

Don't allow your state to make the same mistake Kansas has made!

Three non-elected members of the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC), granted eminent domain status to the private investors behind the Clean Line Electrical Power Transmission project. This allows these investors to take privately owned property without consent of the owner for their own profit. Kansas has also granted Clean Line a ten year tax abatement so they can use our roads, bridges and land without paying the same property taxes private land owners pay. Clean Line's Power Line easement will cross the land that private land owners will continue to pay taxes on, meanwhile Clean Line will pay no taxes on the land or easements. Construction of the lines is projected to begin in 2016 with completion in 2019. The tax abatement will begin after the construction is finished, so at best it will be 16 years before Clean Line will pay their first dollar in taxes.

This transmission line is being promoted as a green energy project to transmit wind power from Spearville Kansas, to Indiana and points east, however the wind farms to supply this power do not as yet exist. The projected expansion in wind energy is highly dependent on Government subsidies. The Obama Administration is supportive of these subsidies but the construction of these power lines is not projected to be completed until three years after President Obama is out of office. The money to build these projected wind farms may never materialize under the next Administration, and wind energy is not cost efficient without being subsidized. If this is the case what will these lines ultimately be powered with? Keep in mind these lines begin within 80 miles of the Holcomb Coal Power Plant, and natural gas is abundant in Western Kansas. It is possible that the Green Energy aspect, is just a sales tactic by the Line's billion dollar out of state investors?

No access to the power transmitted by these lines will be available to the states which the lines cross tax free. When these lines are complete they will likely be sold to one of the mega power entities in the energy sector, with the question remaining, will the new owner pay taxes or will they too be a tax exempt company?

Once the lines are completed we will be competing with customers on the East coast for use of the power we are generating in the Midwest. Keep in mind these investors are out to make a profit. On completion of the Lines the owners of the Lines will then begin to shop for a power supplier. If the owners of the transmission lines contract large amounts of cheaper power, what does that leave for us to use? Wind energy without it's subsidies is twice as expensive as conventional electricity. If you need to fill up your gas tank, and the gas station on the left side of the street is selling gas for \$4.00 per gallon and the station on the right side sells gas for \$8.00 per gallon, where will you purchase gas? If we end up with the more expensive renewable power, we may see our utility bills double while we export the cheaper power we have generated.

Exercise of the power of eminent domain was intended to allow public entities the ability to complete projects which were essential to the health and welfare of the public, or protection of the environment. The use of eminent domain was never intended to allow private investors to forcefully take property from its rightful owners for their own profit. Private property owners should have the right to grant or deny access to their own land.

Please contact your State Representatives and your Corporation Commission, so you as property owners are not in the same dilemma that the KCC has put Kansas property owners in.

Submitted by: NE Kansas - CLEANR
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