

Sponsors: Florida Municipal Power Agency; WPPI Energy; Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority; Vermont Public Power Supply Authority

In Support of Federal Effort to Reform the Energy Infrastructure Permitting Process

1 The energy utility industry is undergoing an unprecedented transition—moving from highly reliable
2 centralized systems powered primarily by conventional fuels to more decentralized systems that rely
3 heavily on cleaner, intermittent generation sources. The clean energy transition requires significant
4 investments in energy infrastructure to reduce emissions and electrify other sectors of the economy, but
5 must maintain grid reliability and affordability for all customers. Federal permitting policies must be
6 streamlined to ensure that this much-needed energy infrastructure—generating facilities, transmission and
7 distribution lines, and interstate natural gas pipelines—can be built to meet the growing demand for
8 cleaner energy resources and to ensure sufficient and affordable dispatchable resources are available to
9 back-up intermittent generation. Permitting reform must also be done to enable access to additional oil
10 and natural gas reserves needed to ensure a reliable and affordable power system during the clean energy
11 transition.

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13 Public power and the electric sector have long sought clarity and certainty from environmental review and
14 permitting regulations and laws. Despite an abundance of resources and potential projects to meet the
15 rapidly growing demand for electricity, the United States is faced with a constrained grid. Permitting red
16 tape, needlessly burdensome regulations environmental regulations, and conflicts between state and
17 federal priorities have slowed energy infrastructure development to a crawl. Common-sense reforms to
18 the federal permitting process are not an “either or” proposition. They can be done in a way that protects
19 the environment while ensuring energy infrastructure can be built in a timely manner to provide
20 affordable and reliable power for all.

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22 Improved regulatory predictability allows industries, like the electric sector, to plan and invest with
23 confidence while enhancing economic productivity and efficiency. Improvements would also encourage
24 many states and localities to follow federal leadership in approving infrastructure projects and land
25 management activities. Taking action to streamline the federal permitting and siting process, eliminate
26 excessive regulatory barriers, and ensure more timely decisions from relevant federal agencies will
27 encourage and allow for the necessary development of these needed energy projects.

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29 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That the American Public Power Association (APPA)
30 urges federal policymakers to streamline federal permitting and siting rules to help facilitate the
31 construction of energy infrastructure necessary to provide affordable and reliable electricity and to
32 integrate more renewables onto the grid; and

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34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That APPA supports federal policies, including policies for
35 implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, that avoid unwarranted regulatory impediments to
36 building needed energy infrastructure; and

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38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That APPA supports conducting environmental reviews and
39 permitting processes in a concurrent, coordinated, consistent, predictable, and timely manner sufficient to
40 support sound decisions regarding federal agency actions, such as approving new infrastructure projects
41 for all energy types; and

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43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That APPA encourages the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to
44 promote electric transmission siting and permitting by facilitating open and transparent transmission
45 planning processes that prioritize reliably meeting the needs of public power utilities and other load-
46 serving entities.

Adopted at the Legislative & Resolutions Committee Meeting
February 28, 2023
Sunsets in March 2031