

**From:** [Alison Millsaps](#)  
**To:** [Colamaria, Angela](#); [Plainsandean](#)  
**Subject:** PLAINS & EASTERN CLEAN LINE TRANSMISSION LINE - PART 2 APPLICATION  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 10, 2015 12:32:12 PM

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Dear Dr. Moniz and Ms. Colemaria,

I am writing you regarding the Non-NEPA Section 1222 review for Clean Line Energy Partners, LLC's proposed Plains & Eastern HVDC line.

I should be writing that:

1) The Comment period does not give us adequate time to review Clean Line's application in its entirety, and I am requesting an extension to the comment period. A project of this scope requires a comment period that allows the general public ample time to analyze its merits and comment fully.

And:

2) All of us, the stakeholders, landowners, and the general public, were not presented with this application, the materials and appendices, and we received no explanation of the process and criteria with which the Department of Energy will review and make a determination on this project in a formal setting, as was done with the Draft EIS. We need public hearings to comment on this application, which is even more important than the EIS. Please schedule public hearings as soon as possible and provide wide notice to the public.

But I find myself almost unwilling to ask for these things, because I wonder, very sadly in my darker moments, what's the point? An extension on materials that the average person can't hope to understand or wade through in time. An extension Clean Line will use, as they have already exhibited, to spend more money on telephone town hall meetings, advertisements, and Change.org petitions to try and pit affected landowners against the schools in the very communities they live and work in. To shame them into shutting up about their concerns by promoting jobs in the hopes that others will overpower them. To cover up for what they didn't do in the first place, in spite of what they've written regarding landowners in their Updated Application. To essentially make landowners a smaller part of this process than they already are and have been.

People who've had their needs properly addressed aren't ugly. Angela, you were there at the EIS meetings. You saw the response of the people. So much of that was fear and anger. And it's easy to dismiss it as such (not that you did), but it's also wrong. Deeply wrong. Clean Line, and with them the Department of Energy, has put a terrible, heartbreaking burden on a group of people vastly without the expertise or financial ability to protect themselves. If the Department of Energy sees this situation as so complex, so legally delicate, so difficult to navigate that it needs to employ expert outside counsel, then how can it expect the average citizen to do so without similar guidance? And how are we to pay for it?

If you go through with this partnership, you will have taught Clean Line, and every transmission company and investment capitalist in the country, that what they've done to us is okay. That when it comes down to it, all they have to do to get what they want is spend money and drown out anyone with concerns, no matter how legitimate. You will create an incentive for them to be not more careful with us, but less.

Regardless of what you decide, we have already paid dearly for something we never wanted. Our capital has been our time. Countless hours, energy, and money we couldn't afford to spend fighting against people for no other reason than that they have more money and an idea, and friends in high places, and we don't. It's easy to see us as collateral damage. As unfortunate and unavoidable casualties in the country's march toward sustainability. And I could almost live with that, if the project itself were more noble. If the people running it were more humble or in any way more apologetic. If the real goals of this project were for the public good instead of monetary gain.

If I was writing to ask you for anything I wanted, I would ask you to end it. Just end it. I would tell you that there are projects out there I am proud to know the Department of Energy participates in. That we will survive and continue to transition to sustainable energy without Plains & Eastern. I would tell you that I'm tired of fighting everyday to protect the friends I've made in the last year, and that I really, really miss just hanging out with my kids. I would ask you to please, please, not make us do this anymore. I would ask you to please make an example of Clean Line. To let industry know that they have to treat the least of us better than they have in the past, and to let the people know that your concern for the least of us is as strong as your concern for the whole of us... that our small voices matter, too.

Landowners are a singular group. No one else makes sacrifices for infrastructure like we do. No one else has to

live with that infrastructure for the rest of their lives. Although some will live off the profit from it, those people aren't the landowners. I would ask you to protect our futures, too.

But, since I'm supposed to, and because in my more hopeful moments, I still feel like we're not alone regarding our doubts about this project ... Please, extend the comment period for 1222 and grant us public hearings and rule making so that we have a chance to protect ourselves.

Thank you for your consideration,

Alison Millsaps  
Dover, AR