



GRAIN BELT EXPRESS EIS

WINTER 2023 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

Today's Speakers



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Meeting Agenda

✓ The DOE LPO's Role

✓ The Grain Belt Express

✓ The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

✓ Your Role in the EIS

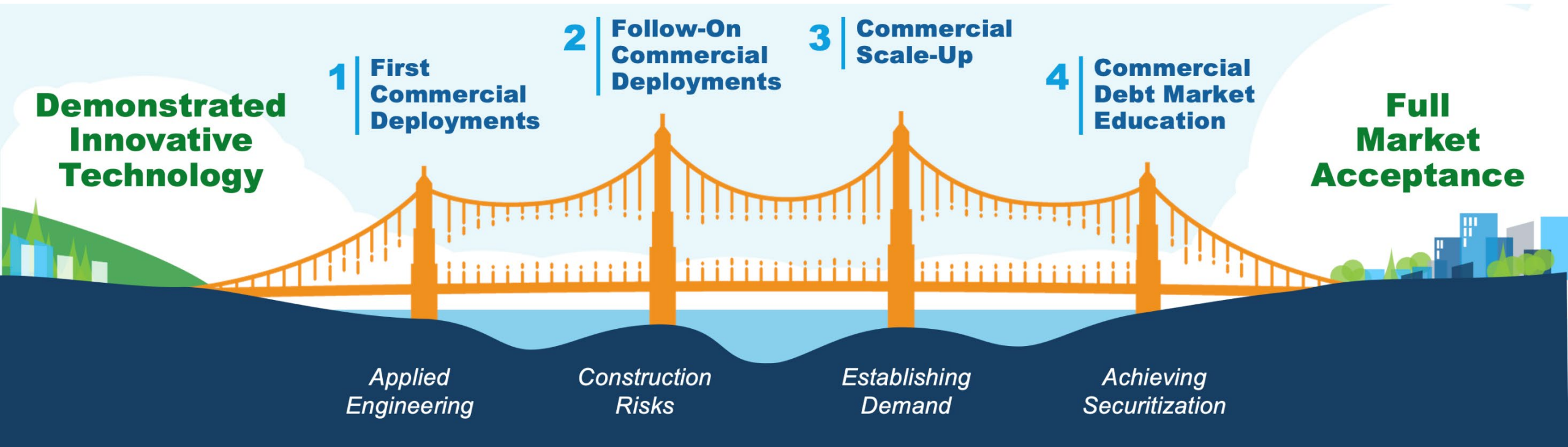




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THE DOE LPO's ROLE

Introduction to LPO



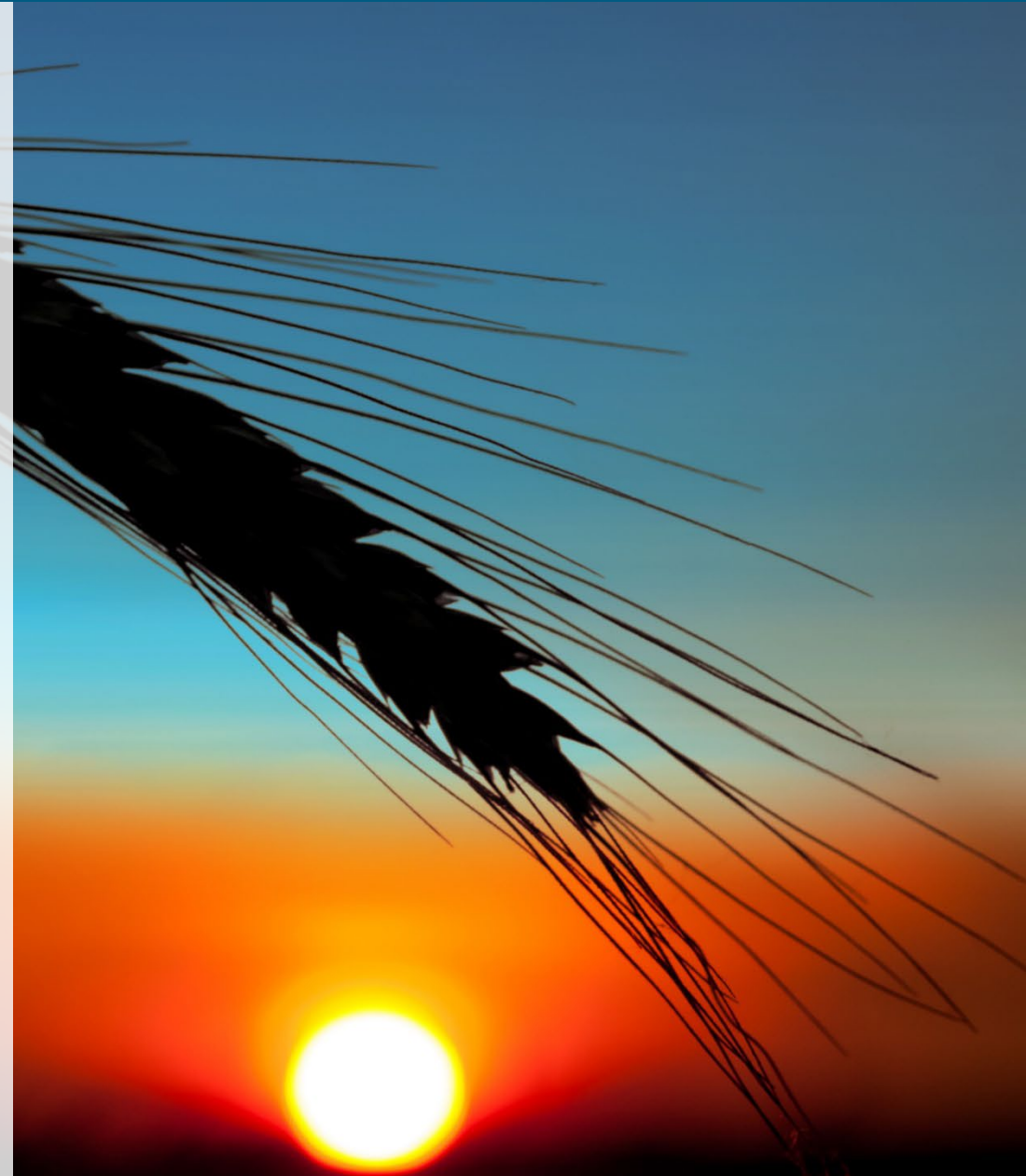
The DOE LPO's mission is to help bring vital new technologies to wider acceptance in the energy industry

✓ This is achieved by providing financing to partners who are among the first to deploy those technologies to prove their viability

✓ This addresses the funding gap for cutting-edge projects that banks and investors might be hesitant to support until similar projects are built elsewhere

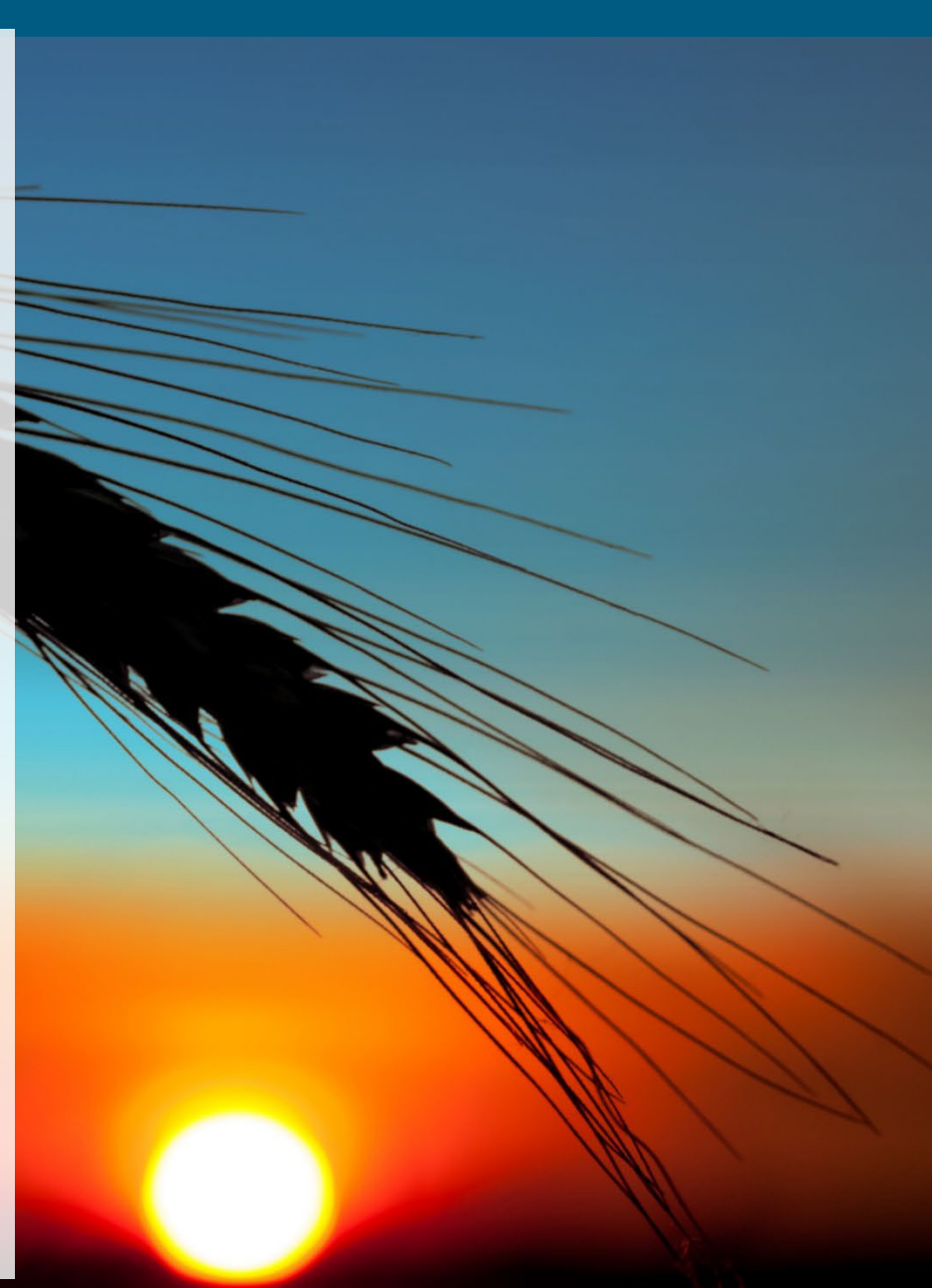
Grain Belt Express and the LPO

- ✓ Grain Belt Express LLC, a subsidiary of Invenergy Transmission LLC, is seeking a loan guarantee from DOE LPO to help fund construction; if approved, they would receive a federal loan which would be paid back with interest.
- ✓ The 2005 Energy Policy Act authorizes the DOE LPO to make loan guarantees for projects that “avoid, reduce, or sequester” air pollution and greenhouse gases or “employ new or significantly improved technologies.”
- ✓ The DOE LPO has determined that the Grain Belt Express is eligible for a potential loan guarantee under the Energy Policy Act and is using the environmental review process to assist in determining whether to approve the request.

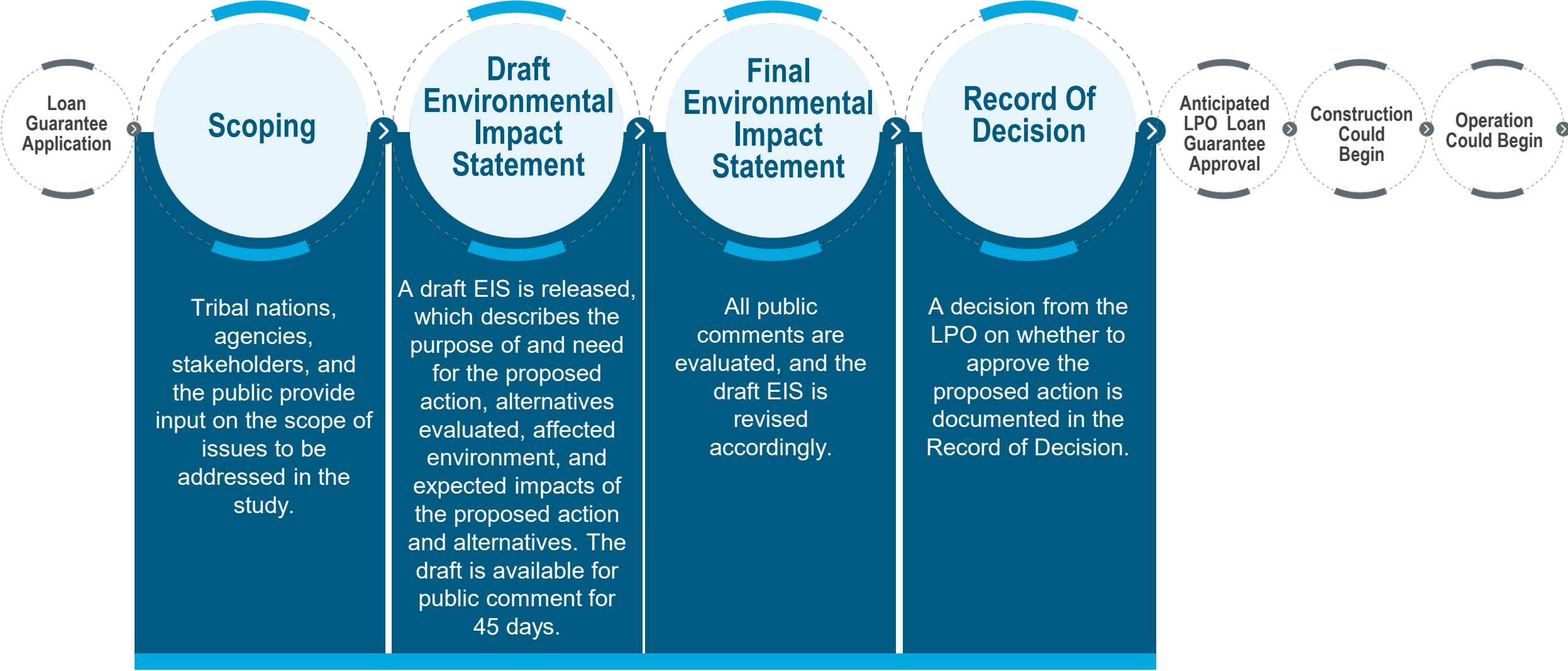


What is NEPA?

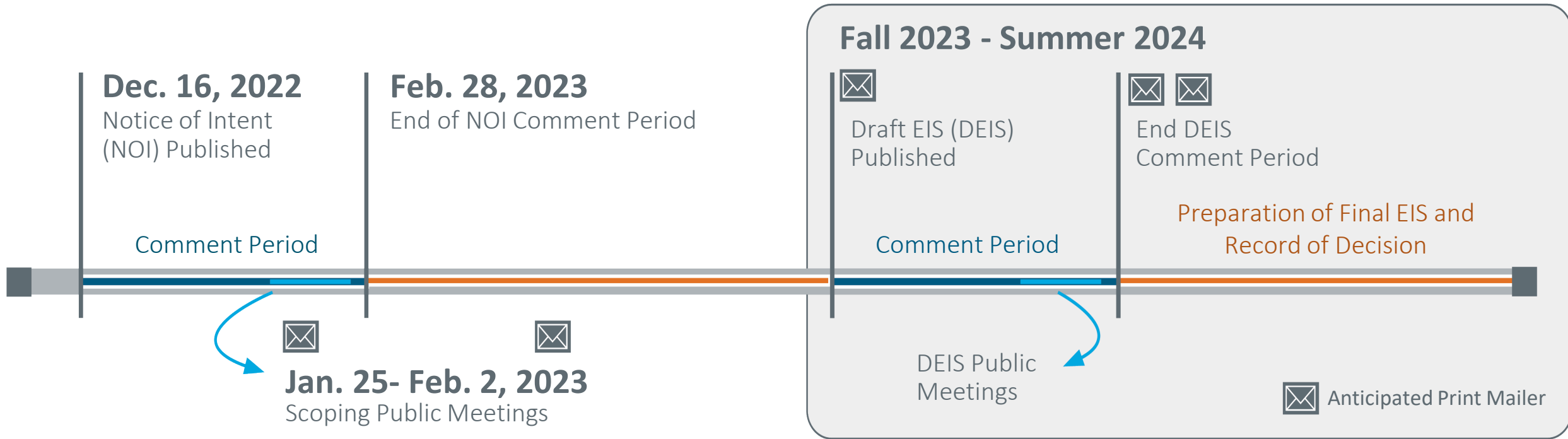
- ✓ The 1970 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to assess and consider the environmental impact of their actions in decision-making.
- ✓ NEPA applies to actions taken directly by agencies and actions taken by other entities requesting authorizations or financing support from the federal government.
- ✓ NEPA requires documentation of current environmental conditions and evaluation of potential impacts attributable to the proposed action.
- ✓ NEPA incentivizes performing due diligence and planning to mitigate or avoid environmental impacts wherever possible.
- ✓ NEPA requires involving the public, agencies, and other stakeholders in the process and informing them of findings in the EIS.



EIS Development Process



EIS Timeline



A large white number '2' is positioned on the left side of the image, partially overlapping the wheat field. The background is a wide-angle shot of a golden wheat field at sunrise, with the sun low on the horizon and a misty atmosphere. The sky is filled with soft, golden light and some clouds.

2

THE GRAIN BELT EXPRESS

The Grain Belt Express is a proposed 530-mile transmission line and associated facilities that would extend between southwest Kansas and northeast Missouri.



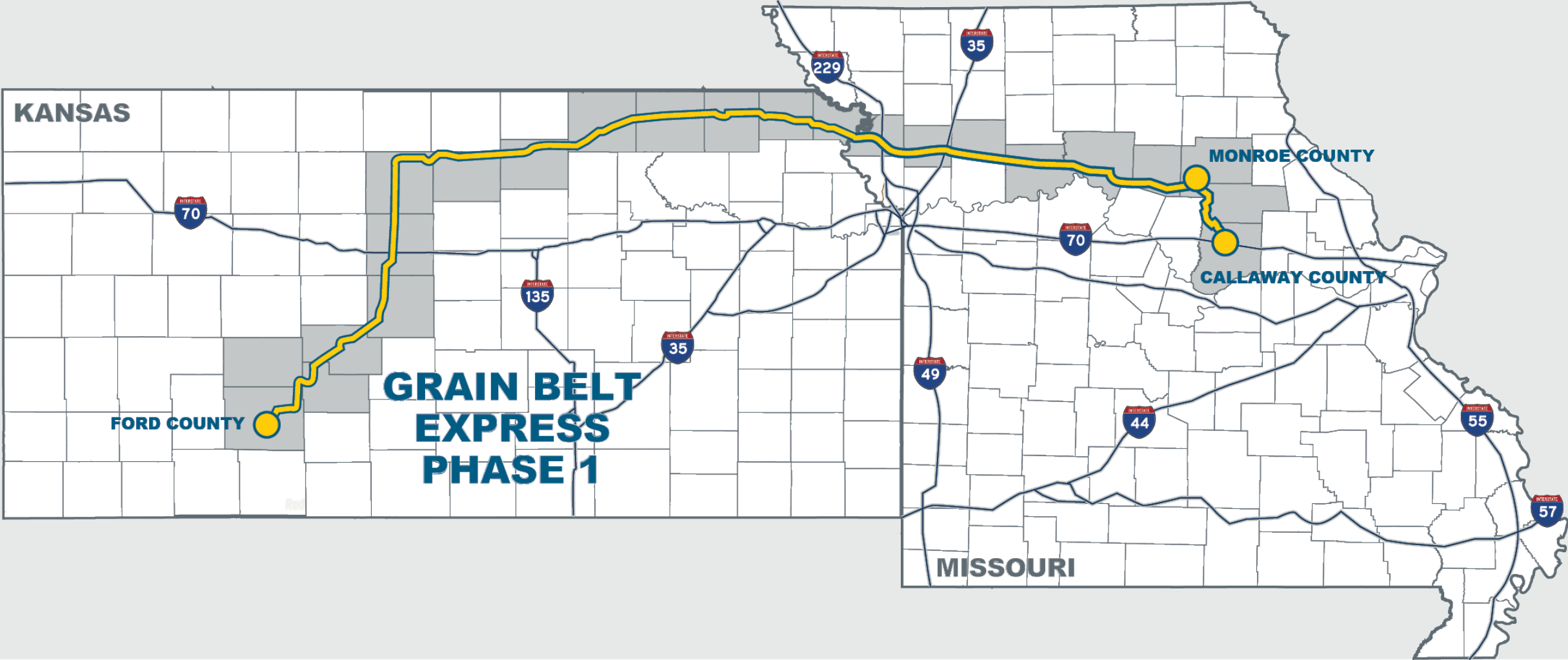
Project Description

- ✓ 530-mile, high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line extending between Ford County, Kansas, and Monroe County, Missouri.
- ✓ Includes a HVDC converter station, alternating current (AC) switchyard, and 1,000-foot transmission line in Ford County to connect to the Kansas electric grid.
- ✓ Also includes the Tiger Connector, a 40-mile transmission line from an HVDC converter station and AC switchyard in Monroe County to Callaway County to connect into Missouri's electric grid.
- ✓ The project would be constructed and operated by Grain Belt Express LLC.
- ✓ These elements being evaluated in this study comprise Phase 1 of the project. Phase 2 would continue the transmission line from Missouri to Indiana through Illinois and is not subject to the LPO loan guarantee request.



HVDC Transmission Line Rendering

Project Route



Project History

Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC approved to operate as a public utility by the Kansas Corporation Commission.

2011

Kansas Corporation Commission approved the route through Kansas.

2013

Missouri Public Service Commission approved the route through Missouri.

2019

Tiger Connector route in Missouri submitted for approval, currently under review.

2022

Grain Belt Express LLC applied for loan guarantee from the DOE LPO. The DOE LPO is using the NEPA process to inform the decision whether to issue a loan guarantee.

NOW

Each milestone requires coordination with property owners, elected officials, various stakeholders and agencies, and the general public.

Project Development Process Overview



Project Goals



Savings and Reliability

- ✓ Provide significant energy cost savings and increase electric system reliability across the Midwest while promoting energy security and independence for the country



Innovative Technology

- ✓ Promote use of HVDC transmission, which allows for safe, efficient movement of electricity across long distances with a smaller footprint



Economic Activity

- ✓ Support regional economic activity, including through jobs and wages for workers and new tax revenue



Network Resiliency

- ✓ Link low-cost, domestic clean energy sources across the region and help maintain service during electric grid emergencies caused by extreme weather events and other factors



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THE EIS

Proposed Action and Alternatives

- ✓ The EIS will describe and analyze two potential alternatives:
 - The “**Proposed Action**,” where the DOE LPO issues a loan guarantee to Grain Belt Express LLC to support the project, and the project is built and put into service, and
 - The “**No Action Alternative**,” where the LPO would not provide a loan guarantee and assumes the project would not be constructed.
- ✓ By comparing the Proposed Action with the No Action Alternative, the EIS will **transparently analyze** the effects of the Proposed Action on the environment.
- ✓ The EIS will **consider other actions or activities** determined to be reasonably foreseeable, for example, the potential Phase 2 extension from Missouri to Indiana.
- ✓ The EIS analysis includes direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative.

Environmental Impacts

An EIS requires consideration of the potential impacts of the proposed action on the environment.

- ✓ The different aspects of the environment that are studied in an EIS are referred to as “environmental resources.”
- ✓ Impacts can be beneficial or adverse.
- ✓ Impacts can be short-term — including those resulting from the construction process — or long-term.



Resources and Example Impacts



AIR QUALITY

Local air quality and greenhouse gas emissions



GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Soil stability and quality, landform stability, erosion, and impacts to paleontological resources



WATER

Wetlands, riparian habitats, and floodplains



Resources and Example Impacts



CULTURAL RESOURCES

Archaeological and historic resources; natural and cultural resources important to Native American tribes



PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Construction and maintenance; risks related to electromagnetic fields, power surges, lightning, and fires



VISUAL AND NOISE

Introduction of new visual element onto landscape; potential for increasing noise above current ambient levels



Resources and Example Impacts



ECONOMY

Local and regional job creation, tax revenue, property values, and related spending



WILDLIFE

Wildlife, including special-status species such as the whooping crane, lesser prairie chicken, bald eagle, northern long-eared bat, Indiana bat, monarch butterfly, and Kansas state-designated habitat for the eastern spotted skunk



Resources and Example Impacts



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Identifies disproportionate adverse impacts to disadvantaged communities, heightens attention to the community needs, and provides a forum for Federal agencies to engage with affected communities to address and resolve adverse impacts



VEGETATION

Plant species, particularly federally threatened and endangered species and state-listed species



State, Tribal, and Agency Engagement



- ✓ NEPA initiation letters have been sent to host states (Kansas and Missouri) per DOE NEPA regulations.

State, Tribal, and Agency Engagement

- ✓ **Tribes with a potential interest in the project area** have been sent a NEPA initiation letter notification and an invitation to consult under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).
- ✓ **Tribal Nations can declare interest** in participating in the NEPA and NHPA processes, choose to remain informed but not actively participate, or indicate no further interest. They can also choose to engage in formal government-to-government consultation.
- ✓ **Thirty-four letters were sent** to individual Tribal Nations in late December 2022, accompanied by the project Notice of Intent and a map of the project corridor.

State, Tribal, and Agency Engagement

- ✓ The **United States Army Corps of Engineers** has been sent an invitation to serve as a cooperating agency due to its role in implementing the Clean Water Act, as well as a Memorandum of Understanding for the EIS.
- ✓ Consultation is planned under **Section 106** of the **NHPA** with the **Advisory Council on Historic Preservation**, Kansas and Missouri **State Historic Preservation Offices**, **Native American Tribes**, and other interested parties.
- ✓ Collaboration with the **National Park Service** is anticipated under Section 110(f) of the NHPA to address potential effects on National Historic Landmarks.
- ✓ Consultation with the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** is anticipated under the Endangered Species Act.

National Historic Preservation Act



Coinciding with the NEPA process, LPO will review effects to cultural resources, including archaeological, historic, and tribal resources under the **National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)**.



Consultation is planned under **Section 106** of the NHPA with the **Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Kansas and Missouri State Historic Preservation Offices, Native American Tribes**, and other government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and interested parties.



The NHPA Section 106 process involves **identifying** historic properties, **assessing** effects to historic properties, and **resolving** adverse effects.



Under Section 110(f) of the NHPA, LPO will collaborate with the **Army Corps of Engineers** and with the **National Park Service** to address potential effects on National Historic Landmarks.



It is anticipated that the Section 106 process will involve the development of a **Programmatic Agreement**, which include measures to **Avoid, Minimize, Mitigate, and Monitor** potential adverse effects to historic properties.

Other Regulatory Requirements



Clean Water Act

Section 404 requires a permit for discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands.

Section 408 requires a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) authorization for any changes to authorized USACE Civil Works projects (e.g., Missouri River navigation channel). The proposed transmission line would need authorization to span the river.



Endangered Species Act

The Act ensures federal agencies do not jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat.

Section 7(a)(2) requires federal agencies consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service when federal actions may affect listed species or designated critical habitat.

Other regulatory requirements also include Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Golden and Bald Eagle Protection Act.



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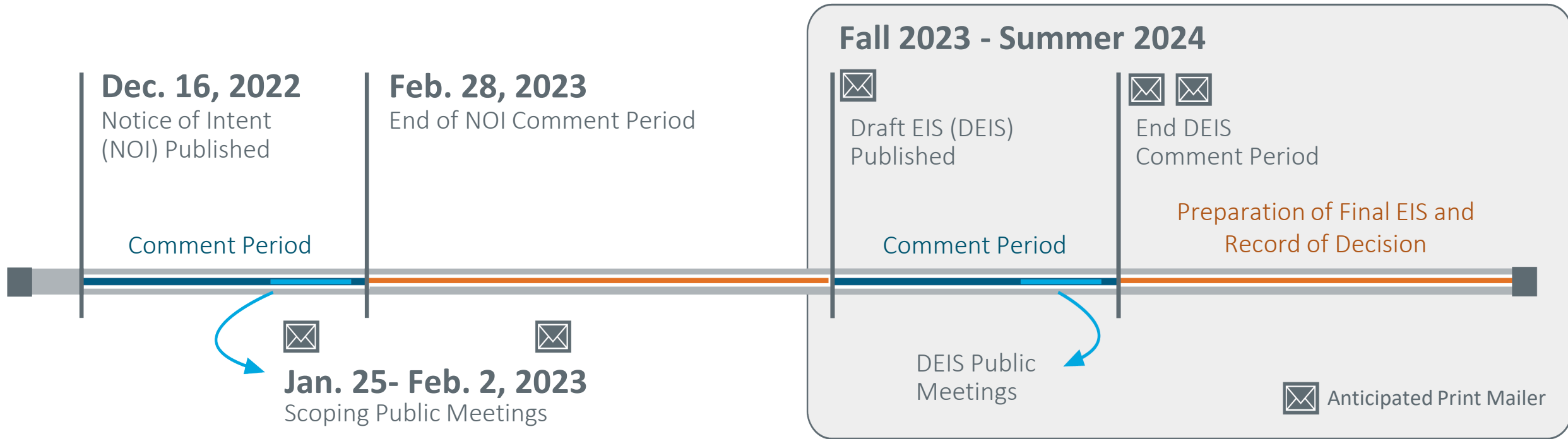
YOUR ROLE

Public Outreach Process

- ✓ Meaningful public outreach is a vital part of the NEPA process; this involves sharing honest, transparent information with you while giving you the opportunity to be heard, listening to your opinions and comments, and answering your questions.
- ✓ This includes actively engaging affected property owners, residents of nearby communities, businesses, stakeholders, advocacy groups, other public agencies, elected officials, and more.



Public Outreach Timeline



- ✓ The Grain Belt Express EIS will include two major rounds of public events: one during the scoping phase of the project, which is underway, and a second following the publication of the Draft EIS.
- ✓ These events are supplemented by a series of planned informational mailings, materials posted on the project website, and multiple ways for the public to provide comments and questions throughout.

Your Role in the Scoping Phase

You are our local experts and we need your help to understand your community's history, needs, concerns, and priorities, as well as to identify who can provide us with more information.

Tell us:

- ✓ What issues you feel should be analyzed in the EIS and the issues you feel are not important
- ✓ Specific concerns you have about the project
- ✓ What organizations and agencies should be kept informed
- ✓ What sites in the project area may be culturally or historically important
- ✓ Specific opportunities you feel the project could present

Virtual and In-Person Meetings

Tuesday, January 31

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
and 4 – 6 p.m.
(come-and-go)

Dodge City, Kansas

Dodge House Hotel and
Convention Center, 2408 W.
Wyatt Earp Blvd.

Thursday, February 2

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
and 4 – 6 p.m.
(come-and-go)

Great Bend, Kansas

Corinthians Hill Event Center,
464 NE 20 Avenue

Thursday, February 2

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
and 4 – 6 p.m.
(come-and-go)

St. Joseph, Missouri

Fairview Golf Course, 3302
Pacific Street

Tuesday, January 31

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
and 4 – 6 p.m.
(come-and-go)

Moberly, Missouri

Municipal Auditorium, 201 W.
Rollins Street

Virtual Meetings on Zoom

- ✓ Wednesday, January 25,
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- ✓ Thursday, January 26,
5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

REGISTER

www.EIS-GrainBeltExpress.com



KANSAS



Open House Meetings

MISSOURI

How to Provide Your Input

Comments for the scoping phase will be accepted through February 28, 2023:



Website



Visit www.EIS-GrainBeltExpress.com to submit your comments. Meeting materials will be available beginning January 25, 2023. You can also sign up for future periodic print mailers by visiting the website.



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Thank you for joining us.

Visit www.EIS-GrainBeltExpress.com to sign up for periodic print mailers.