14-00036

December 28, 2014

Honorable James Allison, Chairman Honorable Herbert Hilliard, Vice Chairman Honorable Kenneth Hill Honorable David Jones Honorable Robin Bennett

Tennessee Regulatory Authority 502 Deaderick St., 4th Floor Nashville, TN 37243

IN RE: PETITION OF PLAINS AND EASTERN CLEAN LINE LLC FOR A CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY APPROVING A PLAN TO CONSTRUCT A TRANSMISSION LINE AND TO OPERTE AS AN ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION PUBLIC UTILITY

## **Dear Directors:**

As you have probably surmised, I am one of the private landowners, one of many, who stand to lose part of my property due to the transmission lines proposed by Plains & Eastern Clean Line. Our land is among the 60,000 acres of property which Clean Line plans to take, if necessary, through eminent domain, for one of their four privately funded transmission lines. . .and my land will become just a very small portion of land which could potentially be controlled by a few billionaires. (http://arblockcleanline.com/documents/P&E-WYSK-Mar2014.pdf)

Although this corporation portrays itself as transparent and has given notification for several years, the truth is the individual land-owners were not personally notified until all other avenues had been sewn up as much as possible. Clean Line states the final path has not yet been determined; nevertheless, the belief is held that this is simply to keep people from protesting too much until plans have been finalized. They have chosen the path that is most economically feasible to them, across acreage that has been loved and kept clear by its owners. There are less populated areas that would not require the hardship to the land-owners, but it is land that needs to be cleared and P&E Clean Line does not want to take that extra cost. Once I was notified of the public meeting, I went and was told they would pay \$1,000-1,500 per acre. This is the price for un-cleared land, NOT the price for the flat, clear, agricultural lands they hope to take away from the owners.

In fact, plans for wind power are often being dropped in favor of solar panels. Just this month, *The Providence Journal* reported the Navy dropped wind power plans for their Naval Station Newport due to the study's findings that "do not support pursuing large-scale wind energy at Newport at this time for a combination of reasons, including technological, historical and community concerns." (https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2014/12/18/navy-drops-wind-power-plan-for-naval-station-newport-in-favor-of-solar-panels/).

In a similar venture, eleven state governors declined the costly and inefficient power lines which traversed several state lines. (http://media.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/documents/) They decided the best energy resources are within their own states, and this action also kept future jobs within their own borders.

There are several additional costs that could, and probably will, be incurred. Although it is declared there are no known health effects, the truth is that very few studies have been done to see what potential harm these emissions can cause to our children. In addition to the possibility of increased health care costs, there is also the potential for higher home owner insurances. The transmission lines are following the tornado belt, and it will be the homeowners who have to bear higher insurance rates due to increased likelihood of damage. Over the past few years, the different natural disasters have caused the home owner's insurance to double in Oklahoma. And yet, still, is the increased cost of utilities as wind power carries a higher cost than coal. Lastly, is the extra cost for road repairs when this heavy equipment is transported into the various areas along the transmission route.

As for my own personal story, I am proud to say that I married a man who was already divorced and was very conscious of paying his child support. It was not until the last child had graduated that we were able to purchase a home. It was a gently neglected home with 60 acres of good pasture land. Both my husband and I come from agricultural families, and we keep a few cattle on our acres.

Both of us work, and we purchased this land to have a nice place to retire. We have been paying extra every month so that we can have the house paid off when we retire and not burden our families. Over the past 13 years, we have slowly cleaned up and updated our home and land.

During the times that we have improved our home, we have contributed to the economy by purchasing new windows, a new heat pump, new doors, etc. Last year at this time, we finally had the money to remodel our kitchen, which is very costly. Two months after we completed my dream kitchen, we were contacted by Clean Line for a survey of our land. We never signed the paperwork giving this permission. It didn't matter, however, as they have complete disregard for the landowners with the exception of avoiding lawsuits.

I have completely stopped any further renovations and am very upset over the potential loss of 1/2 of our acreage. We live 1/4 of a mile off the road, a private location which will cause the line to cut straight through our land. The marker goes from my back bathroom wall to almost the back side of our property. The small, leftover, strip at the back of the land will be virtually worthless to sell.

Please consider the affects that this transmission line will hold for the property owners along the way, the damage caused to our lands, the affects within your own state, and the higher costs which will do more damage to our economy.

Thank you for your consideration,

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