

Station 3: Siting a Transmission Line



Siting Overview

Identifying a route for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line involves multiple processes and jurisdictions, agencies and communities.

- The **federal process** is led by the Bureau of Land Management.
- The **state processes** are led by:
 - Oregon – Oregon Department of Energy-Energy Facility Siting Council
 - Idaho – Individual Idaho counties
- The **public** is involved with the state and federal processes, in addition to Idaho Power's Community Advisory Process.
- Idaho Power will purchase easements for portions of the line on **private** land.

Federal Process

Idaho Power must receive approval from the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service to cross federal lands with the transmission line. The agencies manage federal lands in Idaho and Oregon.

Both agencies must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NEPA requires an evaluation of the environmental consequences of the proposed project and alternatives.

This evaluation will be documented in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Once the project is approved, the BLM will issue a right-of-way grant and notice to proceed. The U.S. Forest Service will issue a special use permit.

State Process

Oregon

The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) – Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) must approve Idaho Power’s application to build the line in Oregon.

- ODOE-EFSC requires that the project meet a set of pass-fail standards that cover safety, land use and environmental impact on public and private lands in Oregon.
- Once the project is approved, the ODOE-EFSC will issue a site certificate to Idaho Power.

Idaho

Idaho does not have a state review process similar to ODOE-EFSC. Land use permits and guidance will be provided by individual counties.

Private Land

If it is determined that the line route will cross a parcel of privately owned land, Idaho Power will purchase an easement with the individual property owner.

Idaho Power has a long history of working collaboratively with property owners to ensure equally satisfactory terms are reached between both parties. Easement compensation, terms and conditions will be negotiated individually with each property owner.

Public Process

Federal

During the the federal review process, the public has the opportunity to:

- Attend scoping meetings.
- Review and comment on the Draft and Final EIS.

State

Several comment periods occur during the ODOE-EFSC review process:

- An informal public information meeting at the beginning of the project.
- A public hearing during the review of Idaho Power's application.

The Community Advisory Process

Idaho Power has developed a public process to involve communities in siting a proposed route and alternate routes for the transmission line. Idaho Power will host public meetings at every step of this process.