

RESOLUTION 2024-09

A Resolution Opposing the Proposed 5-Mile-Wide National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor in Brown County, Kansas

Whereas, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has determined that there is a need to transport green energy to areas outside of Kansas with little to no benefit to Brown County or the State of Kansas; and

Whereas, the DOE has proposed a 5-mile-wide National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (NIETC) across the State of Kansas, that would authorize approval of the corridor by federal agencies even in such circumstances when regulators with the Kansas Corporation Commission have opposed the same; and

Whereas, DOE's proposal included a comment period of only 45 days, which time period was too short to provide for adequate vetting of the proposal and comments from stakeholders in Brown County who would be affected by the NIETC; and

Whereas, the DOE failed to adequately provide information on the project and the fact that there was a public comment period to the public in all counties affected by this project; and

Whereas, studies that have been conducted concluding that high energy transmission lines and substations may have impacts that are hazardous to human health and it is not fully known what effect these impacts may have on numerous rivers, waterways, lakes, and groundwater sources included in the proposed 5-mile-wide swath of land; and

Whereas, removing a 5-mile-wide swath of land through Brown County will have a devastating effect on our tax base by removing farms, ranches, and homesteads that would be difficult to replace without grossly over-burdening other property owners; and

Whereas, the loss of tax revenue would make it very difficult to continue maintaining our roads, keep rural hospitals and health departments funded, school districts supplied with teachers, school busses and buildings maintained, and other such needs of our publicly funded community necessities; and

Whereas, removing a 5-mile-wide swath of land from agricultural production, where such production is the basic commodity of our community, could devastate other businesses dependent upon the production of agricultural commodities, thus driving more residents to leave, further destroying businesses and communities;

Now, therefore, be it **Resolved by the Board of Brown County Commissioners** that

1. The U.S. Department of Energy is requested to issue a published notice of


intent to build a high-power transmission line in Brown County with an open public comment period that provides for adequate and meaningful participation by area stakeholders.

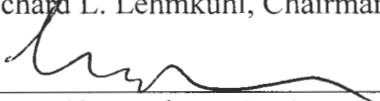
2. The U.S. Department of Energy is requested to notify officials of the State of Kansas and the County of Brown of their intent to take any private land by eminent domain.
3. The U. S. Department of Energy is requested to provide adequate notice to the Kansas Corporation Commission of their intent to build a high-power transmission line in the State of Kansas.
4. The Brown County Commission hereby pledges our support to legislative efforts being proposed by U.S. Senator Jerry Moran that would ban federal funds from being used to condemn private property to be used in the NIETC designation and prohibit the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) from using its authority to overrule a State regulator's rejection of an electric transmission project.
5. The Brown County Commission states their position that Federal taxpayer dollars should not be used for eminent domain and that decisions regarding electric transmission siting should be left in Kansas, not Washington D.C.

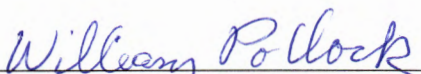
ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWN

COUNTY, KANSAS on this 30th day of August, 2024.

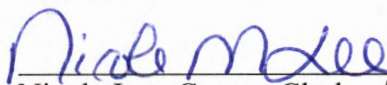
THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BROWN COUNTY, KANSAS


Richard L. Lehmkuhl, Chairman


Lamar Shoemaker, Member


William Pollock, Member

ATTEST:


Nicole Lee, County Clerk

