

Transmission Infrastructure A Renewable Issue: Edison

US-based energy industry body Edison Electric Institute says a lack of transmission lines to move energy from remote wind farms and solar panels to customers in cities and suburbs is proving to be a sticking point for the development of renewable energy in America. “You can build all the solar arrays or wind turbines in the world but if you don’t have the transmission lines it does you no good,” says Edison Electric Institute spokesman Dan Riedinger. The House of Representatives has passed a national renewable energy standard that requires utilities to draw 15 per cent of their electricity from renewable sources, but according to Edison, “serious under-investment” in US electricity transmission over the past two decades has decreased the grid’s reliability and strength. Statistics show that between 1975 and 2000 spending on transmission projects has fallen by US\$115 million per annum, while power demand is expected to increase by about 40 per cent by 2030.

[Source esaa news]