

I do not see anyone on the EAC that is representing the interests of the communities and landowners who will be affected by new transmission and electric infrastructure. During yesterday's webinar, I noted that several speakers expressed concern that new transmission could not be built in a timely fashion due to siting and permitting issues. Community and landowner opposition is perhaps the largest impediment to getting new infrastructure built in a timely fashion. I urge DOE and/or this committee to consider that burial of new transmission on existing rail or road rights of way may be an appropriate path forward. Building new transmission that does not take new land, or visit lasting visual impacts upon host communities, does not foment community and landowner opposition. Without opposition, siting and permitting can happen much faster. It's the sensible solution.