

# National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor Overview

Legislative Budget Committee  
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# Agenda

1. An overview and history of electric transmission line siting.
2. A review of the federal authority relative to electric transmission line siting.
3. A review of preliminary NIETC's in Kansas.
4. A review of the Grain Belt Express electric transmission project.
5. A review of KCC electric line siting responsibilities.

# Overview and History of Electric Line Siting

- Historically transmission line siting resided solely with the States.
- Energy Policy Act of 2005 established federal back stop authority (Section 216 Federal Power Act (FPA)).
- Federal transmission siting authority is divided between DOE and FERC.
- BIL amended FPA 216 in two consequential ways.

# DOE's Line Siting Authority

## FPA Section 216(a)

- Permits DOE to designate National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors (NIETC or National Corridors).
- DOE can designate any geographic area a corridor that:
  - Is experiencing electric transmission capacity constraints or congestion that adversely affects consumers.
  - Is expected to experience such energy transmission capacity constraints or congestion. **(BIL Amendment)**

# FERC's Line Siting Authority

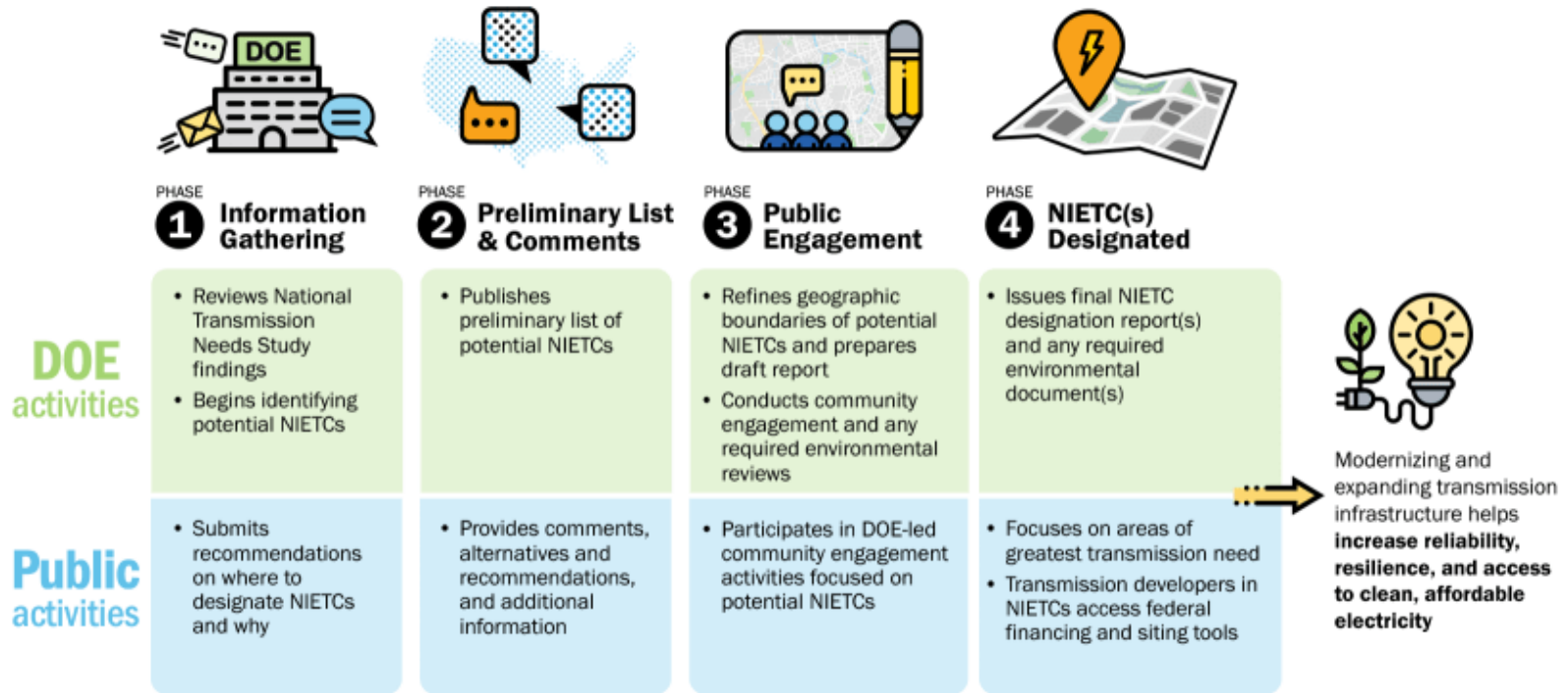
## FPA Section 216(b)

- Siting must occur within DOE designated National Corridors.
- FERC's siting authority is triggered when a State commission:
  - Has not made a determination on an application seeking approval pursuant to applicable law by the date that is 1 year after the later of:
    - The date on which the application was filed; and
    - The date on which the relevant national interest electric transmission corridor was designated by the Secretary under subsection (a);
  - Has conditioned its approval in such a manner that the proposed construction or modification will not significantly reduce transmission capacity constraints or congestion in interstate commerce or is not economically feasible; or
  - Has denied an application seeking approval pursuant to applicable law; (**BIL Amendment**)



# DOE's NIETC Process Overview

## NIETC Designation Process



Source: <https://www.energy.gov/gdo/national-interest-electric-transmission-corridor-designation-process>

# DOE's Current Schedule

<b>NIETC Designation Process Action</b>	<b>Date</b>
Phase 2: Issuance of Preliminary List of Potential NIETCs; Opening of Phase 2 Information Submission Window	May 8, 2024
Phase 2: Closing of Comment Period on Preliminary List of Potential NIETCs and Phase 2 Information Submission Window	June 24, 2024
Phase 3: In-Depth NIETC Evaluation and Preparation of Draft Designation Report(s) and NEPA Draft Environmental Document(s), As Needed	Anticipated to begin Fall 2024
Phase 4: Final Designation Report(s) and NEPA Environmental Document(s), As Needed	TBD

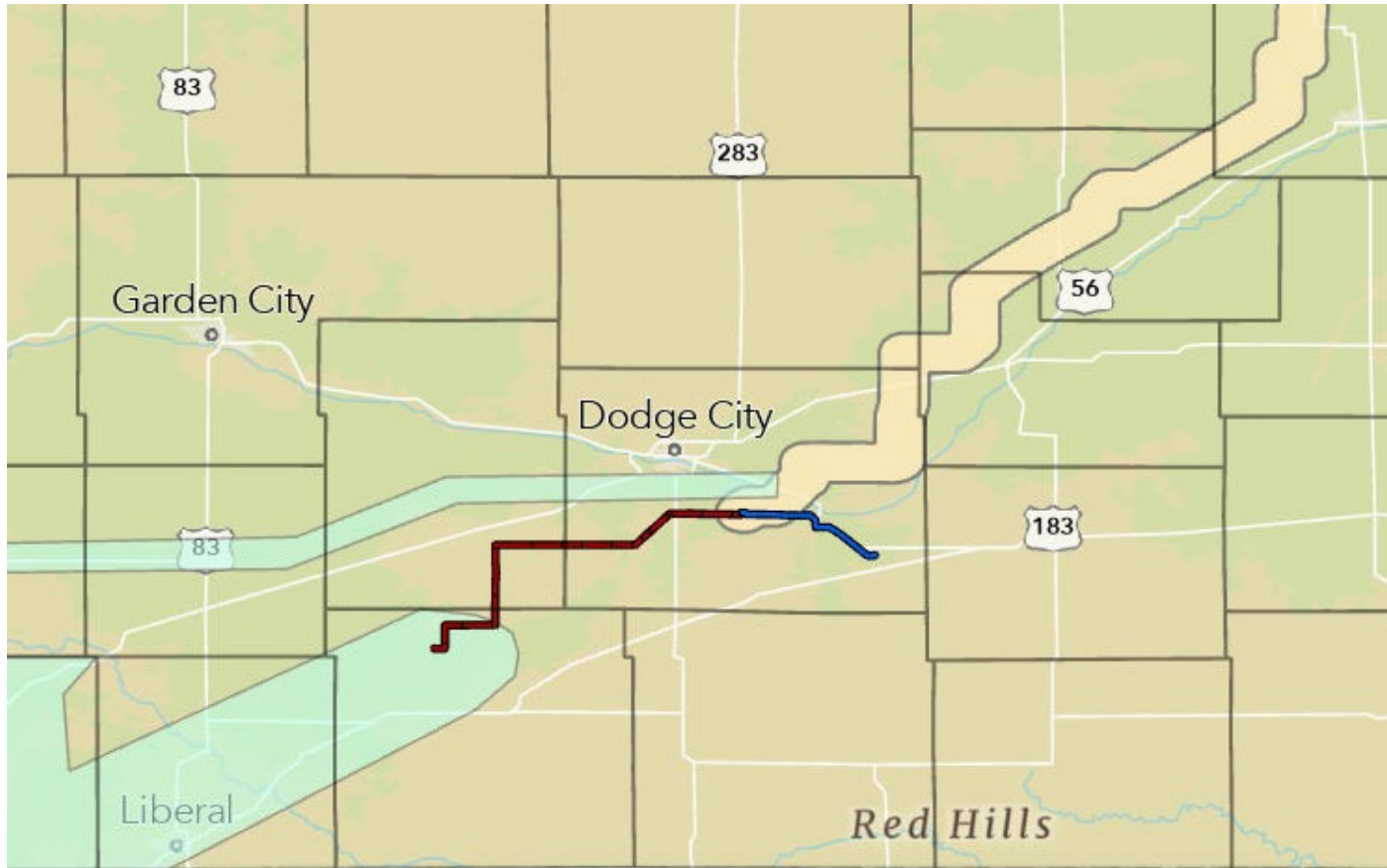
<https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/PreliminaryListPotentialNIETCsPublicRelease.pdf>



# Grain Belt Express (GBE) Project

- December 7, 2011: GBE was approved to become a public utility.
- November 7, 2013: the HVDC portion (370-mile portion) of the GBE project was granted a siting permit. (**Follows Midwest – Plains Corridor**)
  - GBE plans to formally request the DOE narrow the Midwest – Plains Corridor to .5 miles wide, from the 5 mile wide preliminary Corridor.
  - GBE has acquired over 97% of the easements for this part of the project. (8 out of 1000 parcels remain)
- May 31, 2024: GBE applied for AC Collector (62 mile total length) Line Siting Permits. (**Docket is Ongoing**)

# GBE AC Collector Lines



# Motivation to Establish NIETC's

- NIETC designation unlocks federal financing tools:
  - Transmission Facilitation Program (BIL).
    - Capacity contracts, DOE would serve as an anchor customer to buy up to 50% planned power.
    - Low interest loans from DOE.
  - Transmission Facility Financing Program (IRA).
    - Direct loan opportunities.
    - Grants to facilitate siting permits, modeling, and analysis.
- Triggers FERC's backstop siting authority.

# KCC's Line Siting Involvement

- Required by statute to make determinations on both certificate of convenience (Public Utility status) and line siting applications.
- Currently engaged in the GBE AC Collector Line siting application.
- Are completing a general investigation into line siting priorities.

# Contact Information and Questions

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