



**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
November 16, 2006
Open Commission Meeting
Statement of
Commissioner Philip D. Moeller**

**Item C-2: Regulations for Filing Applications for Permits to Site
Transmission Facilities (RM06-12-000)**

"Although I was not yet on the Commission when this rule was proposed, I am pleased that I have an opportunity to support such an important final rule.

I am convinced that transmission development is severely needed in every region of the nation. Several years of uncertainty over the direction of legislative policy on transmission policy contributed to this backlog, but with the passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 that uncertainty has been eliminated.

Building additional transmission is necessary for the implementation and improved functionality of wholesale electric markets. Additional transmission is necessary for the development of extensive and creative demand response programs. And additional transmission is necessary to bring more renewable energy sources to the grid.

Recognizing the severe shortage of transmission and the benefits that additional transmission provides, Congress gave the Commission backstop transmission siting authority. It is important for states, applicants, and other stakeholders to work closely to get needed transmission built, and I hope that we do not have to use the power that Congress granted. However, if we have to exercise this new authority, the procedures in this rule will allow us to work with all stakeholders to site necessary transmission facilities that will benefit energy consumers."