

State of West Virginia
Joe Manchin III
Governor

Office of the Governor
State Capitol
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305

Telephone: (304) 558
Toll Free: 1-888-438
FAX: (304) 342
www.wv.gov

October 3, 2006

The Honorable Samuel W. Bodman
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Bodman:

I am writing to extend my congratulations on your efforts regarding National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors (NIETC), and to provide a Governor's perspective on the benefits of such designations.

West Virginia is in a unique position. Geographically, we border one of two areas in the nation identified as severely deficient in electric transmission infrastructure. To our north and east, we see regional issues of high energy prices, exacerbated by lack of suitable sites for new generation facilities. To our south and west, and within our own state, we see low-priced generation in existing power plants that have been retrofitted to comply with new environmental regulations - clean coal plants. We also see some of the most promising siting opportunities anywhere in the Eastern U.S. for renewable energy such as wind. The challenge becomes getting from Point A to Point B in a manner that is beneficial to all citizens in each of the respective regions.

On May 8 of this year, I attended a celebration of the last line splice on American Electric Power's Wyoming-Jacksons Ferry 765-kV transmission line, which was energized a month later. This 90-mile line stretches from West Virginia to Virginia, and provides vital reliability benefits for a significant portion of my state. Due to a number of largely unrelated issues, the line took 13 years to site. I understand this is an exception, but I also understand that transmission projects of this size are not built in a day.

The electric demand needs of a significant percentage of Americans are great and they are immediate. These needs are both financial, in terms of lower energy prices, and security related, in terms of reliability. The state of the U.S. electric grid along the urban East Coast is not merely a consumers' issue. It is a matter of national security. We must move forward with expediency in identifying project proposals that meet NIETC specifications, so siting and construction can begin.

Secretary Samuel W. Friedman

October 3, 2006

Page Two

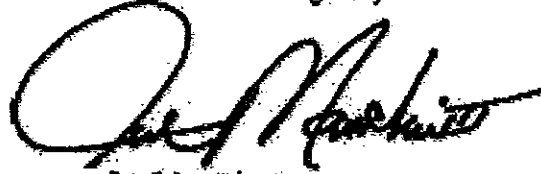
Several proposals have been filed with the Department of Energy seeking National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor designation. The first two such proposals were American Electric Power's I-76S project (the Amos-Kemptown-Deans 765-kV proposal) and Allegheny Power's Trans-Allegheny Interstate Line, a portion of which is needed for near-term reliability. These two proposals are complementary, and together would resolve the vast majority of congestion problems identified in an area as one of most critical in the United States.

My staff and I have reviewed both of these projects and spoken at length with AEP and AP officials regarding the benefits of the lines - benefits to the citizens of West Virginia, as well as millions of citizens of other states. I support both of these projects.

The purpose of my letter is to encourage you to designate National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors that coincide with the paths of both the I-76S project and the Trans-Allegheny project. They meet the requirements identified by the Department of Energy, and they were proposed in keeping with the spirit and intent of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Thank you again for your serious deliberation regarding this critical issue. If I can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With warmest regards,



Joe Manchin III
Governor of West Virginia

cc: Kevin Kolevar
Director, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability

David Meyer
Deputy Director, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability

Prometh Agrawal
Manager, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability

Michael G. Morris
Chairman, President and CEO, American Electric Power

Paul J. Evarson
Chairman, President and CEO, Allegheny Energy