

Controversial Energy Project Moves Forward

(KNZA)--Grain Belt Express Clean Line clears another hurdle.

According to a news release, Clean Line has received approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to sell transmission service to customers at negotiated rates.

The Grain Belt Express Clean Line is an about 750-mile, overhead direct current transmission line that will connect wind energy from western Kansas with utilities and customers in Missouri, Illinois, Indiana and states farther east. The transmission line is to pass through four area northeast Kansas counties, Marshall, Nemaha, Brown and Doniphan.

The project will deliver up to 3,500 megawatts, providing enough energy per year for more than 1.4 million homes.

The federal approval will give Clean Line the authority to sell transmission capacity to potential customers of the project, including utilities and other load serving entities or clean energy generators. In addition, Clean Line was granted authorization to negotiate bilateral agreements for 100% of the line's capacity.

The project hasn't come without controversy. Affected property owners in both Kansas and Missouri have opposed the project, citing both property rights and health concerns.

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