

Grain Belt Express

What is the Grain Belt Express?

- The Grain Belt Express is a 5,000 megawatt transmission line that will move renewable energy generated in southwest Kansas to other states in the North-Central and Northeast parts of the U.S. Land for the Grain Belt Express (GBX) has already been acquired by the development company, Invenergy.
- Once completed, the line will have the capability of transporting up to 5,000 megawatts of renewable energy.

Who has oversight of the project?

- The Kansas Corporation Commission approved the GBX in 2011 and declared it a public utility, which gives it the right to work with landowners for right-of-way's for transmission line construction and easement. And, if needed, eminent domain.
- Currently only 2% of parcels of land along the GBX line are in some kind of condemnation process - that process goes through state court.
- As of now, project developers are expected to move forward with construction in 2025
- Any questions about existing contracts need to be directed to an attorney.
- If you have not signed a contract with Invenergy then you are NOT part of the Grain Belt project
- Those with contracts for the GBX will see be able to live on and farm the land once the project is completed.

Dept of Energy National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (NIETC) Proposal

What is NIETC?

- National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors are part of a larger proposal by the U.S. Department of Energy to identify areas of the country in need of greater energy transmission capacity.
- Congress granted the Dept. of Energy the authority to move forward with the NIETC proposal through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) - Senator Marshall voted AGAINST the BIL.
- The NIETC corridors are in the rule making process - meaning the agency is working through a multi-phase process to identify corridors in the U.S.
- There is a proposed corridor that runs through North-Central and Western Kansas and follows the path of the Grain Belt Express
- A corridor is simply a route or geographic location that has been identified as needing greater transmission capacity to more efficiently move energy

- Any new transmission lines built within the corridor would be afforded federal financial assistance, if requested, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) would have back-stop authority, allowing it the ability to approve any transmission projects denied by the KCC.
- If a new transmission project was approved, development companies would still be required to complete a permitting and public comment process and to compensate landowners for easements and rights-of-ways for the construction of transmission lines.
- The next phase will be a public engagement period that is expected to begin this fall.
- The final outcome of the NIETC corridor proposal will either be a formal corridor in Kansas – which will allow the KCC the first opportunity to approve or deny any new projects before FERC steps in - OR the corridor will not be selected by the Dept of Energy and the Grain Belt Express project will continue on as planned.
- Final corridor declarations are expected in 2026.

Next steps for the Senator?

- The Senator has been and continues to be focused on preventing FERC from having the ability to approve any transmission projects denied by the KCC.
- We believe the KCC - Not Washington D.C. knows what's best for the State of Kansas and Kansas landowners.
- Calling for the Dept. of Energy to hold an in-person hearing in Kansas as part of the next phase of public engagement.
- Introduced legislation to prevent the federal government from using taxpayer dollars to seize private property to be used for a proposed National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (NIETC).

Next steps for landowners?

- Engage in the public engagement process this fall.
- Our office will continue to track the proposal and will publish instructions for landowners to provide comments to the agency when the public comment period opens.

You can send your comments to
the Department of Energy at:
NIETC@hq.doe.gov

or

U.S. Department of Energy
Grid Deployment Office
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20585

**Questions? Please contact Katie Sawyer at katie_sawyer@marshall.senate.gov or
Abbi Rankin at abbi_rankin@marshall.senate.gov**



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