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Kimberly D. Bose Secretary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20426

RE: Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC
Docket No. ER14-409-\_\_\_
Informational Report

Dear Secretary Bose:

On May 8, 2014, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) issued an order (Order) conditionally granting authorization to Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC (Grain Belt Express) to sell transmission service rights on its Grain Belt Express transmission project (Project) at negotiated rates. The Order and the underlying petition (Petition) describe the Project as being capable of delivering up to 3,500 MW of power from western Kansas to southwestern Indiana, with a connection point in Missouri. Grain Belt Express hereby informs the Commission that the Project will be capable of delivering a total of 4,000 MW of power (Project Capacity), with 500 MW of power to be delivered to Missouri and 3,500 MW to be delivered to southwestern Indiana. As explained below, the Project Capacity has been publicized since the inception of Grain Belt Express' open solicitation process and does not materially change the facts and circumstances that the Commission relied on in granting negotiated rate authority to Grain Belt Express.

As indicated in the Petition, the Project includes an intermediate converter station near the Maywood 345 kV substation in Missouri, which is located within the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC</u>, 147 FERC ¶ 61,098 (2014). The authorization was made conditional to the Commission's acceptance of Grain Belt Express' rate schedule, as well as a filing disclosing the results of Grain Belt Express' capacity allocation process after the open solicitation process has concluded.

Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. footprint. Prior to the commencement of the open solicitation process for the Project, Grain Belt Express determined that it was feasible to deliver up to 500 MW of power to the Missouri converter station and 3,500 of power to Sullivan County, Indiana. Accordingly, in its Notice of Open Solicitation for Transmission Service (Initial Notice) publicly announcing the commencement of the Project's open solicitation process on January 21, 2015, Grain Belt Express described the Project as capable of delivering 3,500 MW of power to Sullivan County, Indiana, and up to 500 MW of power to an intermediate converter station located in Missouri.<sup>2</sup> The Initial Notice was widely distributed through energy trade magazines and websites, regional energy publications, energy trade associations, regional transmission planning groups, and regional reliability entity stakeholder e-mail distribution lists. Grain Belt Express also prominently posted the availability of the Project Capacity on the Project's website. In a subsequent open solicitation notice publicly announcing a new open solicitation window for new and updated transmission service requests on February 8, 2016 (Second Notice), Grain Belt Express again notified interested parties that the Kansas-to-Missouri portion of Project Capacity is available for subscription.<sup>3</sup> Thus, throughout the entire open solicitation process for the Project, potential customers have been on notice that the Project will be capable of delivering 4,000 MW, with 500 MW to Missouri and 3,500 MW to southwestern Indiana.

Grain Belt Express also hereby wishes to make clear to the Commission that the Project will offer service from the Missouri converter station to southwestern Indiana if customer interest supports doing so. This potential service was clearly stated in the Second Notice, and does not impact the Project's capability of delivering 4,000 MW, with 500 MW to Missouri and 3,500 MW to southwestern Indiana.

Further, Grain Belt Express commits to continue to publicize the Project Capacity as appropriate in an effort to access all potential customers during the open solicitation process.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, no potential customers have been or will be disadvantaged or harmed by the updated Project information reported herein.

Grain Belt Express respectfully submits that the information above does not alter the facts and circumstances that the Commission relied on in granting negotiated rate authority to Grain Belt Express. However, to the extent that the Commission believes that any new authorization is required in light of the information reported herein, Grain

 $http://www.grainbeltexpresscleanline.com/sites/grain\_belt/media/docs/Grain\_Belt\_Express\_Open\_Solicitation\_Notice.pdf.$ 

http://www.grainbeltexpresscleanline.com/sites/grain\_belt/media/docs/Notice\_of\_Second\_Open\_Solicitation\_Window-Feb\_2016.pdf.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> <u>See</u> Grain Belt Express Clean Line Transmission Project Notice of Open Solicitation for Transmission Service at

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> <u>See</u> Grain Belt Express Clean Line Transmission Project Notice of Window for New & Updated Transmission Service Requests at <a href="http://www.grainbeltexpresscleanline.com/sites/grain\_belt/media/docs/Notice\_of\_Second\_Open\_Solicitatio">http://www.grainbeltexpresscleanline.com/sites/grain\_belt/media/docs/Notice\_of\_Second\_Open\_Solicitatio</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The open solicitation process for the Project is ongoing and Grain Belt Express has not finalized any capacity allocation arrangements with customers.

Belt Express requests that the Commission promptly notify it of the need to seek such authorization.

Please direct any questions regarding this notice to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jessica C. Friedman Jessica C. Friedman

Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC

cc: Official Service List