



Quay County Government

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Honorable Secretary Chris Wright

U.S. Department of Energy

1000 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20585

February 24th, 2025

We have become aware that the Department of Energy is attempting to claim over 500,000 acres of Quay County for the National Interest Electrical Transmission Corridor (NIETC). It is stated that these five- to 15-mile-wide corridors are necessary for energy companies to access energy sources and transmission lines however a typical easement for transmission lines are only 200 feet. Quay County opposes the implementation of the NIETC because we have been a pioneer in the field of renewable energy. We are not opposed to transmission lines. One of the first wind farms in the country was built in Quay County in 2002. We currently have three wind farms and a solar farm. Tucumcari, NM, is home to Mesalands Community College, which hosts a training program for people to learn to build and service wind generators and solar farms.

Given our county's history of renewable energy production, our landowners have successfully worked with power companies and transmission companies within existing frameworks. Therefore, we strongly oppose the US government taking actions to bypass the legal and obviously successful mechanisms that are in place to build and service the wind generators and the transmission infrastructure.

The Department of Energy has not acted in an open and transparent style. The DOE has pushed the NIETC through the levels of government without making their plans common knowledge. For example, NONE of the 150 Quay County families that will be directly impacted by this action were notified of the pending NIETC taking. Phase 3 of 4 of the NIETC had already been enacted before this action came to light to the general constituency, and then, only because of a very persistent landowner.

The 150 families whose farms, ranches and homes are in the direct path of the NIETC have had no warning or notification that their homes and livelihoods are in jeopardy of having the freedom to make choices for their private land revoked. It appears that the US government is teaming up with energy companies to simply take whatever they want without due process to the people who have lived and worked on this land for generations.

As the Quay County Commission, we are asking that you do everything possible to HALT any further action of the NIETC.

Jerri Rush, Quay County Commission Chair