

Before the
STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

In the Matter of the Investigation into the Principles and Priorities to be Established for Evaluating the Reasonableness of the Location of a Proposed Transmission Line in Future Line Siting Proceedings.

Docket 24-GIME-102-GIE

RESPONSE TO STAFF'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

The Kansas Farm Bureau ("KFB" or "Intervenor") submits the following response to Staff's Report and Recommendation pursuant to K.A.R. 82-1-218(d).

A. Kansas's Role in Participating in an RFP for an SPP Competitive Upgrade

1. KFB encourages the Commission (or "KCC") and SPP to find ways to engage stakeholders early in the transmission approval process. Stakeholder engagement earlier in the process would allow bids and plans to accommodate stakeholder concerns and reduce the risk of significant changes to the conditions of a bid after the bid has been awarded.

2. KFB supports including agriculture representatives among stakeholders designated as advisors to the SPP and other regional transmission organizations/independent system operators.

B. Fundamental Topics to be Considered in Siting a Transmission Line in Rural Kansas

1. KFB generally agrees with the scope of topics that staff has recommended for consideration in this docket. The grassroots members of KFB have developed rather extensive energy policy relating to transmission, as it has come to impact so many of our rural members.

2. KFB supports:

a. The establishment of a company code of conduct, and a landowner bill of rights, to set minimum standards for the policies and procedures that must be followed by energy companies, as well as minimum contract standards, when acquiring rights in land for energy generation and transmission projects, whether such acquisition is by voluntary means or through the use of eminent domain.

b. An electric energy generation fee to pay for transmission line costs for rate reductions for Kansas consumers.

c. The establishment of standard weighting factors to be used in route model studies for all transmission siting dockets before the KCC.

d. The establishment of minimum siting requirements for transmission lines, such as setback requirements from residential and agricultural structures.

e. Laws that favor incumbent transmission companies (ROFR).

f. The list of names and addresses of landowners that may be impacted by a proposed transmission project being publicly available to allow collaboration of impacted landowners.

g. States maintaining primary authority to oversee transmission siting.

3. There should be stakeholder engagement opportunities during the planning process, prior to line approval, at the KCC and the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), that include steps such as:

a. A comprehensive study on the economic impact, inclusive of any tax abatement of the project;

- b. A comprehensive study on the health/safety impact of the project;
- c. Cooperation/collaboration with existing local power cooperatives;
- d. Analysis of current infrastructure, and an effort to build lines where rights-of-way for other transmission lines already exist;
- e. Multiple opportunities for affected landowners to discuss concerns before companies seek to acquire rights in land through contracts or the use of eminent domain;
- f. Transparency/clarity in the process;
- g. Route studies; and
- h. Facts and numbers that demonstrate how the project will benefit Kansas consumers and communities (not just exporting power).

4. KFB opposes:

- a. The use of eminent domain for the acquisition of rights of way for merchant electric transmission lines.
- b. The use of guyed transmission structures, requiring guy lines, on private property without landowner permission.
- c. Federal backstop authority final approval provided by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) with regards to high voltage transmission lines.

5. Transmission lines and other utilities should be situated on section lines or property lines when practical.

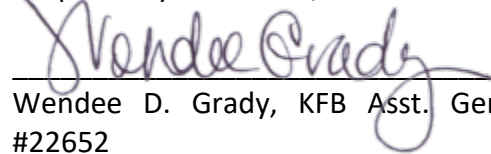
6. Property rights of all landowners in areas developed for energy generation and transmission should be protected. Decisions regarding siting guidelines and other potential

zoning or restrictions are best made by county government after public input and comment. Regulations should provide area landowners adequate protection of setbacks, decommissioning issues and environmental issues.

7. The KCC should immediately notify all affected county commissions and all state legislators by certified mail when any new entity applies for, and when any new entity is granted, utility status. KCC should also serve the same notice when any new request for new transmission construction of over 25 miles is filed with the KCC.

WHEREFORE, Intervenor requests that the Commission issue an order regarding the scope of this investigation that would encompass the consideration of the issues and factors set forth herein.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

On this 11th day of December, 2023, I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Response to Staff's Report and Recommendation was furnished, by means of electronic service, to the following parties:

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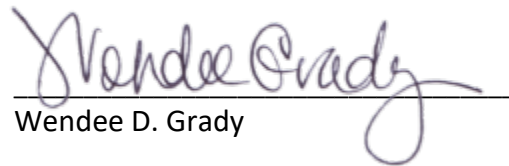
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