

Lewis Hay, III
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer



September 8, 2011

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Chu:

I am writing to express the support of NextEra Energy, Inc., for the proposed delegation of U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) functions under section 216 of the Federal Power Act to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). This delegation is fully consistent with the intent of Congress to establish a limited federal role in electric transmission siting and should improve the current process.

Consolidating the federal transmission siting role at FERC should make the siting process more efficient and more workable. The bifurcation of the federal role between DOE and FERC is inefficient, requiring lengthy, sequential proceedings at two agencies. Consolidation of the federal role would result in a single proceeding at FERC, with improved environmental review.

Separation of corridor designation from siting has resulted in designation of relatively large corridors that caused political controversy. Consolidating the federal role should avoid the prospect of large corridor designations in the future.

The proposed delegation would not expand the federal transmission siting role, but only make it more effective. The federal role is not increased; instead the DOE role is transferred to FERC. Under the proposed consolidation of federal siting authorities, the federal siting role would remain limited and secondary. States would retain primary responsibility for siting electric transmission facilities. But limited federal siting will help develop the robust grid the U.S. needs to assure reliability, reduce congestion, and deliver low cost, clean energy.

I urge the Department to issue the proposed delegation.

Sincerely,

/da

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lewis Hay, III", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.