FILED
March 30, 2017
Data Center
Missouri Public
Service Commission

Exhibit No. 114-NP

Issues: Right-of-Way Acquisition,

Landowner Protocol

Witness: Deann Lanz

**Type: Surrebuttal Testimony** 

Sponsoring Party: Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC

Case No.: EA-2016-0358

Date Testimony Prepared: February 21, 2017

# MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE NO. EA-2016-0358

### SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF

**DEANN K. LANZ** 

ON BEHALF OF

GRAIN BELT EXPRESS CLEAN LINE LLC

P

Exhibit No. 14-NP

[ate 321-17] Reporter KB

February 21, 2017 File No. EA: 2016 - 4358



# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

I.	INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY1
III.	RESPONSE TO STAFF WITNESS MICHAEL STAHLMAN

1		I. <u>INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY</u>
2	Q.	Please state your name, present position, and business address.
3	A.	My name is Deann Lanz. I am Vice President, Land for Clean Line Energy Partners LLC
4		("Clean Line"). Clean Line is the ultimate parent company of Grain Belt Express Clear
5		Line LLC ("Grain Belt Express" or "Company"), the Applicant in this proceeding. My
6		business address is 1001 McKinney Street, Suite 700; Houston, TX 77002.
7	Q.	Have you previously submitted prepared testimony in this proceeding?
8	A.	Yes, I have previously submitted direct testimony on August 29, 2016.
9	Q.	What is the subject matter of this surrebuttal testimony?
10	A.	I am providing this testimony to respond to some of the concerns raised by intervenors
11		and to correct certain misconceptions about the Project.
12 13		II. RESPONSE TO INTERVENORS CHRISTINA REICHERT AND JOHN E. TURNER
14	Q.	In response to Christina Reichert's concern expressed on page 9 of her rebuttal
15		testimony and John Turner's concern on page 6 of his rebuttal testimony, does
16		Grain Belt Express intend on adding another transmission line to the easement?
17	A.	No. As stated on the first page of the Easement Agreement, "Landowner does hereby
18		grant and convey unto Grain Belt Express a perpetual, exclusive easement to construct,
19		operate and maintain <u>an</u> overhead transmission line, as further described below." This
20		language from the Easement Agreement is meant to express the intent of Grain Belt
21		Express to build one transmission line only.
22		Grain Belt Express does not intend to add another transmission line, pipeline, or
23		any other significant infrastructure to the right-of-way, and the language of the Easement
24		Agreement would not allow Grain Belt Express to do so. As discussed further below, if a

1	landowner requests further assurances on this issue, it can be expressly provided for in
2	the negotiation of the Easement Agreement.

Q.

- Christina Reichert and John Turner both express several concerns with regard to the Easement Agreement in Schedule DKL-4. Will Grain Belt Express negotiate any modifications to the Easement Agreement at a landowner's request, or make additional provisions beyond what is included?
- Yes. As stated in my Direct Testimony, the Easement Agreement is a form. It is not meant to capture every possible situation, but in many cases it will be a starting point from which a landowner can address specific concerns. Grain Belt Express is amenable to adding provisions based on a landowner's request, and if a landowner has a specific concern with a clause, or requests provisions that are not covered, Grain Belt Express would seek to negotiate those terms with the landowner to come to an agreement. Every landowner's property is unique and not every landowner has the same concerns that another landowner may have. This is why we strive to meet individually with each landowner to discuss their issues and concerns, and to reach a mutual agreement on how to address these matters via an addendum to the Easement Agreement.
- Q. What is an example of how some of the issues raised by Christina Reichert and John
   Turner have been addressed in negotiations with landowners?
- A. Mrs. Reichert and Mr. Turner raised concerns about compensation for damages,
  additional transmission lines, tree clearing, access to the Easement area, notice of
  assignment, and payments for gates. Clean Line has addressed similar specific
  landowner concerns while negotiating Easement Agreements with landowners on the
  other projects it is developing. For example, attached as Highly Confidential **Schedule**

- DKL-5 are examples of provisions that have been negotiated at the request of landowners affected by Clean Line's Plains & Eastern Project.
- Q. On page 9 of her testimony, Christina Reichert expresses concern that Grain Belt

  Express will pay only "certain damages" to landowners, as set forth in the Structure

  and Damages Calculation Sheet. For what damages will landowners be

  compensated by Grain Belt Express?

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

- As stated in my direct testimony at page 7, Grain Belt Express will pay landowners for any agricultural-related impact resulting from the construction, maintenance, or operation of the Project, regardless of when they occur and without any cap on the amount of such damages. The intent of Grain Belt Express is to make the landowner whole for all damages that the landowner incurs as a result of the construction, operation, maintenance and repair of the Project, during the entire life of the Project, including and in addition to the damages specifically referenced in the Structure and Damages Calculation Sheet executed with the Easement Agreement. Because each parcel of land is unique, these damage payments will be negotiated with each landowner on a case-by-case basis in order to satisfy the concerns of each individual landowner. The term "certain" as used in the Easement Agreement is meant to indicate that each set of damages will be specific to each parcel of land, not that there is a predetermined list of damages from which Grain Belt Express will compensate landowners. Therefore, the "certain" damages noted in each Easement Agreement will identify the exact damages that are specific to each individual parcel for which Grain Belt Express will pay the landowner.
- Q. What is the purpose of the language in the Easement Agreement that "Grain Belt Express shall indemnify and hold harmless Landowners from any and all liability.

.. except ... from Landowner's negligence or intentional misconduct," as discussed by Mrs. Reichert on page 10 of her rebuttal?

O.

A.

This language in Paragraph 11(a) of the Easement Agreement, as well as in Paragraph 11(b), is written in favor of the landowner and is meant to require Grain Belt Express to protect the landowner from lawsuits from third parties, unless the landowner is acting negligently or intentionally. Grain Belt Express does not require the landowner to carry any specific form or amount of insurance. Additionally, Grain Belt Express does not ask the landowner to indemnify Grain Belt Express or others. Paragraph 11(c) of the Easement Agreement specifically states that Grain Belt Express waives any claims or damages as a result of landowner's actions, except in instances where the landowner is acting grossly negligent or intentionally. This means that Grain Belt Express will not seek to recover damages from a landowner if the landowner is negligent.

Mrs. Reichert asks on page 12, lines 18-20 of her rebuttal testimony whether the landowner would be liable for damages if the landowner hit a structure. Paragraph 11(c) is meant to protect the landowner from such a scenario. So long as the collision is an accident, and not a result of gross negligence or intentional misconduct by the landowner, the landowner would not be responsible for any damages. Grain Belt Express expressly waives the right to collect any damages against the landowner or the landowner's insurance company for such an accident.

- Mrs. Reichert indicates that Paragraph 12 of the Easement Agreement is "ominous and invasive." What is the purpose of Paragraph 12?
- A. Paragraph 12 of the Easement Agreement simply requires the landowner to cooperate with Grain Belt Express in the event the Company needs to negotiate a subordination or

non-disturbance agreement with the landowner's bank. This type of provision is found in most real estate transaction documents. Otherwise, if the property on which the Easement is situated contains a mortgage, and if the lender were to foreclose on the mortgage, the bank would be entitled to terminate any and all easements or other agreements that came after them.

Q.

The purpose of this paragraph is to put the landowner on notice that Grain Belt Express may negotiate with lenders to secure a subordination agreement, whereby the bank would agree to not terminate Grain Belt Express' easement in the event of a foreclosure, so long as the Company is not in default on any of its obligations under the Easement Agreement. Any such negotiations would be at no cost to the landowner and would not affect the landowner's underlying loan or mortgage.

- Mrs. Reichert states on page 10 of her rebuttal testimony that the Missouri
  Agricultural Impact Mitigation Protocol should have been included within the scope
  of the Easement Agreement, so that it is binding on the Company. Similarly, on
  page 2 of his rebuttal testimony, Mr. Turner states that the Missouri Agricultural
  Impact Mitigation Protocol, the Missouri Landowner Protocol, and the Code of
  Conduct should be made binding on Grain Belt Express. Is Grain Belt Express
  willing to do that?
- Yes. Grain Belt Express is willing to incorporate the terms and obligations of these
   Protocols and the Code of Conduct in its easements with landowners.
- Q. On page 11 of her rebuttal testimony, Mrs. Reichert states that the language in the
  Easement Agreement regarding the waiver of homestead rights is an "egregious loss

of rights" to landowners.	Can you explain the intent of Paragraph 13 of the
Easement Agreement?	

Q.

A.

A.

Paragraph 13 in the Easement Agreement does not affect any homestead exemption a landowner may be entitled to with respect to property taxes, and does not require the landowner to waive any rights with respect to third-party creditor claims. When property is conveyed (including an easement), homestead rights are retained by the seller unless they are expressly waived. If they are not waived, the easement conveyance could be viewed as not being complete under state law. The purpose of the waiver in Paragraph 13 is to make the easement conveyance full and complete. This waiver of homestead rights is a provision that can be discussed and negotiated with the landowner. We do not intend for the landowner to lose any meaningful homestead right.

On pages 15-17 of her rebuttal testimony Mrs. Reichert discusses "Heritage Value" property issues. Has Grain Belt Express taken Missouri's statutory provisions on heritage value into consideration in determining compensation?

Yes. It is my understanding that heritage value, as described in Missouri Revised Statutes Sections 523.001(2) and 523.039(3), applies to the determination of fair market value in a condemnation proceeding. Grain Belt Express recognizes heritage value in determining the value of property, and would comply with such valuations in any condemnation proceeding to which the Company is a party.

Grain Belt Express' compensation package consists of several parts (easement compensation, structure compensation, and damages and other compensation) that compensate the landowner for more than 100% of the fee value of any land encumbered by the easement. Grain Belt Express is committed to conducting all easement

negotiations in a fair manner that is respectful of property rights. The Company will prepare a form easement and an offer of compensation to present to each landowner. Grain Belt Express encourages landowners to meet with us and our agents to discuss landowners' concerns. If the landowner has additional information that he or she provides regarding routing, land uses, potential damages, legal issues, or the valuation of the property, Grain Belt Express will evaluate that information, and negotiate with the landowner in a good-faith effort to agree on a revised offer or a revised Easement Agreement. If the landowner has concerns about heritage value, the landowner can provide information to Grain Belt Express for consideration during the negotiations. What options are available if Grain Belt Express and a landowner have reached an agreement on the terms of an easement but are unable to reach agreement on the appropriate compensation? At the landowner's request, Grain Belt Express will submit the issue of landowner compensation to binding arbitration. The arbitration will be conducted by the American Arbitration Association (the "AAA") in accordance with its Commercial Arbitration Rules. Arbitration will take place in Missouri, and will be conducted under Missouri law. A panel of three arbitrators shall be appointed as provided in the AAA Commercial Arbitration Rules, but shall be selected from a pool of qualified arbitrators who are familiar with land use and land values in Missouri. The option of binding arbitration typically costs less, has simplified procedures, and results in a final decision more quickly than circuit court litigation. Additionally, arbitration will allow both parties to select an arbitrator, specifically one with expertise in the matter of property and easement

valuation issues in Missouri. During binding arbitration, a landowner can present

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

O.

information that is relevant to determining appropriate compensation, including heritage value.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

A.

O.

# III. RESPONSE TO STAFF WITNESS MICHAEL STAHLMAN

On page 36 of Staff's Rebuttal Report, Michael Stahlman states that "Grain Belt and its investors are not solely at risk, the landowners of parcels with Grain Belt easements are as well. Some of these easements could be tied to annual payments from Grain Belt. If the Project fails, it is unclear if those payments would continue." Please respond to that statement.

Any landowner has the option to elect the upfront structure payment, which is a lump sum, one-time payment. However, if a landowner elects to receive annual structure payments, those annual payments will be made so long as a structure is on the Easement Property, as stated in the Missouri Landowner Compensation Fact Sheet, attached to my direct testimony as Schedule DKL-3. Landowners electing annual payments have a high degree of payment certainty. As described in the surrebuttal testimony of Company witness David Berry, the obligation to pay landowners will be senior to paying back any of Grain Belt Express' equity investors. In the unlikely event that the Project is retired from service, Grain Belt Express shall promptly wind up the Project activities, including dismantling, demolishing, and removing all equipment, facilities, and structures, and terminating all transmission line easements. The attached Highly Confidential Schedule DLK-5 contains an example of language that has been previously negotiated with landowners on Clean Line's Plains & Eastern Project to address the removal of facilities and termination of the easement. Once a project's wind-up activities have been completed, the annual structure payments will cease to be made, and the land formerly under easement will revert back to the landowner. Furthermore, Paragraph 2(a) and

Paragraph 10 of the Easement Agreement grant the landowner the right to terminate the Easement Agreement in the event that Grain Belt Express does not pay amounts due to a landowner under the Easement Agreement.

Q.

A.

# Why is it reasonable for Grain Belt Express to wait to fund any Decommissioning Fund commitments prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Project?

The Grain Belt Express Project will not begin construction until it has procured financing in the amounts necessary to complete the construction of all of its facilities. The Staff Report has recommended on page 63 that an order from the Commission contain a financing condition to this effect, which the Company has agreed to, as discussed in the surrebuttal testimony of David Berry. Therefore, there is no threat that the Project will be abandoned during construction.

Staff proposes that contributions to the Decommissioning Fund begin when the Project begins operation, similar to that of a nuclear generating plant. This analogy is not relevant as decommissioning issues related to an electric transmission project are far different than nuclear generating plants and issues of radioactive fuel storage and disposal.

Given the critical nature of transmission facilities to the reliability of the overall electric grid, once in use, transmission lines are rarely, if ever, abandoned. Typical utility practice is for transmission lines to continue in use even if a major power generation facility is shut down. Transmission lines remain operational not based on who owns them, but because they remain valuable, useful assets. Transmission utilities comprise a key physical determinant of grid reliability and economics, and therefore remain useful over the long term. It does not make sense to contribute to a decommissioning fund at a

time when there is no reasonable chance of it being used. I am not aware of any decommissioning fund for a transmission line, much less one beginning at commercial operation. There is no reasonable basis to require Grain Belt Express to contribute to a decommissioning fund upon commercial operation of the Project.

### IV. RESPONSE TO SHOW-ME WITNESS CHARLES KRUSE

- Q. Regarding Mr. Kruse's comments on pages 5-8 of his rebuttal testimony, how does
  Grain Belt Express intend to accomplish avoiding and minimizing the potential for
  compaction or rutting, and restoring land?
  - As discussed in the direct and surrebuttal testimony of Company witness Dr. James Arndt, the Missouri Agricultural Impact Mitigation Protocol and Easement Agreement establish commitments related to the issue of compaction. Grain Belt Express' first priority is to avoid compaction that would cause negative impacts to farm land. The intent of the Easement Agreement is that farmers be "made whole" and compensated for lasting impacts that cannot be avoided in the first place. In the event a landowner has concerns over specific types of possible damages, those issues can be addressed by the landowner and Grain Belt Express, with further provisions memorialized in an addendum to the Easement Agreement, similar to the addendum provisions I have attached in Schedule DKL-5.
- 19 Q. In response to Mr. Kruse's rebuttal testimony on page 10 regarding Paragraph 4 of
  20 the Easement Agreement, what is the intent of this provision that the landowner
  21 shall not undertake an activity that would interfere with Grain Belt Express' use of
  22 the easement?

- 1 A. This provision ensures the safe operation of Grain Belt Express Project and protects
- 2 landowners as well as the general public. It is a standard provision in utility easements.
- 3 Q. Will Grain Belt Express prevent landowners from making improvements within the
- 4 easement area to protect against soil erosion, as Mr. Kruse suggests on page 10, lines
- 5 15-17 of his rebuttal?
- 6 A. No. Grain Belt Express encourages landowners to utilize best practices to address
- 7 erosion and will make every effort to ensure landowners are able to implement soil
- 8 erosion prevention measures.
- 9 Q. Regarding Mr. Kruse's comments on pages 12-13 of his rebuttal testimony, will
- there be greater costs and diminished profits if aerial applications of crop products
- are limited because of the presence of the transmission line?
- 12 A. No. The measures that Grain Belt Express will employ to prevent interference with aerial
- applications is described in the direct testimony of Company witness Dr. Arndt. While
- any impacts to aerial application would be limited and rare, Grain Belt Express is aware
- of the potential for these impacts to occur. If they do occur, under the terms of the
- 16 Easement Agreement, landowners will be compensated for any impacts, such as
- reductions in crop yields, additional costs of labor and materials for spraying, or the cost
- of alternate methods of application.

# V. <u>CONDITIONS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF</u>

- 20 Q. Which of the conditions proposed in the Staff Rebuttal Report does Grain Belt
- 21 Express accept?

19

- 22 A. A list of conditions recommended by Staff is included in Schedule DAB-9, attached to
- 23 the surrebuttal testimony of Company witness David Berry. Grain Belt Express accepts

1	conditions 2, 3, 6, 7, and 8 in Section VII regarding Landowner Interactions and Right-
2	of-Way Acquisition without modification.

# Q. Which of the conditions proposed in the Staff Rebuttal Report does the Company accept with modifications?

A.

Condition 1 in Section VII, Landowner Interactions and Right-of-Way Acquisition, is acceptable if the following language is added at the end of the condition: "; provided, however, minor deviations to the location of the line will be permitted as a result of surveying, final engineering and design, and landowner consultation."

Condition 4 in Section VII, Landowner Interactions and Right-of-Way Acquisition, references Exhibit A to the Order in Case No: EO-2002-351. Twenty-five of the 27 conditions are listed out in Staff's Rebuttal Report, and Grain Belt Express takes the actions as laid out in DAB-9. Grain Belt Express rejects the following two conditions: Condition 3 under Construction and Clearing and Condition 3 under Right-of-Way Acquisition. Those two conditions are not applicable to Grain Belt Express in this case.

Condition 5 in Section VII, Landowner Interactions and Right-of-Way Acquisition, is acceptable if "surveyed" is removed, since the timing of surveying activities will be discussed with landowners. Therefore, the Company agrees to the following condition: "Every landowner from whom Grain Belt requires an easement will be contacted personally, and Grain Belt will negotiate with each such landowner in good faith on the terms and conditions of the easement, its location, and compensation therefor. Each landowner will receive an Easement Agreement pertaining to such landowner's land, which Easement Agreement will contain a drawing that shows the location of the easement."

- 1 Q. Does this complete your surrebuttal testimony?
- 2 A. Yes it does.

### 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, Control,	)
Manage, Operate and Maintain a High Voltage, Direct	)
Current Transmission Line and an Associated Converter	)
Station Providing an Interconnection on the Maywood-	)
Montgomery 345 kV Transmission Line	)

Case No. EA-2016-0358

#### AFFIDAVIT OF DEANN K. LANZ

COUNTY OF HOM

Deann K. Lanz, being first duly sworn on his oath, states:

- My name is Deann K, Lanz. I am Vice President, Land for Clean Line Energy Partners LLC.
- 2. Attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes is my Surrebuttal Testimony on behalf of Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC consisting of 14 pages, having been prepared in written form for introduction into evidence in the above-captioned docket.
- I have knowledge of the matters set forth therein. I hereby swear and affirm that my answers contained in the attached testimony to the questions therein propounded, including any attachments thereto, are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 21st day of February, 2017.

My commission expires: 16 2018

DORCAS RUTH O'QUINN lotary Public, State of Texas Comm. Expires 01-06-2018 Notary ID 12966547-8

<u>Damages</u>. The first sentence of Paragraph 3 is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following: "Plains and Eastern will repair or pay, at Landowner's option, Landowner or its tenants for any damage to Landowner's or Landowner's tenants' improvements, livestock and or crops as a result of Plains and Eastern exercising its rights under this Agreement."

<u>Section 3 Payment Clarification</u>. Plains and Eastern's obligation to repair or pay for any damage to Landowner's or Landowner's tenants' improvements, livestock and or crops as a result of Plains and Eastern exercising its rights under this Agreement, unless specifically addressed elsewhere in this Agreement, (i) will be applicable at any time such damages occur, and (ii) will apply to damages to the land as well as the aforementioned listed items.

**Road Damages**. If Plains and Eastern uses any of Landowner's roads on the Property, Plains and Eastern will promptly repair any road damage resulting from such use, and will maintain, at their expense, such roads in the same condition as the commencement of those activities, and must not obstruct such roads with the equipment of Plains and Eastern or its respective agents or assigns.

<u>One Transmission Line</u>. Plains and Eastern shall have the right to build one (1) transmission line only within the Easement.

<u>Permitted Use of Facilities.</u> Paragraph 2(b) is hereby revised to delete the phrase "expand within the Easement".

<u>Clearing of Trees and Brush from the Easement</u>. If Plains and Eastern trims or removes any trees, shrubs and brush from the Easement right-of-way or Property as provided for in the Agreement, Plains and Eastern shall, at Landowner's option, chip and spread the remains over the disturbed areas as mulch, place the remains adjacent to the Easement right-of-way for Landowner's use, or remove the remains from the Property.

Access Across Easement During Construction. Notwithstanding the last sentence of Section 4 of the Agreement, in the event Landowner requires access across the Easement during construction by Plains and Eastern, upon prior written request by Landowner, Landowner and Plains and Eastern shall negotiate in good faith to locate a mutually agreeable point of crossing over the Easement.

<u>Tree Clearing Outside the Easement Right-of-Way</u>. Plains and Eastern shall not remove or trim any trees that are located outside of the Easement right-of-way without Landowner's consent, unless such tree poses a threat to the safety of persons or property or a threat to the safe operation of the transmission line, as determined by prudent utility practices.

<u>Notice of Assignment</u>. In the event Plains and Easement exercises its assignment rights under Section 8 of the Agreement, Landowner will be provided written notice of the assignment and the name and address of the assignee no later than sixty (60) days following the assignment.

#### Schedule DKL-5 – HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL

<u>Damage to Fencing</u>. Plains and Eastern shall repair any fences damaged by Plains and Eastern's construction, operation, inspection, repair or maintenance of the Facilities, as near as practicable, to their condition prior to such activity with like materials.

<u>Gates</u>. Any gates installed in fences by Plains and Eastern will be at Plains and Eastern's sole cost and expense and will be locked at all times when not in use unless Plains and Eastern personnel are present, and Landowner shall be provided a key to the locks on the gates (or, if the lock is a combination lock, Landowner will be permitted to install its own lock in the chain with Plains and Eastern's lock.)

Removal of Facilities. If (a) the Facilities are constructed and the Easement is subsequently wholly abandoned for use for the intended purpose set forth herein for a period of five continuous years, or (b) construction of the Facilities has commenced and work has ceased and has not in good faith been resumed for five continuous years, then (x) Plains and Eastern shall remove the Facilities (if such Facilities exist); provided, however, that any foundations shall only be required to be removed to a depth of four feet, (y) the Easement shall terminate, and (z) all rights to the Easement shall revert to the person or persons who at the time of the reversion are the owners of the property underlying the Easement.

**Release of Agreement**. In the event the Agreement is terminated, as provided for in Paragraph 6 of the Agreement, Plains and Eastern shall prepare and record in the real property records a release of the Agreement.