

BLOCK RICL INFORMATION SHEET

November 24, 2012 UPDATE: New information also added in the text.

RICL intends to put in 28-46 foot square lattice structures through the MIDDLE of fields. Per the RICL contract, FARMERS would be liable for any damage to the structures. A RICL land agent told a landowner 'This is a done deal and you might as well sign now.' NOT!!!! New: A landowner was told "Everyone is happy about this" and "It doesn't devalue the land." That is WRONG!!! 3000 signs don't go up across a state opposing a project if 'everyone is happy.' NEVER, EVER sign the "utility" company's contract! First one to sign always gets the worst deal. A new ICC docket number and proposed routes are expected any day. Be ready to FLOOD the ICC!!

About Block RICL:

Block RICL is an organization made up of multiple local area groups across Illinois. We are combining efforts and expertise in a campaign **to stop RICL and other unneeded transmission projects proposed to cut through our area.** We live and farm in a prime transmission corridor for moving power from west to east. Billions in federal monies available to new transmission projects and financial opportunities to export utility scale renewables to the east coast are creating a surge of new projects **without a coordinated or cohesive plan. Stopping RICL is critical for everyone, not just residents and landowners in RICL's proposed paths.**

About ROCK ISLAND CLEAN LINE:

Rock Island Clean Line is a private company based in Texas proposing **500-mile, mega high-voltage DC transmission lines** from northwest Iowa to Channahon, Illinois. Minimal, expensive "renewable" power would go to the Chicago area, but the majority would be exported to eastern states. **The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has ruled that the lines cannot be restricted for renewable (wind) energy use only and may also carry traditional, fossil-fueled electricity, such as coal-generated power.** These lines will NOT exclusively transport the "clean" energy the company is promising!

These mega high-voltage DC lines, carrying **3 times the power from Hoover Dam**, would essentially be a superhighway for electricity with no on or off ramps for local use. The lines would not serve any local residents or wind farms, and would be in **direct competition with our locally produced power, in-state renewable energy economic development, and permanent in-state jobs.**

ARTIFICIALLY CREATED "NEED:"

The "need" for these lines has been artificially created by states passing renewable energy standards called Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) that require them to purchase a certain percentage of renewable energy. **Powerful wind and transmission interests have lobbied for billions in government incentives and tax production cuts.** Many of Clean Line's executives and director of development have been very active in the trade/lobbying group "American Wind Energy Association." The investors and executives of Clean Line developed Horizon Wind Energy into a multi-billion dollar wind energy company. Per the FERC approval, they will be allowed to use these lines to serve their own future wind farms.

A FLAWED BUSINESS PLAN:

Clean Line's business plan is to export expensive wind energy from western utility-scale wind farms to profitable markets on the east coast that must buy renewable energy. Clean Line has made numerous financial promises to businesses, local government and landowners in states that it must pass through that will increase the ultimate cost of their product. In addition, Clean Line cannot guarantee a "clean" product therefore there may be no customers for this energy, leaving Illinois holding the bag on a "renewable" white elephant with no market.

INCREASED ELECTRIC RATES:

According to Michael Skelly, President and co-founder of *Clean Line Energy*, ***wholesale electric prices must go up 50% in order for this line to be economically feasible.***

Per the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC), ***electric prices for Illinois consumers are raised when power from Illinois competes with power being sent to the east coast.*** Exports can raise local prices, while lowering prices in distant markets.

TEMPORARY JOBS versus PERMANENT JOBS IN STATE:

RICL's statistics for jobs that "may" be created in Illinois come from a private study commissioned by RICL. High-voltage DC transmission line construction is highly specialized and is only done by a few companies in the US. Out-of-state and non-union workers will fill the majority of temporary construction jobs. ***The minimal, temporary in-state jobs*** will be what Clean Line calls "indirect & induced" service and hospitality jobs that will provide the means to ***send permanent renewable energy jobs out-of-state.*** Importing renewables suppresses local economic development and compromises the reliability of our electric grid.

ILLINOIS RESIDENTS ALREADY PAYING FOR \$3.2 BILLION SMART GRID:

In 2011, Illinois residents were committed by our legislature to paying **\$3.2 BILLION** to upgrade our own grid. The new "Smart Grid" is supposed to help us ***conserve energy***, consume energy more wisely, and, most importantly, ***allow us to develop our own renewable energy*** and sell the excess back into the grid. This localized, distributed generation future for small-scale renewable energy, including solar and wind, benefits consumers by turning them into producers and will increase reliability. RICL neglects to identify ***wind-rich Lake Michigan*** that, if developed, would benefit Illinois significantly. RICL also neglects the superior off shore wind resources located on the east coast, close to load centers. Ten east coast governors, including New York, New Jersey, and Virginia, have written to Congress twice to state that they ***do NOT want Midwest wind.*** They do not need the power and explicitly state that importing energy undermines renewable energy development and permanent jobs *in their own states.*

NON-RENEWABLE FARMLAND DAMAGED AND DESTROYED:

The current drought highlights how important every acre of farmland really is, as demonstrated by rising costs of grocery products, higher cost of ethanol production, as well as thousands of other products that use corn, soy and their by-products.

Over 12,000 acres would likely be taken for the easements alone. New rights-of-way would produce a corresponding drop in the property tax base as the land is reassessed, dropping the value of the entire parcel and the tax base for the communities and counties. Contracts already handed out east of the Fox River indicate that Route 80 IS NOT being considered.

28 x28 foot lattice structures (NOT monopoles) are proposed to cut through the middle of fields. Structures would be up to ***200 ft. tall.*** With modern farming techniques, towers would add to the time and cost of production. Soil compaction, tile damage, and access to the poles for maintenance would cut yield. Aerial spraying and circle pivot irrigation would be inhibited if not impossible. Electromagnetic fields from the lines can interfere with GPS systems. Farmers would be liable for accidental damage to the poles and subsequent damages caused by a power outage resulting from the farmer's actions. ***This NON-renewable farmland would be negatively impacted in perpetuity.***

"WHAT TO DO" PACKETS of information and ways that you CAN make a difference, are available through the local leaders. EVERY comment and EVERY phone call will help to BLOCK RICL!

To be referred to a local group and to be notified of upcoming meetings, contact SaveOurFarmland@hotmail.com or call 815-315-8506 (please leave a message).