



# Renville Sibley Cooperative Power Association

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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January 22, 2013

Ms. Anita J. Decker  
Acting Administrator  
Western Area Power Administration  
P. O. Box 281213  
Lakewood, CO 80228-8213  
Fax: (720) 962-7059  
and to: JOT@wapa.gov

## VIA FAX and E-MAIL

Dear Ms. Decker:

I am sending this letter on behalf of Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association's (Renville-Sibley) board and management team. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Joint Outreach Team (JOT) recommendations for the "Defining the Future" initiative.

Renville-Sibley is a member owned electric cooperative delivering power to nearly 2,000 rural consumers throughout Renville County, as well as portions of Sibley, Chippewa, Kandiyohi, Redwood, and Nicollet counties, in Minnesota. We average less than two (2) consumers per mile of line. Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) supplies twenty two percent (22%) of our purchased power supply.

Many of the changes proposed by the JOT recommendations will result in imposing new or additional costs on Renville-Sibley's consumers for integrating power resources that may not provide direct benefits to those who incur the increased costs in their electric rates.

- We are concerned that the integration of renewable resources such as wind and solar energy into WAPA's transmission system will benefit developers of renewable energy without proper recovery of the costs from those developers.
- Our concern is that this will increase costs to our ratepayers without known corresponding benefit, resulting in our ratepayers subsidizing developers of renewable resources.

WAPA's firm power supply program is of significant importance to Renville-Sibley because it provides a reliable, economical, and environmentally-friendly source of electricity. WAPA's core mission is to market and deliver hydropower generated at the federal multipurpose dams to preference customers at the lowest possible rate consistent with sound business principles. Before recommendations are finalized and initiatives implemented, there should be a comprehensive financial analysis that will outline:

- the development costs for each initiative.
- how the costs will be fairly distributed.
- how consumers will be impacted.
- how the initiative ties to WAPA's core mission.

*Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association will provide efficient, reliable electric energy and services to enhance the quality of rural living.*

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It is not in the best interest of the customers of WAPA to have more decision-making made at the administrative level of the DOE in Washington, DC, and local control and ownership taken away from our region. WAPA and its customers share a valuable partnership where we work together to run efficient and effective operations, along with developing and implementing innovative programs to meet the needs of our consumers.

We are concerned that the JOT recommendations are outside WAPA's statutory authority to implement. There should be a legal analysis to determine if the recommendations are within the statutory authority to implement. If not, remove the recommendations.

Please consider the comments in this letter and work to ensure that project costs are allocated to those who benefit from the project in a just and reasonable manner. Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
DeeAnne Newville  
CEO