



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

March 25, 2016

Clean Line Energy Partners LLC (Clean Line) has applied to the United States Department of Energy (DOE or the Department) for its participation in a transmission project pursuant to Section 1222(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which authorizes the Secretary of Energy, acting through the Western Area Power Administration, the Southwestern Power Administration, or both, to participate with other entities in designing, developing, constructing, operating, maintaining, and owning new electric transmission facilities.

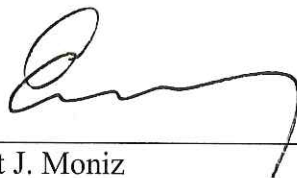
The Department has reviewed the impacts of the proposed project as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act. That review culminated in the publication of a Final Environmental Impact Statement by DOE, a Biological Opinion by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and execution of a multi-party Programmatic Agreement governing treatment of historic properties. At the same time as it conducted these reviews, the Department took public comment on Clean Line's application. The Department analyzed the proposed project using the eligibility criteria contained in Section 1222 and the evaluation factors the Department identified for this purpose in a Request for Proposals published June 10, 2010. The Department has recorded its Section 1222 analysis in a Summary of Findings. That Summary, as well as the Department's record of decision (ROD), will be published today. Along with the review that led to the Summary of Findings, Department staff have negotiated a Participation Agreement with Clean Line, which has until now remained unexecuted.

Based on the best available data, in consultation with the Administrator of the Southwestern Power Administration, and for the reasons provided in the Summary of Findings and the ROD, I have determined that the Project (as defined in the Participation Agreement) meets the statutory eligibility criteria. Specifically, the Project:

- (1) is necessary to accommodate an actual or projected increase in demand for electric transmission capacity;
- (2) is consistent with (A) transmission needs identified, in a transmission expansion plan or otherwise, by the appropriate Transmission Organization (as defined in the Federal Power Act); and (B) efficient and reliable operation of the transmission grid;
- (3) will be operated in conformance with prudent utility practice;
- (4) will be operated by, or in conformance with the rules of, the appropriate Transmission Organization; and
- (5) will not duplicate the functions of existing transmission facilities or proposed facilities which are the subject of ongoing or approved siting and related permitting proceedings.



After consideration of the evaluation factors, I find that the Project merits the Department's participation for the reasons stated in the Summary of Findings. I therefore direct the Department to carry out the Project as set forth in the Summary of Findings.



Ernest J. Moniz
Secretary of Energy
United States Department of Energy