



March 1, 2015

The Honorable Kimberly D. Bose
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Docket No. EL15-43

Dear Kimberly D. Bose,

I am writing on behalf of Delta County Economic Development, Inc., which is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the economic condition and quality of life of Delta County, located in west-central Colorado.

The Board of Directors of DCED, as we are known, has instructed me to file a comment with your body supporting Delta Montrose Electric Association's (DMEA) request that it be instructed by FERC to buy power from Qualifying Facilities as defined by the Public Utility Policies Regulatory Act of November 9, 1978.

We are strongly in support of this filing because we believe it will stabilize and strengthen the economic condition of this 30,483-person county (2013). We are very much in need of economic help as we recently lost 500 of the 1,000 coal-mining jobs that have historically supported this low-income rural area.

If FERC rules positively on EL15-43, DMEA would have available to it the equivalent of 30 to 35 megawatts-equivalent of dispatchable coal-mine-methane electricity from the mines in our area. This is about one-quarter of DMEA's load. A fraction of the available methane (3 MW) has already been developed, but limitations imposed by DMEA's all-requirements power contract with Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association prevent DMEA from utilizing the remainder of the methane. The developer of the first 3 MW estimates that the coal-mine methane electricity would cost less than Tri-State's current wholesale rate to DMEA.

In addition, Delta County is a very rural, non-resort county, and it has ample small-scale hydroelectricity, animal waste, wood waste, and solar available for development.

On behalf of DCED's membership and the people of Delta County, we ask that FERC rule favorably on DMEA's request.

Sincerely,

Trish Thibodo, Director
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970-874-4992