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PRAIRIE LAND
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

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POWER LINE ISSUES

Call 800-577-3323 to report outages and other power line issues.



FROM THE CEO

Explaining the NIETC Process

Recently, there has been significant publicity about the acquisition of private property in Kansas for the National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors (NIETC). As part of Cooperative Principle No. 5 — Education, Training and Information — it is our responsibility to keep our members informed. Therefore, I would like to share the below article by Kathleen O'Brien, general manager of Nemaha-Marshall Electric Cooperative, which sheds light on this important issue.

I'm going to address a [sensitive] subject that arose in July regarding the Department of Energy (DOE) study on transmission corridors. NIETC designations are not new and are evaluated every three years. The Federal Power Act authorizes the Secretary of Energy to designate any geographic area as an NIETC. The

secretary of energy must show that area consumers are harmed because of a lack of transmission and that development of new transmission would advance important national interests, such as increased reliability and reduced consumer costs.

There are four phases to the NIETC designation process.



Kirk Girard

PHASE 1

The most recent NIETC process began Dec. 19, 2023, which opened a 45-day window for public recommendations for NIETC designations.

PHASE 2

Phase 2 involved the issuance of the list of 10 potential corridors including Midwest Plains, which traverses northern Kansas following essentially the same

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VETERANS DAY

Honoring All Who Served

OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, NOV. 11
IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY.

Please call 800-577-3323 to report an outage.

Explaining the NIETC Process

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path as Grain Belt Express. Phase 2 ends after a 45-day window for receiving public comments on those 10 options. DOE then uses comments and information received to narrow the list and announces which potential NIETCs will move to Phase 3, which will occur in fall 2024.

You may subscribe to receive updates from the DOE's Grid Deployment Office at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOEGDO/subscriber/new>.

After subscribing, select the "Building Better Grid Initiative and Transmission Planning" topic to receive NIETC notices.

PHASE 3

In Phase 3, the DOE will refine the geographic boundaries of the potential NIETCs, begin environmental reviews, and conduct additional public engagement, such as public meetings and workshops. At the end of Phase 3, the DOE will release a draft NIETC designation report for additional comments.

PHASE 4

During Phase 4, the DOE will issue its final NIETC designation report with a smaller subset of designated corridors. DOE is under no obligation to name a certain number of corridors; they could even end up not designating any corridor. The process begins again in three years.

WHAT THE NIETC DOES AND DOESN'T DO

The NIETC process comes into play when you need to build interstate transmission line, but one or more states with siting authority is holding it up or denies an application for construction.

If a corridor is designated as an NIETC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) can step in and pre-empt state siting authority and certify a transmission company to build a needed line if the state is not getting the job done.

The DOE NIETC process does not:

- ▶ Determine the specific route.

NATIONAL INTEREST ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION CORRIDOR (NIETC) SUMMARY

- ▶ Evaluation is completed every three years.
- ▶ It is a four phase process, and we are currently in Phase 2.
- ▶ DOE will announce which potential NIETCs will move to Phase 3 in fall 2024.
- ▶ Any transmission company that wants to build a line in the corridor must apply to the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC).
- ▶ The only transmission in this area with KCC approval is the Grain Belt Express.

- ▶ Build the line; or
 - ▶ Issue permits to build the line.
- Permitting authority remains with the state or FERC. The DOE designation of a corridor simply assists a transmission company in getting its line built.

Because the DOE does not determine a specific route, the potential NIETC can range in width from less than 1 mile to nearly 100 miles, with lengths ranging from 12 to 780 miles that can be used by a transmission company to determine the best path for a transmission line.

In the case of the Midwest Plains NIETC, the width is five miles. The siting for any transmission path must still be approved by the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) unless the FERC has preempted state authority, as I explain above.

A NIETC DESIGNATION DOES NOT LEVEL A FIVE-MILE-WIDE PATH THAT CLEARS EVERY FARMSTEAD OR TOWN IN THE DESIGNATED CORRIDOR. Any transmission company that wants to build a line in the corridor must apply to the KCC. Currently the only KCC approved transmission line in this area is the Grain Belt Express.

We cherish our North Central Kansas and need to remain vigilant if another entity applies to the KCC for a new transmission line. At that time, you can once again be part of the process to protect our rich Kansas farms and pasturelands.

If you have any further questions after reading this article, please contact Prairie Land's Director of Member Services, Elena Larson, at 785-877-3323.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Our office will be closed Nov. 28 and Nov. 29
in observance of the holiday.
Please call 800-577-3323 to report an outage.

2025 Trustee Election Process

The cooperative's bylaws anticipate for the following positions to be filled in the 2025 trustee election:

- ▶ **DISTRICT 1** – Cheyenne, Rawlins, Sherman and Thomas counties.
SCOTT URBAN of Atwood currently holds this position.
- ▶ **DISTRICT 2** – Decatur, Norton and Phillips counties.
IVAN BOHL of Norton currently holds this position.
- ▶ **DISTRICT 3** – Graham, Rooks and Sheridan counties.
SANDRA BENOIT of Damar currently holds this position.

A nominating committee has been appointed to meet and nominate candidates for these positions. If you are interested in being nominated for one of the positions, contact a member of the committee to discuss your nomination.

The committee will meet at **1 P.M. ON WED., DEC. 11, 2024**, at the Prairie Land Electric office at 14935 U.S. Highway 36 in Norton. (A secondary date of Wed. Dec. 18, 2024, has been set in case the meeting is postponed due to inclement weather).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS INCLUDE:

- ▶ **ROGER ZWEYGARDT**
St. Francis, 785-332-8253
- ▶ **STEPHEN WASHBURN**
Norton, 785-202-0338
- ▶ **RODNEY BELLEAU**
Hill City, 785-421-8149

▶ **RON MORGAN**
Smith Center, 785-620-7665

▶ **JERRY STENBERG**
Clyde, 785-243-0129

Nominations may also be made by petition. Interested candidates should contact the Norton office to request the appropriate form.

The petition must be signed by no less than 25 members of the district for whom the trustee is to be elected. Petitions need to be delivered to the Norton office by **5 P.M. ON FRI., JAN. 10, 2025**. All nominations shall be posted in the Norton office.

The election shall be conducted on an "at large" basis; therefore, every member of Prairie Land Electric Cooperative is eligible to vote for all positions in the election. Upon completion of the nominating process, voting materials will be mailed to Prairie Land members **BY FRIDAY, JAN. 24, 2025**. The bylaws, as amended, require the use of mail ballots for trustee elections.

Ballots and a postage-paid return envelope will be furnished for the member to use. **BALLOTS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE NORTON OFFICE BY 5 P.M. ON MON., FEB. 10, 2025**. An election and credentials committee will count the ballots by Feb. 20, 2025 and the election results will then be announced to members.

If you have questions regarding this year's election, please call the Prairie Land office in Norton at 785-877-3323 or 800-577-3323.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

ALANA MURPHY

ALANA MURPHY joined Prairie Land as our newest Member Services Representative on Sept. 9, 2024.



Originally from Liberty, Kentucky, Alana studied at Somerset

Community College. Before joining Prairie Land, she worked at the University of Kentucky's King's Daughters Medical Center. Alana currently resides in Norton with her husband, Christopher. They have a 24-year-old daughter, Autumn. In her free time, Alana enjoys traveling and fishing.

Fall back on Nov. 3

On Sunday, Nov. 3, remember to turn your clocks back one hour. It is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and have a professional check your fire extinguishers.



Tips for a Safe and Efficient Holiday Season

This holiday season, keep energy savings and electrical safety in mind.

SAVE ENERGY

- ▶ Use smaller appliances like slow cookers instead of the oven.
- ▶ Lower the thermostat when hosting friends and family.
- ▶ Decorate with energy-saving LED lights.

PRIORITIZE SAFETY

- ▶ Never leave unattended candles burning.
- ▶ Ensure all smoke alarms are working.
- ▶ When decorating, inspect all light strands and cords for damage.

SOURCE: NRECA

APPLY FOR A TRIP OF A LIFETIME

JUNE 14-20, 2025
 AN ALL-EXPENSES-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.



An all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by your local electric co-op.

A week of visiting historic monuments, touring world-class museums and meeting elected officials.

An opportunity to develop lifelong friendships with delegates from across the country!

FIND OUT MORE




JULY 11-17, 2025

★★★ COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP ★★★

LEADERSHIP
 Learn about the co-op business model and develop leadership skills.

COMMUNITY
 Students from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming create a candy co-op, run camp activities and make meaningful connections.

MEMORIES
 From rafting on the Colorado River to exploring downtown Steamboat Springs — you'll be sure to capture memories to remember for a lifetime.



LEARN MORE




CONTACT ELENA LARSON AT ELARSON@PLE.COOP OR 785-877-3323

BE AN ENERGY EFFICIENCY MVP

Do you have what it takes to be the energy efficiency MVP (most valuable player) in your home? When you take proactive steps to save energy at home, you can help your family save on monthly energy bills and help the environment — that's a win-win!

Read the sentences below and unscramble the bolded letters to complete the energy efficiency tips. Check your work in the answer key.



- Turn off **glhsit** when you leave a room.

- Unplug smaller electronic devices like phone **reahgcsr** when you're not using them.

- Reduce your **nesecr** time to save energy and spend more time outdoors.

- Turn off the **reatw** while brushing your teeth.

- Keep doors and **swdwnio** closed when your home's heating/cooling system is running.

- When it's cold, wear an extra layer of **tohgncil** inside instead of adjusting the thermostat.



Answer Key: 1. lights 2. chargers 3. screen 4. water 5. windows 6. clothing