



Environmental Impact Statement Scoping Engagement Summary— **Grain Belt Express Transmission Line**

Department of Energy Loan Programs Office

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AC	Alternating Current
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
HVDC	High-Voltage Direct Current
kV	Kilovolt
LPO	Loan Programs Office
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NOA	Notice of Availability
NOI	Notice of Intent
ROW	Right-of-Way

1. INTRODUCTION

Grain Belt Express LLC, a subsidiary of Invenergy Transmission LLC (Invenergy), has submitted an application to the United States Department of Energy Loan Programs Office (DOE LPO) for a loan guarantee for the construction and energization of Phase 1 of the Grain Belt Express transmission line project in Kansas and Missouri (referred to hereinafter as the “Project”). In making a decision on the application, DOE LPO is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EIS will document existing conditions and analyze potential impacts of the Project.

The Project includes a proposed 530-mile, high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line corridor that would extend between Ford County, in southwestern Kansas, and Monroe County in northeastern Missouri. To connect to the electric grid in Kansas, an HVDC converter station, alternating current (AC) switchyard, and an additional 1,086-foot 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line, all in Ford County, are included in the Project. The Project also includes the proposed Tiger Connector, a 345-kV AC transmission line that would extend from the HVDC converter station and AC switchyard in Monroe County approximately 36 miles to Callaway County. Together, these elements represent the Project in the EIS.

1.1 Scoping Process and Notice of Intent

Scoping is conducted to assist in determining the breadth of analysis, significant issues, and alternatives to be analyzed in depth in the Draft EIS. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) defines scoping as an “early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action” (40 Code of Federal Regulation 1501.7). The scoping process provides an opportunity for people potentially affected by the Project to express their views and concerns and to contribute to the completeness of the EIS.

Scoping for the Project began with the publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register* (87 FR 77093) on Friday, December 16, 2022 (Appendix A), and continued until the end of the comment period on Tuesday, February 28, 2023. During this time, a range of outreach activities were performed to provide the public with information on the Project, explain DOE LPO’s role in the Project, and provide details related to the NEPA process. Outreach activities encouraged the public to share concerns related to the Project and its potential impacts.

1.2 Engagement Overview

Prior to the scoping period, DOE LPO began organizing public meetings and developing materials related to the scoping process (Appendices B through I). Notification of the scoping period to the public included an informational mailer sent to stakeholders who had previously expressed interest in the Project to Invenergy, stakeholders who had previously asked to be on a mailing list, in addition to stakeholders identified as potentially interested parties (see Section 3.2 for details). Stakeholders included property owners, public officials, contacts at other agencies and tribal nations, and potentially interested parties. Announcements for public scoping meetings were placed in local and Kansas and Missouri statewide publications. Agencies and the public were invited to participate in the scoping engagement opportunities, which included:

- A Project website (<https://eis-grainbeltexpress.com>) which was developed to disseminate important information to the public, such as the scoping meeting schedule. The website includes a recorded presentation and other scoping meeting materials (i.e., fact sheets, presentations),

information on how to comment, information on how to attend virtual and in-person open house meetings, and recordings of the virtual meetings

- Two virtual meetings (one daytime and one evening) held via the online meeting platform Zoom
- Four in-person open house meetings held in four locations within the Project area (morning and afternoon options at each location)

Scoping notifications included information on how to request accommodations or translated materials, though no requests were received. Attendance from in-person meetings and online visitors, including viewers of posted material and scoping activities, totaled 1,146 engagements.

Outreach encouraged members of the public to provide their comments through these methods:

- Printed comment form (Appendix J) and verbal comment station available at the in-person open house meetings
- Digital comment form available online through the EIS website
- Voicemail messages left on a dedicated telephone line, (800) 925-9175
- Emails received at a dedicated email address, GrainBeltExpressEISPI@aecom.com
- Letters mailed to a designated postal address at:
 - Grain Belt Express EIS
DOE LPO, c/o AECOM
100 N. Broadway, 20th Floor
St. Louis, MO 63102

Comments were also received by DOE LPO via email and postal mail which were then forwarded to the dedicated email address. A total of 156 comments were received across all methods. Scoping comments are a vital part of the NEPA process, and the issues of concern heard from the public will be used to help define the topics addressed in the EIS.

2. ENGAGEMENT GOALS

Scoping for the Grain Belt Express EIS was designed to engage with a variety of participants representing a range of interests and perspectives and allow DOE LPO to receive the diversity of opinion required for successful scoping. These engagement efforts:

- Informed the public about the Project, DOE LPO, its decision-making process for granting a loan guarantee, and the NEPA process, which requires analysis of potential environmental impacts resulting from the construction and operation of the Project.
- Allowed the public to comment on the Project and which environmental concerns matter to them; this feedback is used to help define the range and depth of topics to be addressed in the EIS.
- Allowed the public to suggest stakeholders who may not have been included in this engagement and who may be interested in or impacted by the Project.

3. PROJECT WEBSITE, PUBLIC NOTICES, AND MEETINGS

3.1 Project Website

A website for the EIS, <https://www.eis-grainbeltexpress.com/> was created to promote engagement opportunities available during the scoping period. The design of the website closely followed that of the informational mailer, providing all the same information and visuals as well as the dates, times, and locations of the virtual and in-person public scoping meetings. The website also detailed the available methods for the public to provide comment during the scoping phase, including hosting an online version of the printed comment form that was made available at the in-person open houses.

The website also served as an alternative engagement opportunity itself. In addition to the information from the mailer, the website was updated throughout the scoping period with downloadable PDFs of all printed materials presented at the open house and embedded videos of a prerecorded presentation and recordings of the two virtual public meetings. By providing these items as well as an online comment form and details on other means of providing comment, members of the public who were unable to attend the virtual and in-person public scoping meetings were still able to receive the same information and submit their comments.

This website will remain active for the duration of the NEPA process and will be updated with the latest public information and notifications as Project updates are available. Material posted during the scoping phase will continue to be available on the website for members of the public who did not participate in scoping or who wish to review the material at a later date.

3.2 Public Notices

As mentioned in Section 1.2, an informational mailer was prepared as the primary method of notification for scoping and was distributed in early January 2023. The mailer contained an overview of the Project; a description of the DOE LPO's role in the Project; an introduction to the NEPA process; information on how to attend the virtual public meetings; information for the in-person open house meetings; the EIS website; and means of providing comment during the scoping period.

The mailing list for the informational mailer contained 2,971 entries and was derived from three sources:

- Invenenergy provided the contact information for identified property owners and tenants along the proposed Project alignment and contact information from stakeholders and other organizations who had previously expressed interest in the Project.
- DOE LPO provided contact information for the state and federal agencies and tribal nations that had been invited to collaborate in review and research supporting the EIS.
- DOE LPO collected contact information for administrative and elected officials for all counties intersected by the Project, and all cities in each county, to the extent that public listings made possible; information for state legislators representing these areas or serving on relevant committees; information for federal legislators representing these areas; and other agencies and advocacy groups who may be interested in the Project and the EIS.

There were 2,667 mailers (89.7 percent of all mailers distributed) sent to addresses in 109 counties within Kansas and Missouri. Figure 1 shows the distribution of those mailers by county of the mailing address in these two states.

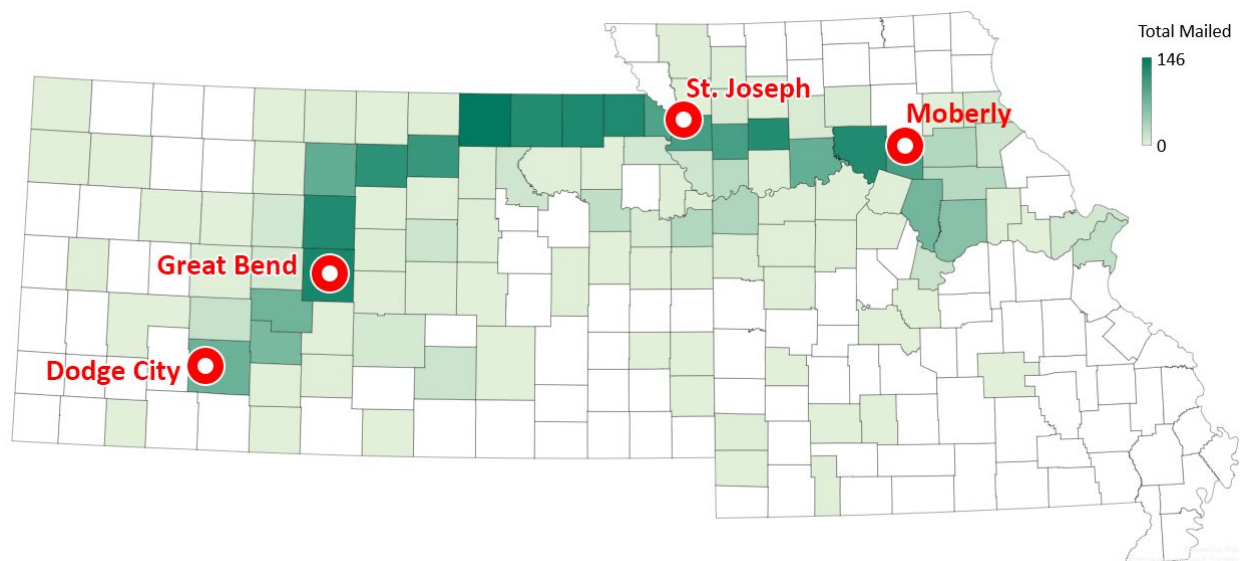


Figure 1: Mailer Distribution by County in Kansas and Missouri

Public notice of the virtual meetings and in-person open house meetings was advertised within the NOI in the Federal Register, on the EIS website, and in local and statewide newspapers covering the Project area. Table 1 lists the newspapers that advertised the scoping meetings.

Table 1: Scoping Meeting Newspaper Advertisements

Publication	Distribution	Date of Publication
St. Joseph News Press	Buchanan County., Missouri	Friday, January 6, 2023
Great Bend Tribune	Barton County, Kansas	Sunday, January 8, 2023
Kansas City Star	Statewide – Missouri	Tuesday, January 10, 2023
Wichita Eagle	Statewide – Kansas	Tuesday, January 10, 2023
Moberly Monitor	Randolph County, Missouri	Tuesday, January 10, 2023
Dodge City Daily Globe	Ford County, Kansas	Tuesday, January 10, 2023

3.3 Virtual Public Meetings

The Grain Belt Express EIS scoping outreach featured two virtual public meetings held on January 25 and January 26, 2023. In addition to virtual events becoming increasingly accepted, and even expected and preferred by the public, these meetings were a mechanism for making a live engagement opportunity available to the public along the entire Project route. Given the large and mostly rural nature of the Project area, with a limited number of locations for practical in-person outreach, holding only in-person open house meetings without accompanying virtual events would have left property owners and communities along some sections of the Project route without a convenient option to participate in scoping.

Both virtual public meetings were held online using the Zoom meeting platform. Registration was free and open to the public, with the only necessary personal information requested being a valid email address to receive the meeting link. The two meetings were held during different times of the day to provide flexibility around participants’ schedules. Meetings could be viewed with any internet-capable device or listened to by telephone. Table 2 provides the dates and times of each meeting.

Table 2: Virtual Public Meetings

Event	Platform	Date	Time
Virtual Public Meeting 1	Zoom	Wednesday, January 25, 2023	11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Virtual Public Meeting 2	Zoom	Thursday, January 26, 2023	5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Both virtual public meetings followed the same format. After an introduction, the meeting began with a scripted presentation covering the same information to be presented at the in-person open houses. A moderated question-and-answer session followed the presentation for the remainder of the scheduled time. Participants were able to submit questions through Zoom's Q&A function throughout the meetings. Moderators selected, and often combined or broadened, questions in order to address the concerns of as many participants as possible and provide generally relevant information. Participants with more specific or technical questions were invited to submit them outside of the meetings to facilitate direct discussion. The meetings concluded with an overview of the various methods available for providing comment.

3.4 In-Person Open House Meetings

For the in-person open house meetings, four locations were selected for their proximity to the Project and geographic coverage within the Project area. The cities selected to host these events were also identified as having populations with higher concentrations of various environmental justice demographic groups, such as low-income households and racial and ethnic minority residents, than the Project route overall. Each of the four meeting venues had ample, freely available parking, were ADA accessible, and were open to the public in two sessions – 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Table 3 lists the locations and dates of these four in-person meetings.

Table 3: In-Person Open House Meetings

Date	Time	City/State	Venue
Tuesday, January 31, 2023	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Dodge City, KS	Dodge House Hotel 2408 W. Wyatt Earp Blvd.
Tuesday, January 31, 2023	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Moberly, MO	Municipal Auditorium 201 W. Rollins Street
Thursday, February 1, 2023	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Great Bend, KS	Corinthians Hill Event Center 464 NE 20 Avenue
Thursday, February 1, 2023	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	St. Joseph, MO	Fairview Golf Course 3302 Pacific Street

Each of the four in-person open house meetings followed the same format. Participants were asked to sign in and received a printed comment card and a fact sheet discussing the Project, the DOE LPO's role in it, and the NEPA process. Participants were then invited to tour a series of informational exhibit boards or, optionally, begin their tour by first viewing a recorded video presentation of the same content. Staff from Invenergy, the DOE LPO, and consulting partners were stationed near the exhibit boards to discuss their areas of expertise in greater detail and answer participants' questions. The tour ended with a seating area where participants were encouraged to fill out their printed comment cards, verbalize comments for recording by a member of the Project team, or access the online comment form on the EIS website. Information on other available comment options—phone, email, and mail—was posted in the seating area as well for those who preferred to provide comment by other means or at a later time.

4. ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

The virtual public meetings and in-person open house meetings were attended by a total of 129 participants. Additionally, the EIS website was visited a total of 893 times during the scoping period, and the recorded presentation and meetings were viewed a total of 121 times. Table 4 contains a breakdown of these totals.

Table 4: Engagement Totals

Engagement Type	Participant Total
In-Person Open House Meetings	99 Total Participants
Dodge City, KS	11 Participants
Moberly, MO	45 Participants
Great Bend, KS	27 Participants
St. Joseph, MO	16 Participants
Virtual Public Meetings	30 Total Participants
Virtual Public Meeting 1	19 Participants
Virtual Public Meeting 2	11 Participants
Other Engagement	1,017 Total Visitors/Viewers
EIS Website	893 Visitors
Recorded Presentation	32 Viewers
Virtual Public Meeting Recording 1	73 Viewers
Virtual Public Meeting Recording 2	16 Viewers
Combined Total	1,146 Engagements

In addition, a total of 156 submissions were received during the EIS scoping comment period. Table 5 describes how submissions were received.

Table 5: Submissions Received by Method of Comment

Comment Submission Method	Number Received	% of Total
Online Comment Form	40	25.6%
Email	39	25.0%
Mail	29	18.6%
Telephone	19	12.2%
Print Comment Form	19	12.2%
Docket	10	6.4%
Total	156	

5. COMMENT SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

Individual comments within each submission received during the scoping period were reviewed for concerns related to resources that should be evaluated in the NEPA process. These comments were

organized by concerns grouped by the resources in which they would be discussed or analyzed in the EIS. Remaining concerns were grouped into a general comment category. During development of the EIS the comments will be reviewed to understand the public and stakeholder concerns related to purpose and need, the proposed action, Project history, regulatory guidelines, and the cooperation and involvement of other agencies, and the public.

Table 6 provides a summary of the concerns frequently mentioned in the comments submitted. Tables 7 through 10 provide more detail by discussion topic.

Table 6: Summary of Most Frequently Mentioned Concerns

Comment Concerns	Total Mentions	% of Total Comments
Other Alternatives	58	37.2%
Land Use	58	37.2%
Project History	57	36.5%
Wildlife Impacts	47	30.1%
Proposed Action and Alternatives	43	27.6%
Social, Economic, and Community Resources	41	26.3%
Topography, Geology, Soils, and Paleontology	40	25.6%
Public Health and Safety	40	25.6%
Vegetation	34	21.8%
Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions	30	19.2%
Non-Substantive (General) Comments	30	19.2%
Purpose and Need	26	16.7%
Visual Resources	26	16.7%

A topic that was frequently mentioned throughout the comments was the Project's potential impacts on agriculture. As agricultural concerns may be associated with multiple EIS resources (e.g., land use, vegetation, water resources), a separate analysis of the comments received was performed to assess the topic's frequency. Figure 2 shows the proportion of comments related to agriculture (including direct loss of farmland, use of farm equipment, soil compaction, among other concerns).

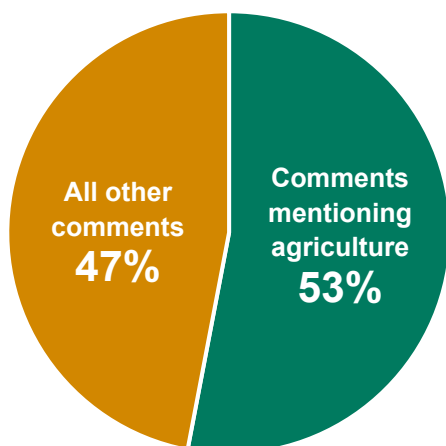


Figure 2: Agriculture Comments

Table 7 summarizes comment concerns relevant to the purpose and need for the Project, stakeholder involvement, and the NEPA process overall and how often these concerns were mentioned in the submissions received during the scoping comment period.

Table 7: Comments Concerning the Purpose and Need, Stakeholder Involvement and NEPA Process

Comment Concerns	Mentions	% of Total Comments
Purpose and Need Comments discussed concern for a resilient safe power grid; requirements of the DOE Loan Application under the EPAct and DOE's purpose and need for the Project.	26	16.7%
Project History Comments related to previous routing studies and involvement with landowners, mistrust of process; eminent domain and request to view the DOE Loan Application.	57	36.5%
Statutory and Regulatory Framework Comments that explained the need for the EIS to describe the requirements for Project permitting and regulatory requirements.	15	9.6%
Public Involvement Comments related to the public outreach process, difficulties engaging in the process, and requests to be added to the Project mailing list.	10	6.4%
NEPA Process Comments specific to the NEPA Process (some commenters expressed that others who had signed land leasing agreements could not participate in the NEPA process); comments that some communities in the Project area do not use technology and therefore could not participate in the process.	16	10.3%

Comments surrounding the development and identification of alternatives considered, including the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Federal Action, potential other alternatives, and mitigation were also received during the scoping period. Table 8 summarizes these comments and how often the concerns were mentioned in the submissions received.

Table 8: Comments Concerning the Proposed Federal Action, Alternatives, and the Applicant's Planned Project

Comment Concerns	Mentions	% of Total Comments
<p>No Action Alternative Comments received that expressed concern that DOE should not approve the federal loan because the EIS will fail to include alternatives that are required under Section 102 of NEPA.</p>	7	4.5%
<p>Proposed Action and Alternatives Comments discussed proposed route and/or infrastructure placement; the technology associated with HVDC transmission and the applicability of the DOE LPO loan guarantee evaluation criteria to the Project. Concerns on the engineering design of the Project and ability to withstand severe weather events (high winds, ice, tornadoes).</p>	43	27.6%
<p>Other Alternatives Comments discussed burying the line underground and/or a route alternative that follows various existing transportation facilities (highways and railroad corridors) or other utilities in existing right-of-way.</p>	58	37.2%
<p>Mitigation Measures Suggestions that the EIS should identify the type of activities and natural hazards that would require mitigation measures during the construction, operation, and any reclamation phases of the Project. Identify whether implementation of mitigation measures are required by any governmental entity and which entity will be responsible for implementing the measure.</p>	8	5.1%
<p>Restoration and Reclamation Comments received related to reclamation activities after construction and operation, liabilities, bonding, and setting up an escrow fund for restoration or impacts to landowners from loss of acreage on their properties.</p>	4	2.6%
<p>Best Management Practices Recommendations for uses of Best Management Practices during design, construction and operation of the Project, including micro siting within the Right-of-Way (ROW); land clearing practices.</p>	1	0.6%

Table 9 summarizes the scoping comment concerns raised that were relevant to resources and resource uses that will be analyzed in the EIS and how often these concerns were mentioned in the submissions received.

Table 9: Comments Concerning Resources and Resource Uses

Comment Concerns	Mentions	% of Total Comments
<p>Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions</p> <p>Comments received regarding impacts to air quality as a result of Project construction and operations including fugitive dust, vehicle emission, benefits of clean energy and reduction in emissions of Green House Gas (GHG), emissions and contributions to GHG from HVDC lines, and climate or climate change.</p>	30	19.2%
<p>Topography, Geology, Soils, and Paleontology</p> <p>Comments discussed soil erosion, soil compaction, impacts to topography at terraced farm areas; impacts to loss of loess soils that capture GHGs; tree and brush clear cutting impacts the reduce wind breaks near ROWs and impacts of severe weather events.</p>	40	25.6%
<p>Water Resources</p> <p>Comments concerning increased risk to downstream diversion or flow of runoff; impacts on flow of natural springs, sedimentation from runoff, potential disruption to waterways, wetlands, watersheds, floodplains, riparian habitats and impacts to water quality from construction and operations from the placement of the towers and pads.</p>	22	14.1%
<p>Vegetation</p> <p>Comments discussed vegetation and potential for disturbance from Project components; concerns regarding disturbance and removal of timber and wooded areas, loss of vegetated areas used as wind control or that are in conservation, disturbance to old growth forest, savannah, grassland and prairie habitats, loss of indigenous plant species; impacts to vegetation, crops and grazing livestock from pesticide and herbicide used during construction and operations; impacts to management of invasive plant species and weed control; and ability to conduct controlled burns.</p>	34	21.8%
<p>Wildlife Impacts</p> <p>Comments discussed potential impacts to wildlife including game mammals, small mammals, birds (migratory patterns), raptors, fish and other aquatic species, amphibians, reptiles, insects, bats, and threatened and endangered and special-status species through either construction or operation of the Project, or loss of habitat because of the Project.</p>	47	30.1%
<p>Cultural Resources and Native American Traditional Values</p> <p>Comments received related to cultural, traditional, ceremonial or sacred sites and the potential for disturbance to Native American historic sites and burial grounds in the proposed Project area. Concerns expressed about impacts to cemeteries, historic sites/parks and trails, proximity of the Project ROW to religious communities, and archaeological and cultural resources are subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.</p>	17	10.9%
<p>Transportation and Access</p> <p>Comments received regarding the impacts to transportation systems, including aircraft, local airstrips, increased traffic in rural areas, use of temporary and permanent access roads to the tower pads, river crossings, and trails as a result from construction and operation of the Project.</p>	3	1.9%

Comment Concerns	Mentions	% of Total Comments
<p>Land Use</p> <p>Comments discussed potential impacts and changes to or limitations of land use, primarily farm and pasture lands, because of the Project's potential impacts during construction and operation that could result from the following impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss or reduction of farmable or grazing areas Ability to use GIS-based farming equipment Ability to use weed management and irrigation equipment Impacts to aerial services/limitations on equipment used for crop dusting and seeding and operating equipment near tower bases Loss of native trees or grasses Health and safety of livestock grazed on pasture lands and on farms Height restrictions of crops grown beneath lines <p>Property owners and farmers would have to relinquish the right to build structures in the ROW and would not be able to build or install residential or farm buildings, grain bins, cattle waterers, ponds, terraces, waterways, and fences</p>	58	37.2%
<p>Recreation</p> <p>Comments received on impacts to recreation, agricultural tourism, recreational hunting and fishing usage near the ROW during construction and operation. This included comments on disruption of recreational experiences and use of forested and wooded areas for recreation, impacts to tourism at Fort Larned National Historic Park in Kansas, private and public recreational areas, trails and parks.</p>	10	6.4%
<p>Visual Resources</p> <p>Comments discussed impacts to the aesthetics and viewshed from landowner property and to historic areas and loss of property values from visual disturbance of the towers. Concerns related to disturbance to night skies from lighting on the towers.</p>	26	16.7%
<p>Noise</p> <p>Comments received on impacts of noise pollution that will be introduced to the Project area from vehicles and equipment, including aircraft, during construction and operation. Concerns are that the line when in operation will produce noises that will be disturbing to humans, livestock and wildlife.</p>	7	4.5%
<p>Social, Economic, and Community Resources</p> <p>Comments received regarding the economic impacts to local communities, regional economy, and national economy. Concerns regarding changes in electricity rates to customers. Comments discussed the proximity of the Project to residents and farms, schools and communities; potential social and economic impacts because of farmland and pasture loss, loss of timbered areas from economic productivity; impact on future improvements/farming practices; destruction of crops from any needed repairs during operations, impacts of the influx on construction workers to the area and quality of life impacts on generational farms and farm families from the construction and operation of the Project.</p> <p>Comments also noted that one-time payments at current value of properties with no ongoing payments for use of the easement areas are not adjusted for inflation or for the life span of the Project. There is a concern for the lack of compensation to landowners for impacted adjoining properties.</p>	41	26.3%

Comment Concerns	Mentions	% of Total Comments
<p>Environmental Justice</p> <p>Suggestions that the EIS should analyze impacts related to environmental justice including health impacts from pollution and exposure to increased industrial activities and noises, increased risk of injury and exposure to hazardous materials. Comments received relating to disproportionate, adverse impacts to low income, minority, elderly residents and other religious communities (Amish, Anabaptist, Brethren, Quaker, and Mennonite communities) as result of the proposed Project. Concern that the burden of the Project is on rural areas which tend to be lower socio-economic demographic areas. The EIS should describe efforts to involve and inform affected communities about Project decisions and impacts and should explain how environmental justice impacts can be avoided, minimized, and/or mitigated.</p>	24	15.4%
<p>Public Health and Safety</p> <p>Suggestions to analyze public health concerns related to this infrastructure development in rural communities. Comments discussed ground clearance of HVDC power lines and safety impacts to use of modern farm equipment and nearby residences, corona effects during operation (audible noise, visible light, radio and television interference, photochemical oxidants; corrosion in nearby pipelines); stray voltage; risks of collisions with equipment and aircraft; potential health impacts of electric fields; hazards and hazardous materials; accidents, severe weather events and intentional destructive acts.</p>	40	25.6%
<p>Cumulative Effects</p> <p>Concerns that this Project will establish a corridor through the Project area for other utilities; impacts of existing utility corridors of other transmission lines and pipelines. Examine the impacts of development of other proposed projects in the corridor including solar farms and wind turbines and wind farms.</p> <p>Suggestions that the EIS should address the cumulative impact to the farming industry in Missouri and Kansas from the placement of transmission lines and solar or wind turbine projects; fertilizer/chemical dealers, seed companies, equipment sales, truck sales and insurance business are reliant on the revenues and the jobs generated from the farming industry.</p>	16	10.3%

The final group of comments reviewed includes questions and comments on additional studies that could be performed or data to be considered in the analysis, as well as comments that were not substantive to the scoping process. Non-substantive comments address issues that are outside the purview of the NEPA process or are statements of general opinion, including those in support or in opposition of the Project. While these comments are still reviewed and recorded, they do not inform EIS scoping. Table 10 summarizes these general comment concerns and how often these concerns were mentioned in the submissions received.

Table 10: Comments Concerning General Issues

Comment Concerns	Mentions	% of Total Comments
Data, Available Information, Studies Comments received that suggested specific data, documents, articles, or other information that should be reviewed when developing the Draft EIS.	15	9.6%
Non-Substantive Comments General questions about the Project, particularly about the location of the route and impacts on individual parcels. Questions and comments about scoping meetings, including requests for information from those who were unable to attend the meetings. General communication, including requests for telephone discussions, and 'No comment' statements.	30	19.2%
Non-Substantive Comments in Support These include non-substantive comments in support of the Project.	4	2.6%
Non-Substantive Comments, Does Not Support These include non-substantive comments in opposition to the Project.	3	1.9%

6. AGENCY AND TRIBAL SCOPING

In addition to public participation in the scoping process, regulatory agencies were consulted for the Project and included the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Missouri Department of Conservation, Kansas State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and Missouri SHPO. Through these consultation efforts, USACE and NPS have been identified as cooperating agencies for the Project.

In addition to the above agencies, DOE LPO initiated consultation with tribal governments with potential interest in the Project. On December 28, 2022, DOE LPO issued consultation letters to 34 tribal governments notifying them of the Project and providing the opportunity to participate in the NEPA process and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 consultation process, as well as engage DOE LPO in formal government-to-government consultation, with the overall goal of providing the opportunity for the tribal governments to raise any issues or concerns they may have regarding the Project. Tribal consultation and Section 106 consultation will be described in more detail in the Draft EIS. Table 11 includes a summary of the scoping related coordination between DOE LPO and other federal and state agencies.

Table 11: Summary of Agency Scoping Efforts

Date of Correspondence	Agency Contacted	Summary of Communication
December 8, 2022	US Army Corps of Engineers	Early EIS Coordination Meeting
December 12, 2022	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Early EIS Coordination Meeting
December 15, 2022	US National Park Service	Early EIS Coordination Meeting
December 27, 2022	Kansas Department of Health and Environment	NEPA Initiation Notification Letter
December 27, 2023	Missouri Department of Environmental Resources	NEPA Initiation Notification Letter
December 29, 2022	US Army Corps of Engineers	Cooperating Agency Invitation Letter
January 13, 2023	Kansas Department of Health and Environment	Comment Letter. Summary of Comments: Disposal of Waste, Construction Practices, and Plan to provide Further Comments on DEIS.
February 7, 2023	US Fish and Wildlife Service, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Missouri Department of Conservation, US National Park Service and LPO	EIS Interagency Meeting to Discuss Background of Project, Preliminary Scoping Comments, EIS Schedule and Agency Coordination
February 23, 2023	DOE Loans Program Office	US Army Corps of Engineers Letter Accepting Cooperating Agency Role
February 28, 2023	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Comment Letter. Summary of Comments: Potential Impacts to Several Threatened and Endangered Species, Potential Impacts to Migratory Birds, Bald and Golden Eagles, and Pollinator Species. Potential Effects to Physical Resources, Socioeconomic and Cultural Resources. Complete Project Description, Avoidance, Minimization and Mitigation is Required for Endangered Species Act Consultation.
March 02, 2023	US National Park Service	Cooperating Agency Invitation
March 13, 2023	US National Park Service	Comment Letter. Summary of Comments: Minimize and Mitigate Impacts to Fort Larned National Historic Site, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, Missouri River Crossing and the Auto Tour Route. Incorporate Cumulative Impacts from Wind and Solar Technology; as well as Inclusion of NHPA Section 106 and 110 Requirements.
March 28, 2023	DOE Loans Program Office	US National Park Service Letter Accepting Cooperating Agency Role

7. NEXT STEPS IN THE NEPA PROCESS

Scoping is the first opportunity for public involvement under the NEPA process. An additional opportunity for public comment will follow the release of the Draft EIS scheduled for fall 2023. A Notice of Availability will be published in the Federal Register informing stakeholders and other members of the public that the Draft EIS is available for comment and that public hearings will be held in the same communities that hosted the scoping meetings. Promotion of the Draft EIS and the public hearings will also be conducted through the EIS website, a new informational mailer, and media advertisement.

While the comment period for scoping closed on February 28, 2023, the public will be able to maintain contact with DOE LPO through many of the established methods of receiving comments in order to continue dialogue started during the scoping period or begin new conversations. These lines of communication will remain in place throughout the NEPA process. The EIS website will also remain active and be updated with the latest public notifications and information. All scoping materials on the website will be available to the public for review at any time.

APPENDIX A NOTICE OF INTENT



APPENDIX B DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS



APPENDIX C INFORMATIONAL MAILER



APPENDIX D MAILING LIST



APPENDIX E

**INVENERGY LETTER TO CITIZENS REGARDING EASEMENT
AND PARTICIPATION IN NEPA PROCESS**



APPENDIX F SCOPING PRESENTATION



APPENDIX G PRINT EXHIBITS



APPENDIX H EIS WEBSITE SCREENSHOTS



APPENDIX I FACT SHEET



APPENDIX J SIGN-IN SHEETS



APPENDIX K COMMENTS

APPENDIX L EVENT PHOTOS

