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March 28, 2012

Lamont Jackson
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
Mail Code: OE-20
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

**Re: DOE Request for Information on Questions Related to
Permitting of Transmission Lines, 77 Fed. Reg. 11517 (Feb. 27, 2012)**

Dear Mr. Jackson:

I am writing in response to the above-referenced Department of Energy (DOE) Request for Information that was published in the Federal Register on February 27, 2012.

WGA is currently engaged in an open and transparent stakeholder process to develop recommendations that will address the challenges of siting and permitting major transmission projects in the Western States. We will release a draft report for comment soon and we are sponsoring an all-day workshop on transmission and siting issues for state officials from all of the Western States on April 17, 2012 in Denver. The report will be finalized based upon feedback at the workshop and a final report with recommendations will be presented to Western Governors on June 10, 2012.

While we are not in a position to offer comments at this time on your Request for Information, I trust that since five of the seven RRTT projects are in the West you will find the report and recommendations particularly informative and useful to DOE's efforts. We look forward to continuing to work with DOE to address our shared concerns about the delays and uncertainties attendant to the process of siting major transmission projects in the United States.

I will send you a copy of our report when it is completed and approved by the Governors.

Sincerely,

Pam O. Inmann
Executive Director

cc: Lauren Azar, DOE
Laura Morton, DOE