

In Support of Expedited Federal Regulatory Review and Streamlined Permitting Processes

1 In 2013, President Barack Obama initiated a quadrennial cycle of energy reviews to provide a multi-year
2 roadmap for domestic energy policy, as part of his Climate Action Plan. The first Quadrennial Energy
3 Review (QER) was released on April 21, 2015.

4
5 The report recognizes that the involvement of multiple jurisdictions adds time to siting, permitting, and
6 the review of infrastructure projects—although it also recognizes that the federal government is taking
7 steps to modernize those processes. The report recommends allocating resources to key federal agencies
8 involved in the siting, permitting, and review of infrastructure projects and prioritizing meaningful public
9 engagement (including coordination with state and local governments), among other recommendations.

10 The American Public Power Association (APPA) recognizes that siting issues remain a major impediment
11 to the development of new transmission lines and natural gas pipeline construction, and can hinder the
12 operations and/or development of renewable and conventional energy projects. The report further notes
13 that transmission investments have increased since the early 2000s, driven by technologies to improve
14 reliability, ease congestion, support natural gas production, and to interconnect new generation resources,
15 such as renewables.

16
17 The Energy Information Administration’s Annual Energy Outlook 2015 outlined factors expected to
18 shape domestic energy markets through 2040, with rising long-term natural gas prices, the high capital
19 costs of new fossil-fueled generation capacity, state-level policies, and cost reductions for renewable
20 generation in a market characterized by relatively slow electricity demand growth favoring the increased
21 use of renewables. APPA recognizes that numerous public power utilities have made and are making
22 significant investments in renewable energy resources, transmission systems, and natural gas facilities.

23
24 The Obama Administration is expected to issue final regulations to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂)
25 emissions from new and existing fossil fuel-fired power plants under Sections 111(b) and (d) of the Clean
26 Air Act in mid-2015 that will necessitate the preservation of low- and zero-emission energy resources
27 (e.g., small hydropower projects) and spur significant new investments in energy, transmission, and
28 pipeline projects needed to meet state goals. States will be required to reach aggressive CO₂ emission
29 reduction goals by 2030, necessitating individual or multi-state plans that will require the further
30 development of a significant amount of renewable and natural gas projects under expedited timelines to
31 meet those targets. The federal regulatory agencies must therefore work together to minimize regulatory
32 delays that would constrain the operation or development of facilities necessary to meet this rule.

33

34 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That the American Public Power Association (APPA)
35 supports an efficient, streamlined and cost-conscious regulatory review and streamlined permitting
36 process for both existing and new low- and zero-emission projects, and associated transmission and
37 natural gas pipeline projects, necessary to meet local, state, regional, and federal energy- and climate
38 change-related policies; and

39

40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That APPA supports the preservation of existing low- and zero-
41 emission projects capacity and operational flexibility to the maximum extent practicable; and

42

43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That APPA supports requiring federal regulatory agencies with the
44 ability to impose mandatory conditions on a project to work together in an expedited manner to facilitate
45 the preservation and development of low- and zero-emission projects to reducing waste, minimize
46 burdensome administrative requirements, and improve decision making, and

47

48 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That APPA supports requiring federal agencies to clearly define the
49 objective of each mandatory condition with an accompanying rationale and disclosure of impacts in an
50 open and transparent manner thereby adhering to the same standard of disclosure and explanation
51 required of stakeholders submitting mandatory conditions.

**As adopted June 9, 2015, by the membership of the American Public Power Association at its
annual meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota.**