

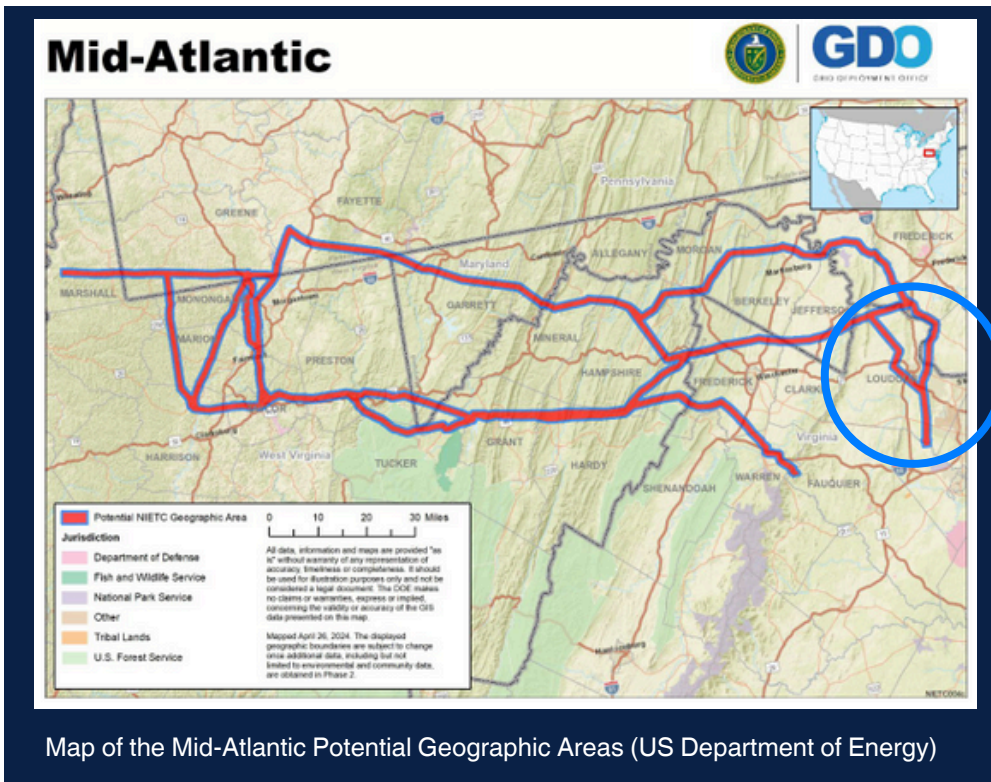


Just the FACTS:

Information to know about the
National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (NIETC) Phase Two

What is the NIETC?

This is a designation given to geographic areas by the United States Department of Energy (DOE) that they determine to need more transmission power. According to the DOE, a NIETC designation allows for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to issue permits for transmission line projects with the designation without state authority approval or action.



Will the Mid-Atlantic NIETC affect me and my community?

Yes. The Mid-Atlantic NIETC would affect the areas in the map above, including Loudoun County. This would allow NextEra Energy to build a new greenfield power corridor within a wide swath of rural Loudoun to support the Mid-Atlantic Resiliency Link project, even if the State Corporation Commission (SCC) denies construction in Rural Loudoun.

DOE released its findings on the Mid-Atlantic NIETC, which differ from previous impact studies. What should I know?

Some of DOE's statements are incorrect and misleading. The Loudoun Transmission Line Alliance identified three main statements shared by DOE that are not supported by data collected by the Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) and PJM.

- PEC is an environmental organization working to protect and restore the lands and waters of the Virginia Piedmont.
- PJM is a regional transmission organization (RTO) that coordinates the movement of wholesale electricity in all or parts of 13 states and the District of Columbia.

turn the page to read the 3 main facts

CLAIM 1:

DOE says the Mid-Atlantic NIETC could ***maintain and improve reliability and resilience***. DOE claims that constraints in PJM's footprint limit electricity imports during extreme weather events. PJM must address reliability criteria violations in the face of load growth and anticipated resource retirements.

FACT: This is not a long-term solution to any issues related to reliability and resilience.

All of Mid-Atlantic corridors depend on aging coal fired plants that will not be around for the lifetime of the transmission lines. This is not consistent with the renewable energy policies of the U.S. Government. The proposed western transmission lines within the PJM 2022-RTEP-W3 process has already led to the extension of the life time of two coal plants (Ft. Martin and Harrison) that has been set to retire in 2030. The data centers of Northern Virginia represent the only growing sector of electricity demand that is predicted to double by 2040 when these coal-fired plants will be obsolete.

CLAIM 2:

DOE says the Mid-Atlantic NIETC could ***reduce consumer costs*** in eastern Maryland and Virginia.

FACT: Virginia ratepayers will have to help cover the total cost of \$4.9 billion for these inter-regional transmission lines by absorbing the cost into their utility bills. Dominion Energy already anticipates a doubling of consumer bills as a result of the need to build out the infrastructure. Communities pay to build and operate this new infrastructure and suffer the consequences of having these lines disrupt local businesses, property owners, historical landmarks, and the environment.

Dominion Energy is also discussing other transmission lines to directly serve new data centers being built in Culpeper, Prince William, Fairfax, and Loudoun counties, which ratepayers will pay for as well. PJM's set of recommended lines will be sent to the Board of Managers for final approval in mid-December. (Source: Piedmont Environmental Council). These lines will not support households- only data centers. It does not appear that this corridor will save anyone money any time soon.

CLAIM 3:

DOE says the Mid-Atlantic NIETC could ***meet future generation and demand growth***.

FACT: It is correct that there is a need to expand access to power. However, as opposed to being the answer to future energy needs, **the transmission line projects lock us into an old model reliant on fossil fuels.** The project is an extension cord connecting power-hungry data centers to existing energy sources when we need to move in the future (Source: Piedmont Environmental Council).

When the coal-fired plants that are soon to become obsolete go offline, this huge investment in these "extension cords" will be useless, and new solutions will need to be found. There is nothing "clean" about the proposed solutions under consideration by the Department of Energy.

Share your voice with DOE. Here's how:

Phase two public comment period has opened, and will close on **June 24, 2024 at 5:00 PM ET**. Email DOE to share questions, comments, and impact stories at: NIETC@hq.doe.gov

Questions? Want to learn more?

To get involved and learn how the Mid-Atlantic NIETC will impact our community, visit our website loudountransmissionlinealliance.org or email us at transmissionlines@waterfordfoundation.org.