

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 2, 2007

The Honorable Samuel Bodman
Secretary
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Bodman *Sam*

We are writing regarding our disappointment over your Department's final designation of National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors (NIETC), specifically, the Mid-Atlantic corridor, which remains unchanged from the draft proposal, encompassing fifty out of sixty-seven counties in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is disheartening that after strong opposition from local and state governments and a public outcry of opposition that the Department plans to proceed with no changes.

While we understand the need to certify the reliability of our nation's electric grid, which is experiencing continued increases in demand, in order to prevent blackouts, we are concerned a corridor of this breadth is not consistent with state jurisdiction over the siting and evaluation of transmission projects. We also remain concerned that Pennsylvania, which generates power for much of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, will be inordinately impacted. As we stated in our previous individual letters to you on August 2, 2007 and July 6, 2007, we believe states and local communities should be given a fair chance to be fully involved in the siting and alignment of lines they determine are appropriate and necessary. As the Federal Electric Regulatory Commission (FERC) moves forward in implementing this designation, we would expect states and local communities to be inherently involved in the process.

Furthermore, we are aware of legislative proposals that would both repeal and amend Section 216 of the Federal Power Act (as added by the Energy Policy Act of 2005) which authorizes designation of these corridors in addition to a proposal to withhold funding from implementing these designations. Should states and local communities not be fully included in the FERC process, we will not hesitate to consider supporting such measures.

This is very important to our constituents and we appreciate your personal attention to this matter.

*Sam - this is
very damaging to
Pennsylvania*



Arlen Specter

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.