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Clean Line Energy and WindPole Ventures Collaborate to Build Kansas Wind Data Network

Using existing broadcast towers to monitor wind at wind turbine hub-height will produce optimal data for transmission and wind energy planning

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Today, Clean Line Energy Partners LLC (Clean Line) of Houston, Texas and WindPole Ventures (WindPole) headquartered in Arlington, Mass announce plans to build a wind resource monitoring network in southwestern Kansas to support the planned Grain Belt Express Clean Line transmission project. It will deliver 3,500 MW of low cost, renewable power from Kansas to Southeastern Missouri and points farther east.

Clean Line solely develops transmission lines and is utilizing the wind resource monitoring network to support its efforts to forecast utilization rates of the proposed Grain Belt Express Clean Line transmission project. It will help future customers plan appropriately for the integration of 3,500 MW of new wind power.

Clean Line President Michael Skelly said, "These measurement stations, which will be spread across six counties in western Kansas, will help us simulate the production profiles of the broad array of more than 3,500 MW of new wind projects that our Grain Belt Express project will make possible. Kansas is proving to be a strong supporter of wind energy and we look forward to continuing our investments in the State."

WindPole will equip its portfolio of existing narrow face towers to generate a complete meteorological picture with seasonal and intra-day measurements. WindPole will instrument 120-meter towers around Spearville, Kansas, near the proposed terminus of Clean Line's Grain Belt Express.

Each tower in WindPole's network will capture actual wind resource data at the turbine hub height, reducing potential errors due to extrapolation. Clean Line will thus avoid the errors and uncertainty associated with 60-meter towers and ground mounted sensor technology. WindPole's sensors and communications architecture deliver high resolution five minute data. Sensors, booms and systems are guided by Annex G of IEC 61400-12-1. V-Bar, LLC is advising both firms, and will guide WindPole on sensor placement.

"We look forward to working with Clean Line on this project and believe this unique utilization of our towers will provide very useful wind data in the region and will support Clean Line in building a high resolution picture of the annual and daily fluctuations in wind power output for planning the Grain Belt Express Clean Line project," said WindPole CEO, Steve Kropper.

The wind resource monitoring network in Kansas is estimated to take 90 days to implement. WindPole will begin monitoring the flow of bankable data on the region's wind resources.

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About Clean Line Energy Partners

Clean Line is developing a portfolio of high voltage direct current transmission lines that will deliver thousands of megawatts of renewable energy from the windiest areas of the United States to communities and cities that have a strong demand for clean, reliable energy. These projects will make possible billions of dollars of investments in new renewable energy projects; thousands of new construction and operations jobs; rural economic development; incentives to manufacture wind turbines and components; property tax revenue for local communities and schools; landowner royalties; the reduction of carbon pollution by millions of tons. For more information, please visit www.CleanLineEnergy.com.

About WindPole Ventures

WindPole de-risks wind project finance and accelerates grid integration for top wind developers, government, ISO/RTO, project operators and industry analysts. WindPole provides real time, hub-height wind resource data from a network of very tall (80 meter) towers. Mass Clean Energy Center provided seed funding for WindPole. For more information, visit www.windpole.com.