

TO: Department of Energy via FAX 202-586-8008

FROM: Donna M. Wood, 3841 Clifton Manor Pl, Haymarket, VA 20169

ATTN: DOCKET 2007-OE-01

Request for Rehearing regarding the designation of the Mid-Atlantic National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (original comment filed 7/2/07; 80781)

Dear Secretary Bodman:

I am writing to request a rehearing on this National Issue. I am very concerned that the Department of Energy has not addressed the concerns raised by citizens and elected officials who took their personal and business time to appear or write to the DOE in July 2007. The primary concern is the apparent lack of intent to respond to these concerns specifically in the DOE's report. Below are my originally submitted comments:

COMMENTS FILED 7/2/07: 80781

As a concerned citizen of the United States of America, I am exercising my First Amendment right to express my shock and dismay at the handling of the Department of Energy's announcement of the first ever National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors.

This is an issue of National Proportions, and with the announcement in late April 2007, citizens were told that they would be able to attend and speak at assigned meetings located within the designated corridors. What we have learned is that although the Mid-Atlantic "corridor" includes parts or all of the states of Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York, the meetings scheduled for citizens to make public comments were apparently an "afterthought." I attended the meeting in Arlington, which at that time, was one of only two meetings that had been scheduled for citizens. Since then, due to the public outcry, several other meetings have been held, but not scheduled or located at the convenience of the citizens and Congressional districts impacted by the Draft NIETC.

Given the population affected by this designation, it appears that our appointed government officials are taking matters into their own hands by providing little to no opportunity for our citizens to speak and ask questions about what this means to them, their property, and their futures.

The National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor "draft" will grant companies, not the government, the power to condemn land for the purpose of building electric transmission lines through any property that they deem necessary for this purpose.

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We, as citizens of this country, have requested specific information that the government and companies have used to develop the case for such need. To date, we have not received any information that supports the extraordinary need that these proposals appear to fill. Letters go unanswered. Even our elected officials are being ignored! Where has our "government of the people, by the people and for the people" gone? I think Mr. Lincoln's profound words have lost their meaning in the 21st century!

Your letter directed to the House Speaker Nancy Pelosi prior to the narrow defeat of the Wolf-Hinchev amendment to the EPA Policy Act did not include specifics as to why this extreme action must be taken.

Our constitution's Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments refer to due process. One fitting definition of this phrase is that the government can only take property for public purposes; and owners of property are entitled to fair compensation for their land. This due process also allows the right to be heard in one's own defense.

How can we defend ourselves if we are not allowed to see the "charges" against us? I thought I was born in the land of freedom!

I spoke at the Arlington forum, taking time away from my business to "patiently" wait my turn for the TWO minutes I was allotted. In that meeting we heard from several well-informed speakers who have repeatedly asked for more information to be able to reconcile these actions to the need.

In addition, instructions for written comments were unclear. We have been given a website with information on how to comment electronically, by mail and in person. However, the written comments are given a postmark deadline (individuals have received this) that is not listed on this site. In addition, the links across the website send the user to different pages that are not similar for the same things, such as the Frequently Asked Questions. With something that we citizens consider so important, the information trail should be easy to follow.

Questions:

- Why is the government TAKING the power to GIVE stockholder-owned utilities the power to TAKE private property from citizens?
- What is the specific basis for the need assessment for these transmission lines?
- Are Clean Air laws taken into account for all states included in the NIETC?
- Has there been an Environmental Impact Assessment done in any area designated as NIETC? If not, why is this not deemed necessary for this NIETC?
- How can citizens truly have their concerns addressed? We are still being treated as if this action is "for our own good."
- I am also concerned that FOIA requests are not being acknowledged in accordance with the law. I have communicated with other concerned citizens in many of the other states in the corridor who have not received

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responses to their requests in a timely manner, as is afforded citizens under the law. What is being done to respond to these requests?

- At the Arlington Forum, we were told that the Department of Energy is requiring utilities to cooperate in implementing the actions necessary to develop this NIETC. Is the DOE also requiring these multi-state utilities to work together in developing demand response and energy conservation programs under a similar deadline?

Along with others, I am watching and communicating with my fellow citizens to ensure that our elected (and appointed) government does not abuse their power. We are a government OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE AND FOR THE PEOPLE. Give the people DUE PROCESS as defined by our CONSTITUTION.

Yours truly,

A Concerned Citizen of the United States of America

Donna M. Wood