

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 23, 2015

The Honorable Ernest Moniz  
United States Secretary of Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz:

We write to request an extended opportunity for our constituents to share their views and/or concerns regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Plains & Eastern Clean Line Transmission Project.

The Plains & Eastern Clean Line proposal involves the possible construction of a direct current transmission line that would extend approximately 700 miles from Oklahoma, through Arkansas, and into Tennessee. Construction could begin as early as next year, which has caused significant concern for many potentially-impacted citizens, including farmers, residents, and small business operators.

Several of our constituents have observed that the comment period was announced during the holiday season. As a result, the announcement was initially missed by some citizens, and a review of the Draft EIS was not initiated as quickly as it might have been otherwise. The Draft EIS extends to approximately 3,700 pages, so the review of documents and related materials, and the preparation of comments, is no easy task. Also, the Department has invited feedback on the *National Historic Preservation Act* (NHPA) Section 106 process and potential adverse impacts to historic properties along the project route. The review of the Section 106 process leads to further complexity.

We understand the importance of infrastructure projects, including properly-sited transmission lines, but we also believe that potentially-impacted landowners and citizens must be treated fairly and they must have every opportunity to eliminate or minimize impacts before projects are considered. In short, private property rights must be protected. Accordingly, we request that you provide at least a 60-day extension of the comment period for the Draft EIS and Section 106 process on the Plains & Eastern Clean Line Transmission Project.

We look forward to your response, and please let us know any time we can be helpful to you .

Sincerely,

  
John Boozman,  
U.S. Senator

  
Tom Cotton,  
U.S. Senator

  
Lamar Alexander,  
U.S. Senator

  
Rick Crawford,  
Member of Congress

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French Hill,  
Member of Congress

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Steve Womack,  
Member of Congress

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Bruce Westerman,  
Member of Congress