



**GDO**  
GRID DEPLOYMENT OFFICE

# Transmission, Innovation, & Grid Modernization: GDO's Toolbox

---

**Ariel Horowitz**

*Deputy Director, Grid Modernization  
Grid Deployment Office  
U.S. Department of Energy*

August 27, 2024

Northeast Public Power Association Annual Conference

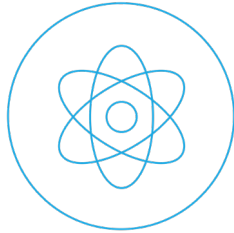


“To realize the full benefit of the nation’s goal of 100% clean electricity by 2035, we need to more than **double** our grid capacity.”

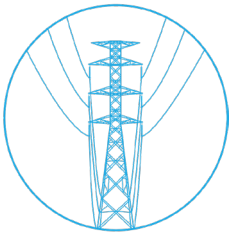
*Secretary Jennifer Granholm*



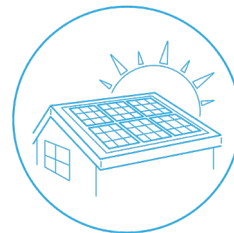
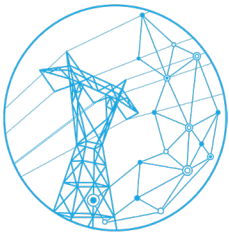
# DOE's Grid Deployment Office



The **Environmental Reviews, Permitting, and Resource Adequacy Division** works to ensure resource adequacy, expand and enhance electricity markets, and implement DOE's permitting authorities.



The **Transmission Division** fully utilizes DOE's unique tools and authorities for coordination, planning, and financing to drive transmission investment.



The **Grid Modernization Division** oversees activities that prevent outages and enhance the resilience of the electric grid.

# Extreme events

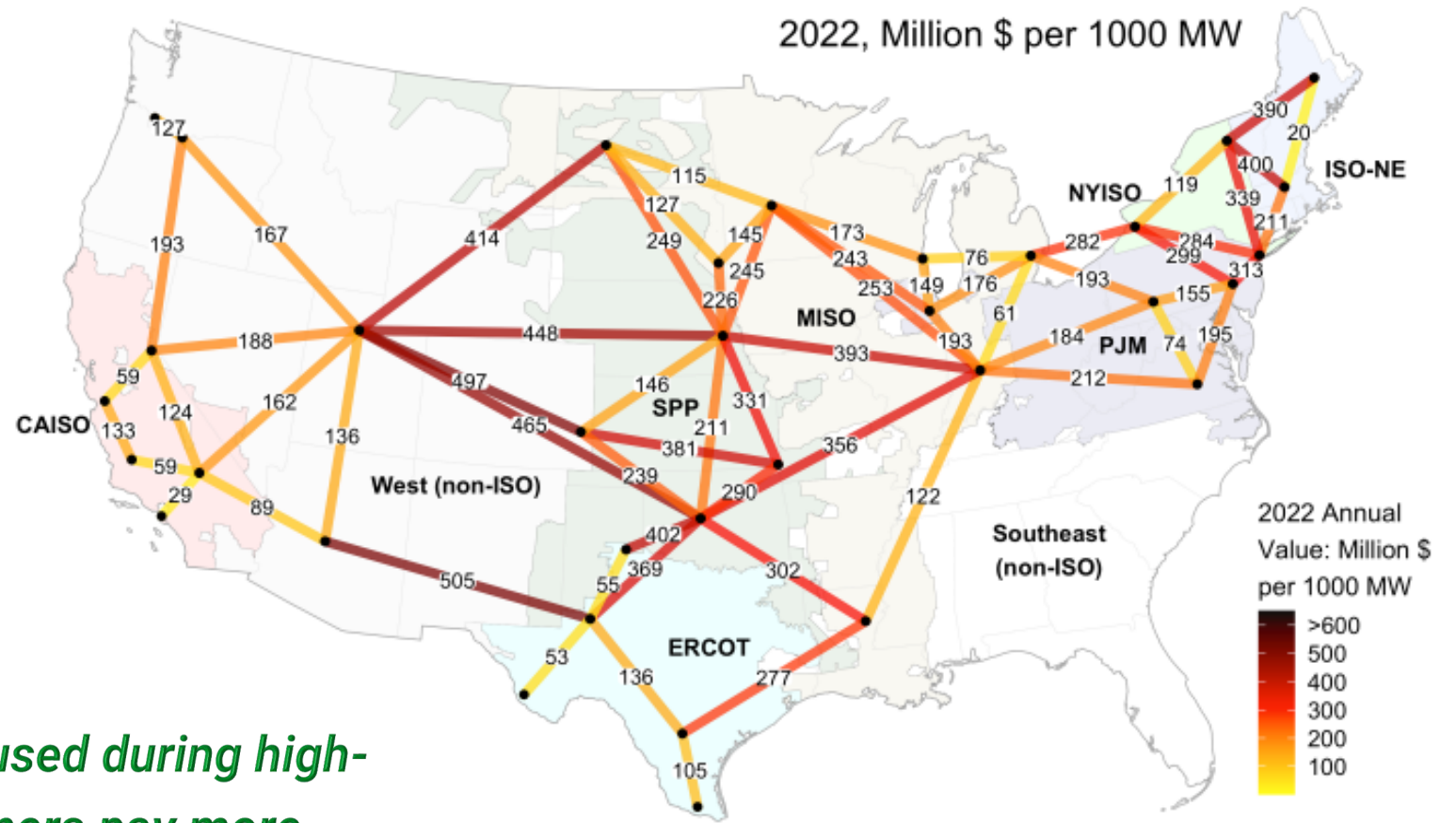


- **Less predictable**
- **Increasingly frequent**
- **Significantly impact the electric system**

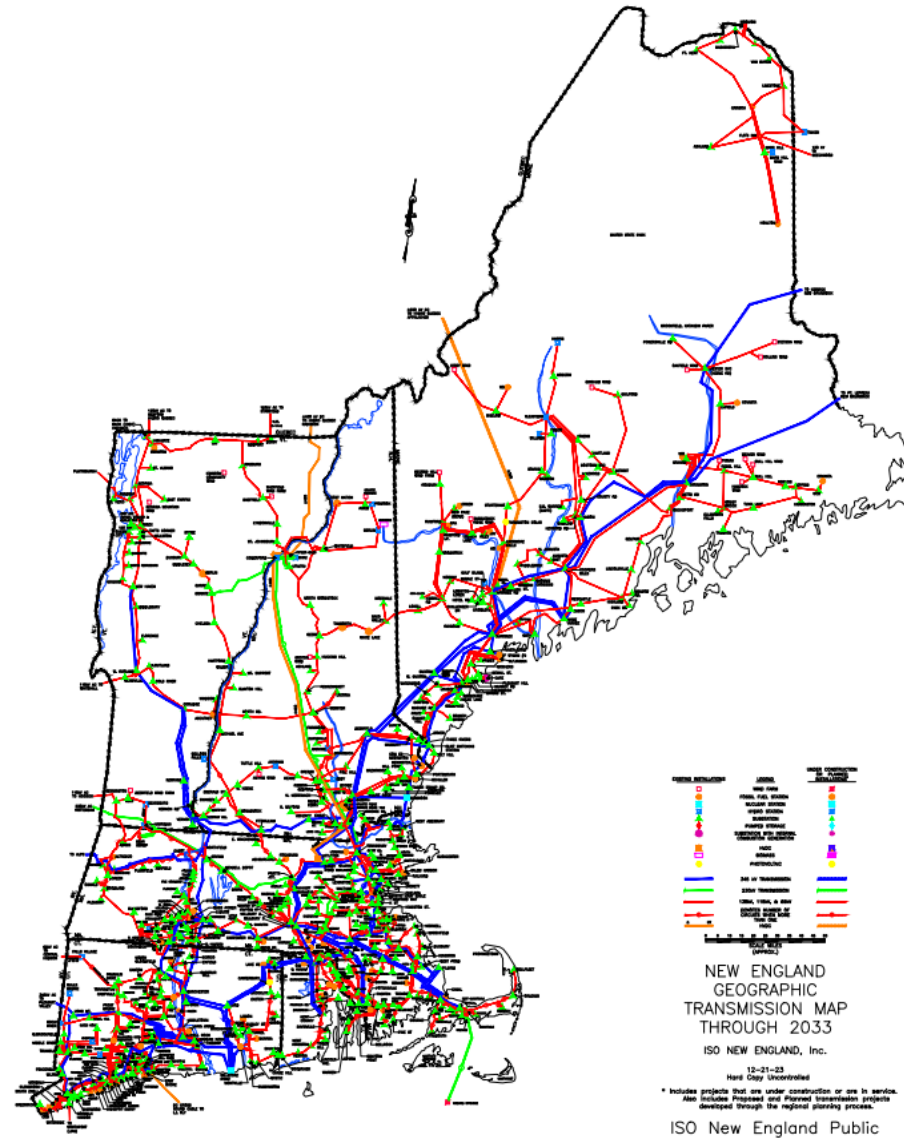
***More and longer power outages***

# Lack of transmission drives up consumer costs

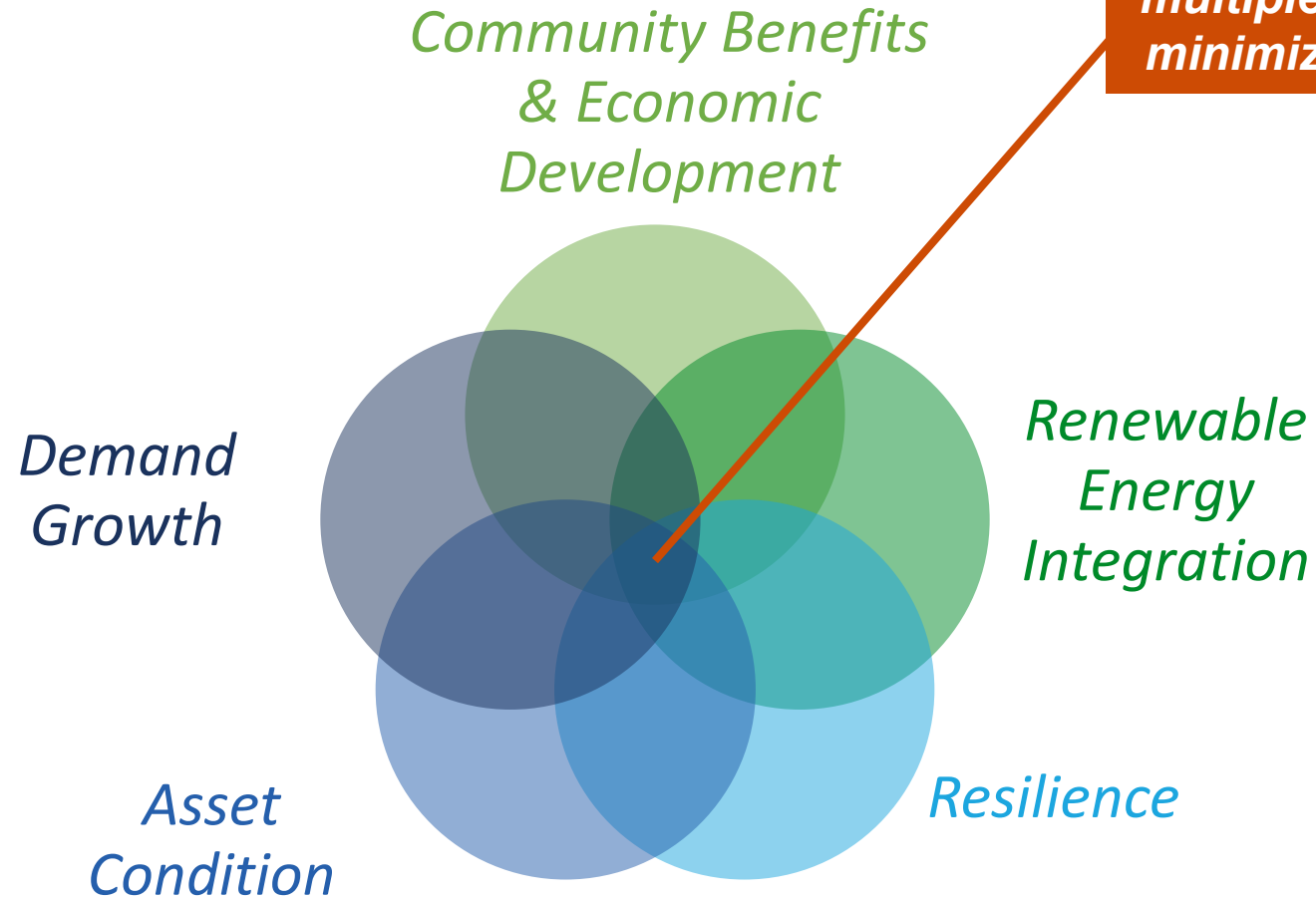
*Lower-cost power that could be used during high-need times is trapped, so consumers pay more.*



# Maximizing capacity in existing ROW is a crucial lever



# Multi-Value Projects



*Multi-value projects provide solutions to multiple challenges while minimizing rate pressure*

# Keys to Unlocking Multi-Value Projects

## Innovation



Market-ready technologies



Enhanced planning



Permitting coordination

## Coalition-Building



Community engagement



Strategic partnerships

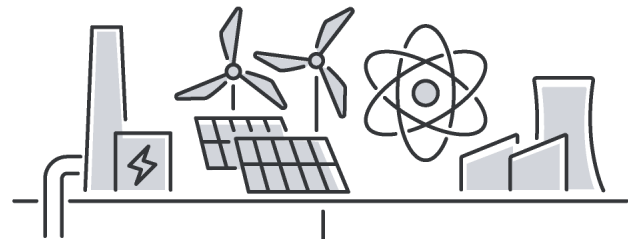


Financing





# Large Generators



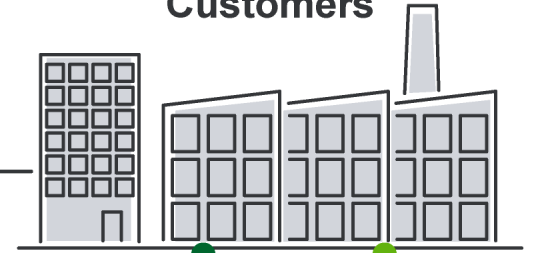
**Control Room**

- Alternate timing & synchronization
- Data management systems
- Communications technologies
- System digitization & visualization

**Legend**

- A** Advanced Transmission Solutions
- B** Situational Awareness & System Automation
- C** Grid Enhancing Technologies
- D** Foundational Systems

# Commercial & Industrial Customers



VPPs<sup>5</sup>      DERMS<sup>6</sup>

# Residential Customers



ADMS<sup>2</sup>      Smart reclosers      ADMS-FLISR<sup>4</sup>

Advanced flexible transformers

Advanced power flow control

Point-to-point HVDC<sup>1</sup> lines

Advanced conductors

Advanced sensors

Dynamic line rating

Topology optimization

ADMS-VVO<sup>3</sup>

Substation automation & digitization

Power factor corrections

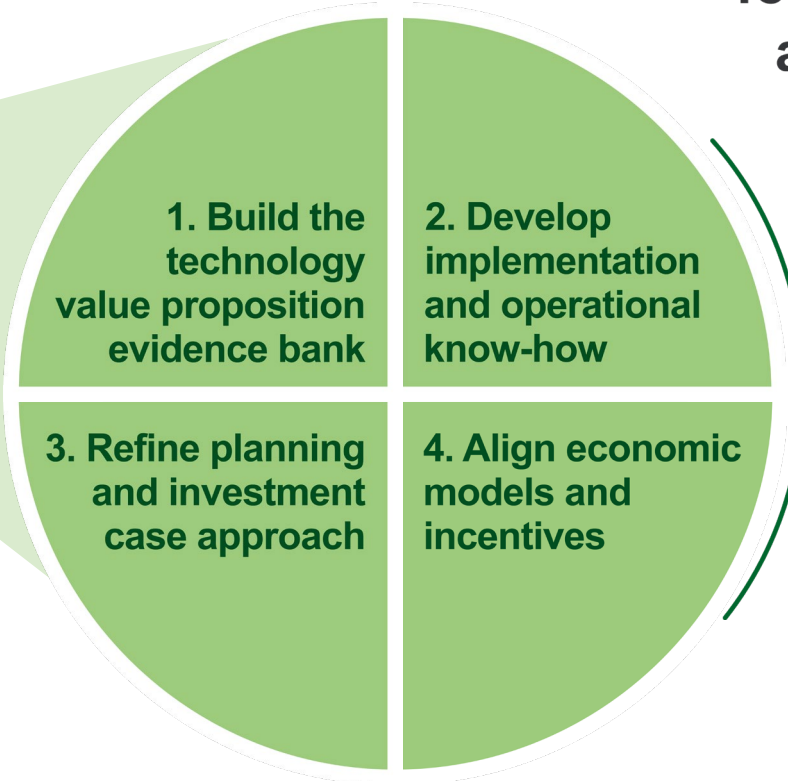
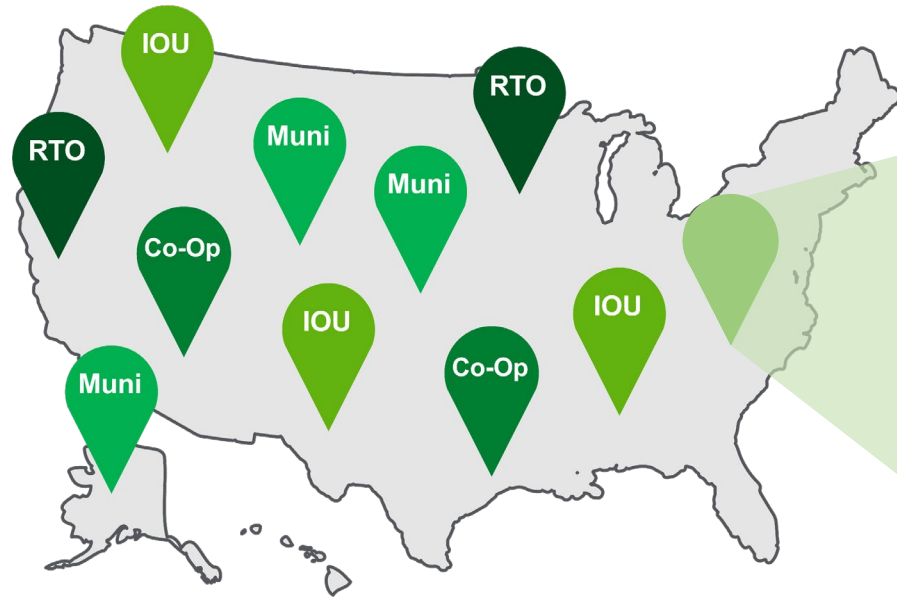
Energy storage

<sup>1</sup> High Voltage Direct Current  
<sup>2</sup> Advanced Distribution Management Systems  
<sup>3</sup> Volt/VAR Optimization  
<sup>4</sup> Fault Location, Isolation, Service Restoration  
<sup>5</sup> Virtual Power Plants  
<sup>6</sup> Distributed Energy Resource Management Systems

# Achieving Liftoff within 3-5 years

Deploy no regrets solutions today...

...that simultaneously address four priorities for liftoff to de-risk adoption at scale



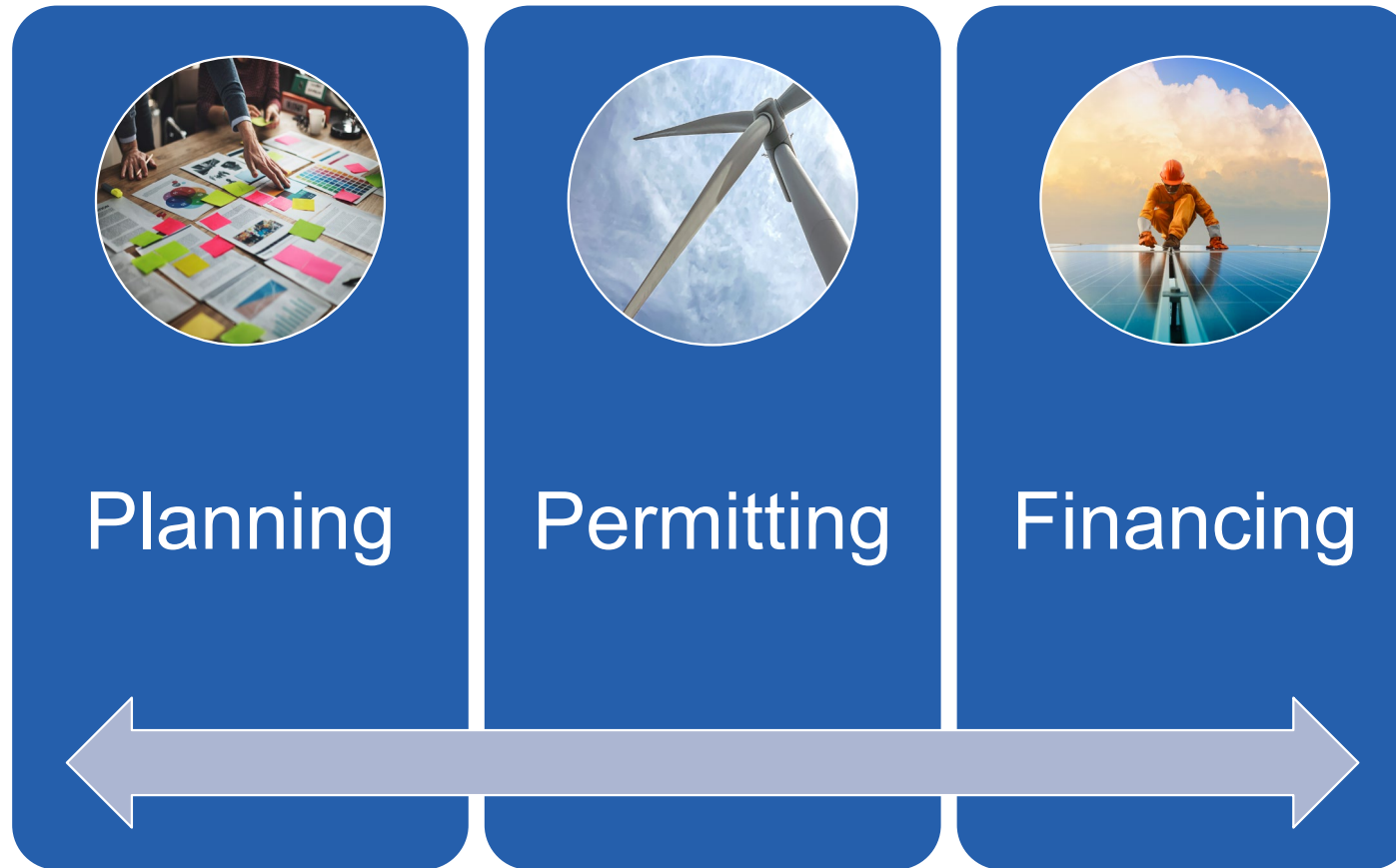
Liftoff priorities

## 6-12 large, in-field deployments

completed for each solution individually or in combination that holistically address Liftoff priorities across a diverse set of grid contexts



# GDO has tools to help achieve liftoff



# Grid Resilience State/Tribal Formula Grant Program

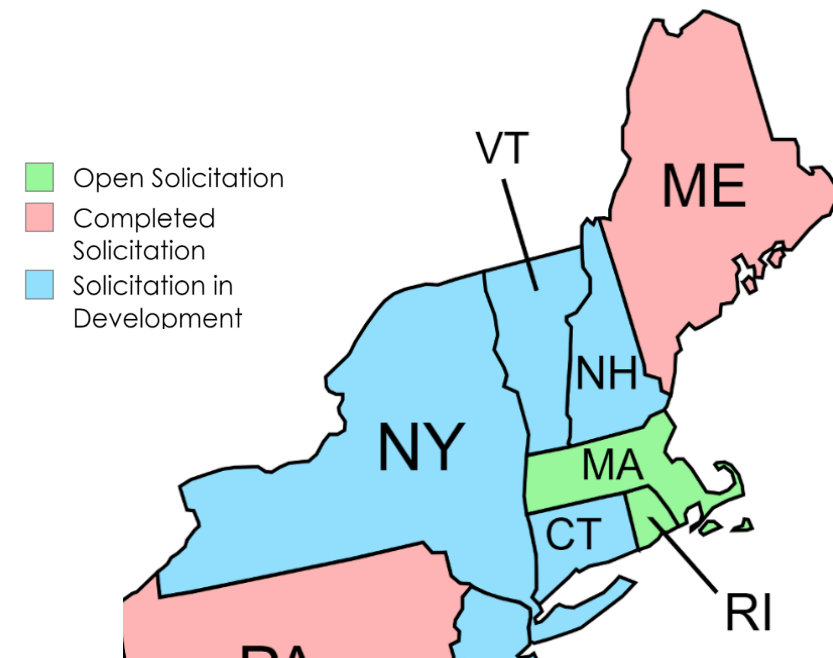
## What is it?

- ▶ \$2.3 billion in **formula grants** to:
  - ▶ Prevent outages and enhance the resilience of the electric grid
  - ▶ Demonstrate measurable improvements in energy resilience to hazards
  - ▶ Mitigate the impact of extreme weather
  - ▶ Invest in modernized grid infrastructure

## Who is eligible?

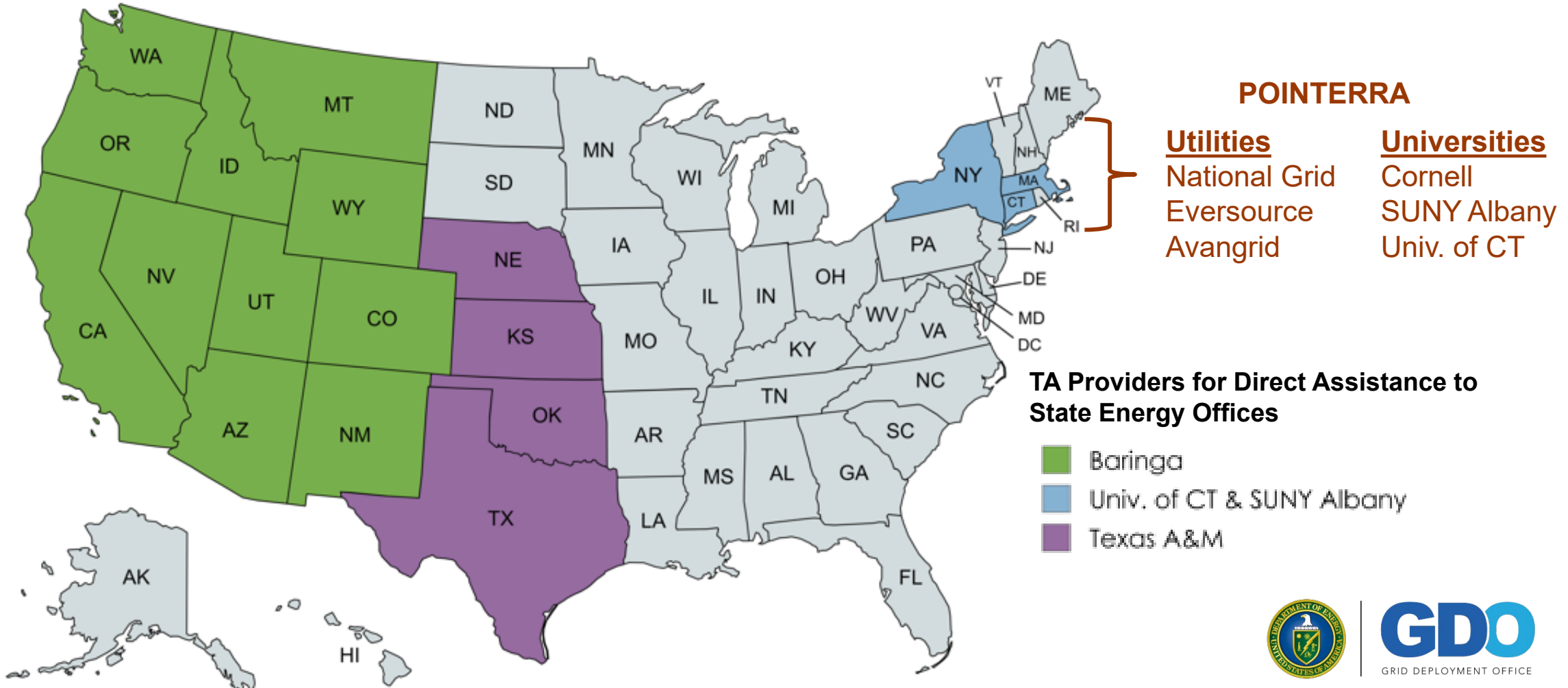
- ▶ States, territories, and Indian tribes

As of August 2024, GDO awarded 48 states, more than 100 tribal entities, three territories, and the District of Columbia a combined total of more than \$800M for FY22/FY23 grants



# Grid Resilience Technical Assistance

Through GDO's GRACI awards, universities and industry work directly with states and utilities to enhance grid resilience investment decision-making.



# Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program

*\$10.5 billion in **competitive grants** to enhance grid flexibility and improve the resilience of the power system*

## Grid Resilience Utility & Industry Grants (BIL 40101c - Topic Area 1)

- \$2.5 billion for resilience projects that reduce the likelihood and consequence of impacts to the electric grid due to extreme weather, wildfire, and natural disaster
- Grid operators, storage operators, electricity generators, transmission owners/operators, distribution providers, fuel suppliers

## Smart Grid Grants (BIL 40107 - Topic Area 2)

- \$3 billion for innovative and ambitious uses of cutting-edge, market-ready technologies
- Institutions of higher education, for-profit entities and non-profit entities, state and local governmental entities, tribal nations

## Grid Innovation Program (BIL 40103b – Topic Area 3)

- \$5 billion for high-impact, innovative projects that improve grid reliability and resilience on the local, regional, and interregional scales
- States or a combination of states, tribal nations, unit of local government, public utility commission

## GRIP Selections To Date

- ▶ The first round of GRIP funding totals nearly \$3.5 billion for **58 projects in 44 states** across the U.S.
  - ▶ This is the largest single direct investment in critical grid infrastructure in U.S. history.
- ▶ In total, GRIP 1 will catalyze **\$8 billion in public and private investment** to enhance the nation's ability to deliver affordable, clean energy to American communities, prepare for extreme weather, and meet clean energy goals.
- ▶ **GRIP 1 will enable the addition of 35 GW of renewable energy, expanding U.S. renewable energy capacity by 10.5%.**



# GRIP 1 Project Highlight: Georgia Environmental Finance Authority

## ▶ Coalition:

- Georgia electric cooperatives
- Investments in rural communities

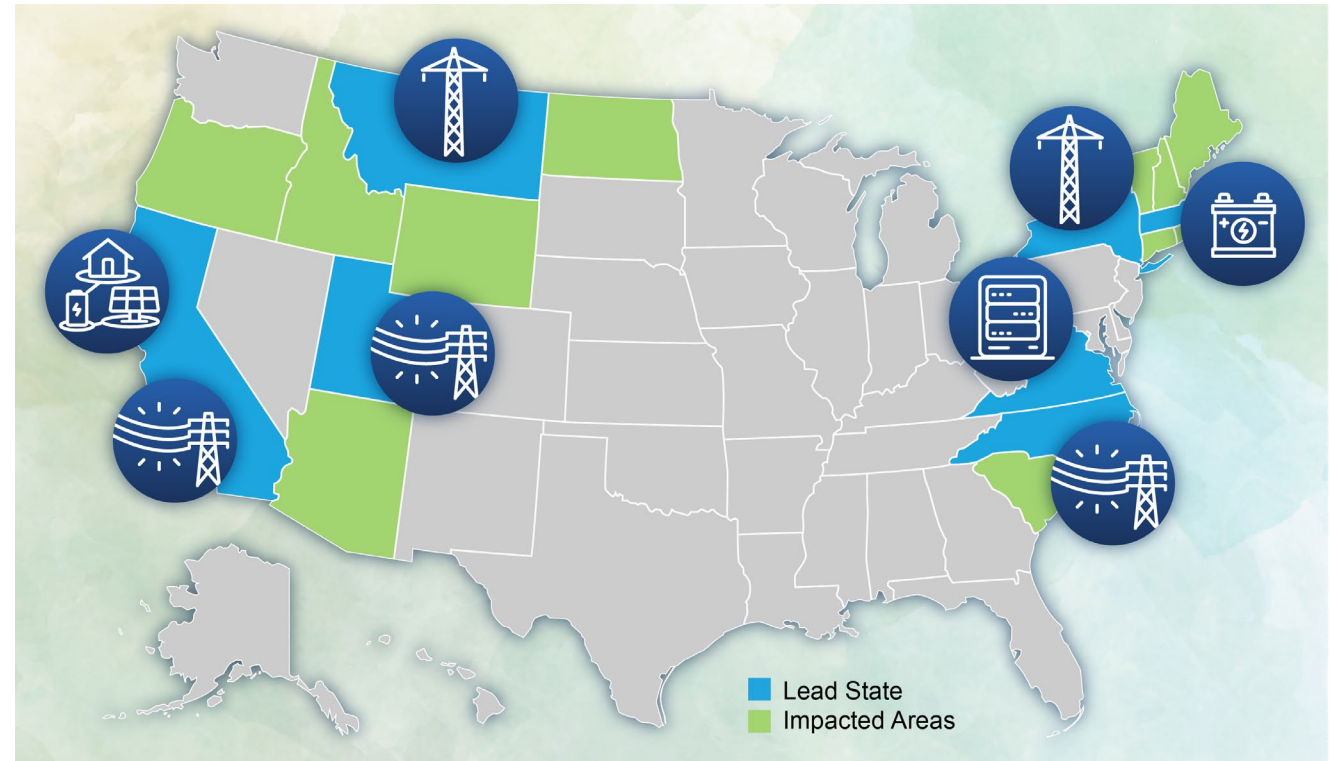
## ▶ Innovation:

- Battery storage
  - Microgrids
  - Advanced grid control systems
- ▶ Improved resilience and clean energy development through comprehensive smart grid infrastructure upgrade program, including investments in battery storage, local microgrids, and grid reliability, while implementing new transmission lines to link communities.



# Round 2 Grid Innovation Program Selections

- 8 projects impacting 18 states
  - \$2.2 billion federal investment
  - Nearly \$10 billion combined public and private investment
- **More than 1,000 miles of transmission upgraded:**
  - 600+ miles of **new transmission lines**
  - **Reconductoring** or adding **grid-enhancing technologies** to 400+ miles of existing Tx lines to increase grid capacity



- GRIP 2 projects will enable the addition of nearly **13 GW of grid capacity**, including 4.8 GW of OSW
- **5,000+ new, good-paying jobs.**

# GRIP 2 Project Highlight: Reliable Electric Lines - Infrastructure Expansion Framework (Project RELIEF)

## ▶ Coalition:

- Utah Office of Energy Development (lead)
- States of Arizona, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming
- PacifiCorp
- Garkane Energy Cooperative
- Utah State University

- ▶ **Innovation:** Project will deploy high-temperature, low-sag advanced conductors on over **250 miles** of transmission lines, **doubling existing capacity**.
- ▶ The project will create **~500 new jobs** while investing **\$12 million** in workforce training.

# GRIP 2 Project Highlight: Power Up New England

## ▶ **Coalition:**

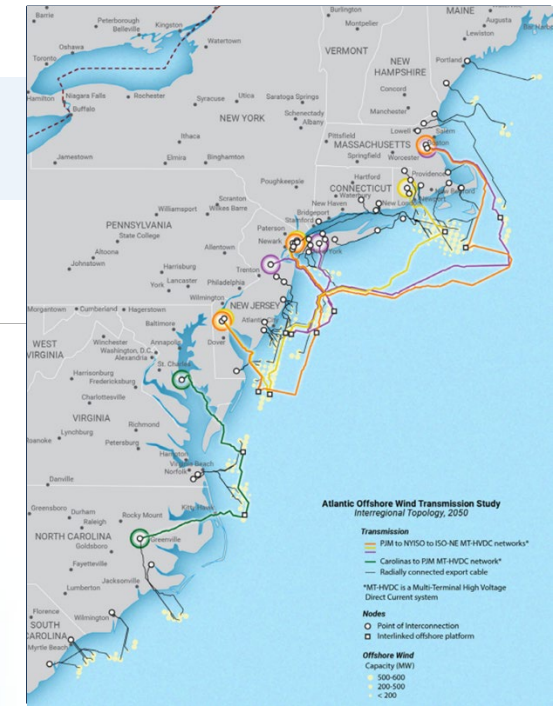
- New England states (led by Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources)
- ISO New England
- Public utilities
- Emerging technology developers

## ▶ **Innovation:** An integrated portfolio of replicable, grid-benefitting technologies across the region

- New and upgraded POIs for offshore wind
- Long-duration energy storage

## ▶ Increase electric reliability and resilience, diversify New England's resource mix, accelerate the region's clean energy transition, reduce energy burden on consumers, and deliver innovative models for further investments in New England and other regions.

# Offshore Wind Transmission Planning



# What is a NIETC?

## *National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor*

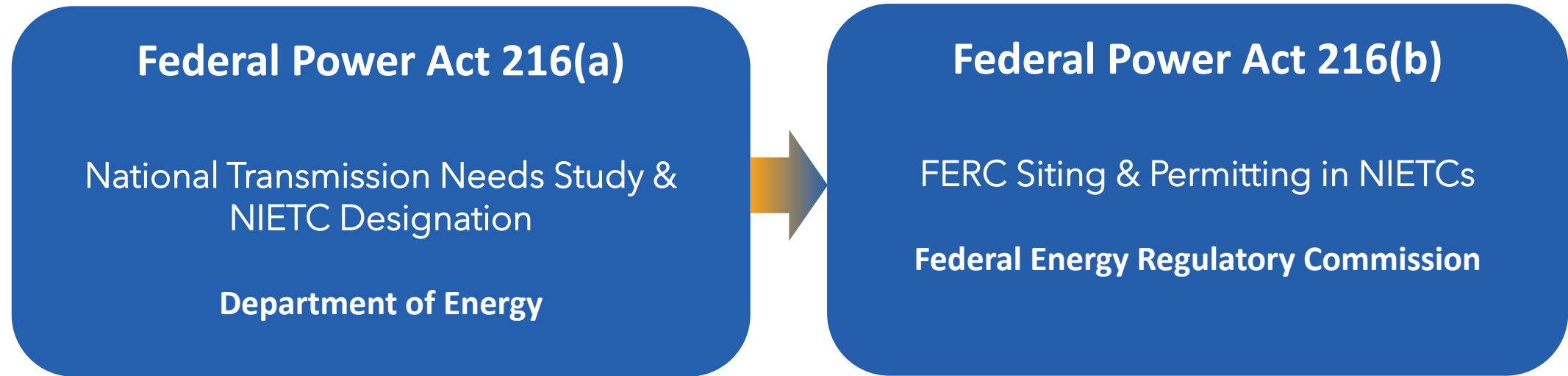
An area of the country where inadequate transmission harms consumers (currently or in the future) and that DOE has designated as a NIETC

These consumer harms can include:

- Economic harms;
- Harms to Reliability;
- Harms to Resilience; and
- Inability to access to a clean, diverse, and affordable electricity supply.

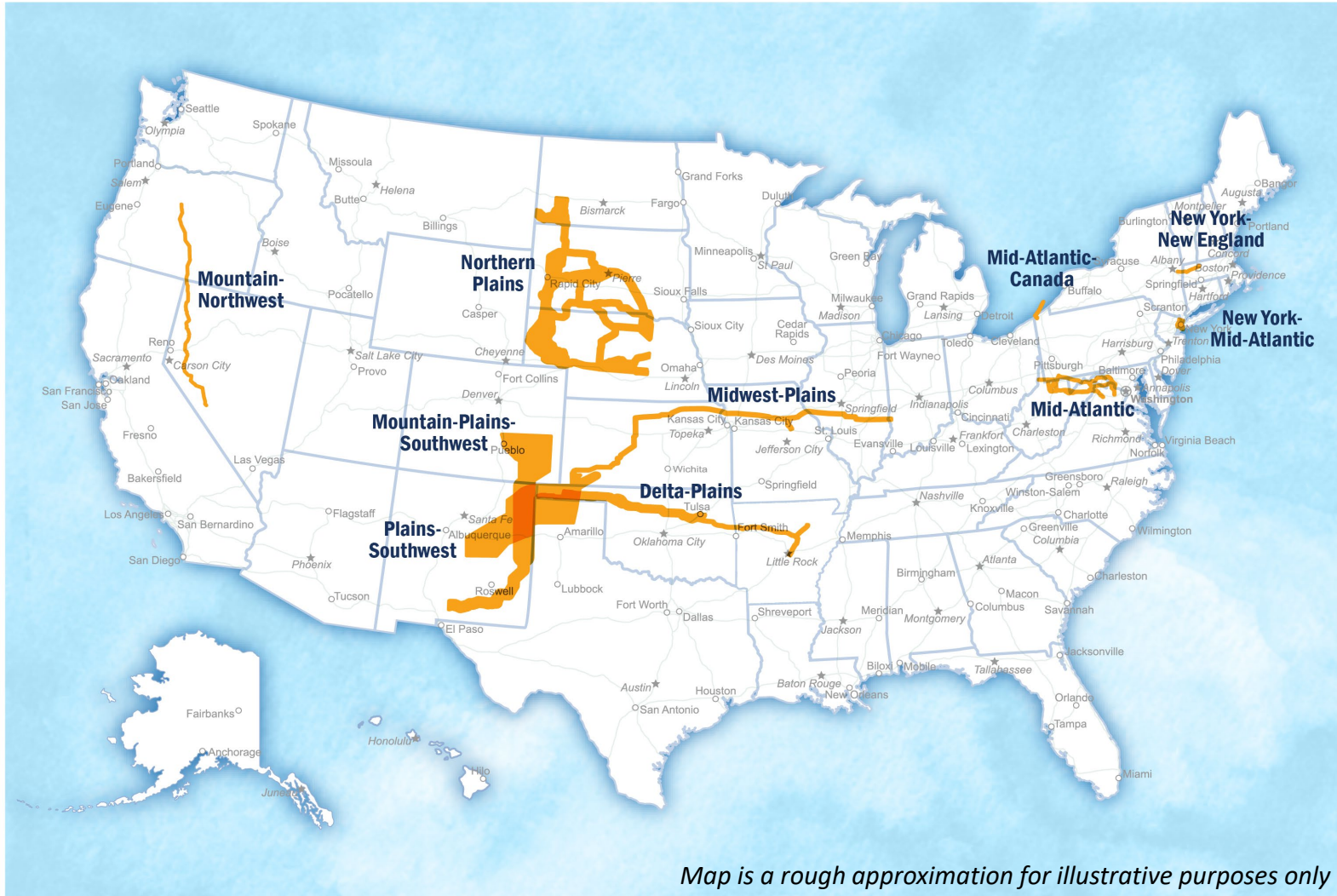


# What does NIETC have to do with siting and permitting?



After DOE designates a NIETC, **FERC has the authority** to issue permits within a NIETC in certain circumstances, such as **where states lack authority to site the project, have not acted on an application after more than one year, or have denied an application.**

# Preliminary NIETCs

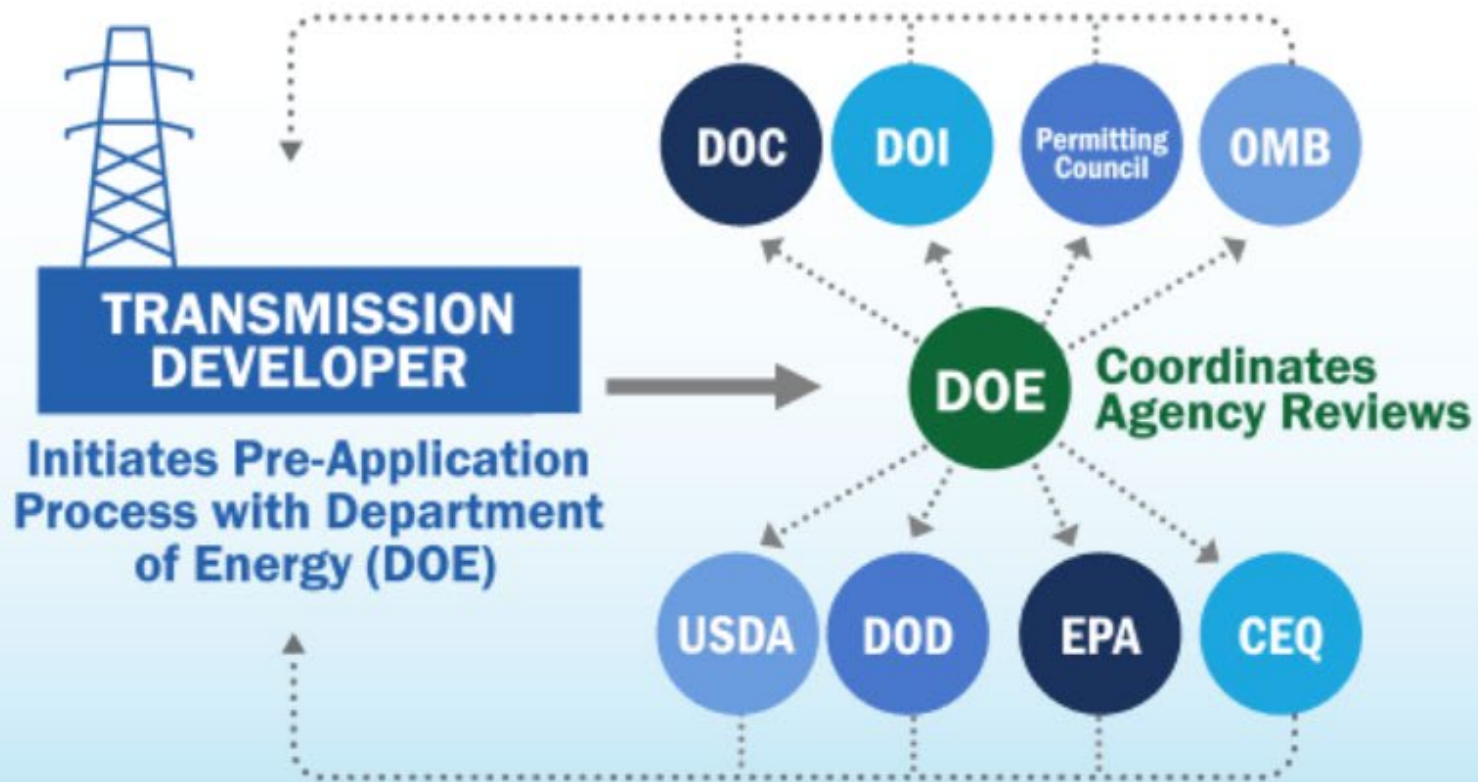


Map is a rough approximation for illustrative purposes only



**GDO**  
GRID DEPLOYMENT OFFICE

## Coordinated Interagency Authorizations and Permits (CITAP) Program



**2**  
Years



2 years

4 years  
(Average)

11 years



## Average time to site and permit a transmission project is almost cut in half

\*Source: Contextualizing electric transmission permitting:  
data from 2010 to 2020, Niskanen Center, 2024



# Transmission Powers Communities

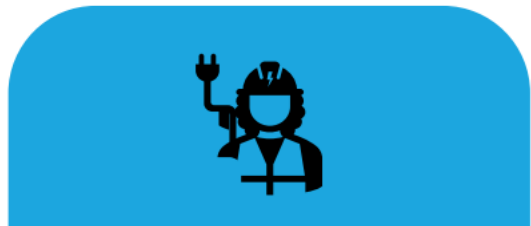
Transmission is needed to power the needs of growing communities.

Public approval follows from early and meaningful engagement, including consideration of *community needs and preferences*.



# Transmission Siting and Economic Development (TSED)

**\$760 million competitive grant program**  
to strengthen and accelerate state and local siting and  
permitting processes + support economic development for  
communities impacted by interstate and offshore transmission



## TSED Round 1 Selections

- ▶ 20 projects
- ▶ 16 states
- ▶ Up to \$371 million



*DOE expects to release the second TSED funding opportunity in Fall 2024.*

# Ways We Can Work Together

- Find opportunities to support multi-value projects.
- Seek technical assistance.
- Stay connected.
- Share your feedback with us.

**Thank You**

