



National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor
Tri-County Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 1, 2024
Barton, Pawnee and Russell Counties
Barton Community College, 245 NE 30 Road, F123, Fine Arts Auditorium,
Great Bend, Kansas 67530

September 24, 2024 – Prior to the NIETC Tri-County Meeting (Barton, Pawnee and Russell Counties), the following questions are being submitted to the following:

Department of Energy
Kansas Corporation Commission

Representative Tracey Mann
Senator Roger Marshall
Senator Jerry Moran

Representative Tory Marie Blew
Representative Bill Clifford
Representative Brett Fairchild
Representative Troy Waymaster
Senator Elaine Bowers
Senator Alicia Straub

Kansas Association of Counties
Kansas Natural Resource Coalition

Questions are being provided in three parts –

Barton County Questions
Barton County Citizen Questions
Pawnee County Questions

We respectfully request that answers be remitted to Barton County by noon, Monday, September 30, 2024. We request that the DOE, KCC and federal legislators answer all questions. If state legislators would like to answer those questions within purview.

Invitation to the tri-County meeting included with your email.



Barton - Barb Esfeld, Chairman; Shawn Hutchinson, Duane Reif, Tricia Schlessiger, Donna Zimmerman, Commissioners
Pawnee - Bob Rein, Jr, Chairman; Mike Burdett, Philip Hammeke, Commissioners
Russell - John W Strobel (Duke), Chairman; Steve Reinhardt, Daron Woelk, Commissioners

Organizational officials for Barton County - Matt Patzner, County Administrator; Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk;
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor; Barton County Courthouse, 1400 Main, Suite 108, Great Bend, Kansas, 67530.
620.793.1800 mpatzner@bartoncounty.org www.bartoncounty.org

Barton County Questions

1. How can GBE transmit power if the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) excludes GBE from its grid and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) upholds MISO's exclusion of the power?
2. The Illinois federal court ruling against GBE jeopardizes Phase II of the Project (in Missouri and Illinois). Will this affect Phase I? If so, how?
3. When will Invenergy prove that it has secured the Department Of Energy (DOE) loan, and when will GBE receive its Certificate of Convenience to verify the loan?
4. Invenergy has stated in negotiations with landowners threatened with eminent domain that it has separate financing that would allow the Project to begin construction.
 - a) What is the "separate financing"?
 - b) Who pays for the 20% of the Project not covered by the DOE?
 - c) Is the "separate financing" enough to complete all or part of the Project?
5. Landowner compensation is based solely on short-term land use and habitation, which forces many farmers and landowners to relocate when the property becomes unusable or unlivable. Why are landowners subject to eminent domain not compensated for the anticipated **long-duration** of the HVDC line placement?
6. Why is the corridor five miles wide in Kansas and what activities will GBE perform in this expanded area? How does the five mile corridor work?
7. What is the "national emergency" for this region, currently not in need of surplus electricity, that has been declared by the DOE's National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (NIETC) designation?
8. Can a map with the exact location and landowner's names be provided? If so, when will the map be available?
9. Can the lines be buried to take away the health issues and potentially ruining the value of the properties involved:



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Barton County Citizen Questions

1. Will homeowners be able to opt out and retain their residence?
2. The Great Bend Municipal Airport may be located near the transmission line. Can you specify the project's distance from the airport?
3. Can you specify the height of the towers? Over 200'? If it is going to be towers, how tall?
4. Do you plan to apply to the Federal Aviation Administration for this project near the airport to avoid interference with published aircraft approaches or traffic patterns?
5. Do we know for sure these will be towers, or is the corridor going to be underground?
6. Eminent domain refers to the power of the government to take private property and convert it into public use. What public use will the public living in Kansas receive from this project?
7. Why are we only hearing about this after the public comment period (Phase II) has passed?
8. If it is designated, how long after that before we see work begin – is this a decades-long process, a years-long process or a months-long process?
9. Will all landowners be treated the same? Some have several hundred acres prime farm ground; others have residential homes only.
10. Is Eminent Domain the first action to be taken if the proposed corridor is designated? Or is there a period where landowners have an opportunity to negotiate a deal for their vested interests?
11. Will communities along the corridor benefit by having access to power transported along the corridor?
12. Has an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) been completed? If so, has it been evaluated by the Federal Law National Environmental Police Act? (NEPA)?



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Pawnee County Citizen Questions

1. The NIETC project seems to be moving quickly. Is there a national emergency that requires immediate designation?
2. How many acres of land would be affected in Kansas, specifically in Barton, Pawnee and Russell counties?
3. What would be the economic impact of a transmission line in the corridor? Specifically to the owner of the line, the State of Kansas, the affected Counties and property owners?
4. Is there any potential for the proposed corridor or future transmission line project to negatively impact property values?
5. What would be the impact to homeowners and people living inside of the proposed corridor or any future transmission line projects? Would there be any potential for homeowners to lose their homes or be negatively affected from a health aspect? What about crops and livestock?
6. Would the specifics of any potential easements or agreements with property owners be made public?
7. How many projects does DOE expect to be placed inside the NIETC destination?
8. Does the DOE anticipate any further necessity beyond the already sited Grain Belt Express project?
9. Would any potential easements under the NIETC designation be available to be enrolled in natural asset companies or national capital accounts in the future?
10. Is the federal government overriding existing state siting processes?
11. Is the federal government overriding the constitutional rights of its citizens by exercising eminent domain?



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