

STATE OF ILLINOIS

ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC :
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 :
Application for an Order Granting Grain :
Belt Express Clean Line LLC a Certificate :
of Public Convenience and Necessity :
pursuant to Section 8-406.1 of the Public :
Utilities Act to Construct, Operate and : 15-0277
Maintain a High Voltage Electric Service :
Transmission Line and to Conduct a :
Transmission Public Utility Business in :
Connection Therewith and Authorizing :
Grain Belt Express Clean Line pursuant :
to Sections 8-503 and 8-406.1(i) of the :
Public Utilities Act to Construct the High :
Voltage Electric Transmission Line. :

AMENDATORY ORDER

I. INTRODUCTION

On April 10, 2015, Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC ("GBX" or "Applicant") filed an Application seeking relief under Sections 8-406.1 and 8-503 of the Illinois Public Utilities Act ("Act"), 220 ILCS 5/5-101 et seq., requesting a certificate of convenience and necessity ("CPCN") to construct, \pm 600 kilovolt ("kV") electric transmission line traversing Illinois, with 3.6 miles of double circuit 345 kV alternating current ("AC") transmission line from the Clark County converter station to the Illinois-Indiana border ("Project") and authorization to construct the Project. On November 12, 2015, the Illinois Commerce Commission ("Commission") entered an Order granting the CPCN and the requested relief pursuant to Section 8-503.

On December 14, 2015, GBX filed an Application for Rehearing, proposing technical modifications to the November 12, 2015 Order. GBX states that in Section XV, "Findings and Ordering Paragraphs," of the Order, at pages 221-222, Findings (6), (7) and (9), and the first Ordering Paragraph (containing the CPCN), do not accurately describe or are ambiguous in their descriptions, of the Project.

II. PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

A. Finding (6)

GBX notes that Finding (6) does not reference the 3.6 miles of double circuit 345 kV AC transmission line from the Clark County converter station to the Illinois-Indiana

border which is included in the Project as noted on pages 3-4 of the Order. GBX proposes that Finding (6) on page 221 be modified as follows:

- (6) the route for the roughly ~~202~~ 206-mile long transmission line, which will traverse Illinois from near Canton to a converter station in Clark County and from the converter station to the Illinois-Indiana border, should be approved along the routes identified in the prefatory portion of this Order and as legally described in the Appendix A hereto;

B. Finding (7)

Similarly, GBX notes that Finding (7) only references the ± 600 kV direct current ("DC") line and does not reference the double circuit 345 kV AC line. GBX proposes that Finding (7) be modified as follows:

- (7) the easement widths for the ± 600 kV line and the double-circuit 345 kV AC line as proposed by Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC, including permanent easements and temporary construction easements, as set forth in the prefatory portion of this Order are reasonable and appropriate and should be approved;

C. Finding (9)

GBX states that the reference to "new and expanded substations" in Finding (9), is unnecessary. It notes that the Project will have one DC-to-AC converter station, in Clark County, but such converter stations are not typically referred to as "substations." It suggests that the reference to "related facilities" in Finding (9) is sufficient to encompass the converter station in Clark County. GBX proposes that Finding (9) be modified as follows:

- (9) pursuant to Section 8-406.1 of the Act, Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC is authorized, pursuant to Section 8-503 of the Act, to construct the high voltage electric service line, ~~the new and expanded substations~~ and related facilities as approved by the Commission in the prefatory portion of this Order;

D. First Ordering Paragraph

GBX notes that the correct engineering symbol and reference to the high voltage direct current ("HVDC") transmission line is ± 600 kV and that in the first Ordering Paragraph, the CPCN omits the underline below the plus symbol, i.e., it reads +600 kV. In addition GBX suggests that the reference to segments of the transmission line may lead to confusion and should be removed. As discussed above in regards to the Findings Paragraphs, GBX requests that a reference to the double circuit 345 kV AC transmission line be included in the CPCN. GBX proposes that the CPCN be modified as follows:

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the public convenience and necessity require (1) construction, operation, and maintenance by Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC ~~of segments of a +~~ ± 600 -kilovolt HVDC electric transmission line and a double circuit 345-kilovolt AC electric transmission

line and related facilities over the routes found appropriate at locations approved in Docket No. 15-0277, at locations as shown on the Appendix A attached hereto; and (2) the transaction of an electric public utility business in connection therewith, all as herein before set forth.

III. COMMISSION ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

Having reviewed the Application and the record in this matter, the Commission finds that the proposed modifications to the Order accurately describe the Project and the record in this matter and should be approved

IV. FINDINGS AND ORDERING PARAGRAPHS

The Commission, having considered the record herein, finds that:

- (1) the Commission has jurisdiction over the parties and subject matter in this proceeding;
- (2) the facts recited and conclusions reached in the prefatory portion of this Order hereinabove are hereby adopted as findings;
- (3) the modifications sought in the Application should be approved as set forth in the prefatory portion of this Order.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Illinois Commerce Commission that the modifications to the Order as proposed in the Application for Rehearing, as set forth above, are hereby approved, and the Order is amended accordingly.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that except as specifically modified herein, the Order shall remain in full force and effect as written.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that subject to the provisions of Section 10-113 of the Public Utilities Act and 83 Ill. Adm. Code 200.880, this Order is final; it is not subject to the Administrative Review Law.

By Order of the Commission this 22nd day of December, 2015.

(SIGNED) BRIEN SHEAHAN

Chairman