





NEPA/EFSC Processes



SF-299 and EFSC NOI

- Idaho Power will be submitting a revised SF299 to re-start the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process
 - SF299 is the standard government form titled "*Application for Transportation and Utility Systems and Facilities on Federal Lands*"
 - BLM requires that Idaho Power indicate one *proposed* line route in the application. Alternative routes are also allowed.
- A Notice of Intent will be filed with the Oregon Department of Energy, Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC)
 - The EFSC NOI will be submitted after we submit the revised SF-299 but before the NEPA scoping meeting


22



NEPA/EFSC Timeline

- Idaho Power has completed the following steps following selection of the Eastern Route as the Proposed Route
 - Submit draft SF-299 and Plan of Development (POD) to the BLM and Forest Service – April 9, 2010
 - Review draft SF-299 and POD with BLM and Forest Service – April 15, 2010


23



NEPA/EFSC Timeline

- The BLM and Forest Service are continuing their review of the draft SF-299 and POD. Once Idaho Power receives their comments, we anticipate the following:
 - Submit SF-299 and POD to the BLM and Forest Service – Spring 2010
 - BLM publishes Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register to start the 60-day scoping period – Summer 2010
 - Idaho Power submits Notice of Intent (NOI) to EFSC – Spring 2010
 - Public scoping meetings will be held jointly with BLM and EFSC at multiple locations – Summer 2010


24



NEPA Process

- The NEPA process is broken into 4 major steps,
 - Notice of Intent (NOI)
 - Draft Environmental Impact Statement (dEIS)
 - Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
 - Record of Decision
- Notice of Intent/Scoping
 - BLM issues public notice that it is preparing an EIS
 - Publication of NOI in the Federal Register initiates a minimum 30-day public scoping/comment period
 - Idaho Power expects scoping period to be 60 days


25



NEPA Process

- Draft Environmental Impact Statement
 - BLM develops alternatives to address the issues and concerns identified during scoping
 - BLM issues the draft EIS which documents the social and environmental effects analysis of the proposed action and alternatives
 - BLM provides a minimum 60-day public review and comment period on the draft EIS
 - BLM will hold public meetings during this stage.


26



NEPA Process

- Final Environmental Impact Statement
 - BLM releases the final EIS, which includes the agency's response to comments on the draft EIS
 - Final EIS identifies the agency's preferred alternative
 - BLM provides a minimum 30-day availability period
- Record of Decision
 - BLM decides on whether or not to approve the requested action


27



EFSC Process

- The EFSC process is broken into 7 major steps,
 - Notice of Intent
 - Project Order
 - Application for Site Certificate
 - Draft Proposed Order
 - Proposed Order
 - Contested Case Hearing
 - Final Order


28



EFSC Process

- Notice of Intent
 - The NOI initiates public comment period on the proposal and allows agencies and affected local governments to identify applicable requirements and special issues of concern
 - ODOE will hold public information meetings during this phase
 - The NOI is not an application to construct the facility – it merely states the applicant's intention to submit an application in the future
- Project Order
 - ODOE issues the Project Order which identifies applicable statutes, rules and ordinances and defines the impact analysis areas


29



EFSC Process

- Application for Site Certificate
 - Idaho Power submits its application which describes the facility, its anticipated impacts and how it will meet EFSC's standards. Idaho Power must indicate the final proposed corridor, but has the option to request a site certificate that includes more than one corridor
 - Idaho Power must comply with all local land use requirements and indicate which land use permitting route they will take, either the local jurisdictional land use approval process, or the EFSC land use permitting process, where EFSC acts in place of the local jurisdictions and makes the decision on compliance with local land use requirements


30



EFSC Process

- Draft Proposed Order
 - ODOE requests comments from the public and from other state and local agencies, and will issue a Draft Proposed Order recommending approval or denial of the application
 - ODOE holds public hearings on the Draft Proposed Order
 - Anyone can raise issues or objections to the Draft Proposed Order in writing or at the public hearings. *Failure to comment in person or in writing on the record of this hearing precludes participation in the subsequent contested case and the right to appeal EFSC's final decision*
 - Since the EFSC process also serves as the land use process, the public hearings also serve as the land use hearings for this project


31




EFSC Process

- Proposed Order
 - ODOE issues the Proposed Order based on comments from EFSC, the public and other government agencies
- Contested Case Hearing
 - The contested case hearing is a formal hearing and only those persons who commented on the Draft Proposed Order may participate in the contested case
- Final Order
 - EFSC decides whether it will issue the site certificate

32



Next Steps



Next Steps in Process

- Idaho Power plans to submit SF299 to re-start the NEPA process after BLM has reviewed the Plan of Development
- After the BLM Notice of Intent is published in the Federal Register, A Notice of Intent will be filed with the Oregon Department of Energy, Energy Facility Siting Council
 - Note, the BLM NOI and EFSC NOI are different documents with different meanings
- Idaho Power will continue working with the community members throughout the project. We will send out periodic communications to Community Advisory Process members concerning the status of both the NEPA and EFSC processes

34

Additional Information

- www.boardmantohemingway.com
 - Project information
 - Links to BLM, Oregon Department of Energy, Idaho Power
 - Comment forms



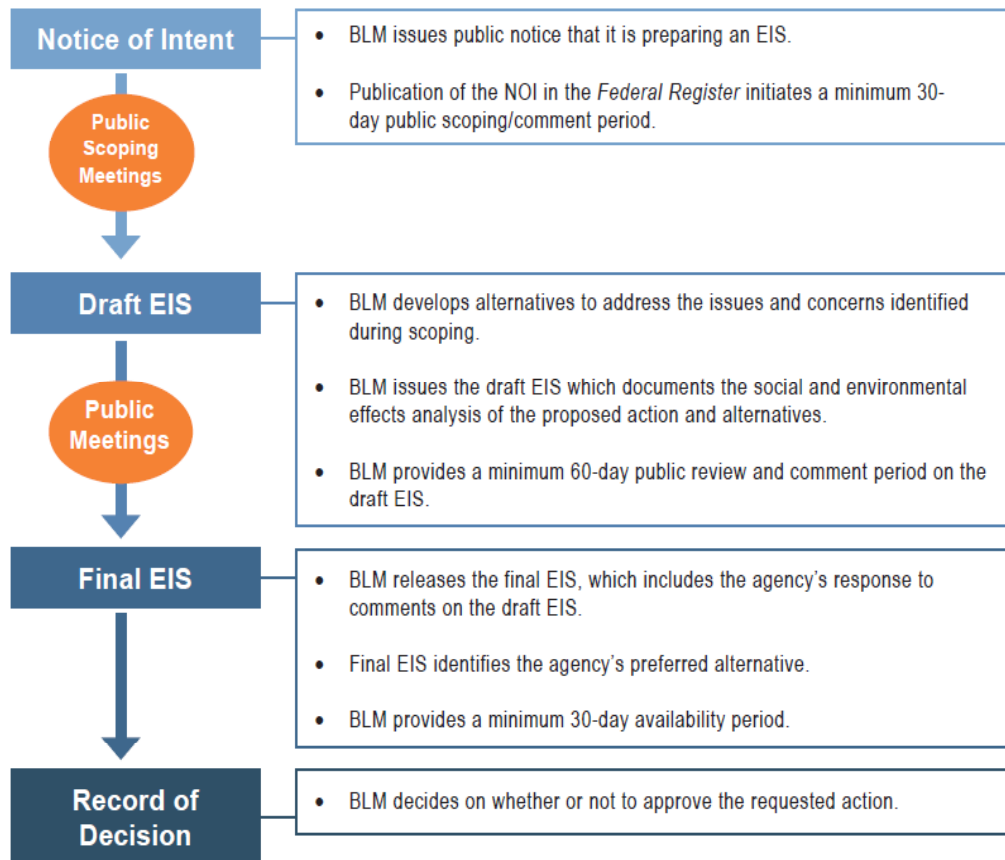
NEPA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires agencies to undertake an assessment of the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions. Two major purposes of the NEPA environmental review process are:

1. Citizen involvement
2. Better informed decisions

The NEPA process began on the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project when Idaho Power submitted a proposal for a right-of-way from the BLM to construct a 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line across portions of federally-managed public lands. The BLM has issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on this project.

The following flowchart shows the key points within the NEPA process. For more information, check out *A Citizen's Guide to the NEPA* at http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/nepa/Citizens_Guide_Dec07.pdf.



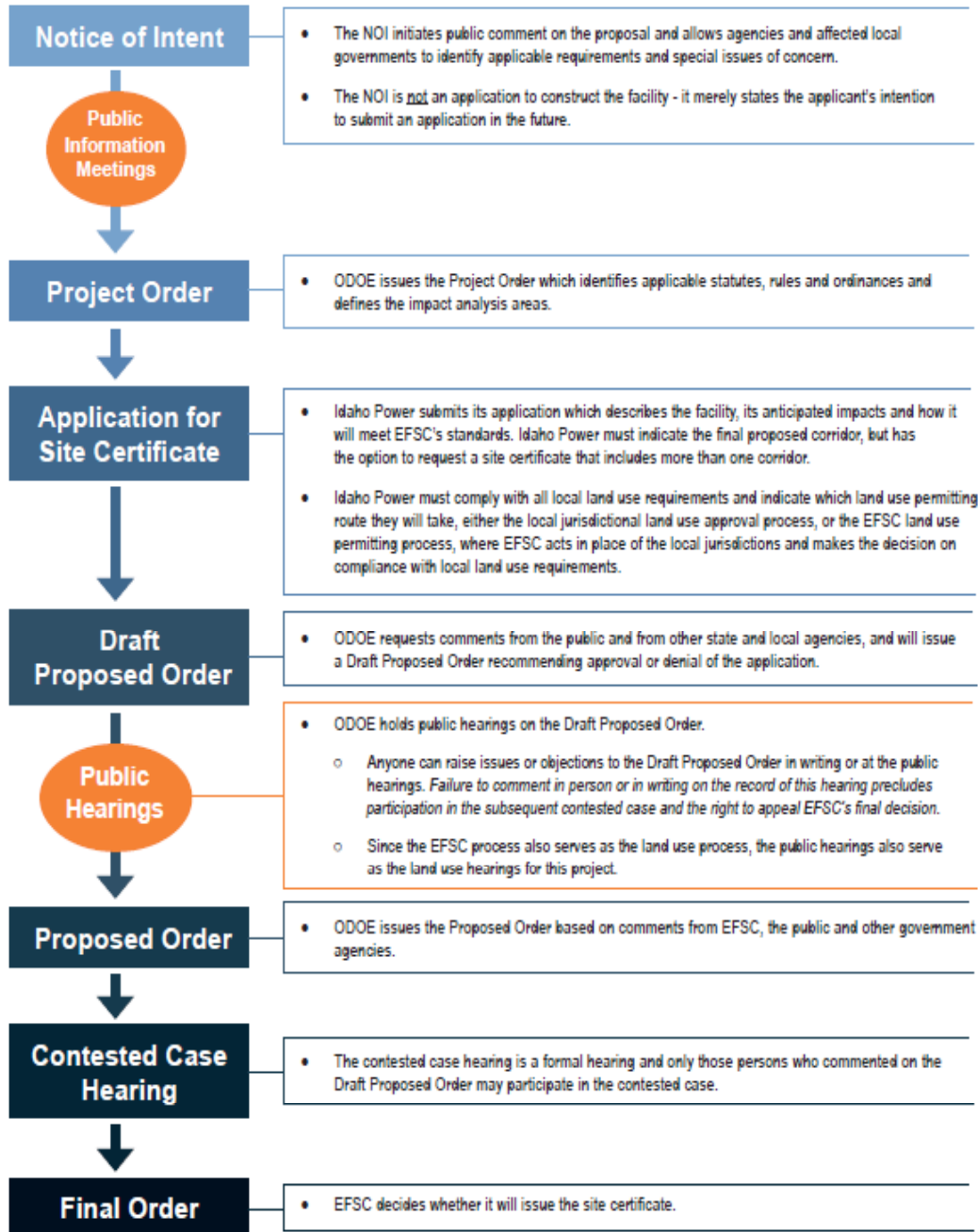
9/18/08

EFSC Process

The Oregon Department of Energy-Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) Site Certificate process is a consolidated permitting process that includes regulations of Oregon state and local agencies. You can participate in the process by:

1. Attending a public information meeting about the Notice of Intent.
2. Submitting comments about Idaho Power's application.
3. Attending the public hearing on the Proposed Draft Order.

ODOE provides public notices following each step of the EFSC process. The diagram below outlines the process.



9/18/08

Community Advisory Process Evaluation

Boardman to Hemingway Project
Central Project Advisory Team Meeting #6
May 5, 2010

Name: _____

1) What ways would you like Idaho Power to continue to involve you in the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project?

2) Do you have any questions about the upcoming federal and state processes?

(Continued on back)

Appendix 3: Team Input

Proposed Route Comment Form Responses
Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project
Central Project Advisory Team Meeting #6
May 5, 2010 Baker City, Oregon

# of comment sheet	Name	Do you have any comments or questions about the proposed route?	Other comments.
1	J. Richard Fleming	<p>Letter received:</p> <p>I have heard on your web site video that a NEPA study requires environmental, social, and economic considerations. When I look at proposed alignments, it becomes obvious that one single factor has driven the entire alternative selection process. That one factor is the location of the legendary, temporary, and imaginary sage grouse leks. If someone once thought he saw a white flash that he though was a strutting sage grouse that spot and the surrounding 8042 acres are off power limits to the power line. There are hundreds if not thousands of these 8042-acre exclusions that in effect require the line to be placed near houses and over high value farm ground and within the view sheds of the major population areas, to stay off BLM ground. This is crazy. The high value land was claimed and homesteaded and became private property. The low value ground was not claimed and remained BLM or Forest Service. The process as it is being followed seems to dictate that BLM and USFS have much more clout than private property owners, and a desire to minimize the impact on the public land. This is a public line and should be on public land. It does not benefit people in Baker County, because it does not bring power to Baker County.</p> <p>The web site also stated, "The BLM and USFS do not have the authority to approve or deny any portion of the project on private lands." Presuming this is true, who does have that authority? Is the impact on private property to be ignored?</p> <p>Obviously the social and economic considerations have not been considered on an equal basis with the sage grouse. The primary threat to sage grouse is predators, i.e. eagles, coyotes, ravens etc. The apparent reason for a two-mile buffer is the predators like to use the power line as a resting place while they search for food. If the Fish and Wildlife department and the Idaho Power maintenance people were issues 0.22 caliber rifles and shot the ravens and coyotes they happened to see while patrolling, it would more than mitigate any effect the line could have on the sage grouse.</p> <p>There is an alignment that has not been considered. I have drawn it on the attached</p>	

# of comment sheet	Name	Do you have any comments or questions about the proposed route?	Other comments.
		<p>map. I have called it the Low Visibility Alignment or the minimum Impact on Humans alignment. From Durkee to the junction of existing power lines about four miles north of the interpretive center, the line would be more than half on BLM land, and more than a mile from any home. It would be located where the visibility from the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center would be minimal. The current proposals within less than a mile of the interpretive center would significantly uglify the view from that tourist attraction. I have property located under the proposed eastern alignment as currently shown on the web site. This alignment would significantly reduce the value of potential high-income wind power locations as well ruin the serenity and view. It would possibly render my best building site as unbuildable. The westerly alignment would negatively impact the view shed from both the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center and from Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.</p> <p>Sincerely, J. Richard Fleming</p>	

Community Advisory Process Evaluation Comment Form Responses
Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project
Central Project Advisory Team Meeting #6
May 5, 2010 Baker City, Oregon

# of comment sheet	Name	What ways would you like Idaho Power to continue to involve you in the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project?	Do you have any questions about the upcoming federal and state processes?	In your opinion, what has worked well and not so well with Idaho Power's Community Advisory Process?
1	Barbara Fleming	These high power lines are so utterly ugly they are offensive to all who view them. It seems they will be in the viewshed of our Virtue Flat and Keating properties. There will be no known benefit to us. When we bought our Virtue property in my mind the best thing about it was no electrical utility lines in our view. – 1971	The original environmental plans as passed by Congress included the human element as well as the fish and wildlife. We were as important. The environmentalists got the lawyers they wanted to change the view, an alternative plan.	