

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ELECTRICITY DELIVERY AND ENERGY RELIABILITY**

Application for Proposed Project
for Clean Line Plains & Eastern
Transmission Line

OE Docket No. TPF-01

**PETITION FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS
on behalf of
BLOCK PLAINS & EASTERN CLEAN LINE: ARKANSAS AND OKLAHOMA**

BLOCK Plains & Eastern Clean Line: Arkansas and Oklahoma (hereinafter “BLOCK Clean Line”) hereby makes this Petition for Public Hearings as a part of the “non-NEPA” review of the Section 1222 Application in the above-captioned docket. BLOCK Clean Line is an association of landowners and residents along and/or near the proposed easement or alternative routes of the Plains & Eastern Clean Line in Arkansas and Oklahoma. BLOCK Clean Line’s members are landowners, stakeholders, and ratepayers directly affected by the outcome of this proceeding.

The Notice of Application and the process for the DOE’s “non-NEPA” review is flawed because it provided only opportunity for Comment. It did not provide notice nor make any provisions for public hearings. 80 FR 23520 (April 28, 2015). Public hearings regarding the DEIS were noticed in the Notice of Availability and Public Hearings, and 13 hearings were held across Arkansas and Oklahoma and one each in Texas and Tennessee.

As stated in our Petition for Intervention, the DOE’s “non-NEPA” substantive review was referred to vaguely during the public hearings for the Environmental Impact Statement, but notice that this “non-NEPA” process would occur was not given until the Notice of Application

published in the Federal Register. 80 Fed. Reg, 23520, The public had no general awareness that there was any DOE proceeding other than the Environmental Impact Statement. As the DEIS Comments and the attendance at the DEIS public hearings demonstrates, there is intense public interest and concern about this project.

The DOE's Notice provides for only a 45 day public comment period, and there is no provision whatsoever for public hearings, not even one. Further, there is no authority referenced, and DOE cannot cite to any authority for the procedure it has adopted -- there are no rules for a Section 1222 "non-NEPA" review of an interstate transmission line application. There are no rules to set out due process required for this review.

Public hearings are the essence of public participation and due process. BLOCK Clean Line requests that the Secretary, or the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability under its delegated authority, initiate public hearings as provided by Rule 502 (18 CFR 385.502). Public hearings are needed across the affected areas of the states of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas and Tennessee, at least, if not more, to the extent that hearings were held for the Environmental Impact Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 8, 2015



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