

Plainsandean

From: Bruce Burcat <marec.org@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 3:06 PM
To: Plainsandean
Subject: Support for Plains & Eastern Clean Line
Attachments: MAREC Support Letter to Secretary Moniz.docx

Please accept the attached letter to Secretary Moniz as the Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy's support for the Plains & Eastern Clean Line. We would request that the letter be considered as part of the decision making-process in this matter. Thank you.

Bruce Burcat

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June 10, 2015

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:

The Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Coalition (MAREC) supports for the Plains & Eastern Clean Line and we urge the Department of Energy and Southwestern Power Administration to participate in the proposed project. MAREC is a nonprofit corporation that was formed to help advance the opportunities for renewable energy development in a substantial portion of the region where the Regional Transmission Organization, PJM Interconnection, LLC ("PJM"), operates. MAREC is dedicated to the growth of renewable energy technologies to improve our environment, boost economic development and diversify our electric generation portfolio thereby enhancing energy security. The primary areas of focus of MAREC are to work with state and federal regulators and policymakers to develop rules and supportive policies for renewable energy; provide education and expertise on the environmental sustainability of wind energy; and offer technical expertise and advice on integrating variable wind energy resources into the electric grid. MAREC believes that transmission development is sorely needed in U.S. to reduce electricity congestion and provide access to low cost renewable energy, which would also serve to reduce our environmental impact.

This transmission project is in the public interest because it will stimulate economic development, create jobs, expand interregional transmission capacity, and improve system reliability. The Plains & Eastern Clean Line will enable billions of dollars in new investments, generate millions of dollars in revenues for counties and local communities annually, and create thousands of jobs. It will provide access to low cost renewable energy to reach many small and large customers desirous of the benefits of renewable energy resources.

While the U.S. has some of the best renewable resources in the world, there is a demand for transmission infrastructure to connect the best wind resources, which are located predominantly in

remote areas, to distant cities and communities with a demand for low-cost clean energy. Existing transmission infrastructure connecting windy areas to the Mid-South and Southeast is almost completely saturated, and the cost of moving power through the grid as it stands today is rising due to congestion. Direct current technology is the most efficient means of moving large amounts of energy over long distances. Through the use of this technology, the Plains & Eastern Clean Line will modernize the country's transmission infrastructure and facilitate the reliable delivery of low-cost renewable energy across regions.

The Plains & Eastern Clean Line will address the increasing demand for interregional transmission capacity to move power from the wind-rich central United States to the Mid-South and Southeast. It is a much-needed infrastructure project for the public use and benefit.

Sincerely,



Bruce H. Burcat
Executive Director