

Rio Rico to Harshaw 138kV Transmission Line Project

OPEN HOUSE MEETING #5

JANUARY 25, 2023



January 2023

Agenda

- Purpose and Need
- Project Overview
- Final Proposed Routes
- Siting Process – how we arrived at final proposed routes
- Next Steps

Purpose and Need

- Respond to a service request to serve the Hermosa Project, a mine exploration project currently in the pre-feasibility phase.
- Address service reliability for all electric customers in the San Rafael Valley, Washington Camp, and Lochiel areas of Southern Arizona.
- New, higher-voltage facilities would reduce potential reliability issues associated with inadequate voltage support.
- Provide additional capacity that could allow interconnections with future renewable energy projects while supporting economic development in the area.

Project Overview

138kV transmission line between a planned switchyard in Rio Rico and the planned Harshaw Substation.

Approximately 20 mile, single-circuit 138 kV transmission line mounted on steel monopole structures.



Project Details: Example Switchyard in the UNS system

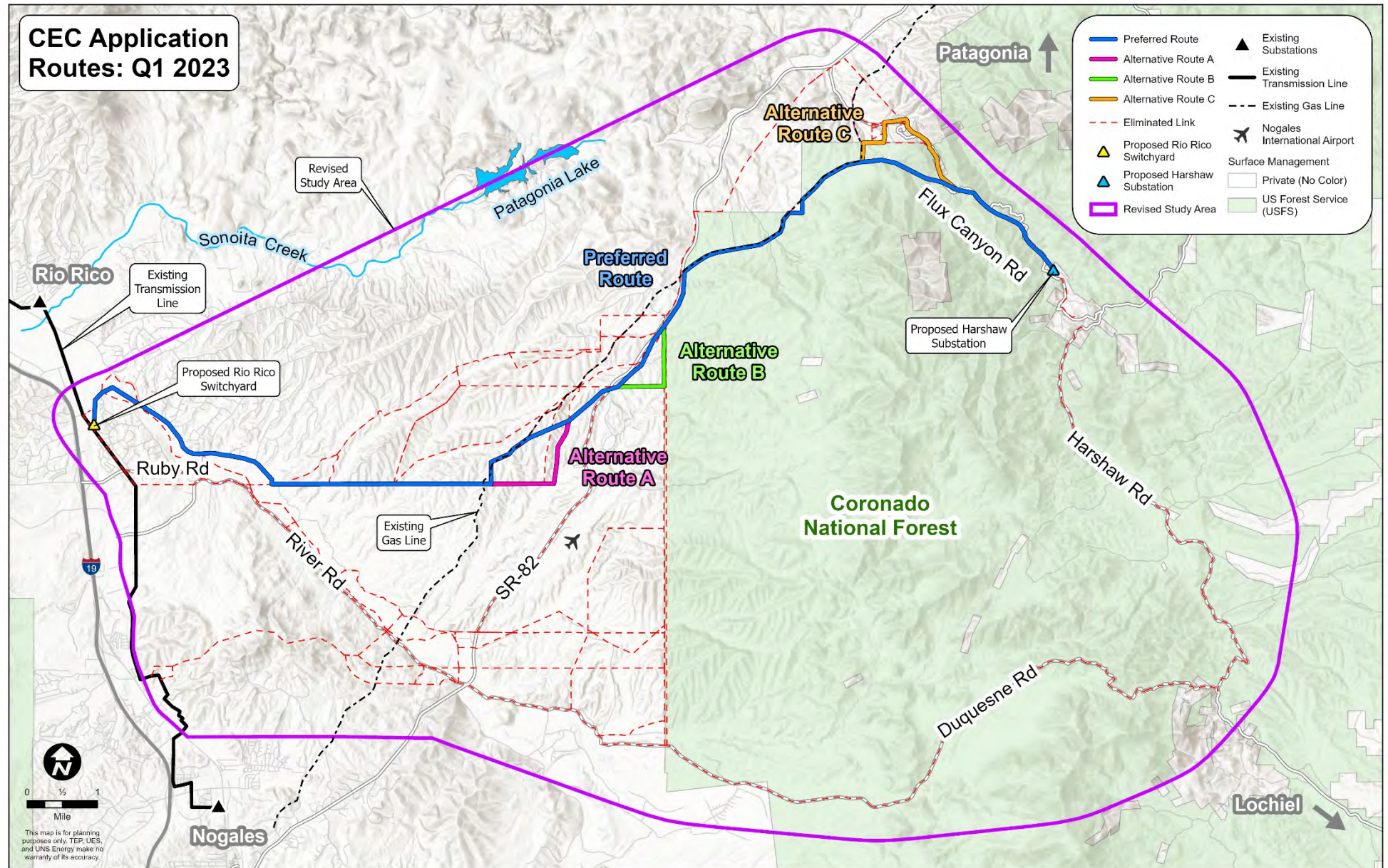


Project Details: Transmission Line

- Self-weathering steel monopoles 75-110 feet tall.
- Up to 100-foot-wide right-of-way when not in road right-of-way.

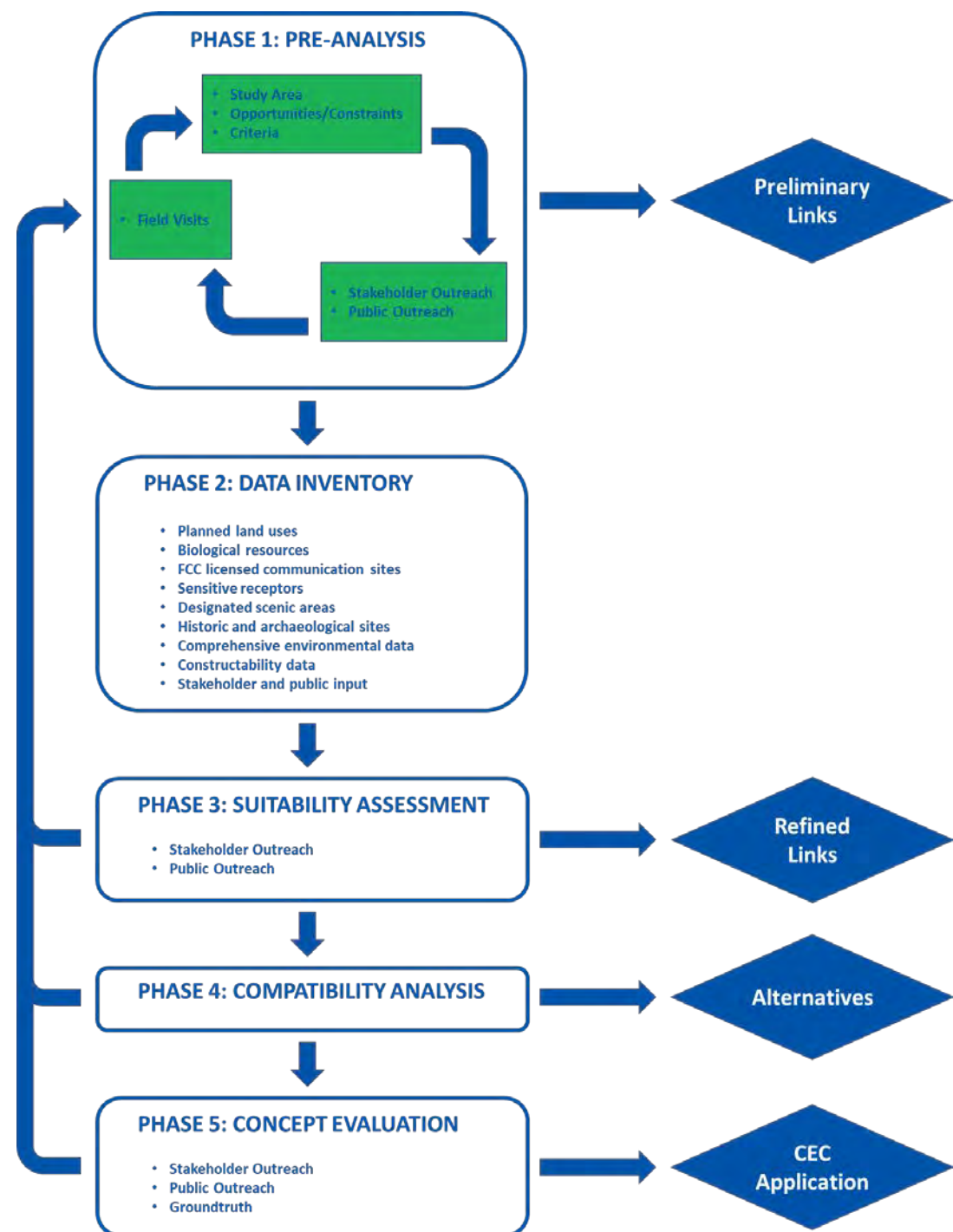


Line Siting – Final Proposed Routes

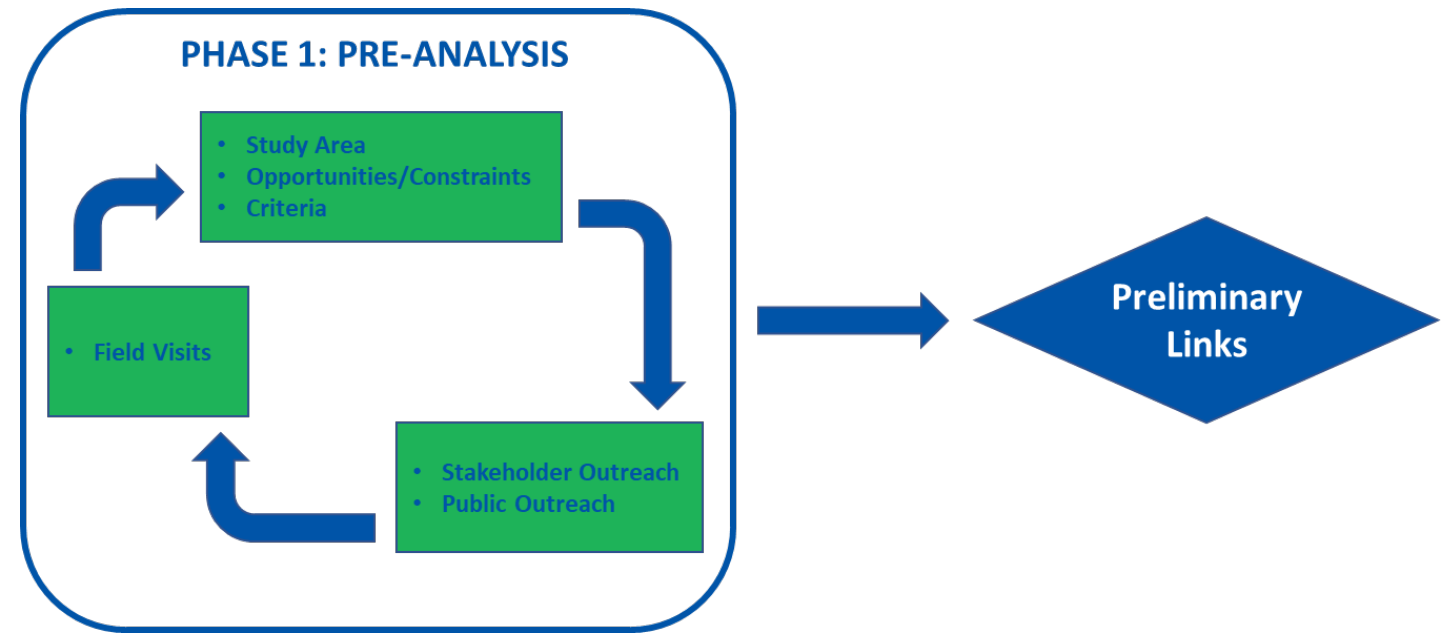
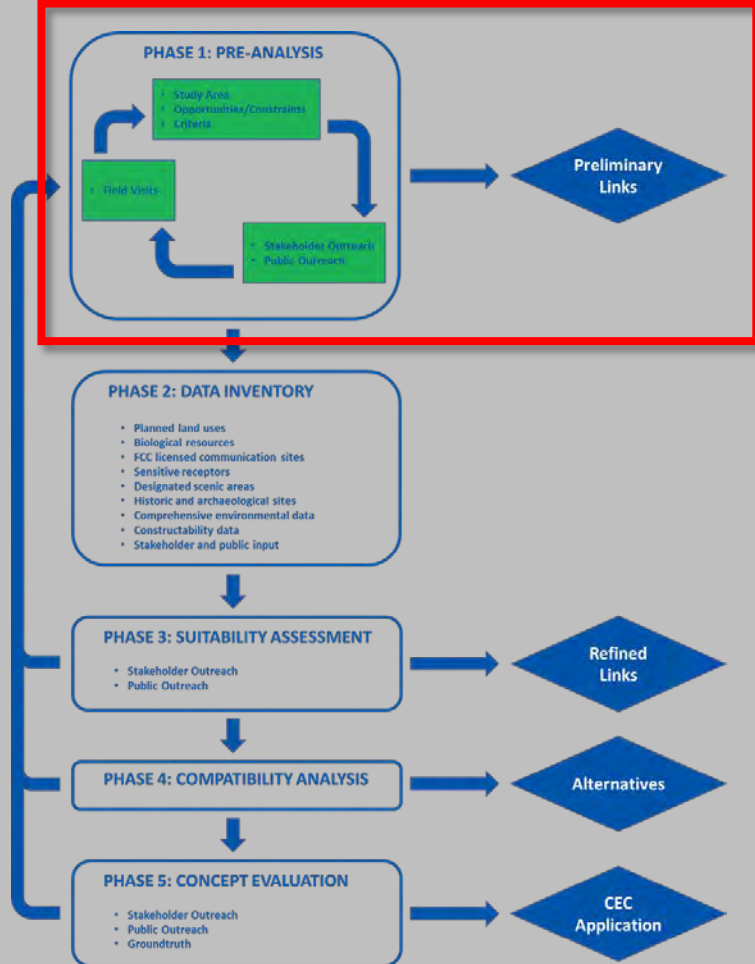


Siting Process

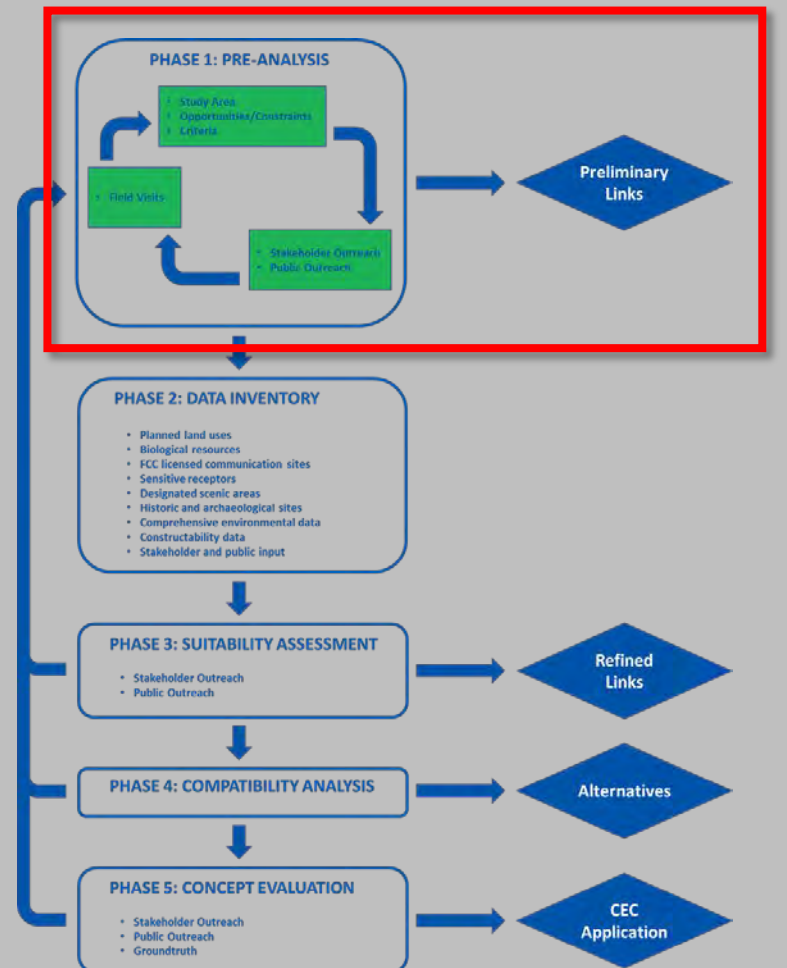
Environmental planning process followed to identify and assess potential transmission line routes.



Siting Process

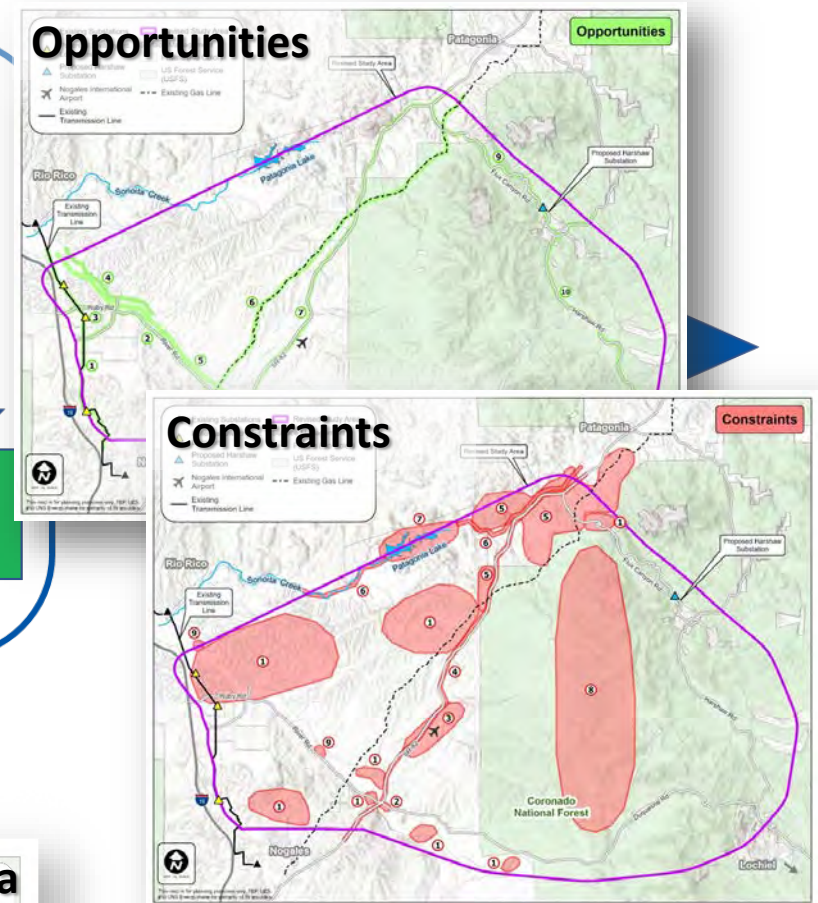
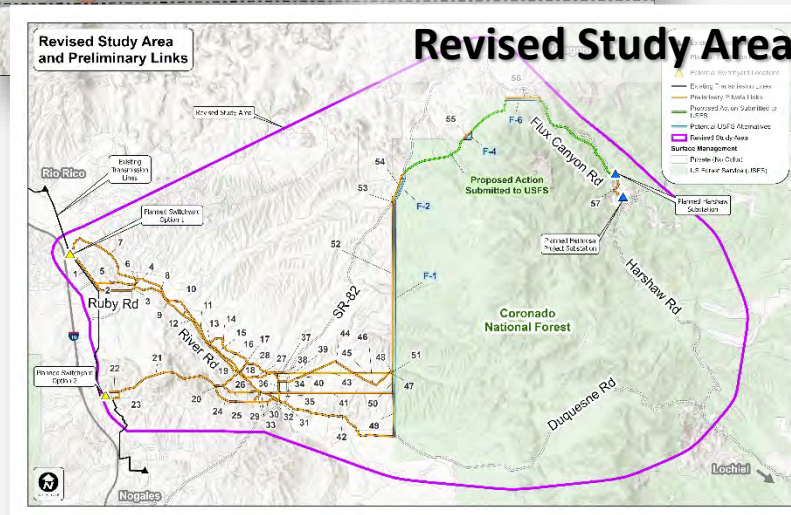
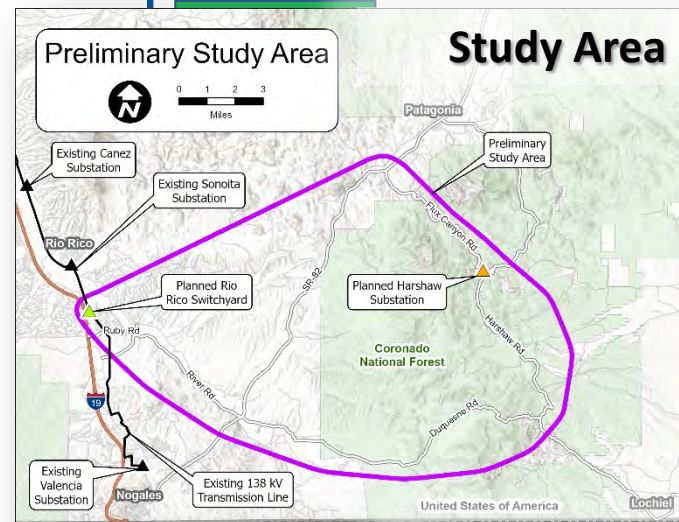


Siting Process



PHASE 1: PRE-ANALYSIS

- Study Area
- Opportunities/Constraints
- Criteria



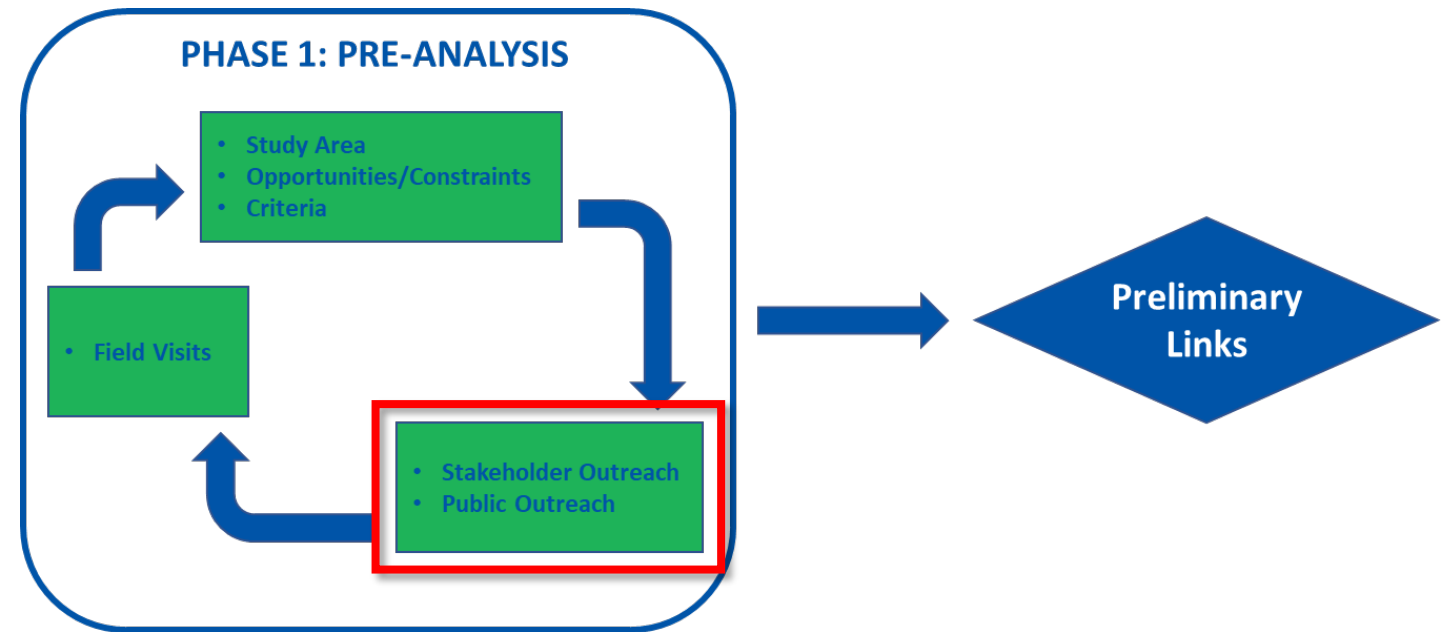
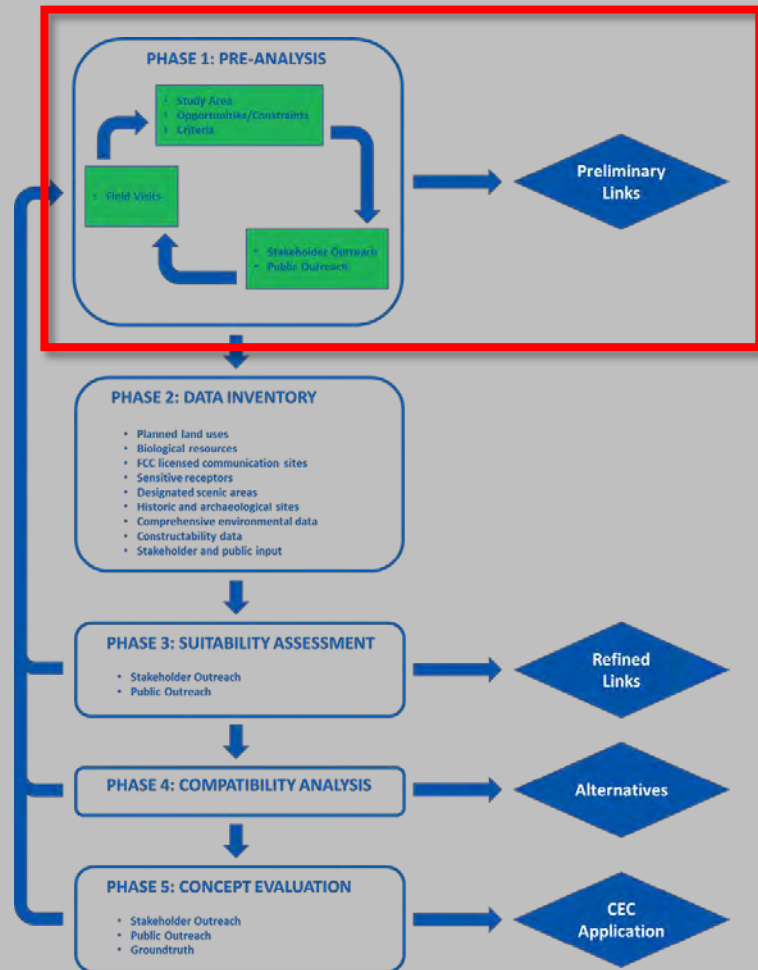
Initial Criteria

UNSE analyzes specific criteria in developing and selecting alternative routes.

These criteria include:

1. Total environment (fish, wildlife, plants)
2. Existing state, local government, and private development plans including residential use
3. Noise
4. Recreational impacts
5. Scenic areas, historic sites & structures, archaeological sites
6. Interference with communication facilities
7. Technical aspects
8. Cost
9. Other applicable federal and state laws

Siting Process



September 24, 2020

Public Open House #1 (virtual)

May 13, 2021

Public Open House #2 (virtual)

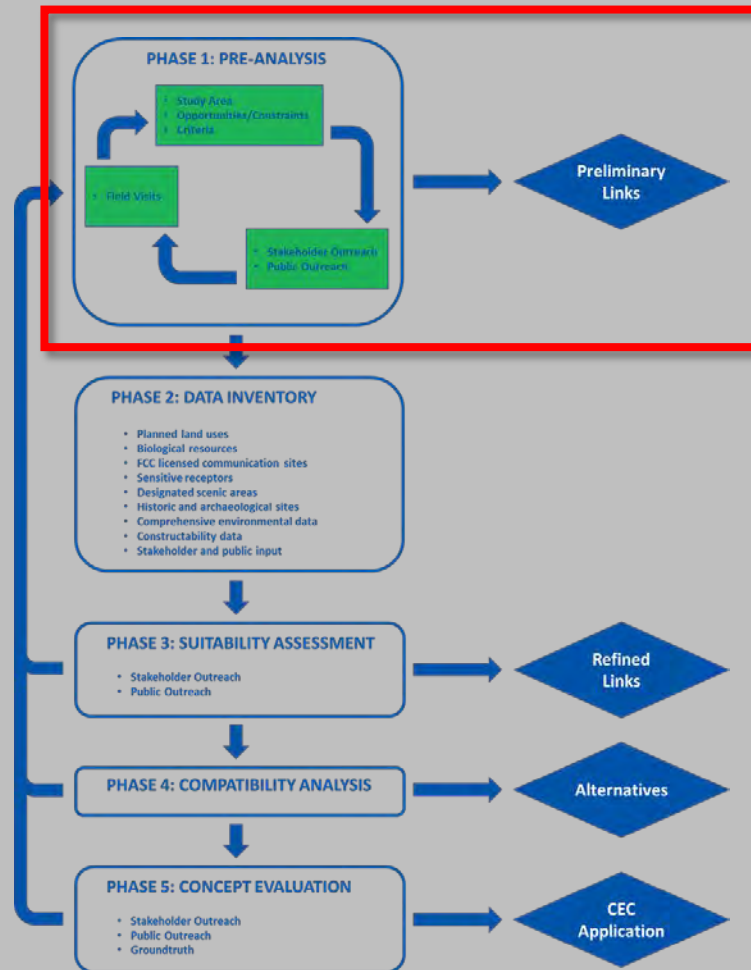
August 18, 2022

Stakeholder Meeting #1 (virtual)

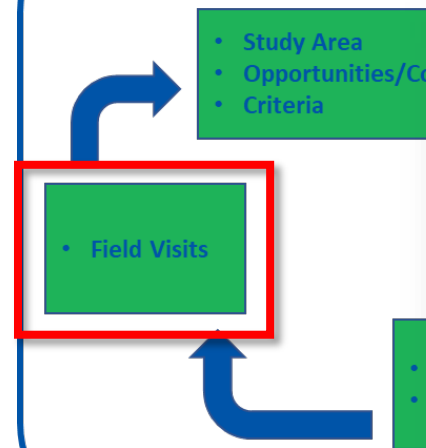
August 25, 2022

Public Open House #3 (hybrid)

Siting Process



PHASE 1: PRE-ANALYSIS



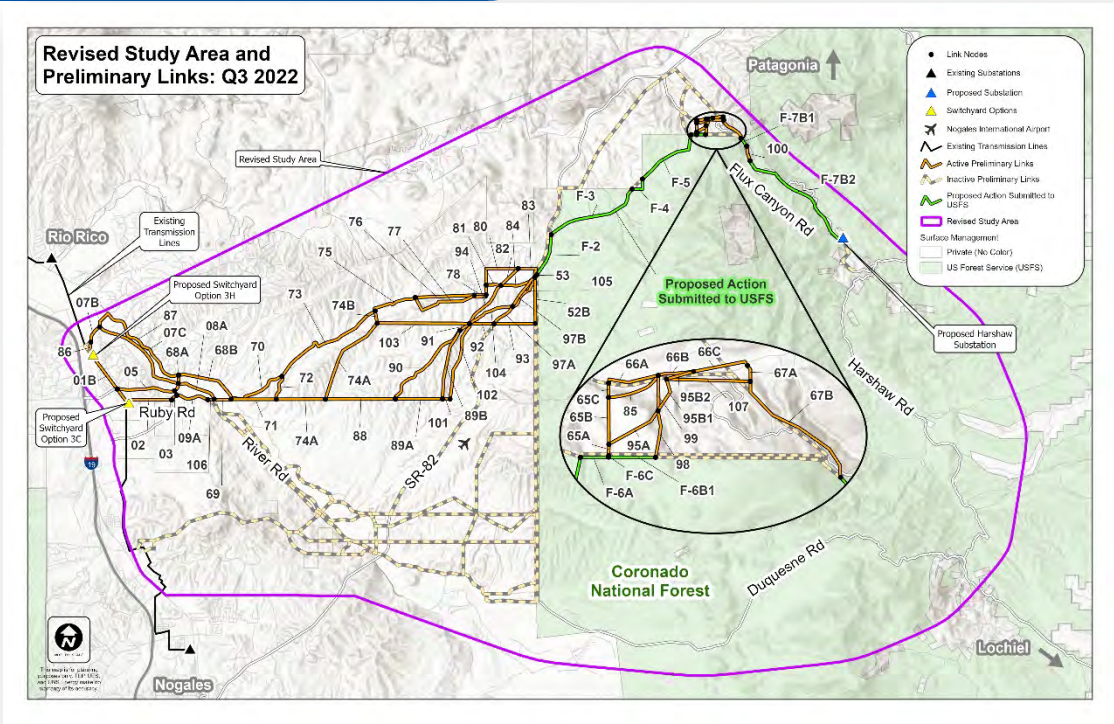
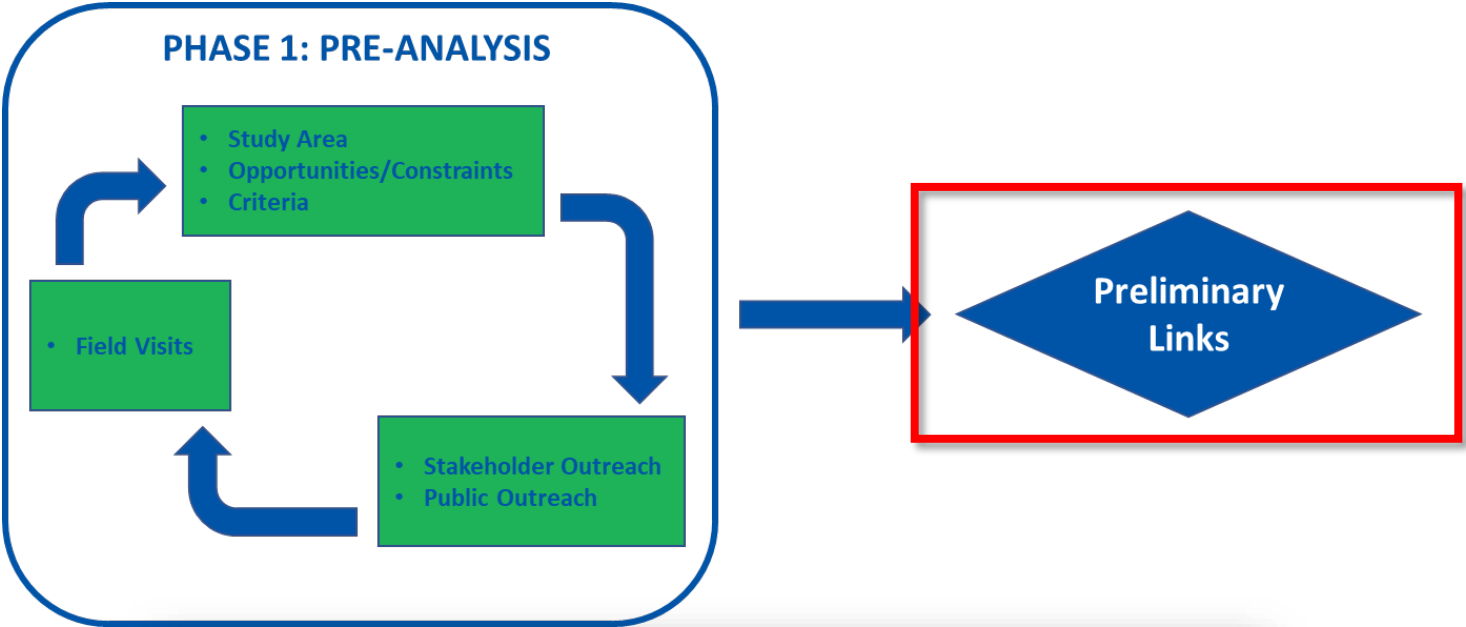
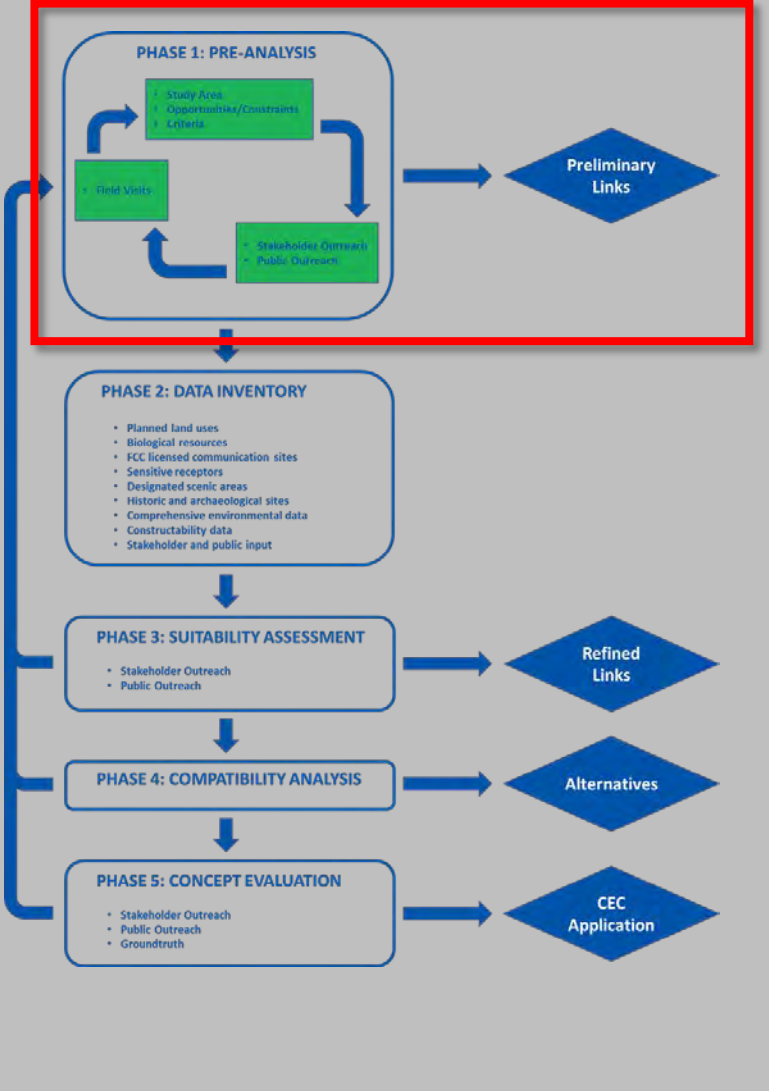
Preliminary Links

Objectives

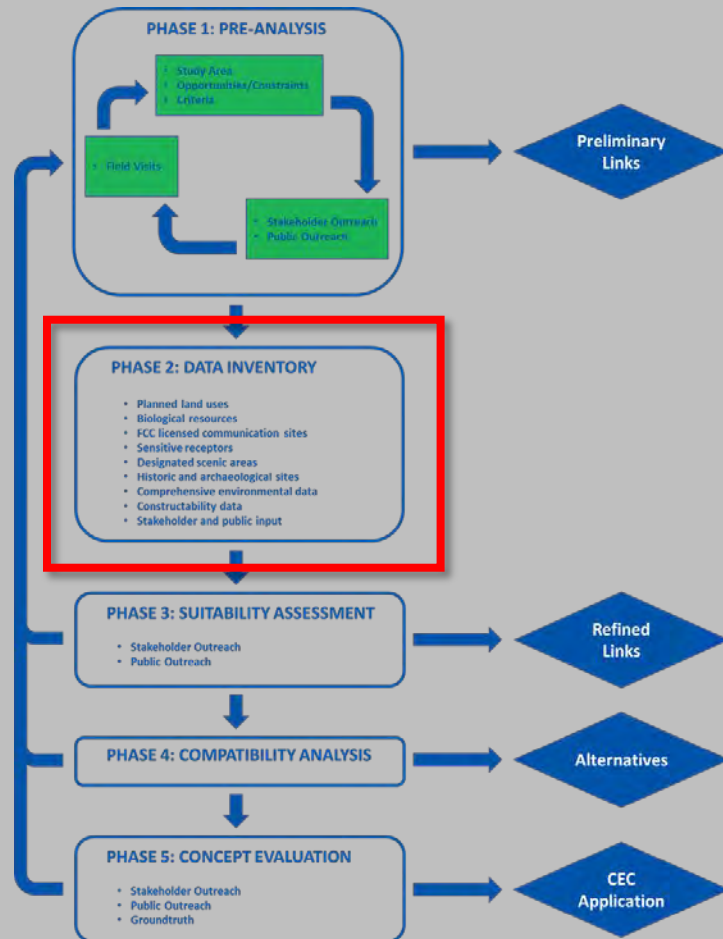
- Familiar with landscape character and geography
- Existing land use inventory
- Ground truth opportunities/constraints
- Develop links



Siting Process



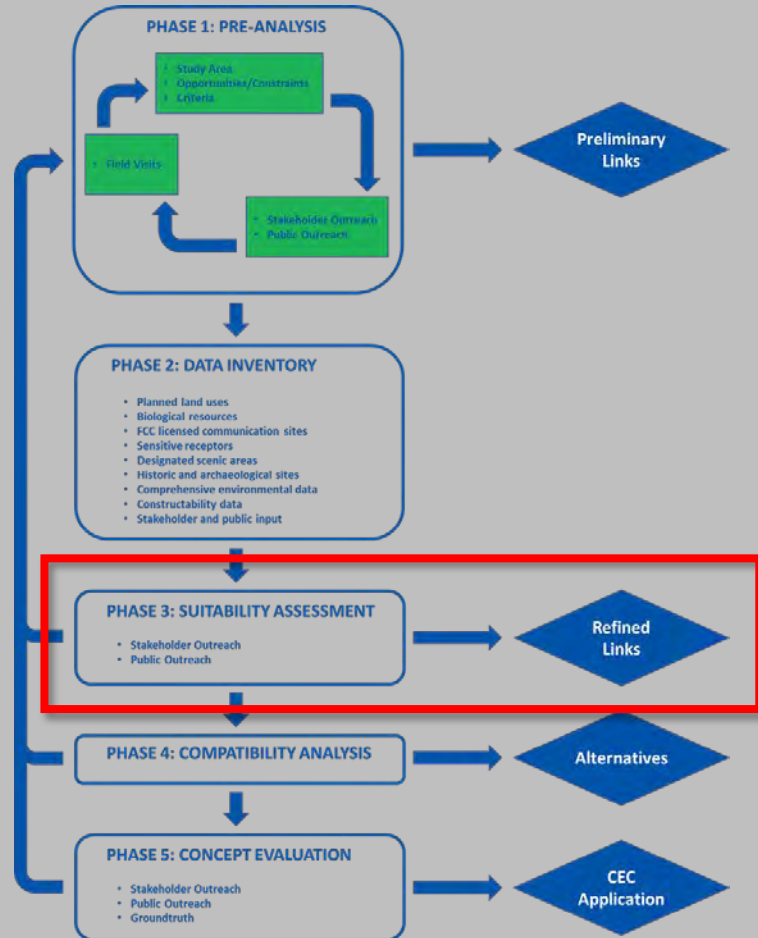
Siting Process



PHASE 2: DATA INVENTORY

- Planned land uses
- Biological resources
- FCC licensed communication sites
- Sensitive receptors
- Designated scenic areas
- Historic and archaeological sites
- Comprehensive environmental data
- Constructability data
- Stakeholder and public input

Siting Process

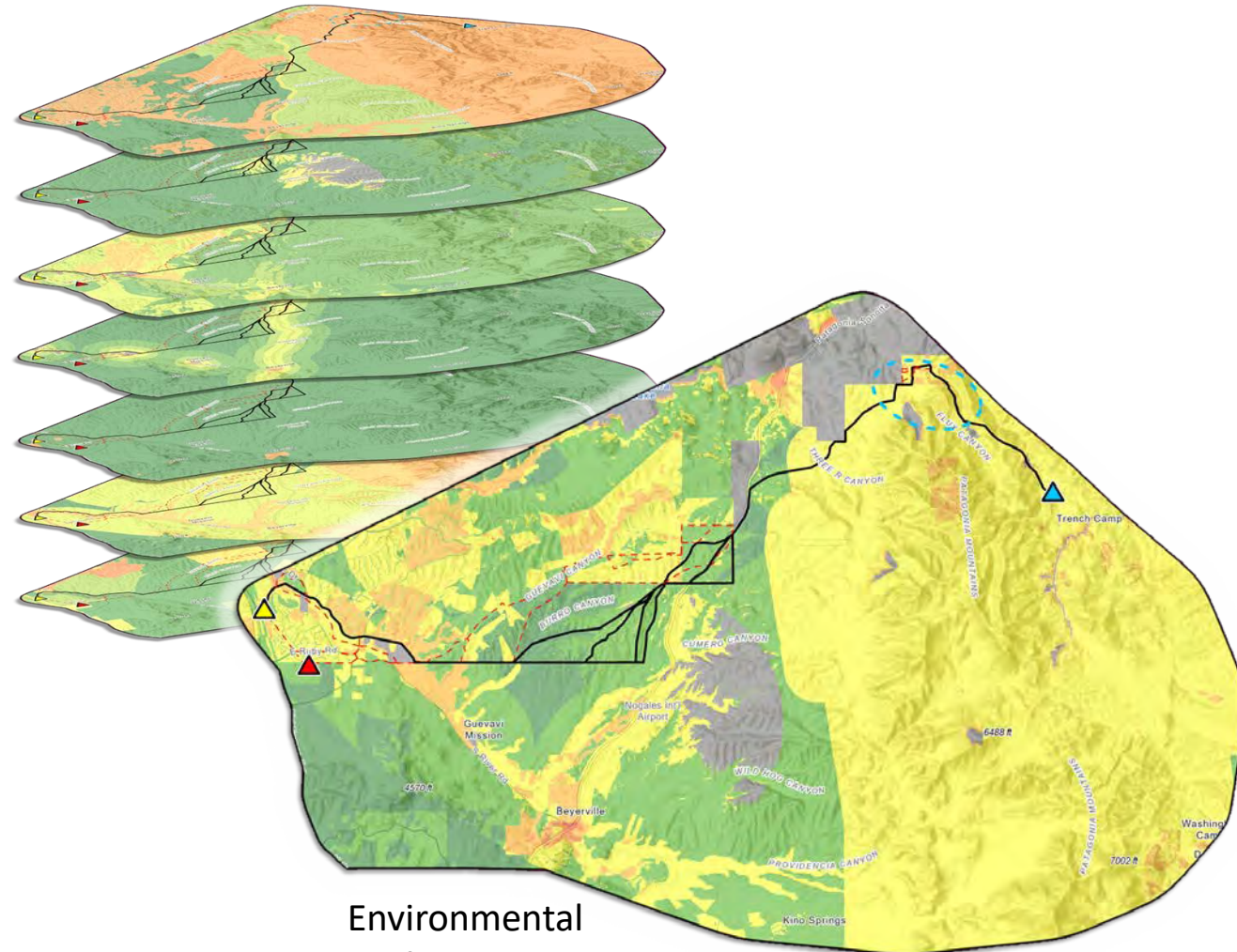


PHASE 3: SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT

- Stakeholder Outreach
- Public Outreach

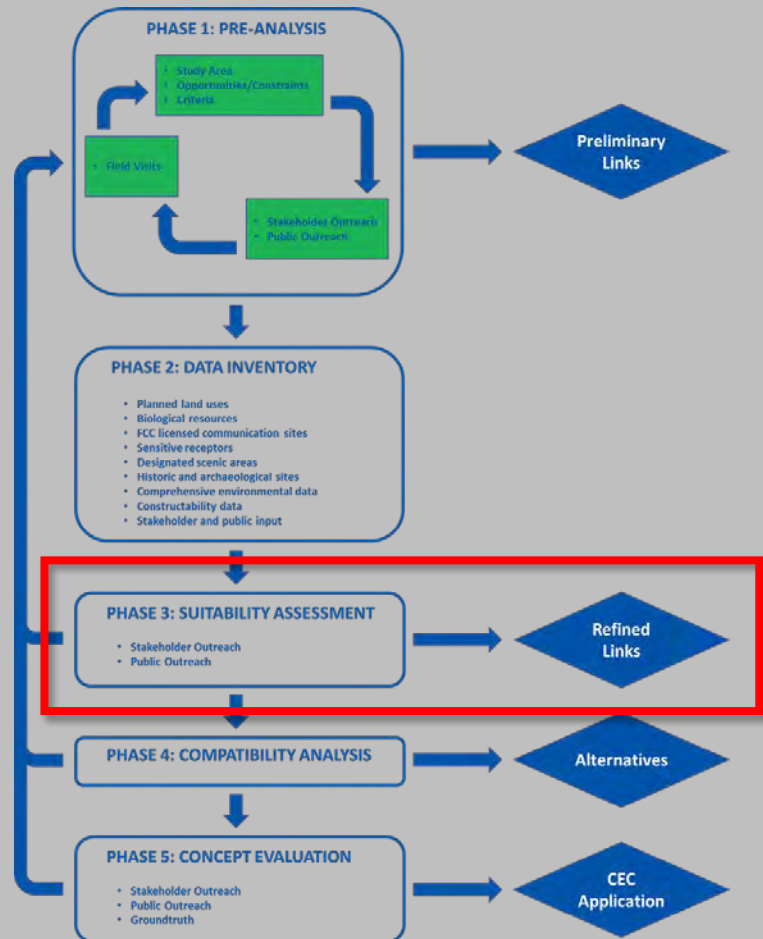
Refined
Links

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Outreach | Criteria 7 x Weight |
| | + |
| Construction & Maintenance | Criteria 6 x Weight |
| | + |
| Total Environment | Criteria 5 x Weight |
| | + |
| Scenic & Cultural Resources | Criteria 4 x Weight |
| | + |
| Noise & Communication | Criteria 3 x Weight |
| | + |
| Biological Resources | Criteria 2 x Weight |
| | + |
| Existing Plans | Criteria 1 x Weight |



Environmental
Preferred Model

Siting Process



PHASE 3: SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT

- Stakeholder Outreach
- Public Outreach



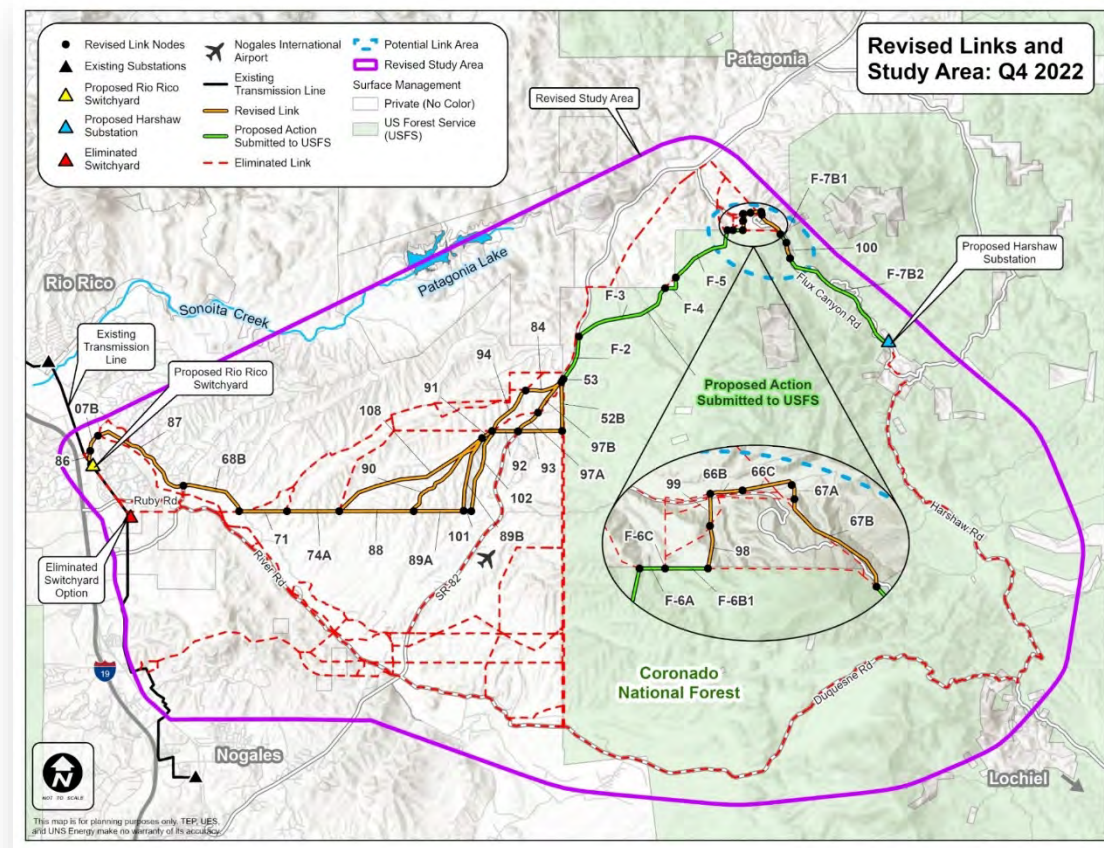
Refined
Links

November 15, 2022

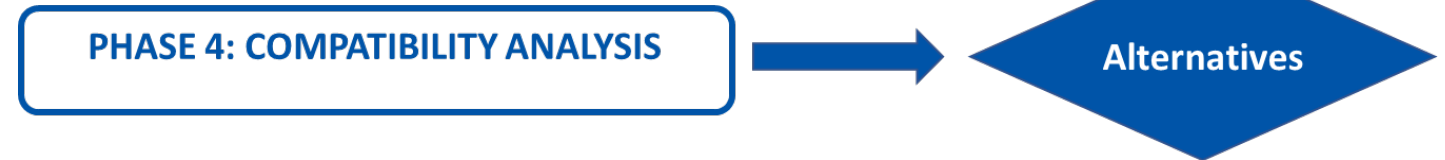
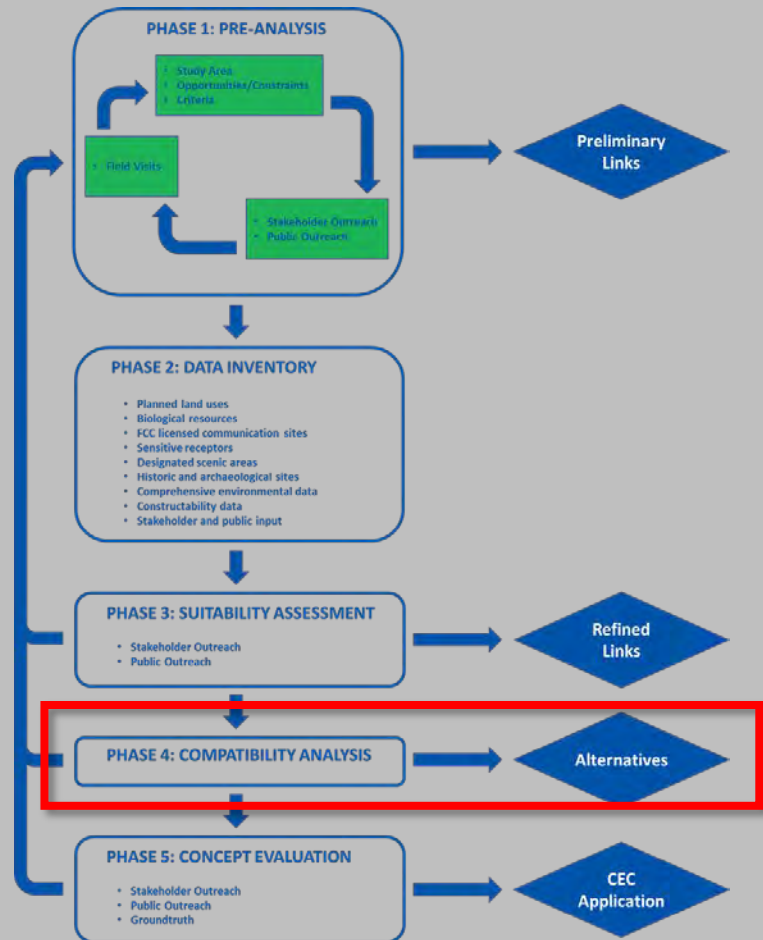
Stakeholder Meeting #2 (virtual)

November 17, 2022

Public Open House #4 (in-person)



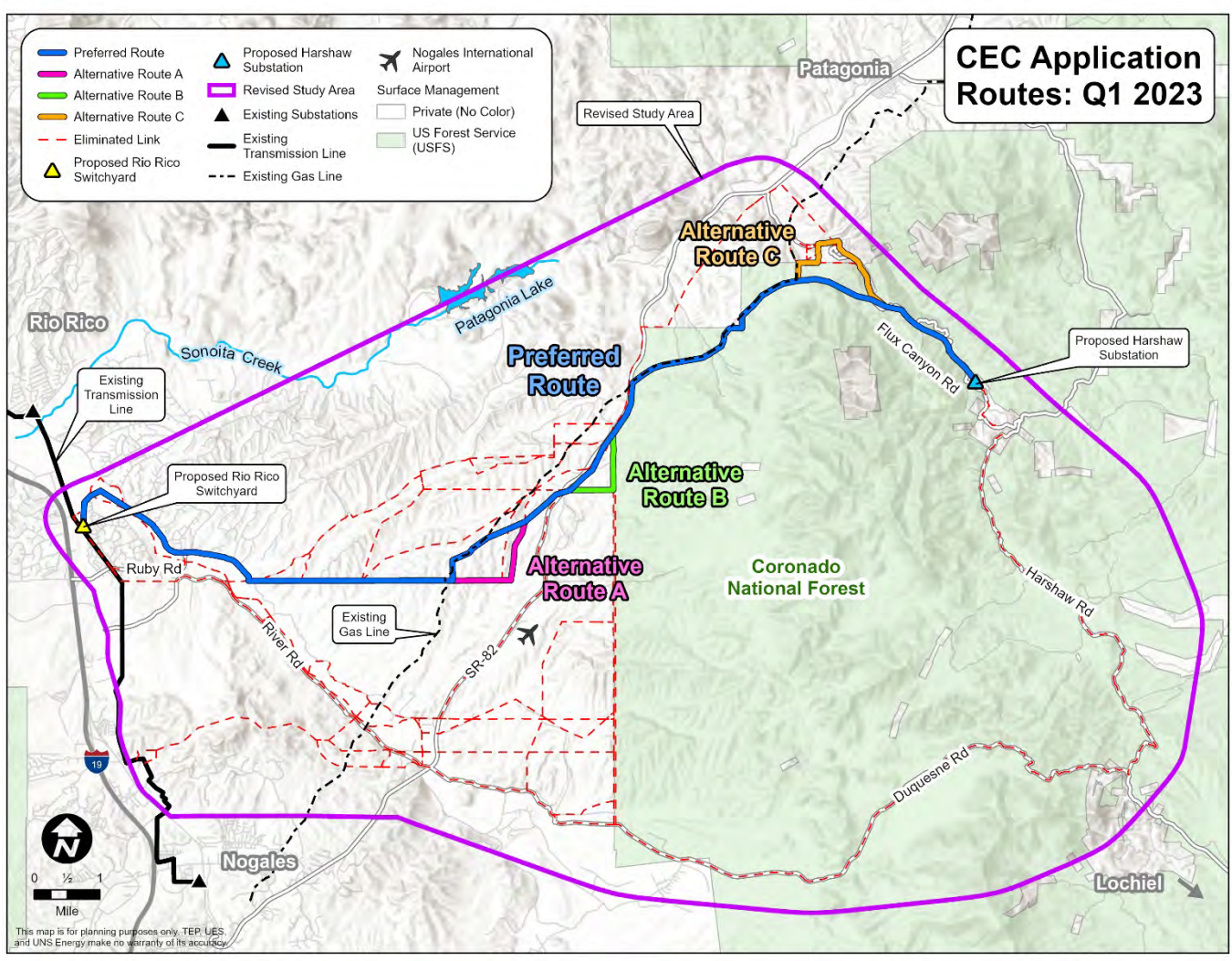
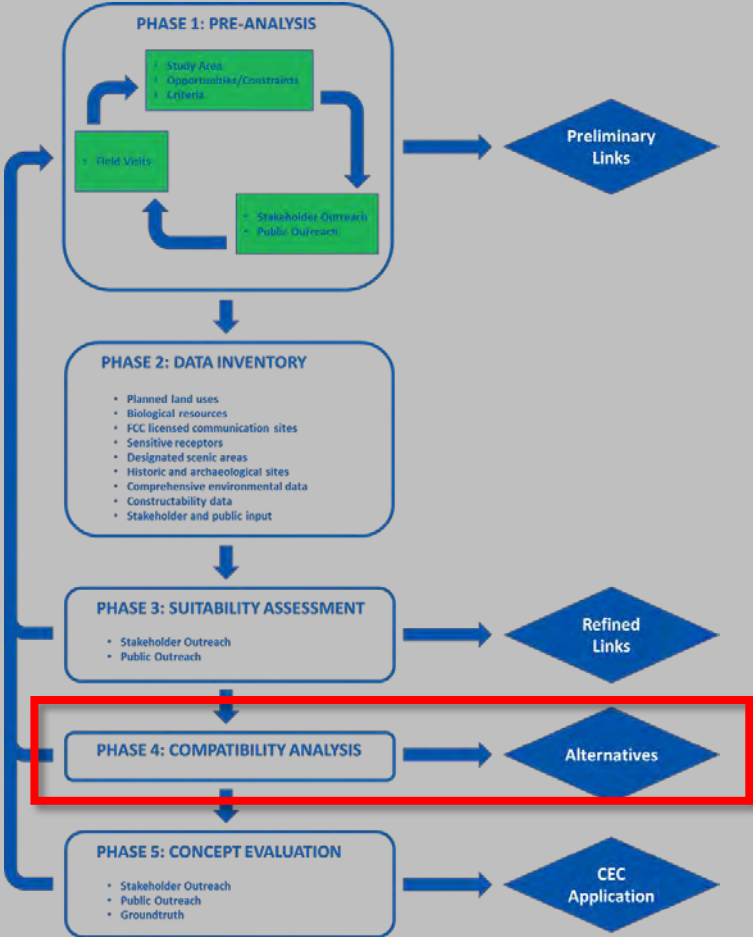
Siting Process



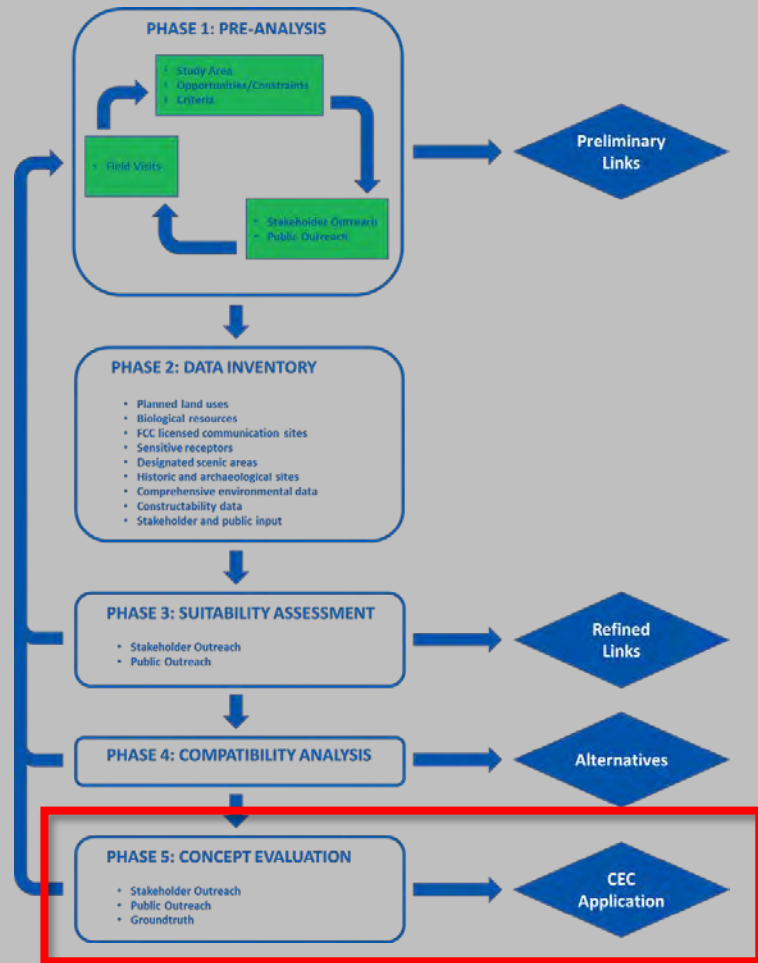
ARS 40-360.06

1. Existing plans of this state, local government and private entities for other developments at or in the vicinity of the proposed site.
2. Fish, wildlife and plant life and associated forms of life on which they are dependent.
3. Noise emission levels and interference with communication signals.
4. The proposed availability of the site to the public for recreational purposes, consistent with safety considerations and regulations.
5. Existing scenic areas, historic sites and structures or archaeological sites at or in the vicinity of the proposed site.
6. The total environment of the area.
7. The technical practicability of achieving a proposed objective and the previous experience with equipment and methods available for achieving a proposed objective.
8. The estimated cost of the facilities and site as proposed by the applicant and the estimated cost of the facilities and site as recommended by the committee, recognizing that any significant increase in costs represents a potential increase in the cost of electric energy to the customers or the applicant.
9. Any additional factors that require consideration under applicable federal and state laws pertaining to any such site.

Siting Process



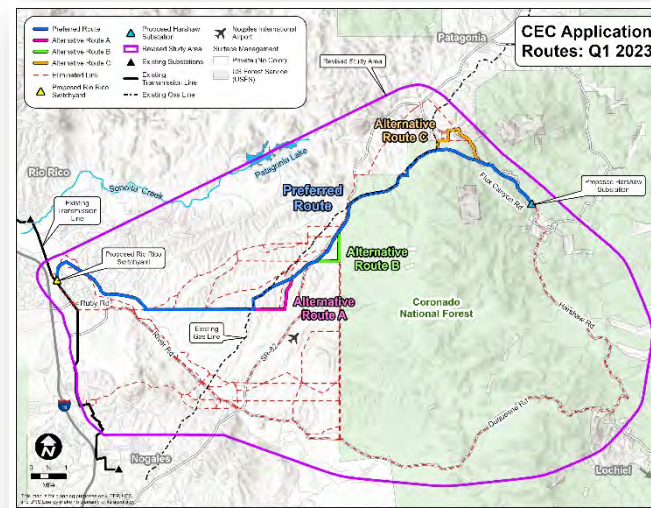
Siting Process



PHASE 5: CONCEPT EVALUATION

- Stakeholder Outreach
- Public Outreach
- Groundtruth

CEC
Application



Public Open House

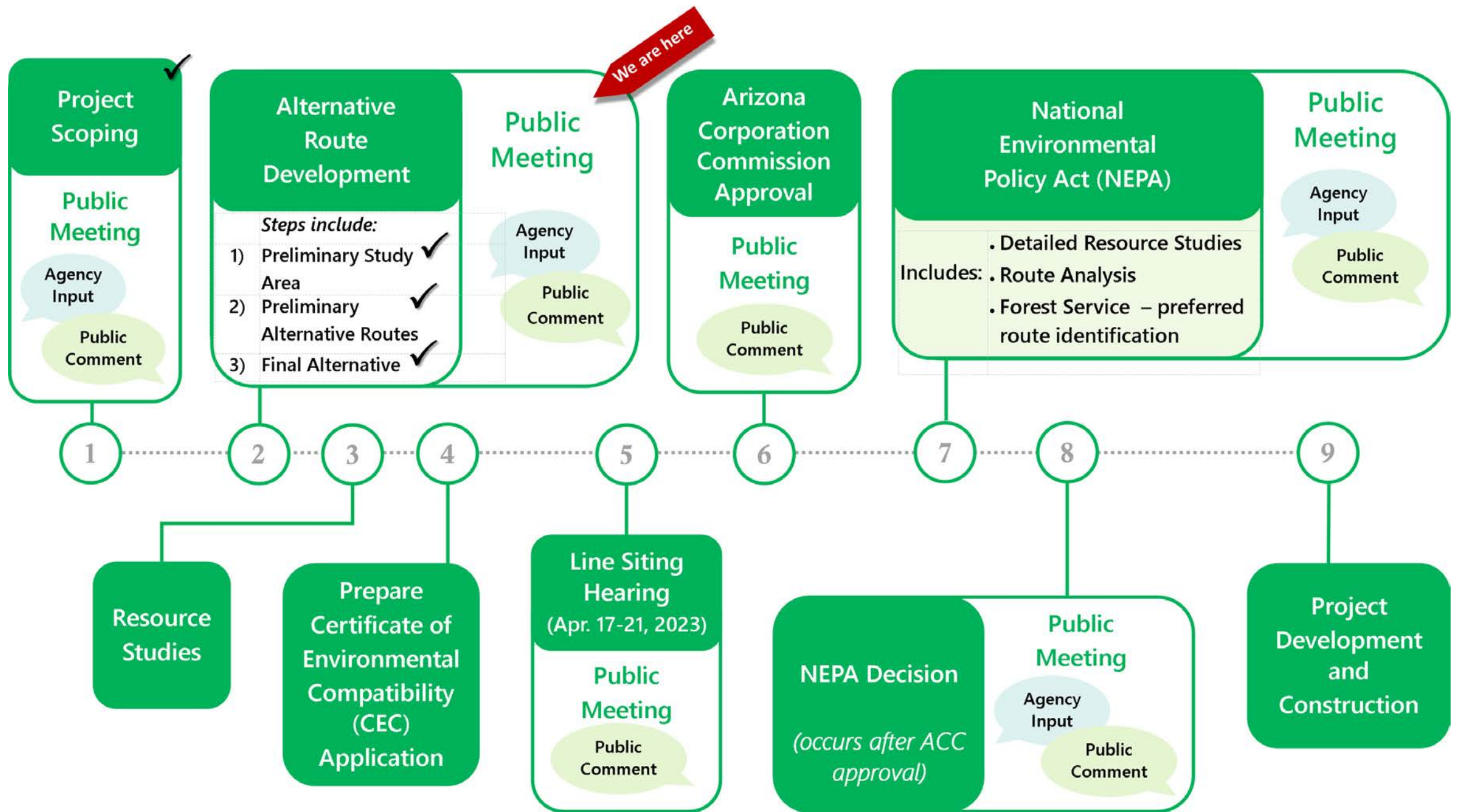
January 25, 2023 6:00-8:00pm
Quality Hotel Americana Nogales

File CEC Application (tentative)

March 3, 2023

Line Siting Hearing (tentative)

April 17-21, 2023
Quality Hotel Americana Nogales



Next Steps

- March 3, 2023 – File Application for CEC
- April 17-21, 2023 – Line Siting Hearing
- May/June 2023 – ACC Approval of CEC

- TBD – USFS review under NEPA

More Project Information

For more project information please visit the project webpage:

<https://www.uesaz.com/rio-rico-to-harshaw/>

Here, you will find:

- Project details including the project newsletter
- A print copy and of this presentation
- Commonly asked questions & answers

How to Comment

- Mail a comment form or a letter to: UniSource Energy Services ATTN: Rio Rico-Harshaw PO Box 711 Tucson, AZ 85702
- Send comments to RR2Harshaw@uesaz.com
- Visit uesaz.com/rio-rico-to-harshaw and fill out an online comment form
- Call 1-833-783-0396 and leave a voicemail message in English
- Deje un mensaje al 1-833-783-0396 y le regresaran su llamada