

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of Grain Belt Express)
Clean Line LLC for a Certificate of Convenience and)
Necessity Authorizing it to Construct, Own, Operate,)
Control, Manage, and Maintain a High Voltage, Direct) Case No. EA-2016-0358
Current Transmission Line and an Associated Converter)
Station Providing an interconnection on the Maywood-)
Montgomery 345 kV Transmission Line)

RECOMMENDATION OF THE MISSOURI LANDOWNERS ALLIANCE
REGARDING LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Missouri Landowners Alliance (MLA) respectfully submits the following recommendations regarding the scheduling and venue of the local public hearings in this case.

1. The MLA respectfully requests that a local public hearing be held in each of the eight counties which would be crossed by the proposed 200 mile transmission line.

Although a hearing was held in each of the eight counties in the earlier Grain Belt case, that certainly does not mean that everyone affected by the line has had a fair opportunity to express their current views to the current Commission. People have no doubt moved into the area since the hearings two years ago. Some people who wished to attend two years ago were in all likelihood unable to do so. Changes have been made to the proposed route.¹ One position on the Commission has also changed. Landowners may now recognize additional problems with the line that they did not voice to the Commission two years ago. Or people in the area may be so frustrated and angry with GBE's proposal that they sincerely feel they must reiterate their concerns to the Commission.

¹ See Schedule JGP-2 page 15 et seq. to testimony of GBE witness James G. Puckett.

Regardless of the reason for attending, if hearings are held in only four of the eight affected counties, then the trip could be unduly burdensome for those who are required to attend in an adjacent county. In extreme cases, under GBE's proposal landowners could be faced with a two-hour round-trip drive to attend the nearest venue.²

2. GBE is seeking to limit the public's input into a Commission decision which could adversely affect the lives of hundreds if not thousands of people living on or near the proposed right-of-way. Their recommendation fails to articulate a legitimate reason for doing so. The four additional hearings would certainly have no measurable impact on GBE's own resources.

3. The MLA recognizes that Commission time and resources may well be a different matter. However, we respectfully suggest that this proceeding is of such significance to the people of northern Missouri that it merits a hearing in each of the eight affected counties.

4. The MLA suggests that the list of possible locations for the public hearings filed by Staff on October 5, 2016, with input from other parties, could be used in selecting the locations for the hearings in each county.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Paul A. Agathen
Paul A. Agathen (# 24756)
Attorney for the Missouri Landowners
Alliance
485 Oak Field Ct.
Washington, MO 63090
(636)980-6403
Paa0408@aol.com

² According to Google Maps, the round-trip drive time from Winthrop, Missouri, in Buchanan County, to Cameron, Missouri (the closest of GBE's proposed hearing sites) is just over two hours.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of the foregoing document was served by electronic mail upon counsel for all parties this 17th day of October, 2016.

/s/ Paul A. Agathen
Paul A. Agathen