

Need for an Appalachian Power Administration District

Background:

Appalachia has provided energy for the East Coast for over 150 years but is now depressed as its old fuel is losing in competition with natural gas and renewables. This places Appalachian workers and their economy in distress. The state of Virginia and its universities need be encouraged to study the possible creation of a Power Administration District similar to the ones the U.S. Department of Energy administers in the west. A modern power district based on renewables could help revive the economy of western Virginia, West Virginia, as well as other states. It could also provide some stability as the transitions to renewables evolved.

The power administration districts were set up during the New Deal and expanded energy production in time for the 40s war economy and growth. They provide preferred rates for public use such as cities and coops.

Therefore, be it resolved that: the 2017 8th Congressional District Convention recommends the Virginia state government and its universities conduct a study of the feasibility of an Appalachian Power Administration District based on renewable resources.

The study needs to determine the applicability of mountain-based renewables in Appalachia including wind, load sharing, and pump storage methods. The study should provide an actionable plan within four years.