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**Appendix 1**  
**Detailed Summary of Working Groups**

## **Working Group #1 Summary**

Rosemary Curtin welcomed team members, introduced herself, and explained she would be an impartial observer. She told participants that the meeting would be an opportunity for team members to express their concerns and suggestions about the transmission line. Idaho Power would use the information when siting possible routes for the transmission line.

Curtin asked the team members to introduce themselves. She reminded them to fill out the meeting evaluation and comment sheets. She told team members to turn in the comment sheets at the end of the meeting, or mail them in if they needed more time.

Curtin informed the team members that the working group discussion would be recorded and documented. Comments would also be recorded on flip chart notes. She introduced the note taker, Manda Edge, and then explained that she would list the concerns and suggestions of individual group members. She asked team members to take turns discussing the placement of the power line.

Curtin asked the team members to first discuss any concerns about the transmission line.

Many of the team members said they felt upset that they had not been involved in the CAP since the beginning. One team member said he felt the routes were pushed into Grant County by the residents of Baker and Malheur counties.

Another said Grant County might have been chosen as a place for a proposed route because it has a low population, and therefore less of a voice.

Many team members also expressed concern about the expense of routing the power line through Grant County. They said it would be more practical for Idaho Power to choose a more direct route between Hemingway and Boardman.

Placing the transmission line along the I-84 corridor, or nearby, would also use land that already contains industrial infrastructure, said many team members. Some team members said it makes sense to put the line in a place that already has good road access, and where the view has already been affected by other structures.

A better map is needed so team members can analyze the costs and benefits of placing the line along the I-84 corridor, said a team member.

While Idaho Power has said it is prohibitively expensive to run the transmission line underground, it might be practical to run it underground for very short lengths if that enables the line to be placed in a developed area.

Several team members said placing the line in wilderness would harm views, wildlife, and protected areas. The construction of the transmission line would require new roads, and the roads would have their own impact on the area. One proposed route drawn at a mapping session appears to pass through several rivers, a protected botanical area, big

horn sheep habitat and the Aldrich primitive area. A team member said another route affects the John Day fossil beds.

The transmission line should be on public property, not private, said some team members. One said he would like to talk to people who have had experience with transmission lines on their property, to find out the benefits and the disadvantages of it.

Some team members said the line should not be built near wilderness areas.

The discussion turned to the matter of power generation, with some team members stating that Idaho would be better served by using wind power from Wyoming and Montana. Conservation should also be considered, said a team member. Idaho Power should not be using power from Boardman at all, said one team member. Instead, it should be looking for alternative energy sources that are non-polluting.

Asked for general comments about the transmission line, team members asked for some more information about the upcoming mapping sessions, such as whether there would be maps of all the routes, and descriptions of topography. They also asked if they could meet with the other PATs.

And team members commented that Idaho Power needs to have a plan for curtailing invasive weeds under its transmission lines.

A member noted that the transmission line would create a permanent disturbance, because Idaho Power would have to maintain it.

One member described Grant County as “one of the few last pristine places left,” and said outside forces have crippled industry in the county. She said that many people are attracted to Grant County specifically because it doesn’t contain industrial infrastructure. A homeowner said the view from his house has been described as a “million dollar view,” and he wondered how having a transmission line would affect his property values. Another said the line would undermine the quality of life in the area.

But some team members said if Idaho Power could show that the transmission line would produce an economic benefit, the people of Grant County might be more likely to consider it.

## **Transcribed Flipchart Notes**

### **Concerns:**

- Invasive weeds
- Routes were pushed onto Grant County. Population was a factor
- Grant County’s voice will not be heard because of its lower population
- New roads
- Cedar Grove
- C9 over Black Canyon scenic John Day
- Transmission line does not benefit Grant County.
- Maintain current environment
  - Lack of development

- Lack of technological infrastructure
- Big horn sheep area – S23, S 29, S 26, C 18
- Will undermine our quality of life
- Grant County deferred option
- Cost of analysis - why are we even doing this?
- C 18 crossing my property irrigated/sage grouse
- Would like to know pros/cons of a transmission line on property
- Stay on public property
- C9 affects John Day fossil beds
- Sage grouse leks – C 18
- 23/29 go over my house
- Scenic qualities will be altered
- Topography of Grant County
- Logistics/construction/maintenance if line in Grant County – Makes no sense
- I-84 makes sense – can mitigate the issues that people have with I-84
- Natural degradation
- Public vs. Private
- Restoration of the middle fork of John Day
- Habitat in John Day basin streams on the 303 permit
  - Temperature
- Stay off Private land as much as possible
- C 24 – least visually invasive
- Grant County has the most primitive \$ infrastructure – we don't see the visual nuisance
- Visual and construction impact is unacceptable
- Visual impacts
- S 23 – C 18 – S 107 go close to airports
- Crop dusting not possible with transmission lines
- Why dividing county
- Concerned about putting one county against another

**Suggestions:**

- Develop other sources of energy so line is not needed
- Eliminate need/conservation
- Keep it in as densely developed places as possible – where existing lines are
- Short spaces of underground
  - High valued (irrigated) land
- Minimize new impacts – new roads, viewsheds
- Map of the beginning & end of I-84
- Work with I-84 folks
- Utilize existing right-of-ways/ corridors
- Would like to hear from folks who have had experience with this type of structure on their property
- Follow I-84

- Brought in late into the process
- Look for alternative resources
- Would like to know the noxious weed plan

## **Working Group #2 Summary**

The facilitator, Kate Nice, welcomed team members, introduced herself, and explained she would be an impartial observer. She told participants that the meeting would be an opportunity for team members to express their concerns and suggestions about the transmission line. Idaho Power would use those concerns and suggestions when siting possible routes for the transmission line.

Nice asked the team members to introduce themselves. She reminded them to fill out the meeting evaluation and comment sheets. She told team members to turn in the comment sheets at the end of the meeting, or mail them in if they needed more time.

Nice informed the team members that the working group discussion would be recorded and documented. Comments would also be recorded on flip chart notes. She introduced the note taker, Anne Allen. Nice explained each team member would have the opportunity to discuss their concerns and suggestions about the transmission line project.

The meeting began with a discussion about building the line on private land or public land. Some team members expressed concerns about the impact on landowners of having the line on private land. Others described public areas as pristine, unspoiled, and valuable for recreation. They said they don't want to see the line built in these areas.

One team member said all the proposed transmission lines in Grant County go through public land. The team member said the transmission line would have an extremely high impact on public lands, valuable forest, roadless areas and wilderness areas.

A team member said that building the line in Grant and Harney County would be more expensive than a direct route between Hemingway and Boardman. The terrain in Grant and Harney is also very rough and forested, the team member added.

Team members said Grant County residents see their community as a place that is unspoiled, unchanging and relatively untouched by modern life such as transmission lines, roads and airports. One team member said there is only one stoplight in the entire county, located in a John Day intersection, and there are no railroads or four-lane roads. A few team members told the story of one resident who was so disturbed by the installation of the stoplight that for years he refused to go through it, choosing instead to go a block out of his way to avoid it. That is an example of what people in the county are like, said a team member.

The team members frequently used the words "pristine" and "unspoiled" when discussing their county.

A team member said he moved to Grant County from Montana in 1975 because he felt the regulation in Montana had become too troublesome. He said the residents of the county do not welcome change, and he is concerned that the power line would bring change.

Others said Grant County's identity is deeply invested in the pride community members feel about its scenic beauty and open space. A team member said the county is one of the few places left with an extreme sense of open space.

Another team member said she felt a power line crossing John Day Valley near Mount Vernon would be very unsightly. She said many county residents live in the John Day Valley, a very scenic area with the Aldrich and Strawberry Mountain Ranges on one side and the Dixie Mountain on the other. The view would be spoiled if a transmission line crossed any point in the valley, she said.

Many of the team members in the working group said they didn't see what financial benefit the power line would bring to the community. They also said they hadn't received enough information about whether local contractors would be hired to do the construction work.

Nice asked Idaho Power representative Dave Angell if he could briefly join the group to discuss the benefits of the transmission line to the county. Angell said the county would receive tax revenues from capital improvement where the line was constructed on private land, but several team members said they believed that revenue would be relatively small.

The team members said they were concerned that any benefits would be short-term.

After the line is built, there will be relatively little maintenance required, said Angell. He added that Idaho crews would likely be selected to maintain the line. Idaho Power inspects the line by flying overhead once a year, and then carrying out a ground inspection once a year. But because the line is constructed with steel poles, the maintenance activity is minimal.

Access roads constructed to the transmission line might be eliminated after the power line is built, and maintenance would then be carried out by helicopter, Angell said. He added that the work crews who build the transmission line would also likely come from Idaho.

A team member asked if the trees that were cut would be sent to the sawmill for revenue.

Angell said it would not be up to Idaho Power to decide whether trees will be cut if the line passes through forested land. He said the Forest Service determines what will happen to the trees, but they will likely go to a sawmill. However, the financial benefit might not go to Grant County; it depends on which mill ends up with contract to remove the trees.

Another team member asked if having the power line in Grant County would increase the likelihood of enhanced wind generation capability. He said he was hoping to see wind power become more common in the area, and wondered if the transmission line would enable wind development in coming years.

Angell said he had been asked that question before, and believed it would require an investment of at least \$20 million to connect wind turbines to the power line.

A team member voiced concern that the transmission line would interfere with takeoffs and landings from local airports in bad weather.

The preservation of farmland was also discussed. A team member said the county has a significant amount of full rangeland and farmland in Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) zones. She added that she's concerned the placement of the transmission line would be used as a sign that other development is permissible on farmland.

Team members asked if the transmission line would make land non-productive. A team member said that farmers could still use the property for grazing animals or growing crops. He added that building this line on EFU land could be an invitation to build other structures, or make other changes, that would have a more significant impact on farmers.

Many of the team members said they felt that they hadn't been given enough information about the exact route of the proposed power lines in Grant County. Without that information, said a team member, it's difficult for landowners to take action regarding the transmission line.

A team member said he was concerned that county residents hadn't received firm data from Idaho Power regarding the tax benefits.

Another team member added that he would like to see more solid information about exactly where the proposed transmission lines would go. He said he participated in a mapping session with the South PAT in Ontario. He said he spent some time with a group that was drawing proposed lines on the map, and noticed that the computerized Geographic Information System (GIS) data for Grant County was not as detailed as the GIS data for other areas being mapped, such as Baker City.

He added that the maps used at the other PATs' mapping sessions did not have enough data about Grant County's areas of concern. He thought the maps made Grant County appear to be a wide-open space with no ecological or land-use concerns.

Some team members commented that the PAT proposed routes appeared to pass through protected areas in Grant County, such as the middle fork of the John Day River.

The team member who visited the mapping session in Ontario said Idaho Power might not have a detailed analysis of the terrain in Grant County because they didn't originally plan to site the transmission line there. He said this data will be needed now because there are proposed routes through Grant County.

Team members discussed the fact that residents of other counties had decided to develop proposed routes lines through Grant and Harney Counties. They questioned why the other PATs had decided to place routes out of their area.

One Grant County team member suggested putting the line in Union County.

Another team member said it would make the most sense to put the line along the I-84 corridor because that area is already developed. Angell had explained earlier that the Federal Highway Commission has regulations about the use of its highway corridors for power transmission lines.

A team member said he would lobby the Federal Highway Commission to allow use of corridors, because they are already developed. Building the transmission line along the I-84 corridor would also guarantee fast access to emergency services if needed, a team member noted.

At the conclusion of the meeting, one team member thanked Idaho Power for making the effort to involve the communities in siting the line. She said the usual process is that a utility company picks a site, and if there's any opportunity for public input it's late in the game. She said Idaho Power is taking a very different approach, and it is appreciated.

## **Transcribed Flipcharts**

### **Concerns:**

- Adverse effects to private ground
- Extreme impact to public lands
- Resources on public lands (roads, wildlife, etc.)
- Rugged land costs more
- What is the benefit of running a transmission line through Grant County?
- Interfere with take off/landing of airplanes.
- Lack of opportunity for local contractors in building or maintaining the line
- Violating sense of open space
- Economic benefit would be minimal & short term
- Taking farmland out of production
- Open the door to other types of development
- Pristine & not spoiled yet
- Minimize new ecological effects overall
- Private landowners are the most defenseless
- Estimates of impacts to local contractors
- Tax benefits for the county per mile
- Need more solid information
- GIS analysis was not detailed enough for Grant Co. (only fisheries)
- Grant County looked like a wide open space & wouldn't be impacted
- Would like data provided at the Central PAT
- Malheur National Forest is the most litigated forest region 6
- Negative effect on real estate prices
- Live here because you love it here
- Crosses John Day Valley would be the worst. Would be spoiled

- Least impact of view shed would be eastside of Dixie

**Suggestions:**

- Economic activity would be long term or short term – create opportunities (wind farms, etc.)
- I-84 corridor – use what is already there
- Greater access to emergency services on the I-84 corridor
- Tell us what Idaho Power sees as the benefits to Grant County.
- Wants research done for Grant County & the protected areas

**Comments:**

- Thank you to Idaho Power for different approach & the ability to discuss in the beginning.
- Very active community & concerned

**Appendix 2**  
**Transcribed Questions and Answers**

Throughout the meeting, team members were given the opportunity to ask questions. Below is a compilation of all questions asked by team members at the Grant County and Harney County PAT #1 meetings. For some questions Idaho Power has added additional information in this summary to answer the question more completely.

## **Background of PAT proposed lines in Grant and Harney counties**

### **If Idaho Power is considering a route across my private property, why wasn't I brought in earlier? I have a right to know what is being planned.**

The original route did not go into Grant and Harney Counties. Our Project Advisory Teams in other areas drew the routes you are seeing today. Idaho Power invited community leaders from Grant and Harney counties when the Community Advisory Process began. We received response from these community leaders that they would participate in the CAP only if routes developed by PAT members went through their counties. As soon as the other PATs developed routes came over into Grant and Harney counties, we formed a Project Advisory Team in each county to discuss the routes.

### **Why didn't Idaho Power invite us to the meetings where the other PATs developed routes?**

Idaho Power has communicated with leaders from Grant and Harney counties throughout the CAP. The leaders from Grant and Harney counties said, "Let's see how it progresses. If these counties further east decide to push it to the west, then we'd like to get involved."

### **Which leader in Grant County said Grant County communities didn't need to participate in the Community Advisory Process?**

Judge Webb traveled to a PAT meeting in Baker City to watch the process. He said if there was a move to put the transmission line near Grant and Harney counties, he would make sure folks were involved.

### **When did Idaho Power submit their Notice of Intent?**

2008.

### **In your Notice of Intent, in your maps on the Oregon Department of Energy Web site, it does show the line going down through Grant County. If that's in your Notice of Intent, why weren't we notified earlier?**

Those maps are all the original routes that have now been pulled off the table. The route that was considered very early in the process through Grant County was eliminated from consideration.

### **Your original Notice of Intent does have a Grant County line as an alternative route. You're telling me you never had an alternative route going through Grant County, but your Notice of Intent does have that.**

That route was removed from consideration.

**Why is that route still on the Web site?**

As a matter of record, all documents that have been submitted into the NEPA process are still on the Web site. The reader must use context when viewing these documents and realize that some of the early documents are now either obsolete or have changed significantly.

**When does Idaho Power plan to update its Notice of Intent with the Oregon Department of Energy?**

At the end of the CAP Idaho Power will submit an amendment to our application.

**Are these routes through Grant and Harney Counties a direct reflection of the efforts of the PATs in Baker County and the Malheur County?**

In September, Idaho Power hosted three mapping sessions for PAT members, one in Ontario, one in Baker City and one in Boardman. All the routes you are seeing now were developed by PAT members in these areas.

**Are the routes drawn through Harney County viable?**

Idaho Power recognizes that the PAT proposed route through Harney County is very long and there are more environment concerns going through the forest. But all PAT proposed routes will be analyzed. This analysis will be presented in early December.

**If Idaho Power's professional staff determined the original Grant and Harney route was not viable why are we considering it now?**

Idaho Power made a commitment to the PAT members to analyze all routes that were developed at the mapping workshops. The analysis might say some routes should not be carried forward.

**Does Morrow County agree with the Grant/Harney route? If not, we're wasting our time.**

At the North mapping workshop PAT members in Morrow County developed some routes that connected to the proposed routes through Harney County.

**Why did Idaho Power reject the original alternative route through Grant County? Was it because the terrain was so difficult?**

Originally, the Boardman to Hemingway line had a mid-line substation named Sand Hollow located near Parma, Idaho. With the Sand Hollow Substation in the line, it did not make sense to swing into that substation and then head over towards Grant and Harney counties. That substation has since been removed from this project so the line no longer needs to go through it. Without the Sand Hollow Substation, it makes more sense to look to the west to route the transmission line.

**So Idaho Power is now reconsidering routes through Grant County only because there is public pressure to do so?**

Idaho Power is analyzing all the route alternatives that have been developed by the PAT members. If we determine a route is too expensive to build, or can't be constructed, or can't be permitted, we as Idaho Power would have to reject that proposed route.

**Why does one of the PAT proposed routes cut straight across my land for four miles?**

All the PAT proposed routes are conceptual now. We will hold additional mapping sessions to further refine routes. When a final route is selected Idaho Power will negotiate right-of-way details with landowners on a case-by-case basis.

**What if the communities in Grant and Harney counties don't accept these routes?**

Idaho Power is not asking you to accept one of these routes. We are presenting the routes proposed by PAT members to get your input. The mapping workshop will be a chance for you to come in and get your proposed routes down.

**Will Idaho Power tell the other PATs that citizens in Grant County may not agree with the routes they developed?**

PAT meetings will be held in Baker City, Ontario and Boardman in early December. Idaho Power encourages community members from Grant and Harney counties to attend these meetings in order to work with the other PAT members.

**Can we find out who in Ontario proposed the routes through here?**

A meeting summary was developed for each of the mapping sessions. Each person who developed a route completed a Route Record Form. Transcriptions of these forms can be found in the meeting summary. These summaries are available at the project Web site [www.boardmantohemingway.com](http://www.boardmantohemingway.com).

## About the Transmission Line

**Can I see what a transmission tower looks like?**

The towers are between 140 and 190 tall. In general, across flat ground they are 140 feet, and if they are going across tall hills and mountains they might be up to 190 feet. Most of the towers are steel lattice. There is a picture of a tower on the Web site we have created for the Boardman to Hemingway transmission line project at: <http://www.boardmantohemingway.com/>

**What is the size of the right-of-way?**

The right-of-way for this is 250 feet, 125 feet each way off the centerline.

**If a transmission line is built on rangeland will the land still be able to be used for grazing or raising hay?**

Yes. The only thing the landowner would not be able to do is build structures under the transmission line.

**How much does Idaho Power expect this transmission line will cost?**

The basic cost for this transmission line is \$1.5 or \$2 million per mile. That does not include row acquisition, the mitigation we'll have to do, and any extreme engineering we

might have to carry out. If the route goes far out of the direct path, that's a cost we will have to consider.

The cost per mile does include trying to get across some rough terrain, and it includes maintenance. In the forest, maintenance becomes a real issue because you have to keep the trees low.

**How long will this new 500 kV transmission line sustain Idaho Power's transmission needs?**

The 500 kV is expected to sustain Idaho Power for well over 20 years. It depends how many people live here and how much electrical power they use. The transmission plan we're working on this year is a response to projected load growths in Portland, Seattle, southeastern Oregon and the Treasure Valley.

**How long will it take for this transmission line to repay its cost of construction?**

As a regulated utility, Idaho Power does not look at it as how many years it will take for the cost to be made back. What we consider is the cost of delivered energy to consumers.

**If there is no net payback, why build the transmission line?**

It is the most economical way to provide the energy compared to other methods. Idaho Power will make sure it is a prudent investment. The Public Utilities Commissions in Oregon and Idaho must agree with that before we proceed.

**A route that runs through Grant County will cost Idaho Power more than a route that follows the I-84 corridor. What is the better deal for us?**

For anyone who lives in the Pacific Northwest, the least expensive transmission line is going to be the best deal.

**Is cost a major factor in this? The most direct route from Boardman to Hemingway would be to follow I-84. This route also would be fairly flat. Have you looked at the terrain that you're proposing to go through in Grant County?**

Yes, we have looked at the terrain and you are correct that lines through Grant County would likely cost more to construct because of the terrain. The cost of constructing the line will be a major part of our evaluation of each proposed line route.

**Wouldn't the cost of putting a transmission line through that kind of rough terrain be almost prohibitive?**

We can't answer that until analysis has been performed.

**Wouldn't it make economic sense to build the new transmission line along with existing lines?**

We would like to, it would make economical sense. But we likely cannot do this because of reliability issues. Two major transmission lines should not be next to each other because if one of the lines were to go out, the system will stay up, but if both of those go out, we could bring the entire Northwest into a blackout period. There needs to be a quarter-mile separation.

**How wide are the corridors associated with existing 230 kV transmission lines feeding into Idaho?**

The Rights-of-Way (ROW) for the existing lines are only wide enough for those transmission lines and even if the Boardman to Hemingway line replaced one of them, additional ROW would have to be obtained because the existing ROW is not wide enough. We estimate the existing ROW width associated with the existing 230kV transmission lines to be between 100 and 150 feet in width.

**Will the transmission line connect to the coal power plant in Boardman?**

It will go to the substation next to the plant. Our goal is to gain access to the Mid-Columbia trading hub along the Columbia River. Most of the energy in the Northwest is traded at that hub.

**Idaho Power says two power lines cannot be built within a quarter mile of each other. However when you fly over any of the power lines running up and down this side of Bend, one of them has three sets of towers, the next one has two sets of towers. If you go up to Portland, there are three sets of towers.**

Those lines were built prior to the 1996 blackouts in the West. We now have some federal mandates that we have to separate any new transmission lines.

**Can Idaho Power use eminent domain?**

Idaho Power does have the right to use eminent domain, but hasn't used it in 20 years and doesn't wish to use it in this case. When we narrow the alternatives down to a specific route, we will talk to individual property owners. We will negotiate a price based on the estimated market value, as determined by an independent appraiser. If we can't work out a deal, we will also look at going around the problem area. However, even though Idaho Power hasn't used eminent domain in 20 years, and don't intend to use it, if no negotiation can be reached this could be an option.

**There is an existing utility corridor running through the National Forest in the Baker County area. Is that corridor wide enough to accommodate the new line?**

Yes, it's wide enough. It was used in the original proposal. We were aiming for that specific corridor, and that is where the U.S. Forest Service would like us to place the transmission line.

**Is the original route that follows I-84 completely off the table?**

The route we originally proposed is completely off the table. However, PAT members have drawn new routes very similar to the one we proposed. Some actually do go along the I-84 corridor. All of the PAT proposed routes will be analyzed.

**Wouldn't the route that follows I-84 be the most direct and economical route?**

Yes, it would likely be the most economical route. The most direct route between Boardman and Hemingway crosses through Grant County.

**Is cost-effectiveness one of the criteria the Oregon Department of Energy will review?**

To receive approval for the line, we need to demonstrate that we have the capacity to construct, operate, and maintain it.

## **Route Analysis Criteria**

**What will be the ultimate criteria that decide which route will be chosen? Is it just going to be based on how many people want the route? Or is it going to be the route that's most economically viable for Idaho Power?**

The permitting process is not simple. It's not a vote. We are asking communities to put lines on the map, but we're not going to pit anybody against anybody else. Idaho Power wants a good clear picture of all the various routes we should consider.

**How does Idaho Power decide if a route is viable?**

It's a very complex process. Idaho Power must look at permitability, constructability and cost in order to determine the viability of any proposed line route. This all must be coordinated with local, state and federal agencies with no one agency having the final say on the route.

**How will Idaho Power identify the community issues and concerns?**

The PATs have each developed community criteria for their area. In Malheur County a primary criteria is to stay off EFU land. Up in Morrow County they are concerned about pivot irrigation. Tonight you will develop community criteria for your area based on your working group discussions.

**Is Idaho Power considering Grant and Harney counties because they think the communities will not be as resistant as the other communities are?**

Idaho Power made a commitment to the PAT members to analyze all routes that were developed at the mapping workshops. Not all routes will be carried forward; the PATs will begin to decide which routes will be carried forward at the next set of PAT meetings.

**Can the transmission line be put underground?**

Building underground is not an option because of the cost. Also, underground lines are very difficult to maintain and operate

**Can the transmission line be built down the median of the freeway?**

The Federal Highway Administration doesn't allow transmission lines within the rights-of-way on their Interstate highways.

**Does the NEPA process focus on public land only?**

NEPA looks at the entire project, across federal, state and private land.

**Is the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) required to consult with local planning authorities?**

They are required to work with the counties. EFSC has come to quite a few of our meetings.

**What role do the counties play in an EFSC contested case?**

We don't have an answer to this question right now but we are in the process of asking this question to the Oregon Department of Energy.

**Does Idaho Power have evaluations of how much each PAT proposed route will cost?**

Cost will be part of the analysis. The analysis of all the PAT proposed routes will be presented at the next set of PAT meetings in early December.

**Does it matter to Idaho Power whether the line costs \$20 billion or \$40 billion? Won't Idaho Power recover the costs from the rates no matter how expensive it is?**

If the costs get too high, then the Public Utilities Commission will not approve the line.

**Do all U.S. Forest Service plans have designated utility corridors?**

No.

**Which forests do have designated utility corridors?**

The only one currently affecting this project is in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

**Who would Idaho Power rather fight: private property owners or the government?**

Idaho Power would rather work with them than fight them. As far as the permitting process goes, it's about the same. Whether we're proposing to put the transmission line on 10 percent BLM land or 80 percent BLM land, we still have to go through NEPA and an EIS, and address resource issues and exclusion areas.

**Is the utility corridor designated through the Blue Mountains northwest of La Grande wide enough for more than one transmission line?**

Yes. The corridor is wide enough to maintain the separation we need

**What is in the utility corridor now?**

It has a 230 kV line and a gas pipeline.

## Alternative Energy Sources

**What is Idaho Power's position on renewable energy for the future?**

Idaho Power has an Integrated Resource Plan that has a list of alternative energy resources such as wind, solar and nuclear. The state of Idaho does not have a renewable energy portfolio like the state of Oregon and other states. But Idaho Power is purchasing wind and geothermal and other renewable resources other than just putting in gas only.

**Can we talk about wind power and additional transmission capacity as part of the process of siting this transmission line?**

If we were to write in the project application that we intend to use this line for wind generation in Harney County it would slow our project down quite a bit.

**Has the state of Idaho mandated that a certain percentage of electrical energy come from renewable sources?**

The state of Idaho does not have a renewable energy portfolio standard.

**Why doesn't Idaho Power build the line so it can deliver power to the Snake River transmission system?**

Not many people live up in the Brownlee and Hells Canyon area. Most of the irrigation and air conditioning load we are serving is in the Treasure Valley. We're trying to get energy from a resource to where the electrical load exists.

**Why is Idaho Power buying alternative energy from other states rather than developing it locally? Wouldn't it be easier to use local power because the transmission distance is shorter?**

We select the most economical projects. We do have wind projects in Idaho.

**What is Idaho Power's renewable energy program?**

There is an option to buy green energy. You can pay an extra amount in your bill. It goes into the Bonneville Environment Energy Fund.

**How many consumers are taking advantage of that option?**

In 2008, nearly 2,700 Idaho Power customers took advantage of the Green Power Program. The numbers for 2009 are not yet available.

**Are there any proposed nuclear plants in the western United States?**

Not currently. Nuclear plants are not being developed in the West like they are on the east coast.

## **Other Considerations**

**How far along did Idaho Power get in the permitting process before it pulled the original route off of the table?**

Idaho Power held scoping meetings in October 2008. The BLM prepared a scoping report and posted it on its Web site. Idaho Power is currently preparing to work with the cooperating agencies to determine which alternative should be carried through NEPA for detailed analysis.

**What happens if Idaho Power wants to build another line in the future?**

Idaho Power has no plans in the foreseeable future to build an additional line from Northeast Oregon to Southwest Idaho. No contingency plans for this possibility have been made.

**Would Idaho Power like to have a reasonable range of routes narrowed down by 2010?**

We have delayed the in-service date by two years. If we do not complete this process by mid-January we won't be able to resubmit our application and get our notice in the federal register in time to do spring surveys for endangered species.

**Is there anything we can do to make this public process part of the NEPA process so the BLM doesn't have to do something like this all over again?**

We've talked to BLM about how to fold the Community Advisory Process into the NEPA process and the EFSC process. We'll submit a revised application to BLM and the Forest Service with a proposed range of alternatives. While this isn't part of the NEPA process, they'll consider this to be part of the scoping process.

**Where in Oregon are Idaho Power's customers?**

In Oregon we have customers in eastern Oregon, Jordan Valley, and the Unity area. Idaho Power serves as far west as Drewsey in Harney County.

**Does Idaho Power supply any power to co-ops that serve Harney County?**

In most of eastern Oregon and southern Idaho, Bonneville Power delivery comes through Idaho Power. It's a mixture. The energy is not Idaho Power's, but the delivery is done by Idaho Power.

**Doesn't Idaho Power already have three or four transmission lines between Boardman and Hemingway?**

We have four, and all are operating at capacity during the summer.

**What can be done to upgrade those lines to transmit more power?**

When we lose a generator we need to be able to look for energy someplace else. If we were going to upgrade one of those transmission lines we would have to completely rebuild it. We want to build a separate transmission line so that if it goes out of service, all the other lines can carry all the energy Idaho Power needs to import.

**There are other places in the country with several transmission lines all built next to each other. That seems a cost-effective way to provide repairs and maintenance.**

**Can that be done here?**

It is economical but can't be done for reliability reasons. If one or more of those lines were to go out of service it could lead to a blackout. After the 1996 and 2003 blackouts, the federal government mandated that the lines must be separate, so that if one goes down the others will not be affected.

## **Appendix 3 Team Input**

## Meeting Evaluation Comment Sheet Transcriptions

Comments were transcribed verbatim from the “Meeting Evaluation” sheets. (---) indicates that a word was illegible.

Name	What do you feel worked well for this meeting?	What do you feel didn't work well for this meeting?	Other comments.
Jerry Franklin	Open discussion		
Tim Lillebo 541 382-2616 Oregon Wild 16 NW Kansas Ave Bend, OR 97701	You did not explain the real need for this line. Invest the \$600,000,000 in renewables and do not build the powerline	Bringing over several proposals that Grant County had no previous input on. Pitting the Baker & La Grande folks against the Grant & Harney Co folks.	You all did a fine job of presenting and dealing with us in a fairly hostile situation.  Good work on keeping most folks “cool”
Claude Baker	Idaho Power demonstrated strong desire to answer questions, even at cost of slowing down what proved to be a very long presentation	Too much detail on NEPA process. Some speakers did not talk loud enough.	

## Concerns and Suggestions Comment Sheet Transcriptions

Comments were transcribed verbatim from the “Participant Comments” sheets. (---) indicates that a word was illegible.

Name	What are your concerns about siting the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line?	What are your suggestions for siting the transmission line?	Other comments.
Jerry Franklin	Destruction of our forest and landscape. We are a very remote area which has led the state in unemployment for several years we depend a lot on tourism and recreation and a site such as you are proposing would scar our country and detract from its beauty forever.	Keep it along the I84 corridor where it belongs	The people with the large irrigated fields are some of the bigger users of power.
Tim Lillebo 541 382-2616 Oregon Wild 16 NW Kansas Ave. Bend, OR 97701	The newly proposed extensive routes traversing Grant, Harney, Morrow, SW Baker, counties are absolutely unacceptable. The miles of proposed public lands in these areas are not acceptable. The C6 & C24 impacts the most public lands mainly Forest Service. The C18 impacts the next most public lands. The the S23, S29, S96 and C9 also impact mostly public lands. These proposed routes would negatively impact wilderness, roadless, old growth, big game habitats and riparian areas. The extent of those impacts on our public lands are unacceptable. You can not be serious about negatively impacting thousands of acres of our limited and extremely valuable public lands. None of the above mentions routes should be considered any further.	See end of previous page ( <i>previous column</i> )  Use existing corridors, adjacent to existing major corridors in the I-84 corridor — bury it under I-84 Lobby Federal Highway Commission to allow lines adjacent to I-84 in median or adjacent to I-84  Unacceptable to use the public lands routes in Grant, Harney, Morrow and SW Baker counties.	- We are not convinced that this line is necessary at all — need more information on the “perceived” or “real” need for such a line. - Invest the \$600,000,000 in renewables rather than build the powerline - The cost and damage would be --- on the public land public land options in Grant, Harney, Morrow are significantly rough terrain and the cost would be extremely high as opposed to the I-84 corridor area

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are existing corridors and previously developed lands on the routes that generally follow I-84.</li> <li>- Lobby the Federal Highway Commission &amp; put this impactful line next to the Freeway I-84 or do not build it. The costs are way too high to impact our remaining public lands with your new proposals that were not a part of your original proposal</li> </ul>		
Tim Nielson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inability for our local biomass power plant to connect and utilize the transmission line</li> <li>- Loss of private production and recreational and grazing lands</li> <li>- Lack of opportunity for local contractors to participate in the construction of the transmission line.</li> <li>- Idaho Power should emphasize possible benefits of routing the line in this area.</li> </ul>		



## **Appendix 4**

### **Invitation Process**



October 27, 2009

«Letter\_Address» «First» «Last\_»  
«OrganizationAffiliation»  
«Address»  
«City\_», «State» «Zip»

Dear «Greeting» «Last\_»,

You are invited to join the Boardman to Hemingway Project Advisory Team for Grant County. The team is part of a Community Advisory Process to help determine the route of a 500-kilovolt transmission line from the Boardman Substation near Boardman, Oregon to the new Hemingway Substation near Melba, Idaho. The line will reduce existing constraints on Idaho Power's transmission system.

Idaho Power is committed to partnering with local communities when determining the best route for the proposed transmission line. The Community Advisory Process is a collaborative approach that will allow us to work through the complex issues of this siting process together.

During the Community Advisory Process, citizens in eastern Oregon and western Idaho have asked Idaho Power to evaluate possible routes in Grant and Harney counties.

Idaho Power recently hosted a public meeting in Grant County to gather input and inform your community about the Boardman to Hemingway Project. We thank those that were able to attend the public meeting and we would appreciate your involvement on the Project Advisory Team.

The Grant County Project Advisory Team will meet for the first time on Thursday, November 5. The meeting will be held:

**November 5, 2009 ♦ 4 p.m. – 9 p.m.**  
**John Day Senior Citizens Center**  
**Canyon City Community Center**  
**131 S. Washington**  
**Canyon City, OR 97820**

A meeting agenda will be emailed to you within the next week. We look forward to meeting with you and appreciate your participation. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kent D. McCarthy  
B2H Community Advisory Process Leader  
Idaho Power Company  
208-388-2565  
[kmccarthy@idahopower.com](mailto:kmccarthy@idahopower.com)

**Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project  
List of Invitees**

<b>Claude Baker</b>	<b>Property owner</b>
<b>Neil Bauer</b>	<b>Property owner</b>
<b>Representative Cliff Bentz</b>	<b>Representative District 60</b>
<b>Bob Blakeslee</b>	<b>Property owner</b>
<b>Greg Bowman</b>	<b>Land owner</b>
<b>Mayor Dennis Bradley</b>	<b>City of Mount Vernon</b>
<b>Ron Burnette</b>	<b>Property owner</b>
<b>Margaret Carey</b>	<b>The Nature Conservancy</b>
<b>Kathleen Cathey</b>	<b>Senator Ron Wyden</b>
<b>Mark and Adele Cerny</b>	<b>Property owner</b>
<b>Amy Charette</b>	<b>North Fork John Day Watershed Council</b>
<b>Steph Charette</b>	<b>Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon</b>
<b>Brian Cochran</b>	<b>Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon</b>
<b>Jerry Ebeltoft</b>	<b>The Nature Conservancy</b>
<b>Senator Ted Ferrioli</b>	<b>Senator District 30</b>
<b>Roje Gootee</b>	<b>Rush Creek Ranch</b>
<b>James Hammett</b>	<b>John Day Fossil Beds National Monument</b>
<b>Eva Harris</b>	<b>Property owner</b>
<b>Rick Henslee</b>	<b>Property owner</b>
<b>Ken Holliday</b>	<b>Holliday Ranch</b>
<b>Representative John Huffman</b>	<b>Representative District 59</b>
<b>Jason Kehrberg</b>	<b>Grant Soil &amp; Water Conservation District</b>
<b>Jim Kelly</b>	<b>Property owner</b>
<b>Aaron Kilgore</b>	<b>Oregon Natural Desert Association</b>
<b>Rod Kuhn</b>	<b>Property owner</b>
<b>Tim Lillebo</b>	<b>Oregon Wild</b>
<b>Hilary McRay</b>	<b>Grant County Planning Director</b>
<b>Sharon Mogg</b>	<b>Chamber of Commerce Executive Director</b>
<b>Dennis Myhrum</b>	<b>Oregon Farm Bureau</b>
<b>Tim Nelson</b>	<b>Property owner</b>
<b>Mayor Andrea Officer</b>	<b>City of Seneca</b>

<b>Mayor Bob Quinton</b>	<b>City of John Day</b>
<b>Vic Shuck</b>	<b>Property owner</b>
<b>Robert Stewart</b>	<b>Property owner</b>
<b>Judge Mark Webb</b>	<b>Grant County / Property owner</b>

**Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project  
List of Attendees**

<b>Claude Baker</b>	<b>Property owner</b>
<b>Neil Bauer</b>	
<b>Cheryl Berry</b>	<b>Self</b>
<b>Tom Berry</b>	<b>Self</b>
<b>Boyd Billoe</b>	<b>Grant County</b>
<b>Bob Blakeslee</b>	<b>Property owner</b>
<b>Ron Burnette</b>	<b>Property owner</b>
<b>Scotta Callister</b>	<b>Blue Mountain Eagle</b>
<b>Mark Cerny</b>	<b>Property owner</b>
<b>Amy Charette</b>	<b>North Fork John Day Watershed Council</b>
<b>Kristen Coles</b>	<b>CTWSRO</b>
<b>Margaret Corey</b>	<b>The Nature Conservancy</b>
<b>Dinah Cowger</b>	<b>Property owner</b>
<b>Jerry Cowger</b>	<b>Property owner</b>
<b>Jerry Ebeltoft</b>	
<b>Ben Finley</b>	
<b>Jeff Finely</b>	<b>P.O.</b>
<b>Jerry Franklin</b>	<b>Business</b>
<b>Buzz Gilmore</b>	<b>Property owner</b>
<b>Roberta Gilmore</b>	<b>Property owner</b>
<b>Phil Gray</b>	<b>KJDY</b>
<b>Roje Gootee</b>	<b>Rush Creek Ranch</b>
<b>Rick Henslee</b>	<b>Property owner</b>
<b>Ken Holliday</b>	<b>Holliday Ranch</b>
<b>Gordon Larson</b>	<b>Schools/ Property owner</b>
<b>Tim Lillebo</b>	<b>Oregon Wild</b>
<b>Hilary McRay</b>	<b>Grant County Planning Director</b>
<b>Ted Merrill</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>Richard Naumann</b>	<b>Owner</b>
<b>Tim Nelson</b>	<b>Property owner</b>
<b>Roy Peterson</b>	
<b>Sarah Russ</b>	<b>Self</b>
<b>Vic Shuck</b>	<b>Property owner</b>
<b>Frank A. Silva</b>	<b>Property owner</b>
<b>Leon Skiles</b>	<b>Property owner</b>
<b>Carolyn Skiles</b>	<b>Property owner</b>
<b>Robert Stewart</b>	<b>Property owner</b>
<b>Judge Mark Webb</b>	<b>Grant County / Property owner</b>
<b>Tom Winters</b>	