

January 25, 2016

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Dear Sir(s)/Madam(s):

The Greater Franklin Development Council (GFDC) is writing in support of certain affiliates of NextEra Energy, Inc. that are bidding to provide clean energy and transmission to the Procuring States of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island as part of the New England Clean Energy RFP.

GFDC is a non-profit economic development organization that works toward the creation and retention of quality employment opportunities in the greater Franklin County Maine region, primarily through business attraction, assisting existing business, and encouraging entrepreneurship.

Currently, New England is facing a host of significant challenges related to the reliable and affordable supply of electricity. These challenges have been building over many years and the impacts are currently affecting customers in the region. Many of the older power generating units in New England are retiring which is reducing the amount of available in-region power generation.

In addition, New England's ambitious Renewable Portfolio Standards goals are requiring that any new power generation capacity is clean.

NextEra Energy is proposing a major wind project in Franklin County, and a new solar project and transmission line in the Caratunk-Moscow-Bingham region. The solar project will be one of the largest of its kind in New England. Both the wind project and the solar project will contribute to economic development through construction and operations jobs in the area. The addition of clean solar energy and the investment in much needed transmission infrastructure will help alleviate existing bulk power system constraints in the region and provide reliable clean energy to be delivered to New England's consumers.

Some of the benefits NextEra Energy's proposed projects will have for New England include:

- Economic Benefits –
  - Lowers energy costs regionally by bringing more affordable energy onto the grid;
  - Increase in needs of goods and services, such as food, fuel, lodging, machine work, and contractor opportunities;
  - Creates jobs and opportunities to learn trades;
  - Generates sales tax, income tax, and annual property tax revenues during the life of the project;
  - Expands and enhances access to broadband in rural Maine.
- Environmental Benefits –
  - Lowers carbon emissions across the region;
  - Enables New England states to achieve clean energy goals by delivering clean, renewable energy to the grid;
  - Maintains recreational opportunities, land use typically remains open to hunting and fishing;
  - Minimizes impacts to environmental and social resources by co-locating transmission with existing utility rights-of-way;
  - Fits into the existing landscape and utilizing lands managed for timber.

The GFDC is pleased to submit this letter in support of NextEra Energy's clean energy and transmission bid that has potential for the creation of new jobs and enhances access to broadband in Franklin County Maine. If the Evaluation Team has any questions, please feel free to contact me at 207.778.5887.

Best regards,



Alison A. Hagerstrom  
Executive Director