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GRAIN BELT EXPRESS FILES WITH THE SUPREME COURT OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY (October 31, 2017) – Yesterday, Grain Belt Express filed application for transfer of its appeal with the Eastern District Court of Appeals to the Supreme Court of Missouri. This Application is a request for the Supreme Court to take up the case before resolution in the Court of Appeals. Grain Belt Express made this request due to the immediate financial impact to Missouri consumers and taxpayers caused by an extended legal delay, as well as the statewide implications of stripping the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) of its long-held authority. The case seeks to establish that the PSC is divested of its role in regulating electrical utilities and exclusively determining whether utility projects are in the best interest of the state of Missouri. The urgency in answering this question is driven by a statewide financial impact on hundreds of thousands of Missouri electrical consumers who will pay higher power prices if the Grain Belt Express wind transmission line is not built.

Michael Skelly, President of Clean Line said, “We were encouraged by the PSC’s determination that the Grain Belt Express is in the public interest and will benefit the State of Missouri. We remain committed to moving the project forward and to bringing low-cost renewable energy, tax revenues and jobs to Missourians.”

In August, the PSC found that Grain Belt’s application for a Line Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) met the statutory and regulatory criteria to issue a certificate, and that the wind transmission line is in the public interest of Missourians. The PSC stated that “the evidence in the case demonstrated that the Grain Belt Express would create both short-term and long-term benefits to ratepayers and all the citizens of the state.” Although the project was found to bring tremendous benefits to Missouri, a recent ruling from the Western District Court of Appeals on a separate transmission project was cited by the PSC as the reason it could not approve the Grain Belt Express. Despite 113 years of precedent, this court case, combined with the PSC’s interpretation, now gives priority to county commissioners for approval of linear infrastructure projects, including new transmission lines. Under this new view of Missouri law, no infrastructure project, regardless of how beneficial to the state, can be approved by the PSC without first securing road crossing permission from each county it traverses. Grain Belt is requesting that the Missouri Supreme Court reexamine the Western District Court’s decision and reaffirm the respective functions of the PSC and local authorities regarding public utilities in Missouri.

Grain Belt Express entered into an agreement with over three dozen Missouri municipal utilities to provide capacity on the line which would save these cities of over ten million dollars annually by accessing lower-cost renewable energy.

About Clean Line Energy Partners: Clean Line's mission is to connect abundant, low-cost, renewable energy resources to areas that have a high demand for clean, reliable energy. Clean Line is developing a series of transmission projects to move renewable energy to market. For more information, please visit www.CleanLineEnergy.com.