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September 8, 2011

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Via Email

Mr. David H. Meyer
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20585-1000
congestion09@anl.gov

Re: National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors: Delegation Proposal

Dear Mr. Meyer:

I am writing on behalf of Duke Energy Corporation and its numerous subsidiaries (Duke) to urge you to move forward with the proposal to delegate to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) the authority to both conduct triennial congestion studies and designate national interest electric transmission corridors (NIETCs). The proposal under discussion also would allow FERC to act as the lead agency for NEPA purposes, coordinating with other affected agencies.

Duke's core mission is providing electric service in a sustainable way – affordable, reliable and clean. A cohesive transmission policy is vital to Duke achieving its mission in its many and varied roles -- transmission owner/provider, transmission developer, generation owner, renewable energy developer, load serving entity. Rebuilding the economy, addressing climate change, conserving natural resources – all require integrated solutions and an integrated transmission policy is a key component.

Consolidating authority to designate NIETCs, conduct congestion studies, and act as lead agency for NEPA purposes with FERC, which already possesses backstop siting authority and has recently implemented important transmission planning reforms through Order No. 1000, should lead to greater efficiencies in the transmission planning and siting process, while preserving for the states their appropriate role in that process. DOE plainly has the discretion to delegate its authority to FERC on these matters and litigation threats should not deter action here in light of the substantial potential benefits. Forward progress on improving the nation's transmission infrastructure and enhancing access to renewable resources should remain paramount goals and well-developed proposals designed to achieve those goals should be encouraged.

If Duke can be of further assistance in moving this proposal forward please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



James B. Gainer