

The Honorable Ernest Moniz
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

Re: Support for the Plains & Eastern Clean Line

Dear Secretary Moniz,

I am writing to express support for the Plains & Eastern Clean Line and to urge the Department of Energy and Southwestern Power Administration to participate in the proposed project. My background is engineering, and I have worked in the energy industry for over 35 years, specifically in power delivery, wind, solar, and oil & gas. I believe that projects such as the Plains & Eastern Clean Line are crucial elements of:

- Energy independence
- National security
- Expansion of inter-regional transmission capacity
- Improving the reliability and integrity of the national grid system

A major reason for establishing energy independence is our national security. Energy independence has been espoused by every United States president since Richard Nixon during the 1973 oil embargo. As you may recall, the oil embargo resulted in a decade of recession mixed with inflation. As a nation, we have recently witnessed world events outside of our control impact energy prices, energy supply and demand, the economy, jobs (recent massive layoffs), and world politics. These influences will continue until the economic and political objectives of the oil producing nations are met (as in 1973), or until we are free of those influences by establishing energy independence. The United States is making progress toward that lofty goal of energy independence, and must continue in its capacity to expedite and support energy projects. The Plains & Eastern Clean Line project is a key piece of solving the energy independence puzzle.

Federal and State government have recognized the importance of energy independence through the establishment of Renewable Energy Portfolios. Clean, diverse, and sustainable energy from renewable sources such as wind farms and solar farms is now mandated to be a part of the overall power generation mix. However, the optimal areas for developing wind and solar farms are not necessarily near the population centers where the electricity is actually needed. Transmission lines such as Plains & Eastern are necessary to meet the energy where it's generated, carry it to the population centers, and tie it into the larger power grid.

May 27, 2015
Page 2

At the same time, FERC Order 1000 established requirements for public transmission utility providers to coordinate the planning and cost allocation of new transmission lines – transmission lines driven by public policy requirements established by state or federal laws or regulations. Many of the new transmission lines planned by the utilities are directly related to getting the power from the generation source to the population centers.

It is also important to note that all of these new, interconnected transmission lines increase the overall capacity, reliability and integrity of our national grid system.....important aspects of a functional, cohesive energy independence program.

There are a myriad of other reasons that I encourage the Department of Energy and Southwestern Power Administration to participate in the Plains & Eastern Clean Line:

- It opens the door for numerous low-cost clean-energy, renewable projects that otherwise may not come to fruition.
- It reduces pollution and water use through these new clean energy projects.
- It creates thousands of jobs along the entire route, and concurrently at the renewable energy projects yet to be built in the wind-rich central United States.
- It creates billions of dollars of investment and economic development/stimulus across several states and counties.

Projects such as the Plains & Eastern Clean Line are but one more step towards U.S. energy independence, an increase in our national security, a reduction in pollution, and also act as an economic stimulus and job creator. Once again, I support the Plains & Eastern Clean Line and urge the Department of Energy and Southwestern Power Administration to participate in this project. It is a much-needed infrastructure project for the public use and benefit.

Sincerely,



James Slagle
Business Development
National Energy Projects
WESTWOOD PROFESSIONAL SERVICES