

Opportunities for Advancing Clean Energy Transmission at the Local Level

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Opposition



Engagement



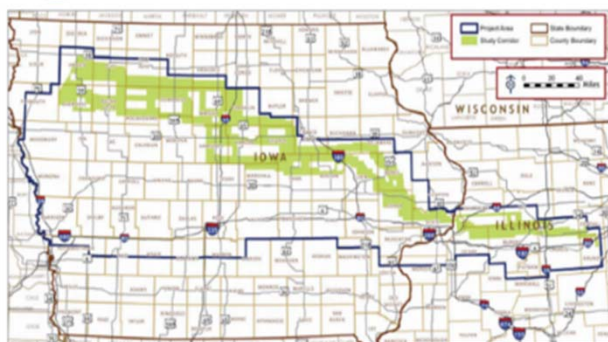
- Track lines across the Midwest and Great Plains
- Outreach
 - Inform landowners and community members of the basic facts, and why participation is important.
 - Make connection to new transmission (unpopular) and renewable energy development (popular).
- Facilitate
 - Attend meetings.
 - Solicit community input.
 - Meet with developers to share feedback.

Information



ENERGY FACT SHEET:

ROCK ISLAND CLEAN LINE TRANSMISSION PROJECT



QUICK FACTS

DEVELOPERS	Clean Line Energy Partners
LINE CAPACITY	3,500 MW
ROUTE	Approximately 500 miles, from O'Brien county, IA to Grundy county, IL.

STATED PURPOSE

- Help transport wind energy from Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and South Dakota to Illinois.
- Unique in that it is paid for by investors and renewable energy developers.
- High-voltage direct current line, making it more efficient than the typical alternating current lines.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION AND DETAILS

- Line will run from O'Brien county in northwest Iowa, to Grundy county in north central Illinois.
- The line will be about 500 miles long, and will be 200 feet at its widest.
- Targeted in-service date of 2017

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CLEAN ENERGY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

- Projected estimated to make more than 4,000 megawatts of new renewable development possible.
- New wind energy development from the project could total \$7 billion, much of it in Iowa.
- Developers in South Dakota cite the line as a major factor for a 1 gigawatt, 500 turbine wind farm in the state.
- About 1,400 construction jobs will be created in Illinois for the project.
- The project is also estimated to create 1,000 construction jobs in Iowa, and 600 permanent jobs.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- By 2012, Clean Line had held 600 one-on-one meetings with stakeholders, and held 33 open house meetings with over 40,000 landowners invited to attend.
- Opposition to the line revolves around agricultural and environmental impact, as well as Clean Line obtaining public utility status, providing them with the power of eminent domain.
- In an effort to address some of these concerns, Clean Line signed an Agricultural Mitigation agreement with the Illinois Department of Agriculture.
- In the agreement, Clean Line states it will attempt to avoid interfering with central-pivot irrigation, keep to the



FROM THE GROUND UP: ADDRESSING KEY COMMUNITY CONCERNS IN CLEAN ENERGY TRANSMISSION



a report by **LU NELSEN**
and the **CENTER for RURAL AFFAIRS**

Education



- Fact Sheets
 - Issue Specific, Project Specific
- Reports
 - *Connect the Dots, Opportunity on the Line*
 - *From the Ground Up*
 - Focus on community concerns
 - Identified key issues and categorized them:
 - Agricultural, Conservation, Eminent Domain, Health, Need, and Transparency.
 - Developed recommendations (best practices).

Best Practices



- Engage Landowners Early and Often
- Improve Online Presence
- Explain Regulatory Process
- Use Mitigation Agreements
- Open Resource Database to Community
- Increase Setback Distance from Homes
- Explore Alternative Compensation Models