



GREG ABEL
CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT
AND CEO

August 31, 2011

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy
Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20585-1000

via E-mail: The.Secretary@hq.doe.gov

Dear Secretary Chu:

I'm writing to let you know that MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company supports the recent FERC proposal that would give the Commission backstop authority for transmission siting and permitting, acting as an inter-departmental coordinator for all pertinent federal agencies to ensure that projects are permitted in a synchronized and timely manner. In furtherance of this proposal, we urge the Department of Energy to delegate to FERC its national interest electric transmission corridor designation authority under the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

As a company that has sited and continues to site both interstate electric transmission lines and natural gas pipelines, we welcome efforts to unify federal authority to site transmission projects in a more efficient and directed process. Timeline predictability, of course, is critical in order to align the timing of new transmission and generation resources. The FERC proposal not only addresses this concern, but it also represents an effort to ensure full cooperation and buy-in from the relevant federal agencies, coordinate with the Rapid Response Team, and streamline the permitting process without cutting corners or skirting stakeholder involvement.

Alleviating transmission siting problems is critical to getting greater access to renewable energy. If we can work with you or your team to move this process along, please let me know.

Sincerely,