

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) criticized the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) announcement that it will hold an additional public meeting in Rochester, NY regarding its draft designation of a Mid-Atlantic Area National Corridor. DOE's corridor plan could allow New York Regional Interconnection (NYRI) to circumvent state authority and utilize federal eminent domain to acquire private property.

"DOE's decision to hold another public meeting in Rochester is insulting and unacceptable," Arcuri said. "The purpose of these public hearings isn't just for the DOE to cherry-pick locations and give out one-sided information to those potentially affected by corporate land grabs like NYRI -- it is to provide people, especially those who could be devastated by an unjust property taking, with an opportunity to voice their concerns and questions to DOE officials. I am committed to working together with my colleagues Maurice Hinchey and John Hall to provide our constituents the opportunity to be heard face-to-face whether it's in Washington or through our own public meetings and forums. I will continue to fight tooth-and-nail to stop NYRI from running roughshod over local property owners."

The Department of Energy announced that it will hold public meetings during the 60 day comment period in Rochester, NY; Phoenix, AZ; Las Vegas, NV; and Pittsburg, PA.

Immediately following the DOE's announcement of the draft corridors, Arcuri and fellow Representatives Maurice Hinchey (D- Hurley), and John Hall (D-Dover Plains) sent a letter to Kevin Kolevar, Director, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, in which they requested local public meetings in Upstate New York during the 60-day public comment period for the Department of Energy's draft designation of a National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor - to allow communities most affected by NYRI's proposed power line the opportunity to voice their concerns

Section 1221 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, created new federal authority to site electric transmission lines throughout the country. Under the Act, the Department of Energy may designate areas of the country as "National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors." Within these corridors, state authority over transmission lines may be preempted and new federal eminent domain authority could be used to obtain land for approved electric utility transmission projects.

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