

Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project Community Advisory Process Public Meetings Baker City and La Grande Summary of Comments

Idaho Power is committed to partnering with communities from northeast Oregon to southwest Idaho to identify proposed and alternate routes for the proposed transmission line. Idaho Power initiated the Community Advisory Process to engage communities in siting the proposed transmission line.

In August 2009, Idaho Power hosted seven public meetings. The public meetings were held to give the public the opportunity to:

- Learn more about the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project.
- Review and provide input on criteria for evaluating routes for the proposed transmission line.
- Speak to Idaho Power representatives.

The public meetings in Baker City, OR (August 12) and La Grande, OR (August 13) had an overall attendance of 108 people.

Attendees were given the opportunity to complete a comment sheet that asked the following questions:

- What are your concerns about siting the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line?
- What are your suggestions for siting the transmission line?
- Do you have comments on the regulatory and/or engineering criteria?
- Additional comments.

A total of 28 comment sheets were collected. A detailed meeting summary and transcription of all comments will be posted on the project webpage www.boardmantohemingway.com.

The following is an overview of the themes and opinions expressed by the public:

Concerns:

- Preservation of private and farm land
- Need for the transmission line
- Preservation of scenic beauty
- Preservation of wildlife
- Economic effects
- Compensation for land that will be used
- Public input will not be taken seriously
- Idaho Power has not considered other options/technology

Suggestions:

- Avoid private land
- Do not build the transmission line
- The line should be sited to avoid wildlife habitats
- The line should not obstruct scenery

Other comments included:

- “I think any concerns I had are adequately addressed in the Central Community Criteria.”
- “What will be given up to put it here for all involved?”
- “Build it.”
- “Put it on as much public land as possible.”
- “Keep up the community involvement.”
- “Look at smaller energy producing facilities closer to your projected needs.”
- “I’m for it going on either side of the Durkee Valley.”
- “With new technology and development do we need these giant towers and lines?”
- Idaho Power is a “for profit” corporation and is only looking at their bottom line.
- Will the communities be told where the line will go? & when? And will the people’s comments actually be listened to, not disregarded?