

Response to the RICL Motion to Establish Procedural Schedule

Many different thoughts come to mind after reading the Rock Island Clean Line's new Motion to Establish Procedural Schedule.

It is clear this motion is another attempt by the RICL to bifurcate the franchise approval process. The Iowa Utilities Board has previously denied the RICL's motions for bifurcation in 2013 and 2015. This new Motion to Establish Procedural Schedule is the result of the RICL desperately rewriting new lyrics to a song that won't sell, but keeping the same old melody. If the Rock Island Clean Line was a music publishing house it would need to sue itself for copyright infringement. The one aspect of all the motions, which remains constant, is the basic reason for the motions, the RICL's failure to obtain voluntary easements from most of the 1540 Iowa landowners who are on the RICL route. The landowners are not signing easements because they are fighting for their farmland and family heritage. These landowners will have their homes and property devalued if this transmission line, with its 150 foot towers and 600,000 volts of electricity, is constructed on their farmland. After two years of trying to obtain easements, the Rock Island Clean Line has just 15% of the easements needed to build their potentially hazardous eyesore (would you want to live in a home or raise children next to the constant "hum" of 600,000 volts of electricity producing Electromagnetic Fields?). Many of the easements needed are located on Iowa heritage farms that have been passed down from one generation to the next. These landowners do not want the RICL to be the legacy they leave for their descendants.

What is particularly striking about this Motion is that it lacks common sense transparency. The Motion many times mentions Rock Island Clean Line's goal to obtain voluntary easements from landowners, but at no point in the Motion is the company honest enough to admit that it still needs 85% of the easements from these landowners and that this is the reason for the new Motion (but the RICL's media representatives have admitted that the dearth of easements has hobbled the project from moving forward and put the project on hold with the IUB for the past 6 months). On page 12, the phantom "numerous landowners", still wanting clarity, return from the previous motion to bifurcate and they are still numberless. The purpose of this Motion and the two previous ones is obvious. The RICL is once again asking the Iowa Utilities Board to approve bifurcation so the approval process can be used like a club to intimidate 85% of the landowners into signing "voluntary" easements. As in the previous motions, the RICL desires to play by its own rules and not spend money assembling a full Exhibit E on all of these properties since an Exhibit E is still required for each parcel of land to be considered for eminent domain under the Iowa Utilities Board's current one step franchise approval process. The first phase of this Motion to Establish Procedural Schedule does not require the RICL to have an Exhibit E for each of the properties. The RICL would not be granted the right of eminent domain in the first phase, but has coined a new phrase which would seem just as threatening to landowners; "Clean Line's eligibility to utilize the right of eminent domain generally". This generally bogus version of eminent domain, along with first phase approval of the project, would be used by the RICL to strong-arm landowners into signing "voluntary" easements.

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The RICL can't get 85% of the easements, so it's time to try once again to change the process and save money.....and this from a company which is owned by billionaires. To see this tangled web of ownership look on pages 1 and 2 of the 2012 F.E.R.C. approval on the Rock Island Clean Line website, <http://www.rockislandcleanline.com/site/page/regulatory-approvals>. After starting in Delaware and working your way forward through 3 Limited Liability Corporations and a Partnership you will finally discover one of the largest shareholders of the RICL is Ziff Brothers Investments, L.L.C. This L.L.C. is an investment vehicle for the Ziff Brothers; Dirk, Robert and Daniel. The Ziff Brothers were listed as #14 on the 2012 Forbes list of billionaires in Aspen, Colorado; with each brother being worth 4.2 billion dollars. The Ziff Brothers apparently aren't satisfied with their billions of dollars and feel this RICL scheme is necessary to make more millions by using the private property of Iowa landowners, and thereby lowering the value of the adjoining land (and without compensation). The Ziff's Rock Island Clean Line wishes to spend as little money as possible on Exhibit E's but doesn't have any qualms about picking the pockets of over a thousand Iowa landowners for millions of dollars by lowering the value of each acre the RICL crosses by 10-30%. I wonder how the Ziff Brothers would react if these Iowa landowners were to request easements to build hog confinement units beside their mansions in Aspen and New York? Do you think their mansions would decrease in value with the "smell of money" coming from the hog confinement units next door? Do you think the Ziff Brothers would sell the RICL an easement to allow the transmission line to go past their mansions?

An accurate reflection of the character of the RICL is on page 15. The RICL is asking the Iowa Utilities Board to impose a condition in its decision which "assures that Clean Line will honor its commitment to pay landowners fairly". Would an honest company need the IUB to impose a condition to assure its own honesty? It appears the Clean Line doesn't even trust itself to do the right thing. As long as we are discussing money and doing the right thing; the RICL should reimburse landowners for the decrease in value of their land and farmsteads because of the proximity of the 150 ft. towers and the potentially hazardous electromagnetic fields produced by the line's 600,000 volts. The conflicting health studies regarding high-voltage transmission lines and EMF exposure add to the public's fear and reluctance to purchase homes or property near high-voltage transmission lines, thereby decreasing the value of the property. I have a family member living on a farmstead less than 300 ft. from the RICL route. What would be the effect of the 600,000 volts on her health? If the RICL is built and she decides to move, who would buy the farmstead? How much will the value of the farmstead decrease? Who would buy a farmstead and raise their children near 150 ft. towers and the constant hum of 600,000 volts? Two years ago, before the meeting, I naively filed an objection thinking that moving the RICL further away from the farmstead and into the neighbors' fields was a possible solution; we would do the same thing for the neighbors if the RICL was close to their farmsteads. But that was 70 year old thinking from the days when neighbors shared their farm equipment and their lives with each other. A half mile from the farmstead, and over 100 years ago, my great-grandparent's neighbors gave up some of their land so the road could be moved to the east to avoid a neighbor's farmstead. But that was then and this is 2015. Today, having a transmission line on your farmland makes aerial spraying very difficult and also lowers the value of the property. The Ziff billionaires' RICL should reimburse landowners for that lost value. Reimbursement for this loss of value is another condition the Clean Line should ask the Iowa Utilities Board to impose so as to assure the RICL will "honor its commitment to pay landowners fairly".

The RICL's action in proposing the Motion to Establish Procedural Schedule is similar to a petulant child who cannot accept "no" for an answer, impatiently keeps asking the parent for the same thing in a different way and continues making excuses for themselves and their failures. As the child is disrespecting the parent, the Rock Island Clean Line is also showing its disrespect for the Iowa Utilities Board. The RICL implies the IUB members would be Luddites, blocking progress and the development of renewable energy, if this motion for bifurcation is denied and all the perceived benefits on page 1 are not accomplished. On Page 2 the RICL states the IUB will be responsible for the death of the project if they turn down this new Motion, "Clean Line's procedural schedule is essential to allow the project to proceed". Yes, the IUB would need to shoulder the blame; because it couldn't possibly be the fault of the RICL's managerial ineptitude and its failure to obtain more than 15% of the voluntary easements in the past two years. The Motion suggests the IUB should "get with it" by adopting the bifurcated procedural methods of the more advanced thinkers on the Illinois Commerce Commission and in other states. The Motion implies the Rock Island Clean Line is desperately needed for the development and transportation of renewable energy in Iowa. These statements by the RICL would even shame a politician who is proficient in the art being practiced by the RICL, dissembling.

The simple truth is that Iowa does not need the \$2 billion Rock Island Clean Line to facilitate the construction of wind farms in Iowa or the transmission lines needed to transport excess renewable energy to other states. Iowa is a leader in the production of renewable energy and finding a market for the energy we produce. The credit for this astounding achievement goes to the far sighted thinking/planning of the Iowa Utilities Board and the Iowa Utility companies which have served Iowans for generations; MidAmerican Energy, Alliant, and our Rural Electric Cooperatives. MidAmerican Energy has invested \$5.6 Billion in Multi-Value Portfolio projects building wind farms and constructing transmission lines to move our excess renewable energy to Minnesota and Illinois. Instead of creating new routes and devaluing land, MidAmerican is building transmission lines in existing corridors and placing 161kV and 345kV lines on the same monopoles. There is cooperation among the utilities serving Iowa. ITC (which purchased Alliant's transmission lines) met a MidAmerican transmission line at the Hazelton substation and has continued the line 81 miles to the Salem substation near the Mississippi River. Please see the MidAmerican attachments above; "Emailing: facts_iowa_wind", for a complete listing of MidAmerican's wind projects in Iowa and "acquisition_media_kit.pdf", page 7, for a map of MidAmerican's transmission lines in Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota and Nebraska. The following links relate how the Iowa Utilities Board, MISO, MidAmerican and ITC have planned and completed MVP projects in Iowa and Minnesota:

<http://www.chronicletimes.com/story/2041680.html>, <http://www.cfra.org/clean-energy-transmission-map/line/minnesota-iowa>, <http://www.iowautility.org/itc-midwest-completes-345-kv-81-mile-long-transmission-line-in-ne-iowa/>.

The Iowa Utilities Board and our Iowa Utilities were busy planning and building sources of renewable energy, and the necessary transmission lines, long before the ink was dry on the Clean Line's Delaware incorporation papers. We Iowans can manage our own resources without the self-serving mercenary intervention of the billionaire Ziff Brothers' Rock Island Clean Line appropriating and devaluing Iowan's excellent farmland. Maybe the Ziff Brothers and RICL executives have been watching way too many

reruns of "Green Acres". We Iowans are not hicks in the sticks. We are leading the nation in the production of renewable energy and renewable fuels. Our Iowa single step franchise approval process has served the IUB, Iowa Utilities and Iowans very well for decades. The process is balanced, fair, allows Iowans to share their input and lets them know their opinions matter. It is the height of arrogance for the Rock Island Clean Line to assume the franchise approval process should be changed just for them, especially since the RICL has arrived "late in the game", long after the beginning of Iowa's pioneering efforts to produce and transport renewable energy. The Rock Island Clean Line is a project Iowans do not need and a majority of Iowans do not want eminent domain to be used by a private company to seize private property. Please deny the Rock Island Clean Line's Motion to Establish Procedural Schedule.

Thanks for Your Time,

Jim Doorley

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