

# Benefit American Oil Utility Corridor Project Environmental Impact Statement

## DRAFT EIS

## PUBLIC MEETING

**May 3-5, 2016**

*Welcome! We appreciate  
your comments and  
attendance!*

While you are here, please feel free to ask questions about the project, alternatives, and analysis, discuss your concerns with the BLM project managers, and submit your written comments on the project.



# BLM's Purpose and Need

## **The BLM is:**

- Responding to a request for authorization to construct and operate natural gas, electric, and water utilities on federal lands administered by the BLM.
- Preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- Collecting feedback from the public regarding their views and concerns about the proposed project, its alternative, expected impacts, and proposed mitigation.

## **BLM authorizes rights-of-way on public lands per policy and direction in:**

- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
- Energy Policy Act of 2005

The requested utilities would service the proponent's South Project. Approval or disapproval of the South Project is outside of the BLM's authority because it is located on private lands and minerals, and the South Project is anticipated to be fully built regardless of the BLM's approval or disapproval of the utilities. However, the BLM's decision would affect how the South Project is built. Therefore, the South Project is considered a non-federal connected and cumulative action to the Utility Corridor Project and the potential indirect and cumulative effects are analyzed and disclosed in the EIS.



# Cooperating Agencies

Multiple agencies with legal jurisdiction or special expertise have participated as cooperating agencies in preparation of the Utility Corridor Project EIS.

## ***Cooperating agencies include:***

### **Federal**

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### **State**

- State of Utah — Public Lands Policy Coordination Office

### **Local**

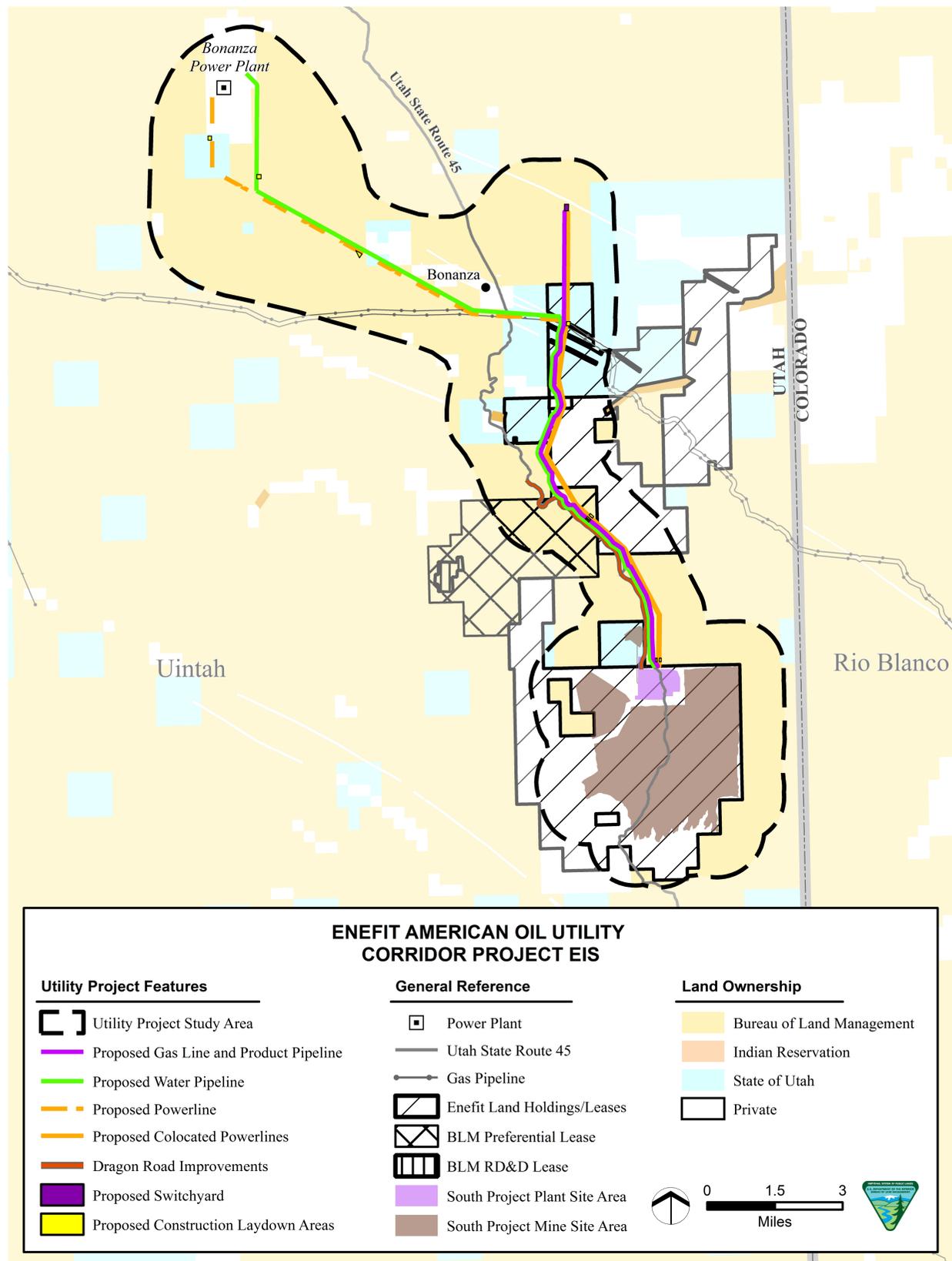
- Uintah County



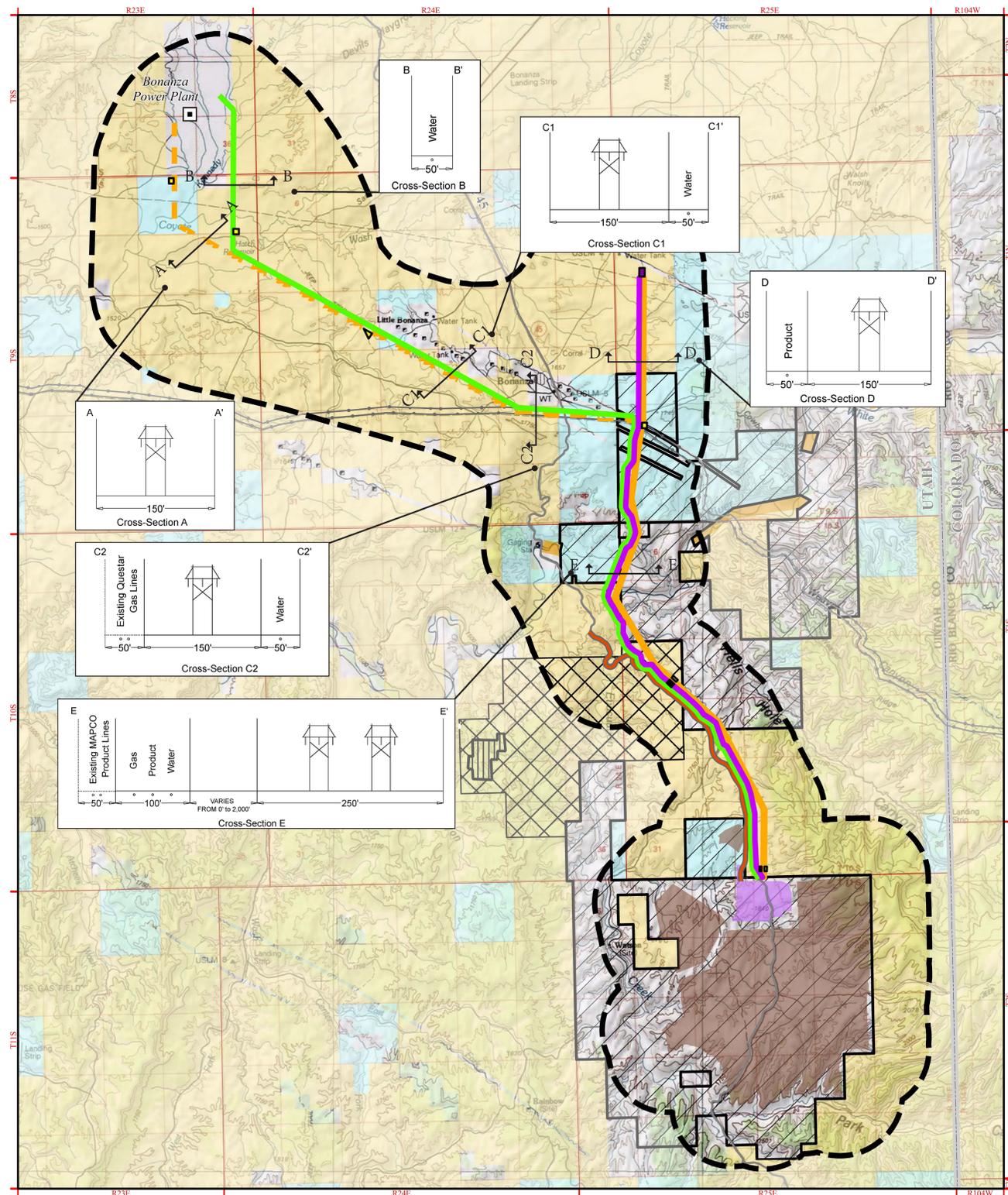
# Project Study Area

The Utility Corridor Project is located in Uintah County, approximately 12 miles southeast of Bonanza, Utah. Vernal, Utah is the nearest major municipality, located approximately 40 miles northeast of the study area.

The Utility Corridor Project would provide natural gas, electricity, and water to, and move processed oil from the South Project. The South Project is located on private land and the mineral rights are owned by Enefit.



# Road Improvements and Utilities



Land Ownership	Utility Project Features	General Reference	Data Sources
Bureau of Land Management	Utility Project Study Area	Power Plant	Land Jurisdiction, BLM 2013; Utility Project Features, Enefit 2013; Dragon Road Improvements, Enefit 2014; Power Plant as digitized by EPG, 2013; Highway 45 Alignment, BLM 2013; Pipelines as digitized by EPG, POWERmap Platts 2006; Land Holdings/Leases, Enefit 2013; South Project Plant and Mine Site Areas, Enefit 2013
Indian Reservation	Proposed Gas Line and Product Pipeline	Utah State Route 45	
State of Utah	Proposed Water Pipeline	Gas Pipeline	
Private	Proposed Powerline	Enefit Land Holdings/Leases	
	Proposed Colocated Powerlines	BLM Preferential Lease	<b>NOTES:</b> In most cases, linear project features are graphically depicted as individual lines but share centerline alignment in common areas.
	Dragon Road Improvements	BLM RD&D Lease	
	Proposed Switchyard	South Project Plant Site Area	
	Proposed Construction Laydown Areas	South Project Mine Site Area	October 2015



**Map 2-1: Typical Right of Way Configuration**  
 ENEFIT AMERICAN OIL UTILITY CORRIDOR PROJECT EIS



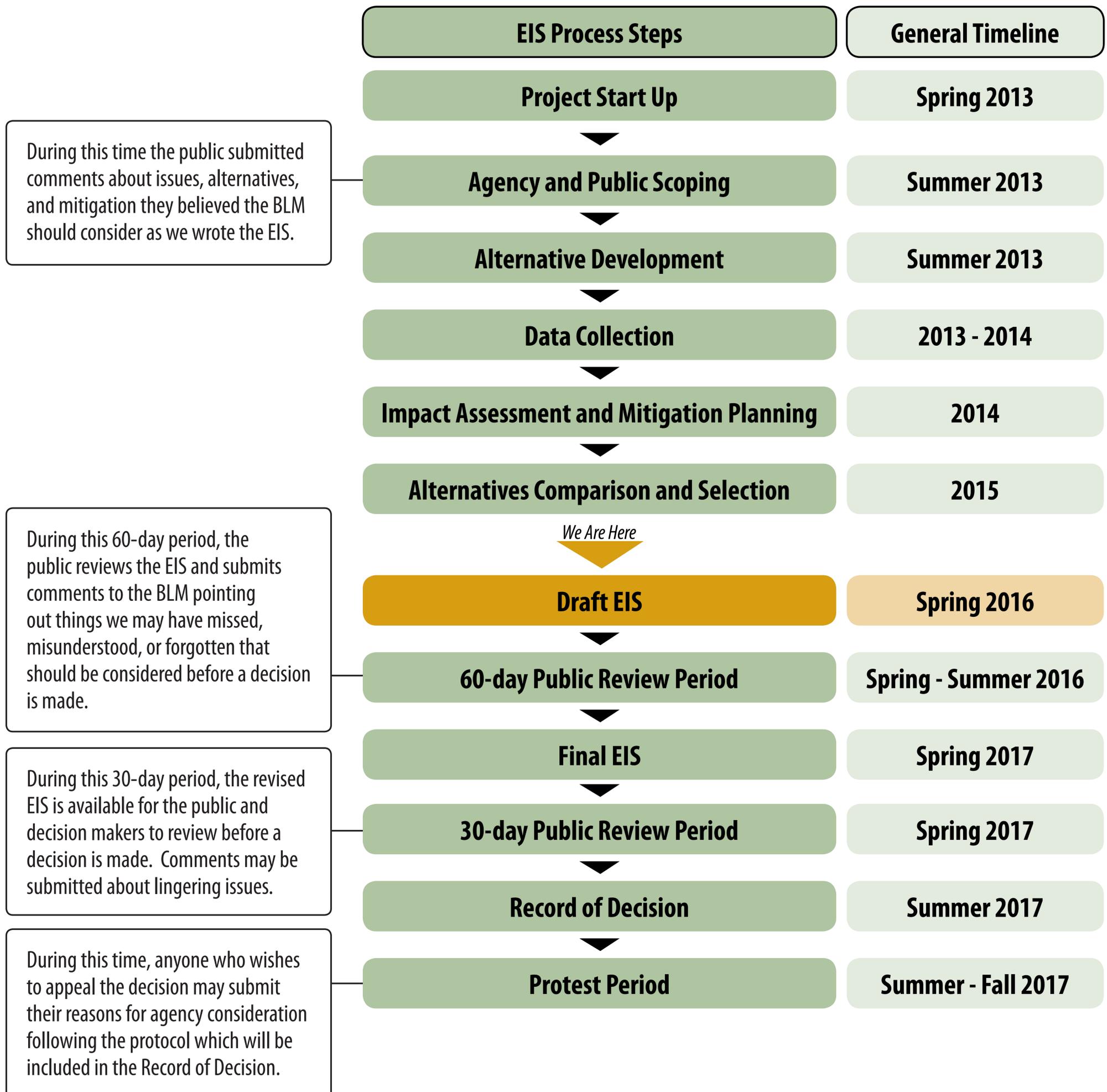
# Project Description

As proposed, a natural gas pipeline, electric power line, water pipeline, and processed oil product delivery line would be constructed in the utility corridor(s) crossing BLM-administered lands. The Utility Corridor Project crosses federal, private, and state lands. The utility corridor(s) would incorporate the following components:

- 19-mile-long water pipeline
- 9-mile-long natural gas pipeline
- 11-mile-long processed oil product delivery line
- 30 miles of single or dual overhead 138-kilovolt H-frame electric power lines
- 6 miles of Dragon Road upgrade and pavement



# EIS Process and Timeline



# Resource Issues Studied in the EIS

**The purpose of the EIS is to disclose the effects from the construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed Utility Corridor Project and identify measures needed to reduce the effects.**

**The key environmental issues studied in the Draft EIS include:**

- Air quality in the Uinta Basin
- Cultural resources, especially along the White River, Evacuation Creek, and Coyote Wash
- Federally listed threatened, candidate and BLM Sensitive species
- Groundwater and surface water quantity and quality
- Lands and Access
- Native American Concerns and Traditional Cultural Properties
- Paleontological resources in the Green River and Uinta Formations
- Recreation
- Socioeconomic impacts on local economies
- Wildlife and vegetation



# We Welcome Your Comments

The 60-day comment period for the Draft EIS began on April 8, 2016 and will end June 14, 2016. The BLM is actively seeking your written comments to help inform our future decision on whether to grant the rights-of-way across federal land.

Please provide specific comments related to the project, alternative, human or environmental resources impacted by the project, adequacy of the impact analysis, or additional ways to minimize or eliminate impacts from the project. Be clear, concise, and as factual as possible in your written comments.

Comment forms are available to fill out and leave with the BLM tonight, or to mail via USPS at a later date. Comments must be received by June 14, 2016.

**Email comments to:** [blm\\_ut\\_vernal\\_comments@blm.gov](mailto:blm_ut_vernal_comments@blm.gov)

**Mail comments to:**

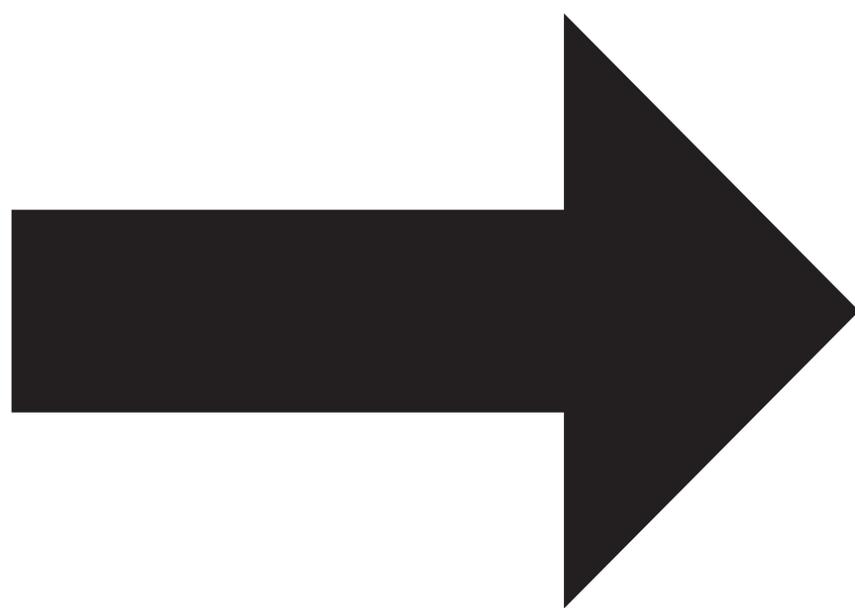
Vernal Field Office, BLM  
Attn: Stephanie Howard  
170 South 500 East  
Vernal, UT 84078

**You can find the entire EIS and additional information on the BLM website at:**

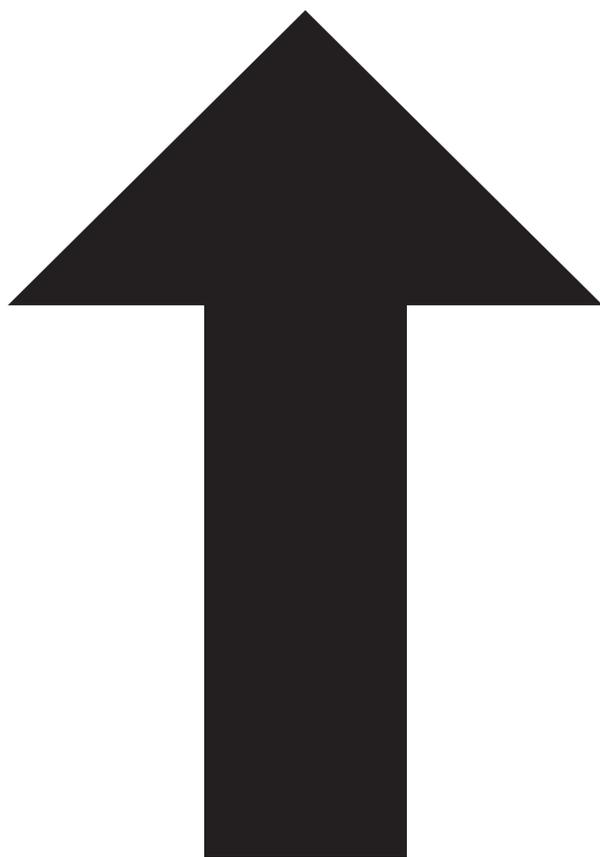
<http://go.usa.gov/csa9j>



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