

Request for Rehearing

Pocket # 2007-~~OE~~-01

TO 202-5867-8008
From Randy Keith
Miller

November 3, 2007

Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
OE-20
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585
Attn: Docket 2007-OE-01

Request for Re-Hearing

Gentlemen and Ladies;

During your public comment opportunity in Alexandria, Virginia, I have provided comments to you, written and oral, regarding your proposed designation of areas in the Northeast as National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors. I am very disappointed in your decision to designate the Northeast Corridor. I suggest that you conduct additional study.

I contend that the establishment of this corridor favors investment in coal-fired generation and transmission at the expense of renewable energy and distributed generation. I believe it is the Department of Energy's responsibility to look at the long-term consequences of corridor establishment along the following lines:

1. Fossil fuel use will become more expensive sooner rather than later. Even with a seemingly ample supply of coal, the cost of extraction, transportation, pollution control, and dwindling supplies versus demand will drive the cost of electricity skyward. The same investment, properly placed in renewable energy production would keep electricity costs more economically stable. I request the Department of Energy to do an analysis of these cost curves before it establishes a policy that favors investment in conventional fuels. This analysis should internalize the external costs that citizens and the government currently absorb: pollution cleanup, health costs, and the risks of greenhouse gas effects.
2. Reinforcing long distance transmission is counter to a sound national energy future. The Department of Energy has the responsibility to guide, through policy, a sustainable and secure energy. The California wildfires closed a power artery, jeopardized another, and endangered the electrical supply to southern California. Numerous smaller locally generated power sources would have been more secure. The Department of Energy should follow the leadership of certain European and Asian nations that support policies to make the electrical grid more of an electrical pool. Any other policy leaves us too vulnerable.
3. Renewable energy will be less expensive if we invest in it now. Safety, security, and sustainability depend upon a distributed electrical pool of small generation through photovoltaic, wind, geothermal, biomass and other emerging technologies. The Department of Energy needs to identify and provide long-term support for these opportunities. A corridor that offers preference toward transmission sends a clear signal to investors that stymies rather than supports

market growth for renewable generation. Certainly renewable sources are the future. Without governmental support, it will be more distant and the intellectual property, technology, and investment dollars may come from abroad instead of locally.

I request that you rehear this case to further explore these and other points through additional testimony.

Sincerely,



Randy Keith Miller
Educator Arlington County
Concerned Citizen

15657 Pickett Stone Place
Haymarket, VA 20169

cc: Hon. John Warner
Hon. James Webb
Hon. Frank Wolf
Hon. Tim Kaine