



FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Kelliher Appoints Spitzer to Key Energy Transportation Panel

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Joseph T. Kelliher today announced the appointment of Commissioner Marc Spitzer to serve as an ex-officio member of the Surface Transportation Board's new Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC).

The Commission long has been concerned about the reliability of transportation of coal supplies and its effect on the continued reliability of the nation's bulk electric power system. The Commission convened a conference on the issue in the spring of 2006.

The STB established RETAC to provide advice and guidance to the board and to provide a forum for the discussion of emerging issues and concerns regarding the transportation by rail of energy resources such as coal, ethanol and other biofuels.

"A robust bulk electric power system relies on a diversity of fuel sources to power generators across the country," Chairman Kelliher said. "Cost-effective, reliable fuel transportation has a direct impact on cost-effective, reliable supplies of electricity. I commend STB Chairman Charles Nottingham for convening this important advisory committee."

"I thank the Surface Transportation Board and Chairman Kelliher for my appointment as a member of the advisory committee," Commissioner Spitzer said. "Coal is an essential fuel for electricity generation. Ethanol and biofuels are increasingly significant energy sources. Rail transportation of energy supply is therefore of critical importance to FERC and to our national interest. Reliable transportation of coal to U.S. utilities, including cooperative and municipal entities, is imperative. I therefore enthusiastically accept this appointment and look forward to the committee's efforts to ensure reliable and affordable electricity to U.S. customers."

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