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In conclusion, this public interest determination documents that renewing the committee is in the public interest, essential to the conduct of agency business, and that the information to be obtained is not already available through another advisory committee or source within the Federal Government.

The Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, has been delegated the authority to sign **Federal Register** notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities related to higher education.

David Barker,

Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education.

[FR Doc. 2026–13831 Filed 7–8–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Availability of Draft 2026 National Transmission Needs Study and Request for Comment

AGENCY: Office of Electricity, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) gives notice of availability of the draft *2026 National Transmission Needs Study* for public review and comment.

DATES: DOE is currently accepting public comment from July 9, 2026 through September 8, 2026. Comments must be sent to *NeedsStudy.Comments@hq.doe.gov* by midnight EST, September 8, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties to submit comments electronically to *NeedsStudy.Comments@hq.doe.gov*. DOE's guidance is available at: *www.energy.gov/oe/national-transmission-needs-study*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alissa Baker, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Electricity, via (240) 702–4890; or *NeedsStudy.Comments@hq.doe.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DOE's Office of Electricity (OE) is announcing the availability of the draft *2026 National Transmission Needs Study* (2026 Needs Study) and requests public comment on the draft.

Section 216(a) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), as amended by section 40105 of the Infrastructure Investment and

Jobs Act (IIJA), requires DOE to conduct a study of electric transmission capacity constraints and congestion every three years. The 2026 Needs Study implements that statutory provision and OE published the last study in October 2023.

Pursuant to section 216(a)(1), DOE is consulting with states, Tribes, and appropriate regional reliability entities regarding the 2026 Needs Study, including by providing a consultation draft for review and comment by these entities, as well as through additional outreach.

Pursuant to section 216(a)(2) of the FPA, the study would inform any decision to exercise DOE's National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor designation authority. The 2026 Needs Study will also inform DOE as it coordinates the use of other authorities and funding related to electric transmission. Members of the public can visit OE's website to access the public draft of the study as well as guidance for how to send comments or request further information at: *www.energy.gov/oe/national-transmission-needs-study*.

Signing Authority

This document of the Department of Energy was signed on June 30, 2026, by Gilbert C. Bindewald III, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Electricity, U.S. Department of Energy, pursuant to delegated authority from the Secretary of Energy. That document with the original signature and date is maintained by DOE. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DOE Federal Register Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication, as an official document of the Department of Energy. The administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

Signed in Washington, DC, on July 7, 2026.

Treena V. Garrett,

Federal Register Liaison Officer, U.S. Department of Energy.

[FR Doc. 2026–13844 Filed 7–8–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Renewal of the Electricity Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Office of Electricity (OE), Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of renewal.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act and following consultation with the Committee Management Secretariat of the General Services Administration, notice is hereby given that the Electricity Advisory Committee (EAC) will be renewed for a two-year period. The Committee will provide advice, information, and recommendations to the Secretary of Energy on a continuing basis regarding policies and programs to modernize the nation's electric system.

DATES: The Board will be renewed on August 5, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Corinne Price, Designated Federal Officer, at 202–586–4037; email: *corinne.price@hq.doe.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Committee members are chosen to assure well-balanced representation in terms of substantive technical expertise, institutional affiliation (*i.e.*, State, industry, and university), geographic location, and any other considerations required. The EAC has members who represent interests outside of private industry, including academic, economic, labor, research, and state and tribal government interests. OE will continue to broadly reach out to interested individuals to find membership for the board through direct contact or expressions of interest via a **Federal Register** Notice. Membership and representation of all interests will be determined in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act and its implementing regulations.

The renewal of the Committee has been deemed essential to the Department of Energy's (DOE's) business and in public interest in conjunction with the performance of duties imposed upon the DOE, by law and agreement.

Public Interest Determination: Pursuant to 41 CFR 102–3.65(a), DOE is providing a written public interest determination, approved by the Secretary of Energy, detailing why this committee is essential to the conduct of agency business and that the information to be obtained is not already available through another advisory committee or source within the Federal Government.

1. Annual budget: Approximately \$465,000 is planned for FY 27.

a. Federal personnel on a full-time equivalent (FTE) basis—The estimated annual person year of staff support required is one-half equivalent Federal full-time employee, at an estimated annual cost of \$135,000.

b. Other Federal internal costs—The estimate for other Federal internal costs, which include Federal travel, meeting/ administrative expenses, and contractor costs, is \$155,000.

c. Proposed payments to members—The estimated payments for 60 non-Federal members are \$0; the estimated salary of zero Federal members is \$0.

d. Proposed number of members—Approximately 60 members.

e. Reimbursable costs—The estimate for reimbursable costs, including members' travel expenses, is approximately \$175,000.

2. *Total dollar value of grants expected to be recommended during the Fiscal Year:* \$0.

3. *Criteria for selecting members to ensure the committee has the necessary expertise and fairly balanced membership:* Committee members are chosen to assure well-balanced representation in terms of substantive technical expertise, institutional affiliation (*i.e.*, State, industry, and university), geographic location, and any other considerations required. The EAC has members who represent interests outside of private industry, including academic, economic, labor, research, and state and tribal government interests. OE will continue to broadly reach out to interested individuals to find membership for the board through direct contact or expressions of interest via a **Federal Register** Notice. Membership and representation of all interests will be determined in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act and its implementing regulations.

4. *Other DOE Federal advisory committees:*

21st Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board
Advisory Committee for Nuclear Security
Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee
Carbon Dioxide Capture, Utilization, and Sequestration Federal Lands Permitting Task Force
Carbon Dioxide Capture, Utilization, and Sequestration Non-Federal Lands Permitting Task Force
Electric Vehicle Working Group
Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board
Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technical Advisory Committee
Isotope Research & Development and Production Advisory Committee
Industrial Technology Innovation Advisory Committee
Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee
National Coal Council
National Petroleum Council

National Quantum Initiative Advisory Committee
President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology
Office of Science Advisory Committee
Secretary of Energy Advisory Board
State Energy Advisory Board
Technical Panel on Magnetic Fusion

5. *Justification that the information or advice provided by the Federal advisory committee is not available from another Federal advisory committee, another Federal Government source, or any other more cost-effective and less burdensome source:* No other advisory committee focuses only on the modernization of the nation's electric system. This board is uniquely suited to finding solutions to problems that the government alone cannot answer, and its advice cannot be obtained more economically through any means, such as public hearings.

6. *Summary of the previous accomplishments of the committee and the reasons it needs to continue:* Since the last charter renewal in August 2024, the EAC has met 2 times and produced several reports and recommendations that have benefited the Office of Electricity's policies and programs. The 3 EAC approved work products approved at the June 2025 meeting were the "2024 Biennial Energy Storage Review", "Bridging the Visibility Gap: Advancing Grid Resiliency and National Security With Last-Mile Digitization and Enhanced Distribution-Level Tools", and "Resilient Communication for Grid Security: Enabling Private Broadband Networks for Critical Infrastructure," which provided recommendations across energy storage and grid resilience. Additionally, 4 recommendation reports are currently in development within the Grid Resilience for National Security, Smart Grid, and Energy Storage subcommittees. Further, the in-person full EAC meetings also included panels featuring noted thought leaders from the industry, regulatory bodies, public interest organizations, academic institutions and other stakeholders to provide DOE with invaluable feedback on Department initiatives and activities.

7. *Explanation of why the committee is essential to the conduct of agency business:* The EAC will help identify areas for the Office of Electricity to focus on and provide recommendations to aid in driving down electricity costs, securing our grid, increasing domestic energy production, and advancing critical technologies, such as artificial intelligence. Receiving outside input from industry, academia, and public interest groups is essential in

developing sound policies on modernizing the U.S. electric system. The Committee will provide advice on many topics within the following broad subject areas:

a. Advise DOE on current and future electric grid reliability, security, and policy issues of concern;

b. Periodically review and make recommendations on DOE electric grid-related programs and initiatives, including electricity-related R&D programs and deployment activities including technology development, technical assistance, modeling and analysis, and planning and policy;

c. Identify emerging issues related to affordability, production, delivery, end-use, supply chain, reliability, security, modeling, and regulatory structures, and make recommendations, if appropriate, concerning DOE policy and initiatives;

d. Make recommendations on how DOE can address the growing interdependence of and risk to critical electric infrastructure and other critical sectors such as defense, communications, and transportation;

e. Advise on coordination between DOE, state, tribal, territorial, and regional officials and the private sector on matters affecting affordability, production, delivery, end-use, reliability, security, and economic and regulatory structures;

f. Advise on coordination between Federal, State, tribal, territorial, and regional officials and the private sector in the event of supply disruption or other emergencies related to electric transmission, generation, and distribution; and

g. Make recommendations to the Department on how to best implement programs or policies directly affecting all components of the electric system and its operations, as appropriate.

Signing Authority

This document was signed on July 7, 2026, by David Borak, Committee Management Officer, pursuant to delegated authority from the Secretary of Energy. That document with the original signature and date is maintained by the DOE. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DOE Federal Register Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication, as an official document of the DOE. This administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

Signed in Washington, DC, on July 7, 2026.

Jennifer Hartzell,

*Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer,
U.S. Department of Energy.*

[FR Doc. 2026-13890 Filed 7-8-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. PF26-9-000]

Transwestern Pipeline Company, LLC; Notice of Scoping Period Requesting Comments on Environmental Issues for the Planned Desert Southwest Expansion Project, and Notice of Public Scoping Sessions

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental document that will discuss the environmental effects of the Desert Southwest Expansion Project (Project) involving construction and operation of facilities by Transwestern Pipeline Company, LLC (Transwestern) in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The Commission will use this environmental document in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

This notice announces the opening of the scoping process the Commission will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies regarding the Project. As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process, the Commission takes into account concerns the public may have about proposals and the environmental effects that could result from its action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. This gathering of public input is referred to as “scoping.” The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the environmental document on the important environmental issues. Additional information about the Commission’s NEPA process is described below in the *NEPA Process and Environmental Document* section of this notice.

By this notice, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of issues to address in the environmental document. To ensure

that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please submit your comments so that the Commission receives them in Washington, DC on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on August 5, 2026. Comments may be submitted in written or oral form. Further details on how to submit comments are provided in the *Public Participation* section of this notice.

Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental effects. Your input will help the Commission staff determine what issues they need to evaluate in the environmental document. Commission staff will consider all written and oral comments during the preparation of the environmental document.

If you submitted comments on this project to the Commission before the opening of this docket on March 27, 2026, you will need to file those comments in Docket No. PF26-9-000 to ensure they are considered.

This notice is being sent to the Commission’s current environmental mailing list for this project. State and local government representatives should notify their constituents of this planned project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, a pipeline company representative may contact you about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the planned facilities. The company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable easement agreement. You are not required to enter into an agreement. However, if the Commission approves the project, the Natural Gas Act conveys the right of eminent domain to the company. Therefore, if you and the company do not reach an easement agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings in court. In such instances, compensation would be determined by a judge in accordance with state law. The Commission does not subsequently grant, exercise, or oversee the exercise of that eminent domain authority. The courts have exclusive authority to handle eminent domain cases; the Commission has no jurisdiction over these matters.

A fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled “An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need

To Know?” addresses typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain and how to participate in the Commission’s proceedings. This fact sheet along with other landowner topics of interest are available for viewing on the FERC website (www.ferc.gov) under the Natural Gas, Landowner Topics link.

Public Participation

There are five methods you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. Please carefully follow these instructions so that your comments are properly recorded. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has staff available to assist you at (866) 208-3676 or FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov.

(1) You can file your comments electronically using the eComment feature, which is located on the Commission’s website (www.ferc.gov) under the link to FERC Online. Using eComment is an easy method for submitting brief, text-only comments on a project;

(2) You can file your comments electronically by using the eFiling feature, which is located on the Commission’s website (www.ferc.gov) under the link to FERC Online. With eFiling, you can provide comments in a variety of formats by attaching them as a file with your submission. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on “eRegister.” You will be asked to select the type of filing you are making; a comment on a particular project is considered a “Comment on a Filing”; or

(3) You can file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the Commission. Be sure to reference the project docket number (PF26-9-000) on your letter. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852.

(4) In lieu of sending written comments, the Commission invites you to attend one of the public scoping sessions its staff will conduct in the project area, scheduled as follows:

Date and time	Location
Tuesday, July 21, 2026, 5:00–7:00 p.m. local time	Biosphere 2, 3250 S Biosphere Rd., Oracle, Arizona 85623, 520-621-0436.
Wednesday, July 22, 2026, 5:00–7:00 p.m. local time	Central Arizona Community College Signal Peak Campus, 8470 N Overfield Rd., Coolidge, AZ 85128, 520-494-5111.