

CLEAN LINE EXPRESS

Your direct line to ROCK ISLAND CLEAN LINE updates

JULY 2015

ROCK ISLAND COMPLETES IMPORTANT INTERCONNECTION STUDY

After more than 18 months of scoping, coordination, study work, and review, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) completed the Rock Island Clean Line No Harm Study. The study is one of two impact studies required for the Rock Island Clean Line to safely connect to the electric grid. We are pleased that the conclusions of this study indicate that the Rock Island Clean Line project, through proper ongoing coordination with MISO and the utilities in and around the MISO territory, will be able to operate in a manner that ensures the continued reliability and security of the electric grid.

ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION APPROVES THE ROCK ISLAND CLEAN LINE



On November 25, 2014, the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) unanimously approved an Order granting Rock Island Clean Line a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. This Certificate enables Clean Line to construct and operate the Illinois portion of the new 500-mile electric power line. In this decision the ICC also granted Rock Island Clean Line public utility status in Illinois.

“Nothing is more fundamental to a healthy economy than the availability of reliable energy, its availability and cost profoundly affect every aspect of our economy,” said Todd Maisch, President of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. *“A diversity of electricity supply has major benefits, and growth in renewable energy creates more options for consumers. Companies like Clean Line that propose electric transmission projects are forced to meet a high threshold to prove that their energy project serves the public need and benefits consumers...”*

According to the ICC’s Order, it is certified *“that the public convenience and necessity require (1) construction, operation, and maintenance by Rock Island Clean Line LLC of the proposed DC and AC transmission line Project over the Preferred Routes... and (2) the transaction of an electric public utility business by Rock Island Clean Line LLC, as a transmission public utility, in connection therewith.”*



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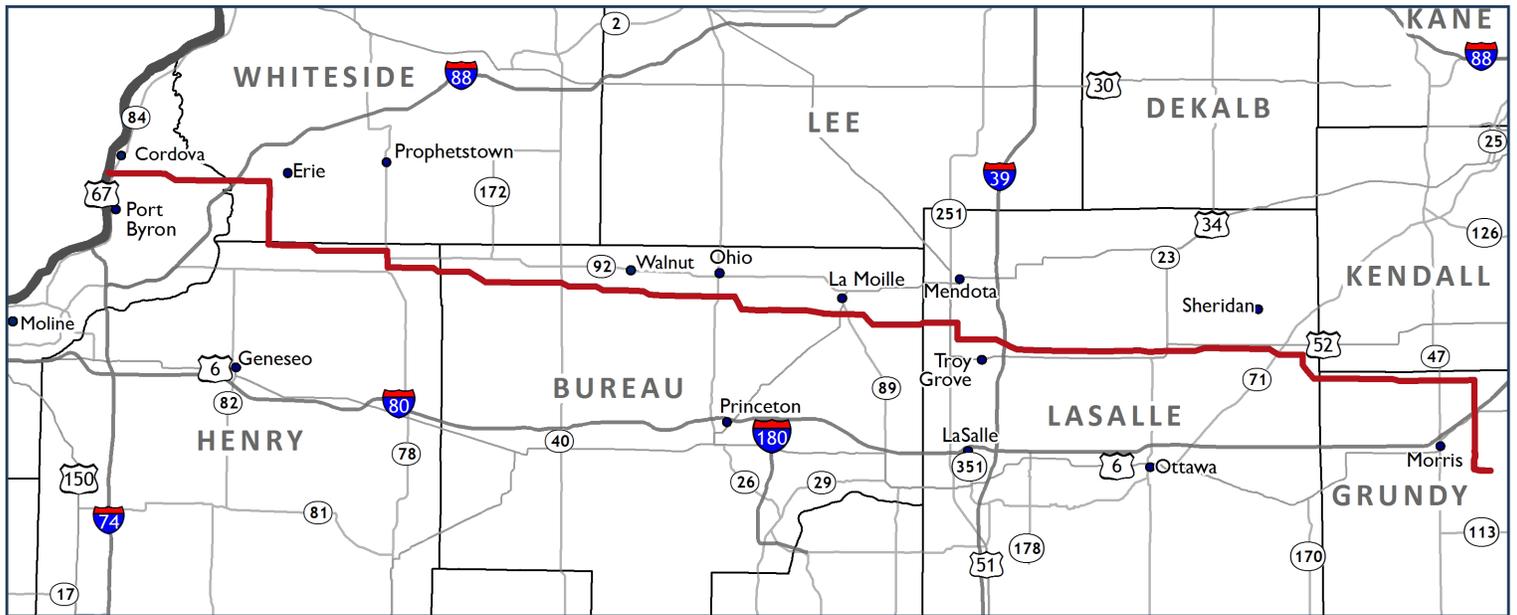
Hans Detweiler

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TO LEARN ABOUT THE ENTIRE CLEAN LINE TEAM, PLEASE VISIT CLEANLINEENERGY.COM



Final Illinois route approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission

Benefits of the project include lower wholesale electricity prices, new jobs and local investments. The Rock Island Clean Line will decrease the annual cost of wholesale electricity used to serve Illinois customers. Illinois' economy will benefit from a direct investment of approximately \$600 million, creation of hundreds of jobs to construct the transmission line, and job support in the manufacturing sector for the wind turbines that will provide power for the line. Clean Line will use local businesses and labor to help construct the line. One example is Clean Line's agreement with Southwire, Inc., to purchase conductor (wire) for the project to be manufactured at Southwire's Flora, Illinois, facility. The Rock Island Clean Line will also generate millions of dollars in local government revenues annually for counties, schools, fire departments, and other community services where the line and converter station are located.

Scott County, Iowa, landowner Ron Schnoor has signed an easement agreement with Clean Line. "I like this project,"

said Schnoor. "Our nation needs the energy, and Clean Line's compensation for landowners is fair. I'm pleased to see the Illinois approval, and look forward to the Iowa Utilities Board process moving forward shortly as well."

More than 1.4 million homes will be powered by the renewable energy generated as a result of this project.

"This project will deliver pollution-free power to Illinois homes and businesses, and create good jobs in clean energy technologies," said Jack Darin, Director of the Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter. "We applaud the Illinois Commerce Commission for their approval of this project, and all of their efforts to bring clean energy investment, consumer savings, and cleaner air to Illinois."

On January 14, 2015, the ICC denied all motions for rehearing for the case. More information about the ICC approval of the Rock Island Clean Line please visit: <http://www.rockislandcleanline.com/site/page/regulatory-approvals>.

ROCK ISLAND FILES FOR TRANSMISSION FRANCHISE IN IOWA

On November 6, 2014, Rock Island Clean Line filed petitions for electric transmission franchises with the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB). These petitions request approval to construct, maintain and operate and the Rock Island Clean Line in 16 Iowa counties.

Additionally, the petitions formally request approval of a route for the Rock Island Clean Line transmission project. The proposed route resulted from more than three years of routing work, meetings with landowners, environmental

agencies, government officials and other stakeholders to gather feedback. During the routing process, hundreds of potential routes were considered.

Clean Line is committed to an open, transparent process that keeps landowners, the public, elected officials, community leaders and the media informed about all facets of the project's planning and construction process. We continue to work closely with landowners and are committed to offering fair compensation for easements.

Local and Iowa-based businesses and workers will benefit from the Rock Island Clean Line. We have previously announced an agreement designating Sabre Tubular Structures, a Division of Sabre Industries, Inc. (Sabre), as a preferred supplier for the transmission structures for the line, which would be produced at Sabre's Sioux City, Iowa, facilities. Sabre will establish a supplier base within the project area (primarily Iowa and Illinois) and will seek to supply raw material from local companies. Sabre's Sioux City facilities employ approximately 450 people in a variety of positions, including fabricating, welding, shipping and administration. The Rock Island Clean Line and Sabre will create new opportunities for manufacturing jobs and help Iowa maintain its leadership in the wind energy industry.

More information and a link to the portion of the petition describing the project's benefits are available at: <http://www.rockislandcleanline.com/site/page/regulatory-approvals>.

In addition to Clean Line's franchise applications Clean Line also filed a procedural request that would have separated the transmission line approval process into two steps (also known as "bifurcation") and allowed for additional time to negotiate with landowners. On February 13, 2015, the IUB issued a decision to deny this procedural request. Despite the procedural decision, the fundamental need for the project remains, and Clean Line remains committed to voluntary easement acquisition.



GET INVOLVED!

Thank you for your continued interest in the Rock Island Clean Line.

Show your support by signing a letter at <http://www.rockislandcleanline.com/site/page/show-your-support>

Submit a comment or join our mailing list at www.rockislandcleanline.com/site/page/comment

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HAVE QUESTIONS?

We encourage you to email us at info@rockislandcleanline.com or call us toll-free at 1(877) 907-8516 to learn more about the project and ask questions.

Visit the **GET INVOLVED** tab at www.rockislandcleanline.com for more details.



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