**Request for Public Education and Engagement and Extended Comment Deadline**

The U.S. Department of Energy’s FAQ on designation of National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors (NIETC) states:

“DOE will also conduct robust public engagement with impacted stakeholders **early** and throughout the process.”

Secretary Granholm made this statement to the media:

“This program is going to help us build out transmission capacity quickly and efficiently for the people who need it most **without compromising** **on** the quality of environmental reviews or **community outreach**,” Granholm said.

But yet DOE is not engaging in any community outreach, public education, landowner notification, or sharing of information necessary for impacted persons to effectively comment on the preliminary corridors in Phase 2. Also, DOE’s 45-day comment deadline is much too short to be meaningful.

It does little good to hold a public comment period for a project that has not provided notice to impacted landowners or disseminated adequate public information. DOE’s guidance states, *“Early, meaningful engagement with interested parties should reduce opposition to NIETC designation and to eventual transmission project siting and permitting within NIETCs, meaning more timely deployment of essential transmission investments.”*

The preliminary NIETCs selected will impact millions of landowners nationwide. A Federal action that may impact the property of so many citizens deserves individual notification and widespread public engagement. A longer comment period is necessary so that DOE receives the information it is seeking regarding “potential impacts on environmental, community, and other resources for those potential NIETCs”. In addition, DOE’s corridor maps are not sufficient for citizens to determine where the corridor may be located and DOE has stated that they we should not rely on them. DOE must share the information it has collected in Phase 1 so that citizens have enough information to make informed comment.

I hereby request:

1. Direct notification by U.S. Mail of all persons owning land within a proposed corridor.
2. Robust public education, engagement, and opportunity to ask questions, including posted notices in all local newspapers servicing the area of each proposed corridor and local public information meetings, including an online meeting option for those who cannot attend in person.
3. Public accessibility of information and recommendations DOE received in Phase 1 that has shaped its preliminary corridor proposals, including a narrative description of corridor boundaries, as well as identification of all transmission line(s) currently planned or proposed for the corridor.
4. An extended comment period that does not begin until impacted citizens have been notified of potential corridors and their right to comment.

I also request full party status to request rehearing or appeal of any corridor designation as set forth in DOE’s Guidance under “Post-NIETC Designation.”

Please confirm receipt of these comments by email to :

Name

Address

Telephone

Email address