commission Staff supports the filing of this petition.

Respectfully submitted,

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