

Charleston Daily Mail

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Everyone Has to Give a Little

West Virginians need to support upgrades of the U.S. power grid

Editorial

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May 1, 2007

OFFICIALS with the U.S. Department of Energy have drawn up plans for two national interest electric transmission corridors, as required by the 2005 law on energy.

These corridors will serve as interstate highways for the transmission of electricity. One corridor will serve California, the other the Northeast.

The current grid that connects power plants around the nation is outdated. "Simply put, it is no longer adequate to meet the demands of the 21st century," said Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman.

National demand for energy is rising at a steady pace. All those computers and other gadgets must be powered somehow.

Building transmission lines will improve reliability and help prevent brownouts.

The Northeast line will run from Virginia north, and will include most of Maryland, all of New Jersey and Delaware, and large swaths of New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia."

Already, there is opposition from some areas.

But a dependable power grid is in the best interest of all Americans.

At a time when the Legislature and Gov. Joe Manchin are pushing for remote areas of this state to get broadband access to the Internet, it hardly seems appropriate to deny people in urban areas the power to run their computers.

These are expensive ventures. American Electric Power Co. and Allegheny Energy Inc. will spend about \$1.8 billion building a 250-mile transmission line from the John Amos plant to the Maryland border.

These are lines that must be built and investments that must be made. Anything to hasten the construction of these lines will make life better for all Americans.

Americans are all in this together. Everybody has to give a little. That includes West Virginians.