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The Department of Energy's **Preliminary List of Potential National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors + Transmission Facility Financing**

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Webinar
May 16, 2024

Webinar Notice

- None of the information presented herein is legally binding.
- The content included in this presentation is intended for informational purposes only relating to the Preliminary List of Potential National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors (Preliminary List).
- Any content within this presentation that appears discrepant from the Preliminary List is superseded by the Preliminary List language.
- The purpose of this webinar is to provide an overview of the Preliminary List and to inform interested parties on how to submit comments and information to DOE, as requested in the Preliminary List.

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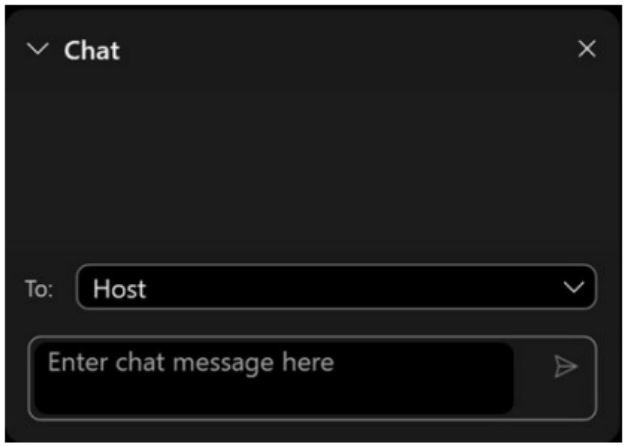
Housekeeping

Comments

Email comments by June 24 to NIETC@hq.doe.gov

Technical Issues?

Please put them in the chat box for the host.



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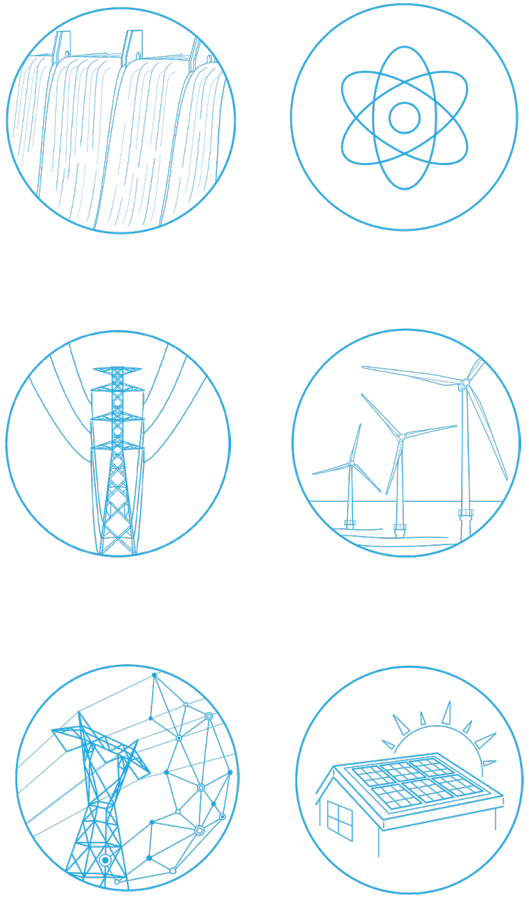
Director

Grid Deployment Office

U.S. Department of Energy

GDO Mission and Goals



Ensure **resource adequacy** by supporting **critical generation sources** and expanding and enhancing **electricity markets**.

Catalyze the development of new and upgraded **high-capacity electric transmission lines** and an improved **distribution system** nationwide.

Prevent **outages** and enhance the **resilience** of the electric grid.

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Webinar Agenda

- Introduction to National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors
- Transmission Facility Financing
- Four-Phase NIETC Designation Process
- Overview of Preliminary List of Potential NIETCs
- Individual Potential NIETCs
- Public Participation in Phase 2 of Designation Process
- Key Dates

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What is a National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (NIETC)?

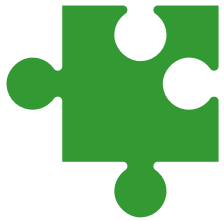
An area of the country where inadequate transmission harms consumers (currently or in the future) and that DOE has designated as a NIETC.

Development of new transmission in a NIETC is needed to address consumer harms, including:

- Economic harms;
- Harms to Reliability;
- Harms to Resilience; and
- Inability to access to clean, diverse, and affordable electricity supply.

Impact of NIETC Designation

Focuses public and policymaker attention on greatest areas of transmission need and unlocks statutory tools to advance transmission deployment, including:



- Public-Private Partnerships under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's **Transmission Facilitation Program**
- Direct loans under the Inflation Reduction Act's **Transmission Facility Financing** program
- **Federal siting and permitting authority** under section 216(b) of the Federal Power Act for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in certain circumstances

Note: NIETC designation is ***not*** a route determination for a specific transmission project, ***not*** an endorsement of specific transmission solutions, and ***not*** selection of or preference for a specific transmission project for any purposes.

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Transmission Facility Financing

Inflation Reduction Act § 50151

Authorizes DOE to provide direct loans for transmission designated by the Secretary to be necessary in the national interest

Appropriates $2 billion to carry out program, which can be used for the credit subsidy cost of loans

Preliminary list of potential NIETCs announces TFF minimum eligibility criteria

- Non-federal borrower, constructing or modifying transmission, located within a NIETC, that addresses transmission need within the NIETC, and
- Loan must satisfy statutory requirements (for term, percentage of costs, and no subordination to other financing)

Preliminary list of potential NIETCs invites input

- From transmission industry stakeholders, about scope of eligible projects, and project financing requirements
- By July 31, 2024 (initial outreach period) – email TFF@hq.doe.gov

DOE will use data gathered to inform formal TFF application and evaluation process – opening in Spring 2025

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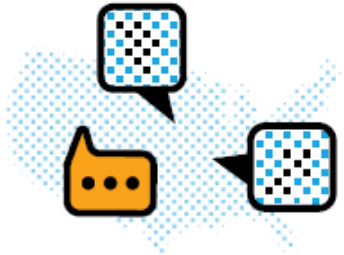
NIETC Designation Process

National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors (NIETC)

An area of the country where DOE has determined the lack of adequate transmission harms consumers



	PHASE 1 Information Gathering	PHASE 2 Preliminary List & Comments	PHASE 3 Public Engagement	PHASE 4 NIETC(s) Designated
DOE activities	• Reviews National Transmission Needs Study findings • Begins identifying potential NIETCs	• Publishes preliminary list of potential NIETCs	• Refines geographic boundaries of potential NIETCs and prepares draft report • Conducts community engagement and any required environmental reviews	• Issues final NIETC designation report(s) and any required environmental document(s)
Public activities	• Submits recommendations on where to designate NIETCs and why	• Provides comments, alternatives and recommendations, and additional information	• Participates in DOE-led community engagement activities focused on potential NIETCs	• Focuses on areas of greatest transmission need • Transmission developers in NIETCs access federal financing and siting tools

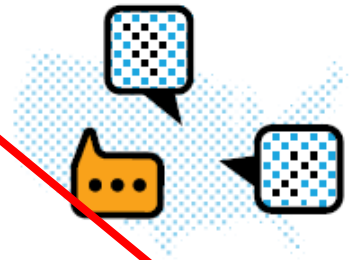
Modernizing and expanding transmission infrastructure helps **increase reliability, resilience, and access to clean, affordable electricity**

NIETC Designation Process

WE ARE HERE

ional Interest Electric Transmission Corridors (NIETC)

ere DOE has determined the lack of adequate transmission harms consumers



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Modernizing and expanding transmission infrastructure helps **increase reliability, resilience, and access to clean, affordable electricity**

Key Considerations for Potential NIETCs

- **Pressing transmission needs** within the geographic area (see 2023 National Transmission Needs Study + other information)
- **Relevant discretionary factors** from Federal Power Act § 216(a)(4) (including maximizing existing rights of way and furthering national energy policy goals)
- Relative **completeness of information** available on geographic boundaries and potential impacts on environmental, community, and other resources
- **Utility** of tools unlocked by NIETC designation for resolving barriers to transmission development within the area
- **Public engagement** – affected landowners, communities, States, Indian Tribes, transmission planners, regional reliability entities, other federal agencies…

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Overview of Preliminary List of Potential NIETCs

Maps Disclaimer/Context

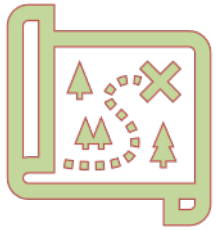
Rough approximations

Expect changes to potential NIETCs that move to Phase 3

May be narrowed to be more targeted

May be shortened to focus on area of greatest utility

May be widened to include existing infrastructure



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Potential NIETCs

- New York-New England
- New York-Mid-Atlantic
- Mid-Atlantic-Canada
- Mid-Atlantic
- Midwest-Plains
- Northern Plains
- Delta-Plains
- Plains-Southwest
- Mountain-Plains-Southwest
- Mountain-Northwest

Note: The geographic boundaries of any potential NIETC that proceeds to Phase 3 may differ from those shown in the preliminary list.

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Threshold Need Determination

Potential NIETC	Reliability	Resilience	Congestion	Consumer Costs	Future Generation & Demand Growth	Clean Energy
New York - New England	■	■	■	■	■	■
New York – MidAtlantic	■	■	■	■	■	■
Mid-Atlantic – Canada	■	■				■
Mid-Atlantic	■	■		■	■	
Midwest – Plains	■	■	■	■	■	■
Northern Plains			■	■	■	■
Delta – Plains	■	■	■		■	■
Plains – Southwest	■	■			■	■
Mountain – Plains – Southwest	■	■	■		■	■
Mountain – Northwest	■	■	■		■	■

Reliability = Operate transmission system elements within equipment and electric system thermal, voltage, and stability limits

Resilience = Withstand and/or recover from system disruptions or unanticipated failure of system elements, particularly extreme weather events

Congestion = Alleviate economic impacts on the users of electricity that result from a transmission constraint

Consumer Costs = Facilitate delivery of lower-cost resources to high-priced demand areas

Future Generation & Demand Growth = Accommodate likely scenarios of future power system characteristics driven by market forces and utility, state, and federal policies

Clean Energy = Interconnect clean energy resources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

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Individual Potential NIETCs

Geography:

- Approximately one mile wide, 60 miles long
- Includes portions of New York and Massachusetts
- Includes sections of existing state highway and high-voltage transmission rights-of-way
- Interregional corridor between the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) and ISO New England (ISO-NE) footprints

Transmission Need/Adverse Effects on Consumers:

- Maintain and improve reliability and resilience
- Alleviate congestion and reduce consumer costs
- Meet future generation and demand growth
- Increase clean energy integration

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Geography:

- Approximately four miles wide, 12 miles long
- Multiple potential interconnection points between New Jersey and New York City with potential to facilitate onshore transmission upgrades needed for integration of offshore wind generation in the Atlantic Ocean
- Interregional corridor between the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) and PJM Interconnection footprints

Transmission Need/Adverse Effects on Consumers:

- Maintain and improve reliability and resilience
- Alleviate congestion and reduce consumer costs
- Meet future generation and demand growth

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Geography:

- Multiple parallel sections, each approximately 2 miles wide and up to 180 miles long
- Includes portions of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia
- Encompasses multiple interconnection points and largely parallels existing 500 kV transmission facilities
- Regional corridor within PJM Interconnection footprint

Transmission Need/Adverse Effects on Consumers:

- Maintain and improve reliability and resilience
- Reduce consumer costs
- Meet future generation and demand growth

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Geography:

- Approximately one mile wide, 42 miles long
- Includes onshore portion in northern Pennsylvania and offshore portion to Canadian border in Lake Erie
- Interregional corridor between the PJM Interconnection footprint and Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) in Ontario, Canada

Transmission Need/Adverse Effects on Consumers:

- Maintain and improve reliability and resilience
- Increase clean energy integration

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Geography:

- Approximately 5 miles wide, 780 miles long
- Includes portions of Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, and Missouri
- Includes parts of existing 345 kV transmission right-of-way
- Interregional corridor between the PJM Interconnection, Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), and Southwest Power Pool (SPP) footprints

Transmission Need/Adverse Effects on Consumers:

- Maintain and improve reliability and resilience
- Alleviate congestion and reduce consumer costs
- Meet future generation and demand growth
- Increase clean energy integration

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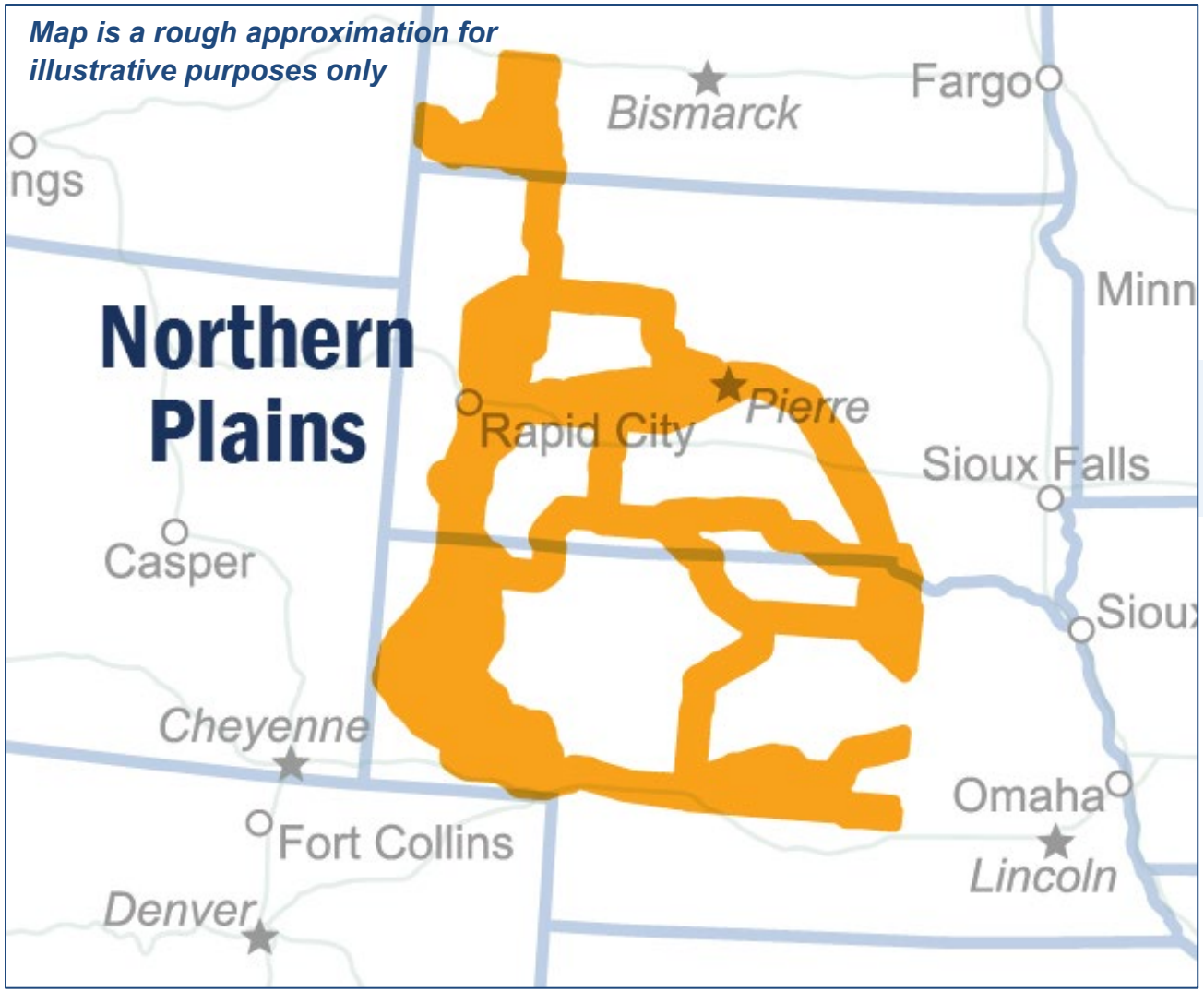

Geography:

- Multiple sections approximately 10–50 miles wide; 300 miles long east to west; and 400 miles long north to south
- Includes portions of Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and several Tribal Nations
- Regional corridor within the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) footprint focused on existing infrastructure corridors that could be upgraded to address lack of extra high-voltage transmission

Transmission Need/Adverse Effects on Consumers:

- Alleviate congestion and reduce consumer costs
- Meet future generation and demand growth
- Increase clean energy integration
- Improve energy justice among Tribal communities

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Geography:

- Approximately 4–18 miles wide, 645 miles long
- Includes portions of Arkansas and Oklahoma
- Encompasses multiple interconnection points and existing transmission facilities
- Interregional corridor between the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) and Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) footprints, with the potential to facilitate cross-interconnection transmission

Transmission Need/Adverse Effects on Consumers:

- Maintain and improve reliability and resilience
- Alleviate congestion
- Meet future generation and demand growth
- Increase clean energy integration

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Geography:

- Approximately 5–100 miles wide, 345 miles long east to west, and 220 miles long north to south
- Includes portions of Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas
- Interregional and cross-interconnection corridor between the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) and WestConnect footprints, with potential to facilitate interconnection with the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), and PJM Interconnection footprints

Transmission Need/Adverse Effects on Consumers:

- Maintain and improve reliability and resilience
- Meet future generation and demand growth
- Increase clean energy integration

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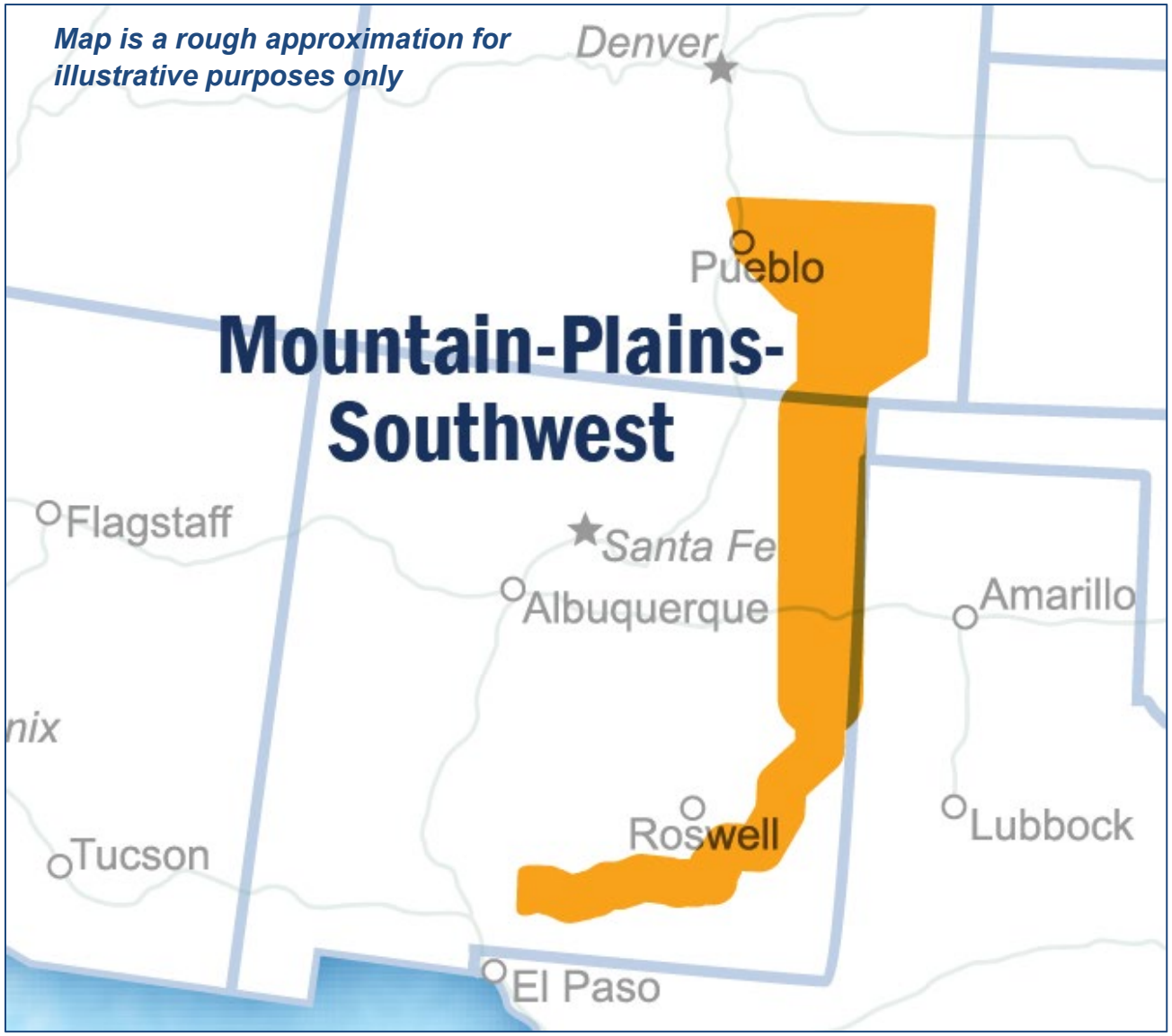

Geography:

- Approximately 10–100 miles wide, 540 miles long
- Includes portions of Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas
- Includes multiple substations and existing transmission facilities
- Interregional and cross-interconnection corridor between the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) and WestConnect footprints, with potential to facilitate interconnection with the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) footprint

Transmission Need/Adverse Effects on Consumers:

- Maintain and improve reliability and resilience
- Alleviate congestion
- Meet future generation and demand growth
- Increase clean energy integration

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Geography:

- Approximately 0.3 miles wide, 515 miles long
- Includes portions of Nevada and Oregon
- Co-located with existing Bureau of Land Management Section 368 energy corridors in Nevada and follows existing infrastructure for most of its length
- Interregional corridor within NorthernGrid footprint, with potential to facilitate interconnection with the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) footprint

Transmission Need/Adverse Effects on Consumers:

- Maintain and improve reliability and resilience
- Alleviate congestion
- Meet future generation and demand growth
- Increase clean energy integration

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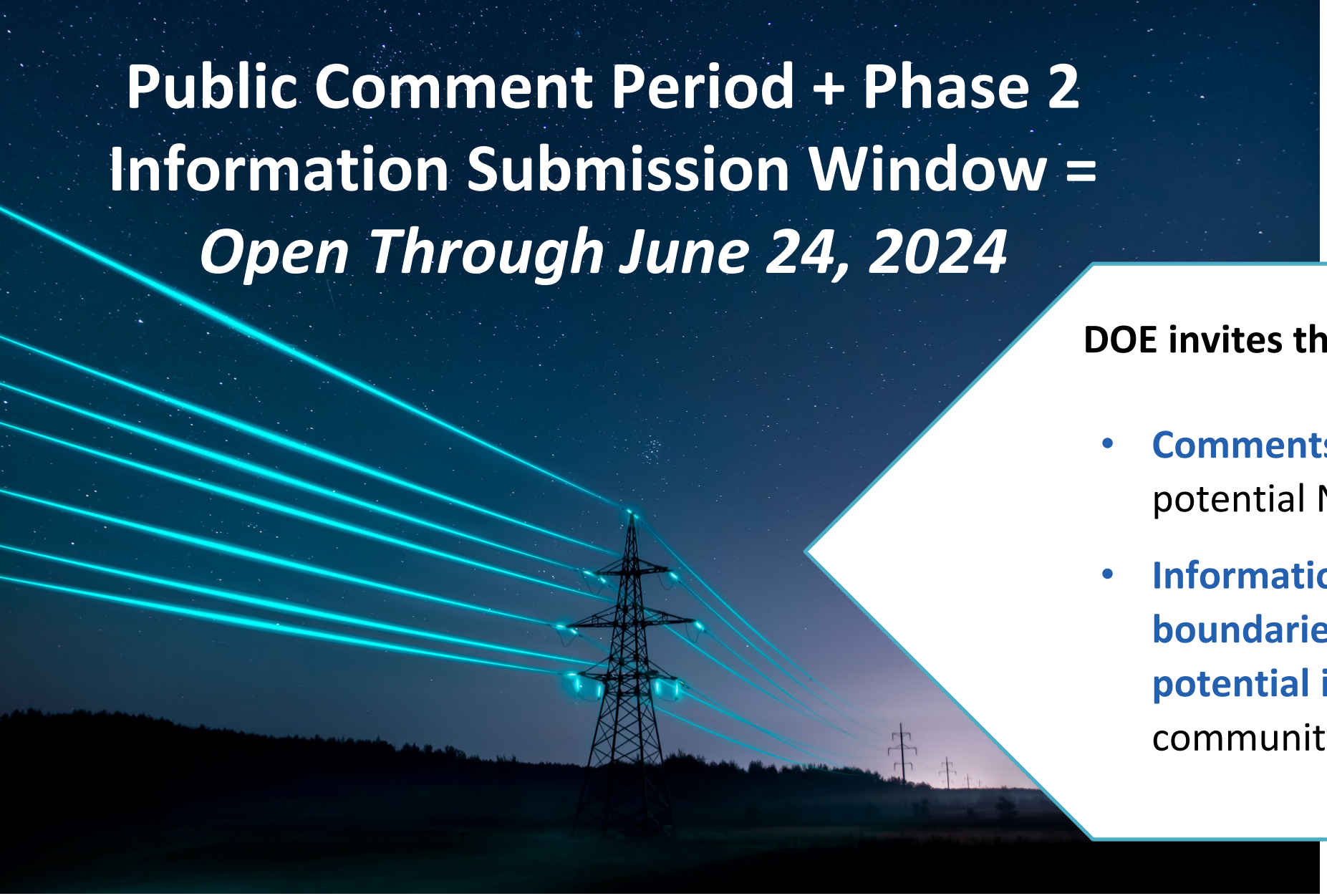
Public Participation in Phase 2 of Designation Process

Public Comment Period + Phase 2 Information Submission Window = *Open Through June 24, 2024*



DOE invites the public to submit:

- **Comments** on the preliminary list of potential NIETCs; and
- **Information** on the **geographic boundaries** of potential NIETCs and **potential impacts** on environmental, community, and other resources.

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Phase 2: Resource Reports

General description of geographic boundaries	Water use and quality	Fish, wildlife, and vegetation	Cultural resources	Socioeconomics
Tribal resources	Communities of interest	Geological resources	Soils	Land use, recreation, and aesthetics
	Air quality and environmental noise	Alternatives	Reliability and Safety	

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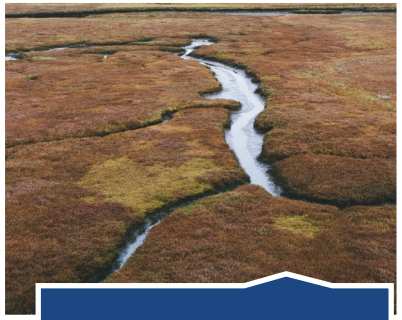
Examples of Requested Information

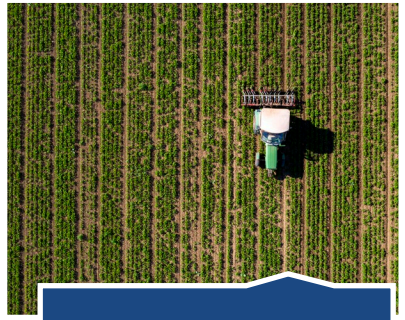


Wetlands

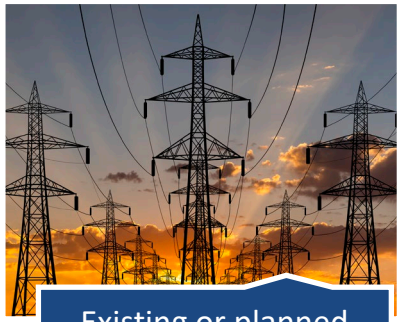
Recreational areas

Historic properties

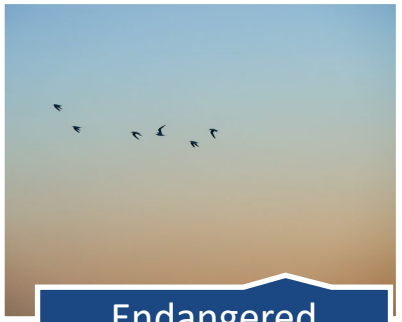
Residences and businesses



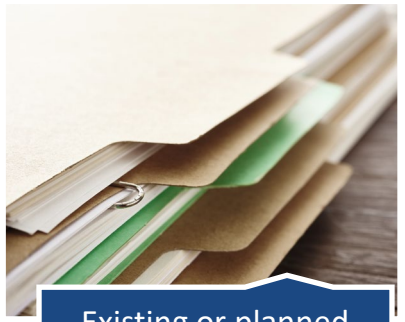
Cropland



Existing or planned transmission projects



Endangered species



Existing or planned environmental reviews

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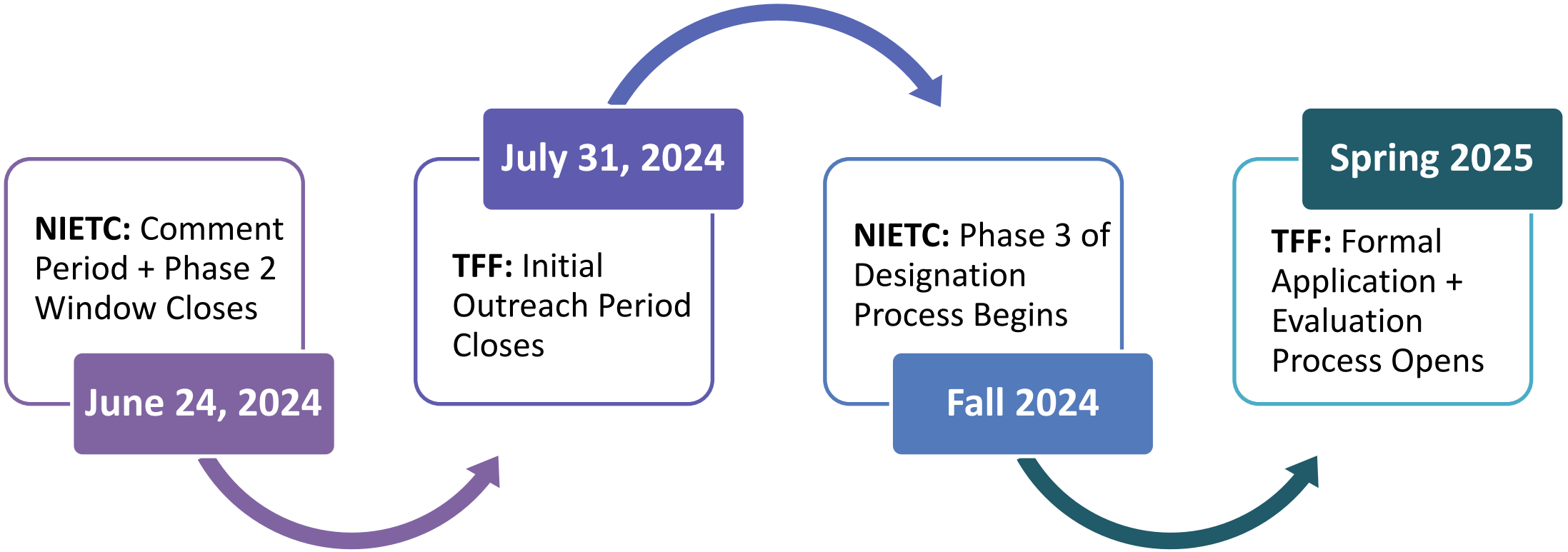
Key Dates



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Thank You

NIETC@hq.doe.gov

TFF@hq.doe.gov

National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor Designation Process | Department of Energy

Transmission Facility Financing Program | Department of Energy

Transmission Facility Financing Program

Grid Deployment Office

Grid Deployment Office > Transmission Facility Financing Program

The Transmission Facility Financing (TFF) Program provides direct loans for eligible transmission projects within a **National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor** (NIETC). The Inflation Reduction Act appropriated $2 billion which may cover the **credit subsidy** cost of those loans, unlocking billions in total loan volume under the program.

Public Input

On May 8, 2024, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced minimum eligibility criteria for direct loans under the TFF program. The program can finance the development of billions of dollars of transmission projects in designated NIETCs.

DOE is currently seeking public input on the scope of eligible projects and project financing requirements, including feedback from utilities and project developers that are interested in seeking direct loan support through the program for a specific project in or near one of the potential NIETCs. Parties interested in providing comments, including utilities and project developers, are encouraged to contact DOE at **TFF@hq.doe.gov** by July 31, 2024, to register input. DOE anticipates opening the TFF program in 2025.

Comment

Find a Financing Program

Visit the **Grid and Transmission Program Conductor** for additional information to help identify which financing program is most appropriate for individual projects.

Frequently Asked Questions

Transmission Facility Financing FAQs +

Contact Us

Questions and comments can be submitted to **TFF@hq.doe.gov**.

Resources

- **Credit Subsidy**
- **National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors**

National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor Designation Process

Grid Deployment Office

Grid Deployment Office » Federal Collaboration » Transmission Siting and Permitting Efforts » National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor Designation Process

Consumers are frequently **harmed from a lack of transmission infrastructure**, which can directly contribute to higher electricity prices, more frequent power outages from extreme weather, and longer outages as the grid struggles to come back online. While these needs are urgent, building and expanding electric transmission often requires several years of permitting, siting, and regulatory processes, especially if the transmission line extends through multiple states and regions.

NIETC Phase 2 Informational Webinar

Join us on May 16, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. ET.

To expedite and streamline this process, the Federal Power Act authorizes the Secretary of Energy to designate any geographic area as a National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (NIETC) if the Secretary finds that consumers are harmed by a lack of transmission in the area and that the development of new transmission would advance important national interests in that area, such as increased reliability and reduced consumer costs.

What are NIETC designations based on?

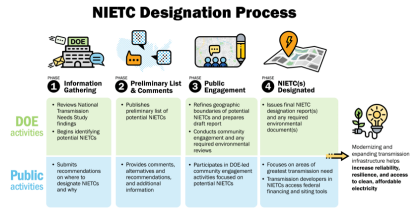
- Findings from the **National Transmission Needs Study**, DOE's triennial state-of-the-grid report.
- Critical public input gained through early and meaningful collaboration with affected states, Tribes, local communities, industry, and stakeholders.
- Information and recommendations relevant to transmission capacity constraints or congestion that harms consumers currently or in the future, and ongoing roadblocks to transmission development in those areas, such as permitting, siting, or regulatory issues.
- Information on whether one or more transmission projects are under development in those areas.

How does the NIETC Designation Process work?

A NIETC is an area of the country where DOE has determined the lack of adequate transmission harms consumers and that the development of new transmission would advance important national interests in that area, such as increased reliability and reduced consumer costs. A NIETC designation can unlock Federal financing tools, specifically public-private partnerships through the $2.5 billion **Transmission Facilitation Program** under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the $2 billion **Transmission Facility Financing Program** under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). NIETC designation does not constitute selection of, or a preference for, a specific transmission project for financial purposes. A NIETC designation also allows the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to issue permits for the siting of transmission lines within the NIETC under circumstances where state siting authorities do not have authority to site the line, have not acted on an application for over one year, or have denied an application.

NIETC Process Phases

The **four-phase NIETC designation process** outlines guidance to assist the U.S. Department of Energy in independently identifying potential NIETCs. The process aims to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of a NIETC designation by identifying narrow geographic areas, meaningfully engaging stakeholders, and conducting any required environmental reviews.



Submit Comments

By **June 24, 2024**, DOE invites the public to submit comments on the potential NIETCs on the preliminary list, including about:

- Transmission needs within the potential NIETCs and associated consumer harms;
- The geographic boundaries of the potential NIETCs; and
- Potential impacts on environmental, community, and other resources within the potential NIETCs.

Comments

Status

Phase 2

Submit your comments and recommendations on the preliminary list by 5 p.m. ET on June 24, 2024.

Phase 2 – Preliminary List and Comments

On May 8, 2024, the Grid Deployment Office released a **preliminary list of potential National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors** . The preliminary list initiates Phase 2 of the process that DOE plans to follow to designate NIETCs. NIETC designation unlocks valuable federal financing and permitting tools to spur construction of transmission projects within a NIETC to alleviate the consumer harms. The preliminary list identifies which potential NIETCs DOE is continuing to consider; provides maps with rough approximation of boundaries; provides high-level explanation of the basis for potential NIETCs; and opens a 45-day public comment period on potential NIETCs.

Map is a rough approximation for illustrative purposes only.

- Delta - Plains +
- Mid-Atlantic +
- Mid-Atlantic - Canada +
- Midwest - Plains +
- Mountain - Northwest +
- Mountain - Plains - Southwest +
- New York - Mid-Atlantic +
- New York - New England +
- Northern Plains +
- Plains - Southwest +

Phase 3 – Public Engagement

The public engagement phase includes refining geographic boundaries of potential NIETCs, initiating any required environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other applicable federal statutes, preparing a draft report, and conducting community engagement. Public activities will focus on DOE-led community engagement activities focused on potential NIETCs.

Phase 4 – NIETC Designations

The designation phase includes issuing the final NIETC Transmission preliminary list of boundaries of potential designation report(s) and any required environmental reviews. Public activities will focus on areas of greatest transmission need and providing access to transmission developers in NIETCs for available federal financing and siting tools.

Frequently Asked Questions

To learn more about the process, visit the **Frequently Asked Questions**.

Resources

- **NIETC Phase 2 Preliminary List Public Release Document**
- **NIETC Final Guidance Document**
- **NIETC Guidance Document Fact Sheet**
- **NIETC Designation Process Graphic**
- **How Consumers Are Harmed by the Lack of Transmission**