

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Establishment of a Working)
Case for the Development of Best Practices for) File No. OW-2025-0314
Wildfire Mitigation in Missouri.)

**QUARTERLY UPDATE REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF WILDFIRE
MITIGATION AND PREPAREDNESS PLAN**

Pursuant to the Commission’s February 6, 2026 *Order Directing Development of Wildfire Mitigation Plans*, Grain Belt Express LLC hereby submits its quarterly update regarding the development of its wildfire preparedness and mitigation plan, as follows:

1. Grain Belt Express is a public utility as defined by Section 386.020(43) RSMo.¹ Grain Belt Express is an electrical corporation and public utility regulated by the Commission.² In the Commission’s *Report and Order on Remand* (the “Original CCN Order”) in File No. EA-2016-0358, Grain Belt Express was granted authority to construct, own, operate, control, manage and maintain HVDC electric transmission facilities (the “Grain Belt Express Project” or the “Project”) within Buchanan, Clinton, Caldwell, Carroll, Chariton, Randolph, Monroe and Ralls Counties, Missouri, as well as an associated converter station in Ralls County, pursuant to Section 393.170.1 RSMo.

2. As the Commission is aware, Grain Belt Express is still in the engineering and design phase of the Project, with construction anticipated to begin sometime in 2026. Once constructed, and unlike other public utilities in Missouri that are load serving entities (“LSE”), the Grain Belt Express Project will have no certificated service territory and will have no retail ratepayers.

¹ File No. EA-2016-0358, Report and Order on Remand (Mar. 20, 2019).

² File No. EA-2016-0358, Report and Order on Remand, pages 37 and 38.

3. Grain Belt Express has analyzed the Commission Staff's minimum expectations and components that electrical and gas corporations shall include in their respective final draft wildfire mitigation and preparedness plans³ and has begun to incorporate such components into the draft framework of its wildfire mitigation plan. Grain Belt Express has been evaluating the elements of a risk assessment model to utilize as part of its mitigation plan, including wildfire hazard data obtained from the United States Forest Service and weather data obtained from the National Weather Service. Utilizing this data, Grain Belt Express' primary objective at this stage of its wildfire plan development is to understand and establish its risk assessment. Once a full portrait of its risk assessment is more advanced, Grain Belt Express will turn its attention to creating the mitigation, training, and damage assessment aspects of its wildfire plan. Grain Belt Express anticipates having more details to share with the Commission and Commission Staff in future quarterly updates.

WHEREFORE, Grain Belt Express respectfully requests that the Commission accept this quarterly update pursuant to the Commission's February 6, 2026 *Order Directing Development of Wildfire Mitigation Plans*.

Respectfully submitted,

POLSINELLI PC

/s/ Anne E. Callenbach

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³ The Staff's minimum expectations and components are detailed in the Commission's February 6, 2026 *Order Directing Development of Wildfire Mitigation Plans*.

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ATTORNEYS FOR GRAIN BELT EXPRESS

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing was served upon all parties of record by email or U.S. mail, postage prepaid, this 31st day of March, 2026.

/s/ Anne Bos Callenbach
Attorney for Respondents