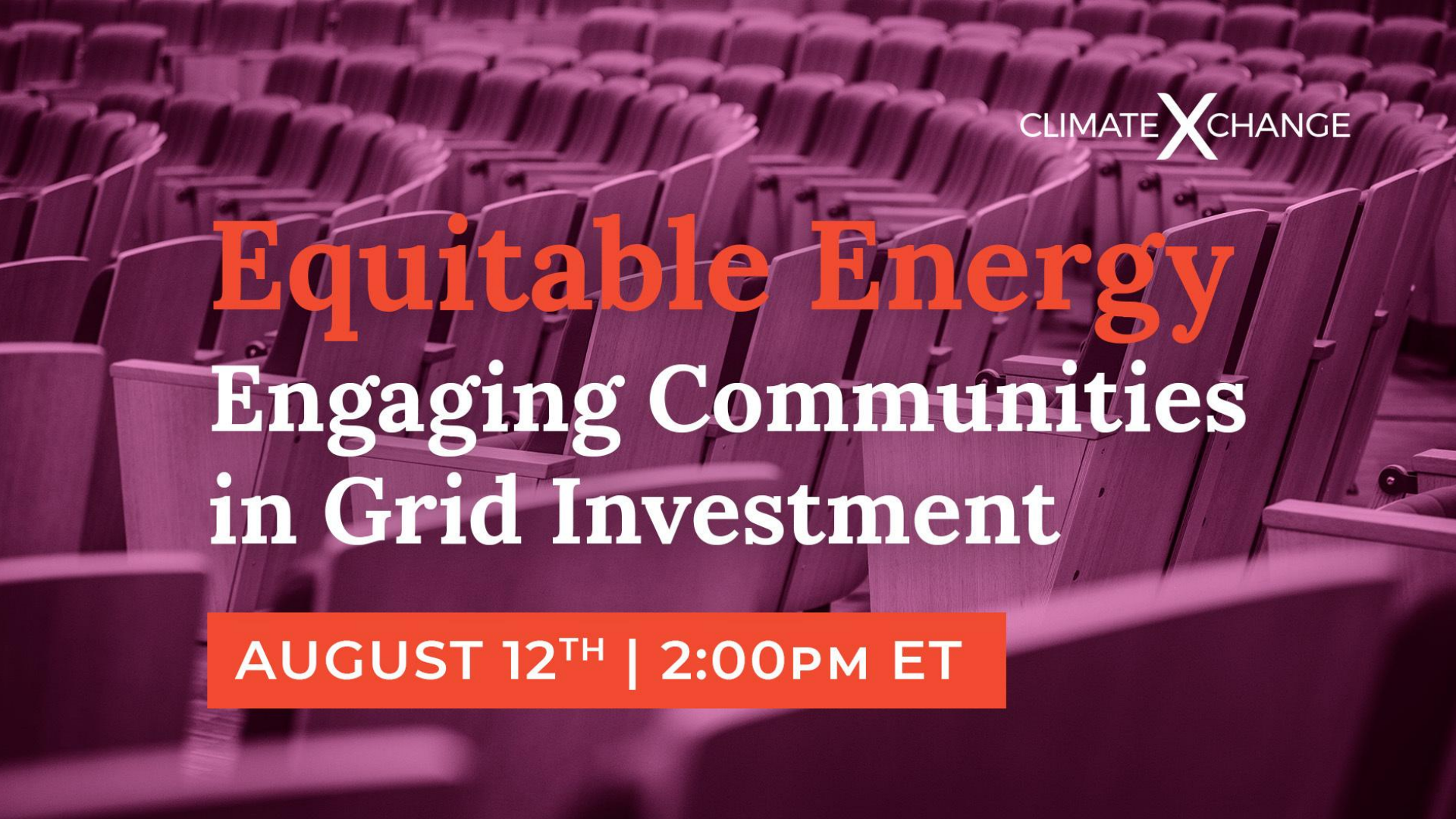
CLIMATE X CHANGE
Equitable Energy
Engaging Communities in Grid Investment
AUGUST 12TH | 2:00PM ET

Introduction

Kristen Soares

State Climate Policy
Network Manager

CLIMATE X CHANGE
[SCPN]

State Climate Policy Network

Network of **15,000+**

- ➔ State and local elected officials
- ➔ NGO advocates
- ➔ Researchers
- ➔ State agency staffers
- ➔ Organizers and activists
- ➔ Business leaders

... working on state climate policy

www.climate-xchange.org/network

CLIMATE XCHANGE [SCPN]

Pro Bono Policy Assistance

We specialize in state climate policy design and analysis.
Reach out to kristen@climate-xchange.org with your requests on:

- **Example states** and **model rules** for a given policy
- **Gap analysis** of your state's climate policy landscape
- **Connections** to other actors working on similar issues

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Equitable Energy: *Engaging Communities in Grid Investment Projects*

Josh Rogers
Policy Specialist, Energy Systems
Great Plains Institute

Maury Galbraith
Executive Director
Colorado Electric Transmission Authority

Agenda

1. Lessons Along the Road: Insights from Research on Engagement
2. Lessons Learned: CETA's Engagement Principles
3. Q&A

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Speaker

Josh Rogers

Policy Specialist, Energy Systems

Great Plains Institute

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Lessons Along the Road to Transmission Deployment

Josh Rogers, Policy Specialist at the Great Plains Institute

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Maine transmission line is stalled despite court victories

By Benjamin Storrow | 04/27/2023 06:30 AM EDT

Legal fights and permitting problems have delayed a project that is supposed to help New England lower its emissions. It might mark a national trend.

Law will help wealthy Louisiana landowner in dispute with power line builder

DEPT. OF ENERGY

THE HOLDOUTS IN THE QUEST FOR A BETTER POWER GRID

Farmers in Missouri are opposing the Grain Belt Express, a transmission line that will connect wind farms in Kansas with cities in the East.

Legal Challenges Continue for SunZia Transmission Line

Southern Arizona tribes and San Pedro Valley residents continue their legal challenges to halt construction of the largest renewable energy project in U.S. history.

An Epic Battle Over 1 Mile of Land in Wisconsin Is Tearing Environmentalists Apart

Conservationists and green energy developers square off, with big consequences for the climate.

Montana transmission lines draw opposition from all sides

Battle Lines: Fighting the Power

Landowners Concerned About LCRA's Hill Country CREZ Lines

Eastern Oregon residents oppose energy transmission line project: 'Absolute disaster for ecosystem'

The Boardman-to-Hemingway line could move enough clean electricity to power 150,000 homes, but opponents say the environmental tradeoffs aren't worth it.

Need a power line? That'll be $3B and 18 years.

By ARIANNA SKIBELL | 06/21/2023 05:59 PM EDT

Conservation groups sue to stop a transmission line from crossing a Mississippi River refuge

102-mile line linking WI, IA projected to cost more than half a billion dollars

Associated Press

Environmentalists continue fight against planned power line crossing the Mississippi River

Power companies say the transmission project would improve reliability and hook more clean energy to the electricity grid.

Now You Know: Our push to stop new high-voltage electric lines

Ryan Nawrocki and Kathy Szeliga Mar 19, 2025 0

High Voltage, Higher Stakes: Residents Protest Dominion Energy's Power Expansion

Residents of the Loudoun Valley community fight against Dominion Energy's proposal to build power lines on the campuses of Rosa Lee Carter and Rock Ridge High School.

A New York power line divided environmentalists. Here's what it says about the larger climate fight.

States waited too long to decarbonize, and now they have to make tough choices.

NORTH DAKOTA *Brief*

Landowners, local governments lose power struggle over power lines

Tribes, environmental groups ask US court to block $10B energy transmission project in Arizona

Concerns grow over proposed power lines

By Betty Williamson and Ron Warnick Eastern New Mexico News Feb 21, 2025

A Power Line Debate Pits Environmental Allies Against Each Other in the Upper Midwest

The transmission line project on the Iowa-Wisconsin border has been halted by the latest in a series of legal challenges.

Residents, Parents Protest Transmission Lines on School Grounds

State appeals court tosses proposal for new transmission line in central Illinois

Advocates say the controversial project is necessary to meet renewable energy needs

Angry Carroll County residents plan to fight proposed transmission line project

Stop R-Project powerline from traversing Sandhills

News | Feb 16, 2024

Maine Gov. Mills, 2 Environmental Groups Back Controversial $1 Billion Transmission Project

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Why does local opposition matter?

1. **Transmission capacity needs to increase by 2-5 times (at least 5,000 mi/year)**
    1. Growing demand (electrification, AI, etc.)
    2. Climate change and increased natural disasters
    3. Changing energy mix
2. Maintaining a rapid pace of development for a decade requires a **SOCIAL LICENSE** to build
3. Absent local support, developers are facing
    1. Costly lawsuits and delays
    2. Protest
    3. Legislative action

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Lessons Along the Road to Transmission Deployment

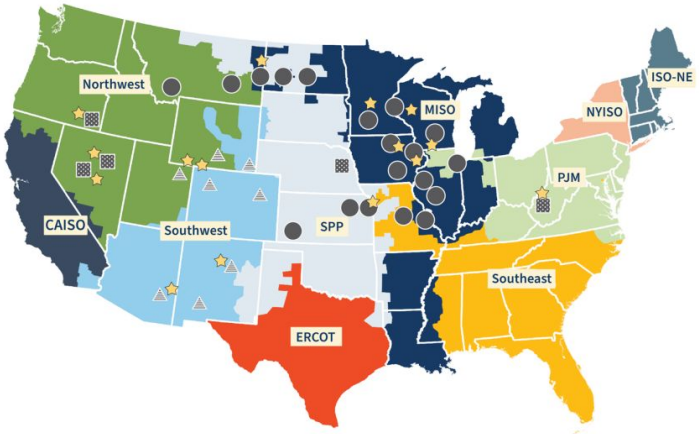


Figure 1. Geographic scope of GPI's grassroots research

- In-person interviewee
- Virtual interviewee
- Prior in-person research
- Transmission projects studied

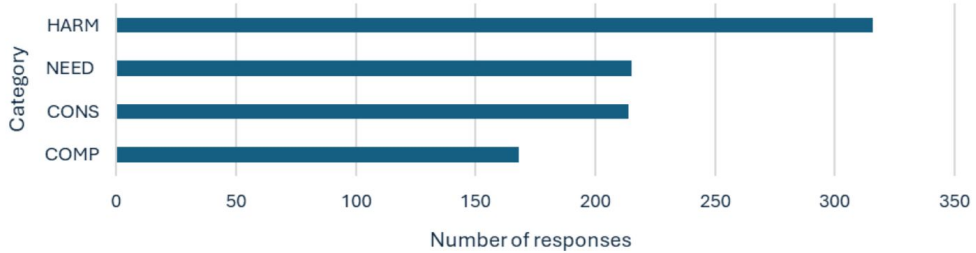
Note: Multi-color regions on the map represent transmission planning regions.

Sources: Figure by Aime Bita, Great Plains Institute, and Esther Ramsay, Horizon Climate Group, based on data from Joshua Rogers, Great Plains Institute, and transmission planning regions by Elizabeth Abramson, Horizon Climate Group, and Aparna Narang, Clean Grid Initiative, 2025, adapted from Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Order 1000 Regions shapefile, December 2024.

- 150 Interviews
- 5 public meetings
- 6 months on the road
- 13 states in-person
- 15 HVTLs
- 37 distinct drivers
- 910 responses

How to understand opposition

Figure 2. Opposition framework: Interview responses



1. How will this negatively impact my life?
2. Why is this project even needed?
3. How will I be consulted on this project?
4. How will I be compensated for any potential harms caused by this project?

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How do we build support?

Report addresses 15 categories including

- Agricultural concerns
- Environmental concerns
- Property values
- Cultural concerns
- Early & Often Engagement
- Renewable energy
- Transmission Alternatives
- EMFs
- Micro-Siting
- Eminent Domain
- Collective action
- Local tax revenues
- Monetary incentives

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Generally Applicable Findings

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Early and Often

What does early and often mean?

Legal requirements for stakeholder engagement promote for early community engagement but not often engagement.

- People forget projects are happening
- Increase in uncertainty
- Mis/disinformation can spread easily

Early means everyone

- Some of the most influential opponents have formed because they were excluded from the process early on

Policy Implications:

Cost-recovery for processes we know mitigate opposition.

Eminent Domain

CONS

- Broad disdain for eminent domain across the country
- Difficult to communicate:

PROS

- Time?
- Unwilling landowners?

Policy Implications: Eminent domain should be used as sparingly as possible

- Greater landowner compensation
- Existing electricity and transportation ROWs

Micro-Siting

In both instances of opposition and support, micro-siting was highlighted as a key element of how local stakeholders perceive a given project.

Current practice: routes are optimized for efficiency and low-costs while social factors are often thought of as an afterthought.

Alternative thesis: invest upfront in socially optimal routing to avoid legal costs, delays, and perception problems on the back end

Cost benefit analysis is, as of yet, unproven

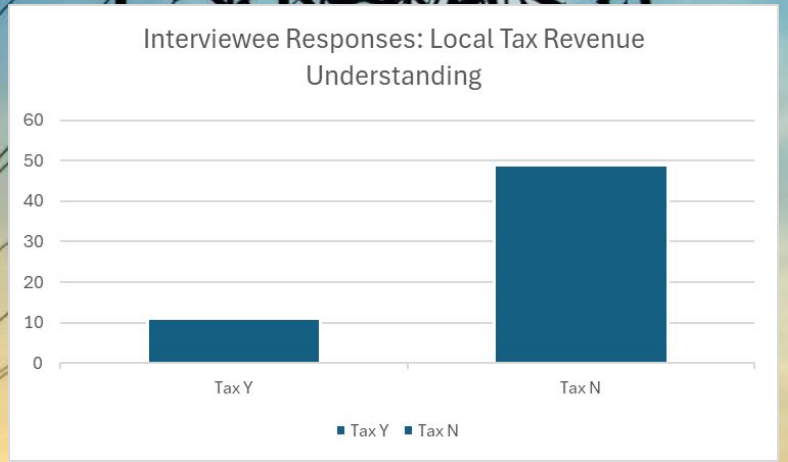
Policy implication:

- micro-siting at a state-level should be streamlined and encouraged

Tax Revenues

- Understanding expected local tax revenues motivates support
- Less than ⅛ of county commissioners know or feel confident they can find out expected tax revenues from HVTL development
- Consistent with previous findings

Policy Implication: States ought to consider decentralizing or simplifying the tax code or creating resources so local officials have a better understanding of expected tax revenues.



Collective Negotiations

Developer Benefits

- Less stakeholders to negotiate with
- Standardized easements
- Faster results
- Greater local engagement

Landowner Benefits

- Greater protection from liability
- Better easement prices
- More negotiating leverage

Policy Implications: statewide regulatory authorities may be a good place to promote and facilitate these kinds of negotiations.

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THANK YOU

Josh Rogers

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Speaker

Maury Galbraith

Executive Director

Colorado Electric Transmission Authority

CLIMATE X CHANGE [SCPN]

Colorado Electric Transmission Authority

Equitable Energy: Engaging Communities in Grid Investment Projects

ClimateXChange Webinar
August 12, 2026

COLORADO
ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY

CETA is a Transmission Developer with a Public Purpose

Mission: To plan and develop electric transmission in Colorado to 1) increase grid reliability, 2) help Colorado meet its clean energy goals, and 3) aid in economic and community development.

Organizational Structure:

- Independent special purpose authority and subdivision of the state
- Not subject to direction by a state agency or commission
- 9-member independent board appointed by governor and legislature

Powers:

- Enter into public-private partnerships for transmission expansion
- Identify and establish transmission corridors in the state, subject to local use permits
- Issue revenue bonds to finance development and construction
- Use eminent domain for right-of-way acquisition

COLORADO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY

Source: Sect. 40-42-104, CRS

Colorado Has an Urgent Need for Transmission

Transmission Portfolios: Reference Case (+ Reconductoring)

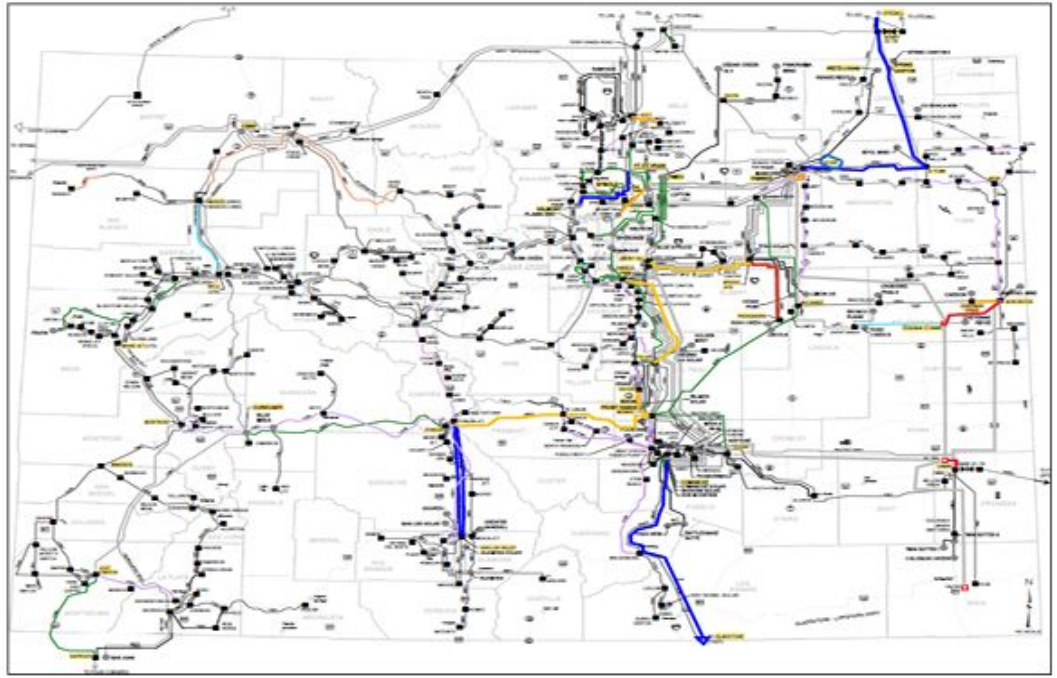
- Reference Case portfolio meets the 20-year reliability, deliverability and economic needs of high-voltage system in Colorado

Capital Investment ($M)

$4,503

Portfolio Line Miles

Greenfield	548
Rebuild	269
Reconductor	2883



High Demand Options

Transmission Portfolios: ***Additional*** Upgrades to Accommodate High Demand Scenario

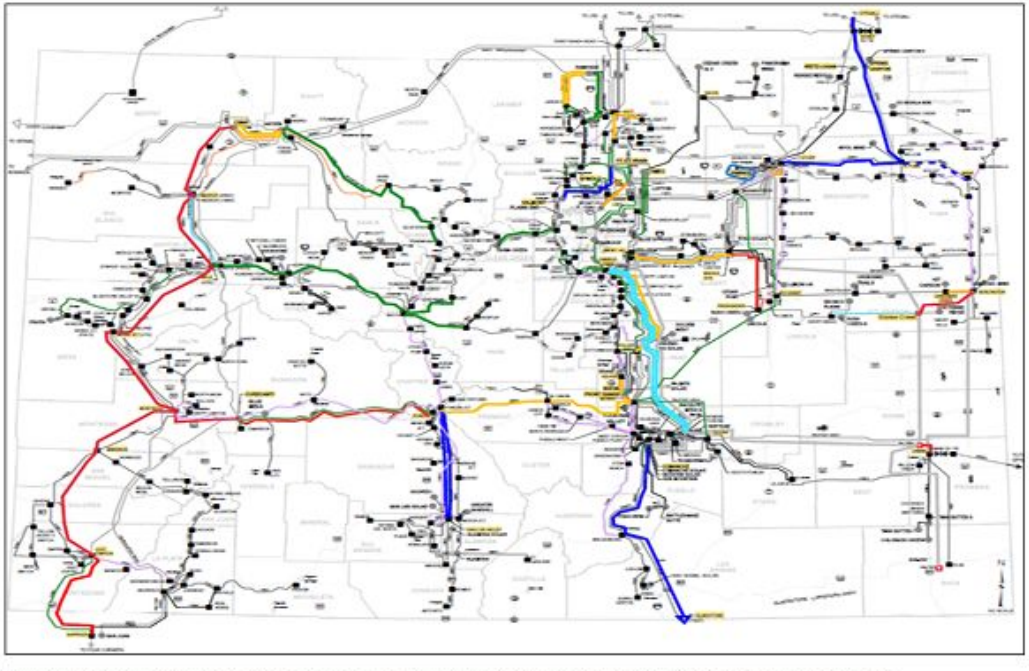
- Portfolio captures *additional* 20-year upgrades needed to accommodate ~50% increase in peak demand growth (20 GW of total CO demand in 2045)

Capital Investment ($M)

$3,800 + Ref. Case

Portfolio Line Miles

Greenfield	654
Rebuild	246
Reconductor	1153[1]



(1) Map does not show reconductoring required for High Demand scenario or transmission under 200kV.

Community Engagement Initiative

- The CETA Board launched an initiative to establish community engagement principles with the goal of setting CETA's expectations for project partner engagement with potential host communities.

- CETA provided opportunities for public input, including at three Board meetings, two study sessions, and a written comment period. Documents associated with these project steps are available at the CETA website: https://www.cotransmissionauthority.com/principles

- The board approved final principles in October 2024.

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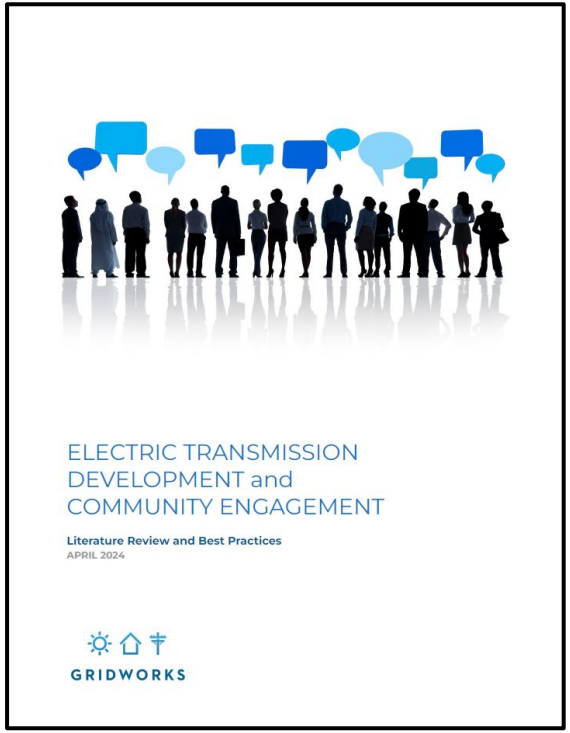
Community Engagement Literature Review

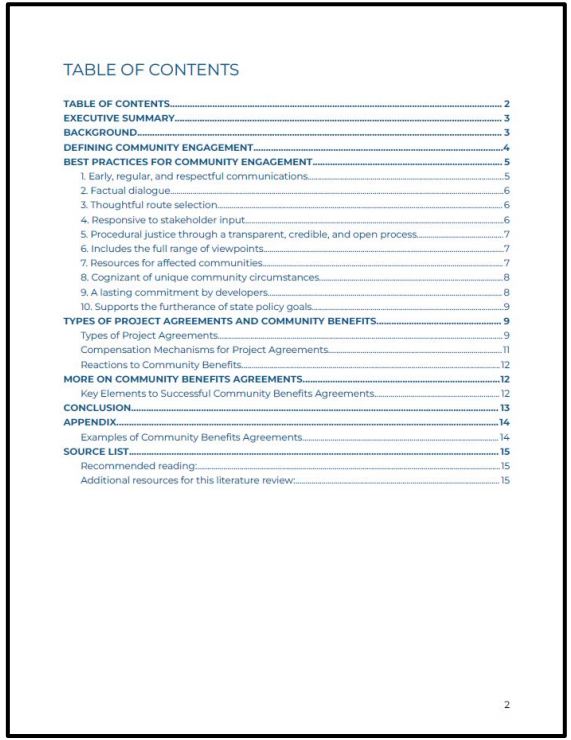


ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION DEVELOPMENT and COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Literature Review and Best Practices

APRIL 2024

GRIDWORKS



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2

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Community Engagement Principles

FINAL PRINCIPLES — AT A GLANCE

Information Sharing

Require a transparent, credible, and open process

Communication

Require meaningful engagement with local communities

Community Benefits

Advocate for public resources and both financial and non-financial benefits that support local communities

Accountability

Require long-term commitments to host communities

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Information Sharing

To build a credible stakeholder and community engagement process, while still recognizing the time critical nature of project completion, CETA will require its partners to engage in open communication about projects and their impacts, provide access to fact-based educational materials and other resources, and provide an open and transparent exchange of information.

CETA's minimum requirements include:

- Process Documentation
- Public Information Repository
- Timely Updates
- Project Points of Contact
- Transparency about Other Infrastructure Projects

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Communication

To ensure that local input is integrated into the decision-making process, CETA will require its partners to conduct early, responsive, and inclusive communication with local communities.

CETA's minimum requirements include:

- Comprehensive Engagement Plans
- Pre-Application Information Sessions
- Private Tribal Meetings
- Inclusivity and Diversity
- Adaptable and Responsive
- Flexibility in Project Design
- Land Agent Code of Conduct
- Language Services
- Documentation of Public Input

Community Benefits

CETA recognizes that local communities should benefit from hosting transmission projects in their community and may need additional resources to effectively evaluate proposed transmission projects and influence project design and siting decisions.

CETA will advocate for its project partners to provide:

- Fair Landowner Compensation
- Tangible Community Benefits
- Self-Determination of Benefits
- Third-Party Advisory Resources
- Mediation Services

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Accountability

Transmission infrastructure is used for decades; a similar commitment should be afforded to local communities hosting that infrastructure.

CETA's minimum requirements include:

- Construction Stage Engagement
- Restoration Commitments
- Clear Monitoring Metrics
- Dispute Resolution Processes
- Operation Stage Engagement

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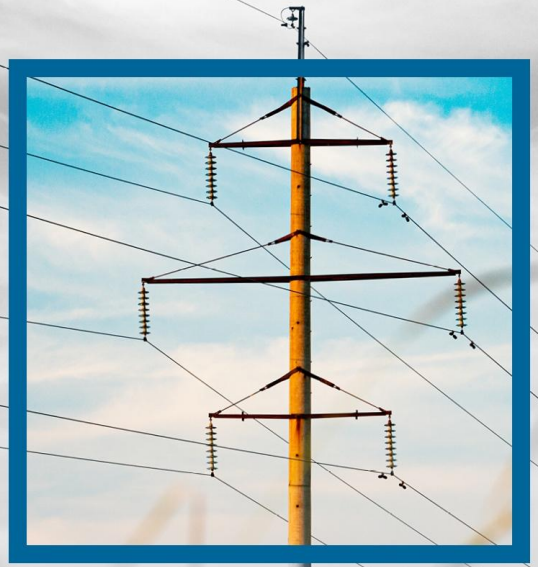

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AUTHORITY

THANK YOU

Questions?

Maury Galbraith, Executive Director
mgalbraith@cotransmissionauthority.com

Q&A

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Thank you for joining!

Reach out to kristen@climate-xchange.org with any additional questions!

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