



# SIoux VALLEY ENERGY

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April 28, 2011

Robert J. Harris, Regional Manager  
Upper Great Plains Region  
Western Area Power Administration  
2900 – 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
Billings, MT 59101-1266

MAY 02 2011

Dear Mr. Harris:

Please accept this letter as comments from Sioux Valley Southwestern Electric Cooperative (dba Sioux Valley Energy) in response to the Federal Register Notice entitled "Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program—Eastern Division – 2021 Power Marketing Initiative Proposal.

Sioux Valley Energy serves approximately 20,000 homes, farms, businesses and industries within a seven-county service area of east-central South Dakota and southwestern Minnesota. The Cooperative purchases power from East River Electric Power Cooperative of Madison, South Dakota and L&O Power Cooperative of Rock Rapids, Iowa. Both East River Electric and L&O Power are preference customers of the Western Area Power Administration (Western) and purchase supplemental power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative at Bismarck, North Dakota.

The federal hydropower furnished by Western to our power suppliers, East River Electric and L&O Power Cooperative, is a critical part of the bulk power supply East River and L&O rely on to serve their member systems including the 20,000+ customers served by Sioux Valley Energy. The hydropower furnished by Western represents a significant share of the power supply resource for East River and L&O Power and is especially useful as a renewable carbon-free resource.

Sioux Valley Energy urges Western to complete the process of addressing new contracts for Pick-Sloan Eastern Division customers to ensure the continued availability of this critical resource. We believe this will contribute to the future power supply stability of East River Electric and L&O Power Cooperative and their member systems.

We support Western's Power Marketing Initiative 2021 Proposal as published in the Federal Register Notice dated March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Sioux Valley Energy also supports the proposed contract term of 30 years, however, we urge Western to adopt a 40 year contract term. We believe an additional ten years on the contract would further enhance the long term power supply source for our member-consumers.

We would appreciate your consideration of these comments in support of the 2021 Power Marketing Initiative Proposal as presented in the Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,

Don L. Marker  
General Manager/CEO

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative