

These comments are in response to Energy Secretary Chu's most recent proposed changes to the PMA's.

Moon Lake Electric is a rural cooperative serving over 19,000 electric accounts in northeastern Utah and northwestern Colorado. A significant portion of the power required to serve our consumers comes from Western Area Power Administration's Flaming Gorge Dam, and it's an extremely important resource in our overall power supply.

We are concerned that Energy Secretary Chu's policy goals, as outlined in his March 16, 2012, Memorandum, are far outside the primary role of the PMA's of marketing affordable and reliable hydro power. His proposals disregard the intent of Congress which has authored, expanded, and refined PMA governing statutes. Such changes in the mission of the PMA's should only be made by Congress and not mandated by DOE.

The rural electric members we serve have paid for the existing transmission system through cost-based rates. Secretary Chu's proposal implies that unknown costs related to non-hydro renewable energy development and efficiency, cyber security, and electric vehicles would target one segment of electric consumers to pay for the benefits to others. We feel that using PMA customers as a funding source for DOE projects is unfair and would ultimately lead to higher electric bills for our consumers. We feel Congress should be the funding source for these types of projects, not the PMA's.

We do not want the 50-year partnership between Western Area Power Administration and Moon Lake Electric to be compromised for the sake of politics and will maintain opposition to any proposals to redefine Western's purpose of providing renewable hydro power at affordable rates.

Sincerely,  
Grant J Earl  
General Manager/CEO  
Moon Lake Electric Association, Inc