

**From:** Michael LaPointe <michael.l@sicangu.co>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 15, 2025 11:11 PM  
**To:** NIETC  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] DOE-HQ-2024-0088-Potential Designation of the Tribal Energy Access National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor Public Comments  
**Attachments:** DOE-HQ-2024-0088 Phase 3 Public Comments.pdf; US Treasurer Marilyn Malerba- RST 3-Pillar Economic Impacts 2-14-24.pdf

To Whom It May Concern,

Please find the attached Phase 3 Public Comments.

Thank you.

*(via email 11:10pm CST)*



**Michael LaPointe**  
Chief Economic Development Officer

[michael.l@sicangu.co](mailto:michael.l@sicangu.co)

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April 15, 2025

United States Department of Energy  
Grid Deployment Office  
1000 Independence Ave. SW  
Suite 4H-065  
Washington, DC 20585

**RE: DOE-HQ-2024-0088-Potential Designation of the Tribal Energy Access National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor**

**VIA Email: [NIETC@hq.doe.gov](mailto:NIETC@hq.doe.gov)**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments for the Tribal Corridor Phase 3 Project. First, we would like to state that Sicangu Co (aka Rosebud Economic Development Corporation, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe's (RST) Economic Development Entity) fully supports the United States Department of Energy's (DOE) Tribal Corridor Phase 3 Designation. Sicangu Co support this Project because it will do the following:

- Enhance the National Grid for reliable, affordable energy, and national security for the United States.
- Provide more immediate energy needs for the Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) industries.
- Utilize renewable energy profits from the Tribal Corridor to leverage additional financial resources to start other critical economic development projects at RST that will get us out of poverty. This will create full-employment in other sectors of the economy.

As DOE knows, there is a Tribal Consultation process that is based on various laws, executive orders, and policies between the federal government and Indian Tribes. This Consultation process should occur early and often during Phase 3 of this DOE process. RST needs to know the potential health, cultural, and environmental impacts of this Project, should it go to Phase 4. At a minimum, the Consultation process should be one day on site of the Rosebud Indian Reservation. It can occur at the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Headquarters with all suggested attendees listed herein. This Consultation can be broadcasted on both radio and the Tribe's television station. It will allow DOE to engage in Phase 3 of the project with all relevant RST entities in one location, with the local public being able to listen to and watch the discussions.

Initially, these are the following RST entities we are suggesting be a part of the Consultation process on the Rosebud Indian Reservation:

- RST Tribal Historic Preservation Office, PO Box 750, Rosebud, SD 57570 (605)747-4255
- RST President, The Honorable Kathleen Wooden Knife, PO Box 430, Rosebud, SD 57570 (605)747-2381



- RST Tribal Land Enterprise, PO Box 159, Rosebud, SD 57570 (605)747-2371
- RST Land & Natural Resources Committee Chairperson, PO Box 430, Rosebud, SD 57570 (605)747-2381
- Bureau of Indian Affairs, PO Box 228, Mission, SD 57555 (605)856-2334
- RST Environmental Protection Office, PO Box 430, Rosebud, SD 57570 (605)747-2933
- RST Water Resources, PO Box 910, Rosebud, SD 57570 (605)747-2381
- RST Water & Sewer, PO Box 100, Rosebud, SD 57570 (605)747-2378
- RST Tribal Utility Commission, PO Box 430, Rosebud, SD 57570 (605)747-3194
- RST Tribal Employment & Contracting Rights Office, PO Box 810, Rosebud, SD 57570 (605)747-2322
- RST Game, Fish, and Parks/Natural Resources, PO Box 300, Rosebud, SD 57570 (605)856-2146
- Rosebud Economic Development Corporation, PO Box 236, Mission, SD 57555 (605)856-8400

We suggest that the format of this Consultation should be where DOE explains Phase 3 of the project and RST relevant entities ask questions. This could be one day, Monday through Friday, in between 8:00am and 5:00pm cst. The listed entities herein are potentially affected stakeholders on the Rosebud Indian Reservation and should be invited by DOE for Phase 3 of this Project.

These attendees can provide to DOE suggestions on environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic considerations or potential effects that DOE should consider during its review and analysis of this Tribal Corridor potential NIETC designation through the Rosebud Indian Reservation, including comments on whether any potential effects should be meaningfully evaluated.

From this initial Consultation, DOE could obtain input on whether this Tribal Corridor potential NIETC maximizes existing rights-of-way and avoids and minimizes, to the maximum extent practicable, and offsets to the extent appropriate and practicable, sensitive environmental areas and cultural heritage sites (FPA section 216(a)(4)(G)) through the Rosebud Indian Reservation.

Appropriate local news outlets, newspapers, and other news and media outlets for reaching interested or potentially affected stakeholders are suggested as follows: Todd County Tribune (605)856-4469; Native News Online Email: [editor@nativenewsonline.net](mailto:editor@nativenewsonline.net) Phone: 616-202-2125; Mellette County News (605)259-3642; Winner Advocate (605)842-1481. Also, RST's Information Technology Department Social Media pages should be utilized.

Additionally, we support this Project because it gives us an opportunity to be on the cutting-edge of AI & ML by supplying much needed power for the United States. The Project will also provide RST with an opportunity for energy resilience.

RST does not have the financial resources like wealthier tribes. We don't have gaming markets. We don't have oil, nor, natural gas. However, we have a lot of wind. We have so much wind here that we consider ourselves "*the Saudi Arabia of wind.*" Our tribe's geographic boundaries cover lands in the South Dakota Counties of Todd, Mellette, Tripp, Lyman, & Gregory.

Accordingly, as stated earlier, we offer our full support for the development of this Tribal Corridor. Our population is growing. We have consistently been the poorest county in the United States. We have a 74% unemployment rate. We have 52% of our tribal members living in poverty. Over one-half of our population has either Type-1, or, Type-2 Diabetes. We have the highest suicide rate for young adults in the state. We have some of the lowest life-expectancies in the Western-hemisphere for men and women.

Again, as listed earlier, getting renewable energy sold to customers and delivered through the National Grid is our way out of poverty. We will use the profits to invest in other economic development



projects to get the people of our community out of poverty. Sicangu Co conducted an Economic Impact Analysis (see attached Memorandum dated: February 14, 2024). This Analysis demonstrated how Renewable Energy would assist RST in escaping poverty, getting us to Full-employment, creating nearly \$2.4 Billion in Gross Domestic Product, along with the other two projects listed in the Memorandum. Renewable Energy sales from Sicangu Co's proposed Project would generate annual sales of \$625 Million through the year 2050. With Renewable Energy providing significant profits, we would end poverty at RST.

The proposed Sicangu Co Project includes large scale wind generation (~400 MW) that harnesses the superior wind resource available in the area. It will connect to the regional grid to export power while also providing fail-safe baseload power to local users. This will be supported by transmission and distribution system upgrades and integrate with small scale renewable generation already under development. The Project has potential for expansion through additional utility scale renewable generation and energy storage capability. It will grow to match the needs of interested offtake clients, spurring growth in local industry, skills, and employment. Net generation and grid export will reverse revenue outflows from the community, which currently purchases electricity from distant sources. The pre-feasibility study confirms the project's strong potential for financial success through a defined technical concept, commercial structure, and operating organization. This requires an improvement in the policy, financial instruments, and supporting infrastructure. The Project requires fair and equitable conditions for development, comparable to those in other regions for non-tribal developers.

Should you have any questions, or, need additional information please feel free to contact me at [michael.l@sicangu.co](mailto:michael.l@sicangu.co), or, at (605)856-8400.

Sincerely,



Michael LaPointe  
Chief Economic Development Officer  
Sicangu Co  
PO Box 236  
Mission, SD 57555  
[www.sicangu.co](http://www.sicangu.co)



Sicangu.Co [michael.l@sicangu.co](mailto:michael.l@sicangu.co)

Date: February 14, 2024  
To: The Honorable Marilyn Malerba, Treasurer of the United States of America  
From: Michael LaPointe, Chief Economic Development Officer  
RE: Economic Impact of Rosebud Sioux Tribe's (RST) Three (3) Economic Development Projects

Please consider this Memorandum as an Analysis of the Direct, Indirect, & Induced Economic Impacts of RST's three proposed Economic Development Projects. The first one is the Wind Energy Project. The second one is the RST Bison Production Project. And the third one is the Rosebud Construction Project. All of these Economic Impacts run through the year 2050. The Analysis is as follows:

<b>Wind Energy</b>				<b>Wind Energy</b>
<b>Through 2050</b>	<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Wages &amp;</b>	<b>GDP</b>	<b>Sales Revenue</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b>Employment</b>	<b>Labor Income</b>	<b>Value Added</b>	<b>Output</b>
1 - Direct	191	\$ 35,126,214	\$ 321,093,318	\$ 625,034,477
2 - Indirect	199	\$ 20,822,738	\$ 66,036,385	\$ 180,481,577
3 - Induced	32	\$ 1,907,048	\$ 4,734,987	\$ 8,554,354
<b>Totals</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>\$ 57,856,000</b>	<b>\$ 391,864,691</b>	<b>\$ 814,070,408</b>
<b>Bison Production</b>				<b>Bison Production</b>
<b>Through 2050</b>	<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Wages &amp;</b>	<b>GDP</b>	<b>Sales Revenue</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b>Employment</b>	<b>Labor Income</b>	<b>Value Added</b>	<b>Output</b>
1 - Direct	6,747	\$ 294,432,230	\$ 1,505,216,409	\$ 1,515,343,053
2 - Indirect	16	\$ 690,163	\$ 2,809,660	\$ 3,932,601
3 - Induced	225	\$ 10,576,557	\$ 26,024,876	\$ 47,215,028
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6,988</b>	<b>\$ 305,698,949</b>	<b>\$ 1,534,050,944</b>	<b>\$ 1,566,490,682</b>
<b>Construction</b>				<b>Construction</b>
<b>Through 2050</b>	<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Wages &amp;</b>	<b>GDP</b>	<b>Sales Revenue</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b>Employment</b>	<b>Labor Income</b>	<b>Value Added</b>	<b>Output</b>
1 - Direct	3,995	\$ 206,935,535	\$ 209,659,585	\$ 481,641,132
2 - Indirect	1,067	\$ 70,688,128	\$ 124,802,059	\$ 248,266,813
3 - Induced	1,254	\$ 70,501,653	\$ 126,080,887	\$ 216,575,929
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6,316</b>	<b>\$ 348,125,315</b>	<b>\$ 460,542,531</b>	<b>\$ 946,483,874</b>
<b>Combined Totals</b>				
<b>Tax</b>	<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Wages &amp;</b>	<b>GDP</b>	<b>Sales Revenue</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b>Employment</b>	<b>Labor Income</b>	<b>Value Added</b>	<b>Output</b>
1 - Direct	10,933	\$ 536,493,978	\$ 2,035,969,312	\$ 2,622,018,662
2 - Indirect	1,283	\$ 92,201,029	\$ 193,648,103	\$ 432,680,991
3 - Induced	1,511	\$ 82,985,258	\$ 156,840,750	\$ 272,345,311
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13,726</b>	<b>\$ 711,680,265</b>	<b>\$ 2,386,458,166</b>	<b>\$ 3,327,044,964</b>

Through 2050							
Tax Revenue		Wind Production					
Impact	RST Tribal	Federal	Total				
1 - Direct	\$ 299,615	\$ 101,873,246	\$ 102,172,861				
2 - Indirect	\$ 109,855	\$ 16,297,741	\$ 16,407,596				
3 - Induced	\$ 11,340	\$ 781,325	\$ 792,665				
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 420,810</b>	<b>\$ 118,952,312</b>	<b>\$ 119,373,122</b>				
Tax		Bison Production					
Impact	RST Tribal	Federal	Total				
1 - Direct	\$ 4,250,530	\$ 110,229,984	\$ 114,480,514				
2 - Indirect	\$ 7,915	\$ 235,398	\$ 243,313				
3 - Induced	\$ 66,406	\$ 4,559,284	\$ 4,625,690				
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 4,324,851</b>	<b>\$ 115,024,666</b>	<b>\$ 119,349,517</b>				
Tax	County	County			Construction		
Impact	General	Special Districts	County	State	Federal	Total	
1 - Direct	\$ 575,388	\$ 662,124	\$ 354,254	\$ 2,540,156	\$ 49,635,123	\$ 53,767,044	
2 - Indirect	\$ 2,136,910	\$ 2,460,112	\$ 950,464	\$ 6,666,819	\$ 17,625,734	\$ 29,840,040	
3 - Induced	\$ 1,545,852	\$ 1,779,631	\$ 696,709	\$ 4,932,470	\$ 17,588,066	\$ 26,542,728	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 4,258,150</b>	<b>\$ 4,901,867</b>	<b>\$ 2,001,427</b>	<b>\$ 14,139,445</b>	<b>\$ 84,848,923</b>	<b>\$ 110,149,812</b>	
<b>Combined Totals</b>							
Tax	County	County					
Impact	General	Special Districts	County	State	RST Tribal	Federal	Total
1 - Direct	\$ 575,388	\$ 662,124	\$ 354,254	\$ 2,540,156	\$ 4,550,145	\$ 261,738,353	\$ 270,420,419
2 - Indirect	\$ 2,136,910	\$ 2,460,112	\$ 950,464	\$ 6,666,819	\$ 117,770	\$ 34,158,873	\$ 46,490,949
3 - Induced	\$ 1,545,852	\$ 1,779,631	\$ 696,709	\$ 4,932,470	\$ 1,612,258	\$ 22,928,675	\$ 31,961,083
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 4,258,150</b>	<b>\$ 4,901,867</b>	<b>\$ 2,001,427</b>	<b>\$ 14,139,445</b>	<b>\$ 6,280,173</b>	<b>\$ 318,825,901</b>	<b>\$ 348,872,451</b>

Based on this Analysis, RST can achieve “Full-employment” for its tribe. With competent job training and worker support, RST can create 10,933 new “Direct” jobs listed herein. This will create new employment for the currently 11,510 unemployed adults between the ages of 18 – 64. With this Plan, RST’s current unemployment rate will go from 75% to 5% With this fully-funded Plan, Todd County, SD (home of the Rosebud Indian Reservation) will no longer be the poorest county in America.

If you need additional information for this Economic Impact Analysis, please let me know. I will be happy to provide more information Treasurer Malerba. Thank you for both your time and attention to this Analysis.