



**U.S. Department of Energy**  
**Electricity Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Hosted virtually via Webex**  
**April 21, 2023**

**Meeting Summary**

## Participants

### Electricity Advisory Committee Members

LAUREN AZAR  
Azar Law, LLC

ANDREW BARBEAU  
The Accelerate Group, LLC

TOM BIALEK  
Toumetis

DANIEL BROOKS  
Electric Power Research Institute

JENNIFER CHEN  
World Resources Institute

ROBERT CUMMINGS  
Red Yucca Power Consulting

KIMBERLY DENBOW  
American Gas Association

DREW FELLON  
Alliance Advisory Services

LOUIS FINKEL  
National Rural Electric Cooperative  
Association

LISA FRANTZIS  
Guidehouse

MICHAEL HEYECK  
The Grid Group, LLC

MARIO HURTADO  
Luma Energy, LLC

LOLA INFANTE  
Electric Power Research Institute

LYNNE KIESLING  
University of Colorado Denver, College of  
Engineering, Design and Computing

CLAY KOPLIN  
Cordova Electric Cooperative

BRIAN LIPSCOMB  
Energy Keepers, Inc.

REP. NICOLE LOWEN  
Hawaii House of Representatives

JAY MORRISON  
ElectriCities of North Carolina, Inc.

RICHARD MROZ  
Resolute Strategies, LLC

REP. DON PARSONS  
Georgia House of Representatives

DELIA PATTERSON  
Salt River Project

DARLENE PHILLIPS  
PJM Interconnection, LLC

WANDA REDER  
Grid-X Partners, LLC

PAUL STOCKTON  
Paul N. Stockton, LLC

RAMYA SWAMINATHAN  
Malta Inc.

TOM WEAVER  
Retired from the American Electric Power  
Company, Inc.

Registered U.S. Department of Energy  
(DOE), National Laboratories, and  
Power Marketing Administrations

GIL BINDEWALD  
Office of Electricity, U.S. DOE

ALEXA BISHOPRIC  
Office of Electricity, U.S. DOE

BABU CHALAMALA  
Sandia National Laboratories

SAM CHANOSKI  
Idaho National Laboratory

JAYNE FAITH  
Office of Electricity, U.S. DOE

MILES FERNANDEZ  
Office of Electricity, U.S. DOE

TERRI LEE  
Office of Electricity, U.S. DOE

GENE RODRIGUES  
Office of Electricity, U.S. DOE

#### [Registered Members of the Public](#)

PETER BEHR  
E&E News

RACHEL BOYACK  
State of Utah, School and Institutional Trust  
Lands Administration

ANGELA GORDON  
TRC Companies

DANIEL GRAY  
ICF

MIKE HANCOCK  
Ansys

MICHAEL HINES  
Optical Strategies, LLC

JOHN HOWES  
Redland Energy Group

ERIC HUTCHINS  
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HUIYI JACKSON  
Edison Electric Institute

CONNIE LAUSTEN  
Edison Electric Institute

JAKE MCCURDY  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce

MARY RALLS  
National Rural Electric Cooperative  
Association

JAMIE SIMLER  
Ameren

DENICE SIMPSON  
Ameren

CLAUSELL STOKES  
Ceres

## Meeting Overview

The Electricity Advisory Committee (EAC) held a meeting on April 21, 2023, via the video conferencing platform Webex. The purpose of the meeting was to review and vote on the Recommendations Concerning National Transmission Corridors.<sup>1</sup> The recommendations were approved unanimously.

A recording of the meeting can be found at <https://www.energy.gov/oe/april-21-2023-electricity-advisory-committee-meeting>.

## Welcome and Call to Order

EAC Designated Federal Officer Jayne Faith called the meeting to order, welcomed attendees, took attendance, and covered several housekeeping items. EAC Chair Wanda Reder stated the purpose of the meeting: to vote on the proposed Recommendations Concerning National Transmission Corridors.

## Presentation and Discussion of the EAC's Draft Recommendations Concerning National Transmission Corridors

Lauren Azar, who leads the EAC Smart Grid Subcommittee's working group on transmission related issues, provided context for the development of the recommendations and stated that the EAC is proposing two recommendations. In the first recommendation, the EAC recommends that DOE move forward quickly to designate national corridors under Federal Power Act § 216. In the second recommendation, the EAC recommended DOE publish dates for the following milestones:

- (1) publication of the final Needs Study
- (2) publication of the request for applications for a designated corridor
- (3) selection of the designated corridors
- (4) publication of the designated corridors
- (5) referral to FERC

Ms. Azar moved to approve the two recommendations and Michael Heyeck seconded. The two recommendations were unanimously approved.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2023-04/National%20Transmission%20Corridors%20Recommendations\\_508.pdf](https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2023-04/National%20Transmission%20Corridors%20Recommendations_508.pdf)

Assistant Secretary Gene Rodrigues thanked the EAC for its work. He sees the recommendations as acknowledgement of the urgent need for more National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors. He believes DOE will be transparent and communicative as it works on the issue.

## Discussion

Mr. Heyeck suggested incentivizing the building of new generation capacity next to retiring power plants, since the requisite transmission lines already exist there.

Rick Mroz suggested that the EAC's recommendations be provided to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Joint Federal-State Task Force on electric transmission.

Mario Hurtado said the EAC could facilitate a discussion between DOE and the FERC-NARUC Task Force.

## *Questions and Answers*

**Q1.** Brian Lipscomb asked how federal transmission entities fit into the conversation.

Ms. Azar noted that the federal Power Marketing Administrations (PMAs) are not subject to the provisions of the Federal Power Act the EAC is considering, in part because they already have federal eminent domain. Mr. Lipscomb urged the Transmission Work Group to consider, and Ms. Azar expressed openness to, developing future EAC recommendations addressing the role of PMAs in building out national transmission capacity.

**Q2.** Lisa Frantzis asked what criteria will be used to evaluate applications for the designation of national transmission corridors.

Both Assistant Secretary Rodrigues and Gil Bindewald said they do not know the specific criteria at this time.

Tom Bialek noted that some criteria are listed in the appendix of the recommendations, which reproduces 16 U.S. Code § 824p (Siting of interstate electric transmission facilities).

**Q3.** Mr. Heyeck asked Ms. Azar to speak to the role that regional planning authorities and states will play in transmission planning given the revisions to Section 216 of the Federal Power Act.

Ms. Azar said those entities will still be involved. States will still follow normal approval processes for transmission siting, but the main change is that states can no longer reject a transmission line altogether. With regard to regional planning authorities, the new revisions may allow them to initiate the development of transmission projects in a way states cannot reject altogether.

**Q4.** Mr. Heyeck asked how transmission gets sited under rivers and other bodies of water.

Ms. Azar explained jurisdictions as they apply to bodies of water, which can include states, the Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Bureau of Land Reclamation, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Mr. Heyeck noted that offshore siting may constitute another area of inquiry for the working group.

**Q5.** Don Parsons asked if DOE would have the siting authority addressed in Section 216 of the Federal Power Act.

Ms. Azar confirmed that DOE plays a role in the first step of the process by determining that a transmission line is in the national interest and reduces identified congestion or constraints. The matter is then passed on to FERC.

## **Public Comments**

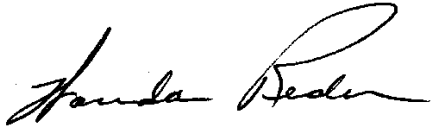
No public comments were submitted.

## **Wrap-Up and Adjournment**

Ms. Reder thanked everyone for their contributions and noted the upcoming EAC meeting on June 7 and 8, 2023. The DFO adjourned the meeting.

## Signature Page

Respectfully Submitted and Certified as Accurate,



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Wanda Reder  
Grid-X Partners, LLC  
Chair  
DOE Electricity Advisory Committee

5/17/2023

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Date



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Michael Heyeck  
The Grid Group, LLC  
Vice Chair  
DOE Electricity Advisory Committee

5/17/2023

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Date



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Jayne Faith  
Office of Electricity  
Designated Federal Officer  
DOE Electricity Advisory Committee

5/17/2023

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Date