



National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor Designation Process

Notice of Intent and Request for Information

On May 9, 2023, the U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Deployment Office (GDO) issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) to establish a route-specific, applicant-driven process to designate National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors (NIETCs, pronounced \NIT-sees\) and a Request for Information (RFI) to inform the development of final guidelines, procedures, and evaluation criteria.

The NIETC NOI and RFI is Now Available for Public Comment

Comments are due by 5:00 p.m. ET on July 31, 2023

Submit comments through the Federal Register here:

www.regulations.gov

For more information, visit:

www.energy.gov/gdo/national-interest-electric-transmission-corridor-designation-process

What is a NIETC?

- ▶ DOE has the authority to designate priority corridors where the development of new electric transmission infrastructure would advance important national interests, such as increased electric reliability and reduced consumer costs.
- ▶ The NIETC designation process is informed by the National Transmission Needs Study, which assesses both historic and anticipated future capacity constraints and transmission congestion that are adversely affecting consumers.
- ▶ NIETC designation unlocks critical federal investment and regulatory and permitting tools to spur urgent transmission investments.

NIETC Federal Investment and Regulatory Tools

- ▶ A NIETC designation can unlock federal commercial facilitation tools, specifically:
 - Public-private partnerships through the \$2.5 billion Transmission Facilitation Program under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and
 - \$2 billion Transmission Facility Financing loan program under the Inflation Reduction Act.
- ▶ After DOE designates a NIETC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has the authority to issue permits within a corridor in certain circumstances where states lack authority to site the project, have not acted on an application after more than one year, or have denied an application.

NOI Overview

- ▶ To further inform decisions, DOE now is considering a new process for NIETC designation that is **“route-specific and applicant-driven.”** This approach to selecting corridors will focus on specific needs in targeted geographic locations to provide targeted relief for affordable and reliable electricity.
- ▶ By **increasing stakeholder engagement**, the new process improves on previous NIETC designation processes, which lacked geographic specificity, did not lead to additional transmission development that would benefit consumers, and did not adequately undertake NEPA review.
- ▶ DOE is seeking to create a **durable solution for transmission development in high-priority areas** of national interest to ensure the final process is workable for transmission development and addresses community needs and input.
- ▶ **DOE intends to invite applicants** to propose potential routes where one or more transmission projects could be located within a geographic area where current or expected electric transmission capacity constraints or congestion adversely affects consumers.
- ▶ **DOE identifies certain key program design elements** in the NOI that it believes should form the basis of an applicant-driven, route-specific process to designate NIETCs.
- ▶ **DOE expects applicants to be** transmission developers with a project under development in the proposed route. DOE is also considering opening the pool of potential applicants to additional entities, which could include Tribal authorities, States, non-transmission-owning utilities (including transmission-dependent utilities), local governments, generation developers, or other entities.
- ▶ **Applicants will be required to provide** information about the potential route necessary to fulfill the statutory criteria for designation, as well as certain environmental information about the potential route to facilitate DOE's ability to efficiently complete its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act.
- ▶ **After receiving feedback, DOE will issue future guidance** establishing the process through which interested entities can propose designation of a NIETC and the information they will be required to provide.

RFI Overview

DOE seeks comments from the public and interested parties on program elements identified in the NOI and on 12 specific questions included in the RFI to assist in developing final guidelines, procedures, and evaluation criteria for the applicant-driven, route-specific NIETC designation process.

Helpful Links

- ▶ Read the Federal Register Notice here: www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/05/15/2023-10321/notice-of-intent-and-request-for-information-designation-of-national-interest-electric-transmission
- ▶ Submit comments here: www.regulations.gov
- ▶ Contact GDO with additional questions: NIETC@hq.doe.gov