

Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project

Grant County Project Advisory Team Meeting #5

Summary

May 6, 2010

6 – 8 p.m.

Mt. Vernon Community Hall

640 Ingle St.

Mt. Vernon, OR 97865

Table of Contents

Community Advisory Process Background.....	3
Grant County Project Advisory Team Background.....	5
Grant County Project Advisory Team Meeting #5 Overview	7
Presentations	9
Questions and Answers.....	16

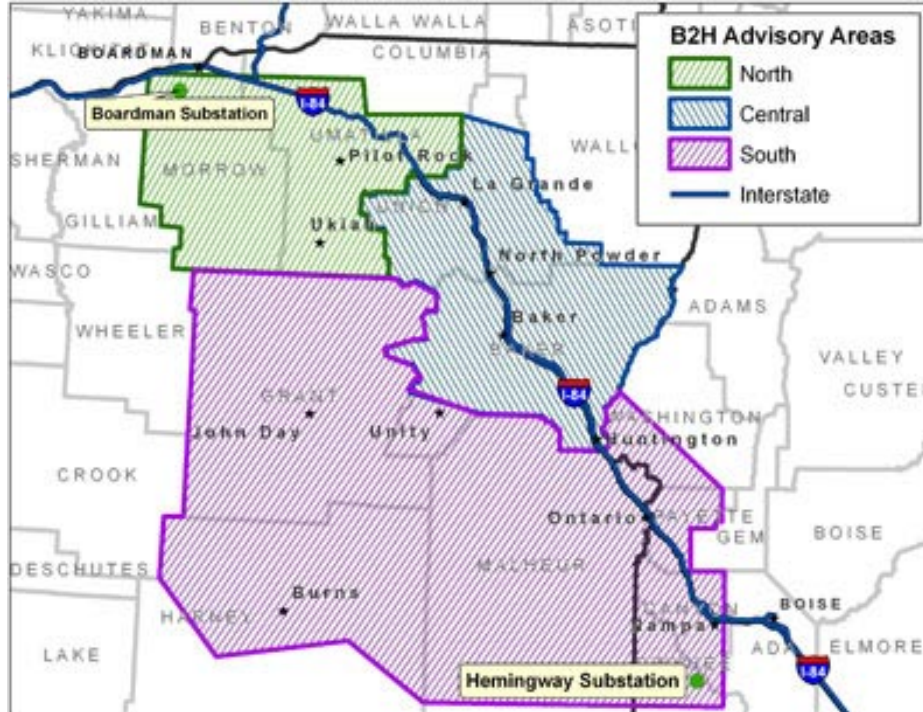
Community Advisory Process Background

Idaho Power is committed to partnering with communities to identify proposed and alternate routes for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project. The initial process of identifying a route began in late 2007 when Idaho Power submitted documents to the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and Oregon Department of Energy–Energy Facility Siting Council. Following public scoping meetings held in October 2008, these agencies received public input requesting that Idaho Power conduct more extensive outreach while identifying the transmission line route.

In response, Idaho Power initiated a process to engage communities—from Boardman, Oregon to Melba, Idaho—in siting the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project. This process is called the Community Advisory Process (CAP). Idaho Power is conducting a comprehensive and inclusive public process to locate proposed and alternate routes for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project.

The Project Advisory Teams have worked closely with technical experts to recommend proposed and alternate routes.

As part of CAP, Project Advisory Teams (PATs) have been formed throughout the project area. Initially, one PAT was formed in the Central area, one in the North, and one in the South. Each PAT includes local officials, property owners and community representatives. The PATs are identifying community issues and concerns and working closely with technical experts to recommend proposed and alternate routes. *(Continued on next page)*



(CAP Background continued) The Central, North and South PATs have met three times since Spring 2009. The third PAT meeting was a mapping workshop, in which PAT members identified potential routes for the transmission line. Idaho Power recorded these routes for evaluation.

Idaho Power invited community leaders from Grant and Harney counties to participate in the CAP in Spring 2009. Community leaders attended the Central and South PAT meetings and stated that if these PATs ultimately recommended routes that affected their counties, then PATs should be formed in Grant and Harney counties.

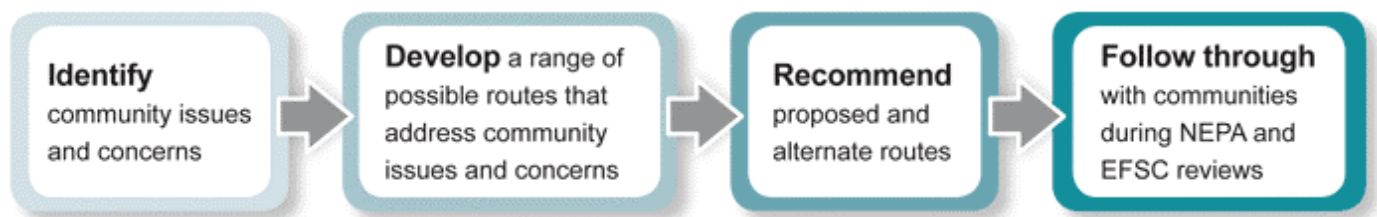
At the Central, North and South mapping workshops in Fall 2009, PAT members asked Idaho Power to evaluate possible routes in Grant and Harney counties. As a result of the routes developed at these workshops, Idaho Power hosted two public meetings in Grant and Harney counties in October 2009. The purpose of these public meetings was to give Grant and Harney counties the same opportunity as the early Central, North and South advisory areas to learn about the project, see the routes proposed by the other PATs, and provide input on criteria for siting the transmission line.

Idaho Power used input from the public meetings and community leaders to form a Grant County Project Advisory Team and a Harney County Project Advisory Team.

During the Community Advisory Process the Project Advisory Teams have:

- **Identified** issues and concerns; develop criteria for evaluating possible routes and integrate community criteria with regulatory requirements.
- **Developed** a range of possible routes that address community issues and concerns. Routes will be identified through mapping sessions; routes not meeting the regulatory and community criteria will be removed from consideration.
- **Recommended** proposed and alternate routes, which will be carried through the permitting process.

Idaho Power will continue to follow through with communities during the state and federal permitting process.



Grant County Project Advisory Team Background

Public Meeting

On Oct. 21 Idaho Power hosted a public meeting in John Day, Oregon, for the residents of Grant County. The purpose of the public meeting was to:

- Give the public an overview of the project.
- Allow the public to ask questions and provide input on criteria for siting the transmission line.
- Identify community members who wanted to join the Grant County Project Advisory Team (PAT).

The public meeting was conducted in an open house format. Attendees were given a meeting guide and comment sheet. Attendees were encouraged to view nine display stations with information about the project. Idaho Power representatives were available to answer questions.

PAT Meeting #1

The first Grant County PAT meeting was held Nov. 5, 2009 in Canyon City, Oregon. The Grant County PAT includes community leaders, business owners, landowners, elected officials and residents in Grant County.

The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Review project background, status and the Community Advisory Process (CAP).
- Discuss the purpose and need for the transmission project.
- Provide an overview of Boardman to Hemingway permitting process.
- Give update on CAP work.
- Identify community concerns and suggestions.

Team members were presented the regulatory and engineering criteria that would be used when developing possible routes for the transmission line. These criteria include state and federal regulations, policies and other standards that are applicable to development of a route. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Oregon Department of Energy-Energy Facility Siting Council (ODOE-EFSC) will use these criteria when reviewing proposed and alternate routes and determining whether they should authorize the project.

Community concerns and suggestions that were identified at the first PAT meeting were developed into community criteria. These community criteria have been used with the regulatory and engineering criteria to site potential routes for the proposed transmission line. These community criteria were presented to team members at the second PAT meeting for review and comment.

PAT Meeting #2

For the second Grant County PAT meeting, Idaho Power held a morning meeting and an evening meeting to accommodate the schedules of team members. Both meetings included presentations of the same information and a mapping workshop. The meetings were held on Nov. 19, 2009 in Mt. Vernon, Oregon.

The purpose of the meeting and mapping workshop was to begin to identify a range of possible routes for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line.

The Grant County PAT did not develop any routes at their mapping workshop. However, several weeks after the mapping workshop, one route was submitted by the Grant County Court.

Overall, 49 routes were developed by the South, Central, North, Harney County and Grant County project advisory teams.

PAT Meeting #3

The third Grant County PAT meeting was held on Jan. 19, 2010 in Canyon City, Oregon.

The purpose of the third Grant County PAT meeting was to:

- Present the analysis methods.
- Present the status of analysis for each PAT-proposed route.

Between September and December 2009, the engineers from Idaho Power and Tetra Tech recorded and labeled all PAT-proposed routes; determined the opportunity, avoidance and exclusion areas crossed by each PAT proposed route; and revised the routes to avoid exclusion and avoidance areas.

PAT Meeting #4

The fourth Grant County PAT meeting was held on March 2, 2010 in Canyon City, Oregon.

The purpose of the meeting was to present the eastern, central and western route alternatives and route analysis. PAT members were also asked to comment on the route alternatives and give input on a possible proposed route. To ensure team members had sufficient time to review the analysis and route alternatives, team members were given until March 25, 2010 to return their comments to Idaho Power via mail or e-mail.

After all comments were reviewed and summarized, Idaho Power selected the eastern route as the proposed route to submit in its revised application to the BLM to restart the NEPA process.

PAT Meeting #5

The fifth Grant County PAT meeting was held May 6, 2010 in Mt. Vernon, Oregon. A complete summary of the meeting is included in this document.

Detailed summaries of all Project Advisory Team meetings can be found on the project website www.boardmantohemingway.com.

Grant County Project Advisory Team Meeting #5 Overview

Agenda and Format

The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Present the proposed route Idaho Power is submitting in its revised applications to the federal and state siting processes.
- Discuss how and why the proposed route was selected.
- Discuss next steps in the siting process.

The meeting was held May 6, 2010 at the Mt. Vernon Community Hall in Mt. Vernon, Oregon.

Fifty-five people attended the meeting. Copies of the invitation letter, list of invitees and list of attendees are available in Appendix 1.

Kent McCarthy, Idaho Power's Community Advisory Process Leader, presented information about the proposed route and upcoming federal and state processes. The presentations were followed by a question-and-answer session.

Handouts

The following handouts were provided to team members at the meeting. Copies of these handouts are available in Appendix 2.

- Grant County PAT Meeting #5 agenda
- Idaho Power PowerPoint presentation
- A map of the proposed and alternate routes
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process flowchart handout
- Oregon Department of Energy – Energy Facility Siting Council (ODOE-EFSC) process flowchart handout
- Comment forms:
 - “Proposed Route” comment form
 - “Community Advisory Process Evaluation” comment form

PAT Input

Four team members completed the “Proposed Route” comment form. Four team members completed the “Community Advisory Process Evaluation” comment form. Verbatim transcriptions of all comment forms are available in Appendix 3.

- Comments submitted at the Grant County PAT Meeting #5 strongly opposed a route through Grant County.

*Boardman to Hemingway Community Advisory Process
Grant County Project Advisory Team Meeting #5 Summary*

- Many respondents requested that Idaho Power keep them informed as the federal and state siting processes move forward.

Next Steps

Idaho Power will host Community Advisory public open house meetings in communities along the proposed route in summer 2010 to present and gather input.

Idaho Power's submission of its revised SF-299 application to the BLM will restart the NEPA process. It is anticipated the BLM and ODOE-EFSC will hold joint public scoping meetings in late summer or fall 2010.

Presentations

Presenter – Kent McCarthy, Idaho Power, Community Advisory Process Leader

McCarthy introduced himself and thanked the Project Advisory Team members for attending the meeting. After all the team members introduced themselves, McCarthy explained the purpose of the meeting was for Idaho Power to present the proposed route it will submit in its revised application to the federal and state siting processes. McCarthy explained he would also review the next steps of the federal and state siting processes.

McCarthy explained that Keith Georgeson will be the new Project Manager for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project. He explained that Keith Georgeson would be managing the project as it moves into the federal and state siting processes.

Presentation of Proposed Route

McCarthy displayed a map of the proposed route and explained how and why the route was chosen. McCarthy's presentation included the following information:

- In March 2010, Idaho Power presented three route alternatives to the Project Advisory Teams, an eastern route, central route and western route. Idaho Power will submit the eastern route as its proposed route in its revised application to the BLM to restart the NEPA process. Maps of all three route alternatives are available at the project website www.boardmantohemingway.com.
- Idaho Power selected the Eastern Route as the proposed route based on a variety of factors:
 - Regulatory criteria from the BLM, Forest Service, Oregon Department of Energy, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Idaho Department of Fish and Game.
 - Results of the technical analysis of the three proposed route alternatives and segments
 - Difficulty of construction
 - Placement opportunities and avoidance and exclusion categories
 - Mitigation costs were considered, but did not impact the decision
 - Community criteria
- The advantages the eastern route has over the western and central routes include:
 - It requires fewer miles of new corridor
 - It crosses less rugged terrain and steep slopes
 - It crosses fewer total miles of higher construction difficulty
 - It crosses fewer special status streams

*Boardman to Hemingway Community Advisory Process
Grant County Project Advisory Team Meeting #5 Summary*

- It uses a designated U.S. Forest Service utility corridor to cross the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.
 - It requires fewer acres of forested timber to be cleared
- The eastern route does have some disadvantages such as:
 - It crosses more private land than the other two route alternatives
 - It is longer than the other two route alternatives
 - There may be issues around the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center
- When Project Advisory Team members developed their initial routes in September 2010, they avoided areas that were considered important to their community (i.e. avoiding Exclusive Farm Use land in Malheur County). These areas were termed “community criteria.” The community criteria are therefore an inherent part of the proposed route.
- Idaho Power also considered comments that were submitted by Project Advisory Team members in March 2010 about the eastern, central and western route alternatives. Overall, the comments did not identify any new issues or concerns that had not already been considered in the community criteria.
- Idaho Power is required to submit an SF-299 application, the standard form for requesting use of federal land, to the BLM. Submission of the SF-299 will begin the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. It is anticipated that the BLM and ODOE will hold joint public scoping meetings in late summer or fall 2010.
- In the SF-299 application, Idaho Power must identify one proposed route and may also include alternate routes. In spring 2010, Idaho Power will submit its SF-299 application to the BLM with the eastern route identified as its proposed route and three alternate routes. The three alternate routes are all segments, not entire new routes; one alternate is north of Brogan, one alternate is south of Baker City, and one alternate is south of the bombing range in the Boardman area.
- Changes will be made to the proposed and alternate routes throughout the NEPA process as the BLM identifies issues such as:
 - New sage grouse leks
 - New buildings or housing developments
 - Expansion of city areas of impact
 - Changes in the regulatory status of plant and wildlife species
 - New Washington ground squirrel habitat
 - Change in BLM Resource Management Plans, U.S. Forest Service Land Management Plans, or county or municipal requirements

*Boardman to Hemingway Community Advisory Process
Grant County Project Advisory Team Meeting #5 Summary*

- Discovery of cultural resources not previously identified (To prevent looting and/or damage, Idaho Power cannot disclose locations or information about cultural resources)
- One change has already been made to the proposed route that was originally posted to the project website. North of Vale, Oregon, near Brogan, the route was adjusted to avoid a new sage grouse lek that was recently found. The maps that are currently on the project website reflect this change.
- Significant characteristics of the proposed route include:
 - It parallels the existing Pacific Power & Light 500 kV line from the Hemingway Substation to the Oregon-Idaho state border, going west across Owyhee County in Idaho.
 - It avoids Exclusive Farm Use land in southeast Oregon and irrigated farmland in southwest Idaho.
 - It avoids sage grouse leks in southeastern Oregon near Brogan and Vale.
 - It goes through the eastern foothills of Durkee.
 - It will run behind the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Baker City.
 - From Baker City, it goes east of North Powder and enters the mountains behind La Grande.
 - It utilizes a U.S. Forest Service designated utility corridor to cross the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.
 - It goes north of Pilot Rock and will enter the Grasslands Substation in the Boardman area.
- In the Boardman area, there is an alternate route that runs south of the bombing range. Idaho Power has submitted a request to the Navy to site a portion of the route transmission line on the bombing range. Factors that could influence whether the proposed route or south alternate route is chosen are:
 - The Navy's decision whether to let Idaho Power use or not use the bombing range land.
 - Easement negotiations with private property owners in the area.
- **A map of the proposed and alternate routes is available on the next page.**

Boardman to Hemingway Community Advisory Process
 Grant County Project Advisory Team Meeting #5 Summary



NEPA and EFSC Processes – Kent McCarthy, Idaho Power, Community Advisory Process Leader

NEPA Process Overview

- When Idaho Power removed all its original routes from consideration in early 2009, the BLM's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process was paused so Idaho Power could initiate its Community Advisory Process.
- Idaho Power submitted its Draft SF-299 and Plan of Development, a detailed document describing the project that accompanies the SF-299, to the BLM for review on April 15, 2010. After the BLM reviews the Draft SF-299 and Plan of Development, Idaho Power will submit its Final SF-299 application to the BLM to restart the NEPA process.
- The NEPA process has four major steps:
 - Notice of Intent
 - Draft Environmental Impact Statement
 - Final Environmental Impact Statement
 - Record of Decision
- After Idaho Power submits its SF-299 application, the BLM will publish a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register and a 30-day minimum scoping period will begin. The purpose of the Notice of Intent is to notify the public that the BLM intends to begin an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project.
- The BLM will hold public scoping meetings throughout the project area to collect comments about the proposed route. Idaho Power anticipates the scoping period will be 60 days and the scoping meetings will begin in late summer 2010.
- After scoping, the BLM will develop a Draft EIS, which documents the social and environmental effects analysis of the proposed action and alternatives. The Draft EIS will include the BLM's response to issues identified during scoping. The BLM will also develop alternatives at this time to address these issues and concerns. The BLM will hold public meetings and provide a minimum 60-day public review and comment period during this time.
- The BLM will release a Final EIS, which will respond to comments submitted on the Draft EIS and identify its preferred route.
- The Final EIS will be available to comment on before the BLM issues its Record of Decision. The Record of Decision is the final step of the NEPA process, and is the BLM's final decision of whether or not to approve the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project.

ODOE-EFSC Review Process Overview

- The State of Oregon’s Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) is a governor-appointed, volunteer council that reviews and approves energy siting proposals in Oregon. In order to build an energy facility in Oregon, the project must meet all standards set forth by EFSC. The Oregon Department of Energy performs the technical work for EFSC.
- The ODOE-EFSC review process has seven major steps:
 - Notice of Intent
 - Project Order
 - Application for Site Certificate
 - Draft Proposed Order
 - Proposed Order
 - Contested Case Hearing
 - Final Order
- Idaho Power will submit its Notice of Intent to ODOE-EFSC after it submits its SF-299 to the BLM, but before scoping meetings begin. The ODOE-EFSC Notice of Intent is a completely different document and has a different purpose than the BLM Notice of Intent.
- The Notice of Intent that Idaho Power will submit to ODOE-EFSC is not an application to construct a facility – it merely states the applicant’s intention to submit an application in the future. The Notice of Intent initiates a public comment period on the proposal and allows agencies and affected local governments to identify applicable requirements and special issues of concern.
- After ODOE-EFSC receives Idaho Power’s Notice of Intent, it will issue a Project Order. The Project Order identifies applicable statutes, rules and ordinances and defines the impact analysis areas.
- Idaho Power will then complete an Application for Site Certificate that describes the facility, its anticipated impacts and how it will meet ODOE-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 requirements and indicate which land use permitting route it will take, either the local jurisdictional land use approval process or the ODOE-EFSC land use permitting process. In the ODOE-EFSC land use permitting process, ODOE-EFSC acts in place of the local jurisdictions and makes the decision on compliance with local land use requirements.
- After receiving the Application for Site Certificate, ODOE-EFSC will request comments from the public and other state and local agencies, then issue a Draft Proposed Order,

which recommends approval or denial of the application. ODOE-EFSC will hold 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 Hearing and right to appeal ODOE-EFSC's final decision.
- Since the ODOE-EFSC process also serves as the land use process, the public hearings serve as land use hearings for this project.
- ODOE-EFSC will issue a Proposed Order based on comments from the council, the public and other government agencies.
- A Contested Case Hearing will be held before the Final Order is developed. The purpose of the Contested Case Hearing is intended to be an opportunity for people to contest ODOE-EFSC's Proposed Order. In order to participate in the Contested Case Hearing, one must have commented in person or in writing on the Draft Proposed Order.
- The Final Order is the decision of whether or not ODOE-EFSC will issue a Site Certificate for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project.

Next Steps

- Idaho Power will host Community Advisory Process public meetings throughout the project area in summer 2010 to present the proposed route and continue to build relationships with property owners and community members.
- Idaho Power will submit its SF-299 application to the BLM in spring or early summer 2010 to restart the NEPA process.
- The BLM will file a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register and joint BLM/ODOE-EFSC scoping meetings will be held in late summer or fall 2010.
- Before scoping meetings begin, Idaho Power will submit its Notice of Intent to the Oregon Department of Energy to begin the ODOE-EFSC review process.
- Idaho Power will continue to keep Project Advisory Team members informed as the federal and state siting processes move forward.

Questions and Answers

Team members were given the opportunity to ask questions of Idaho Power representatives. Below are the questions that were asked at the South, Central, North PAT #6 meetings, and Grant County PAT #5 meeting.

The questions have been categorized and more information has been provided to some answers to clarify a point, or more accurately answer a question.

Proposed and Alternate Routes

Is the route that Idaho Power is submitting in their revised application to the BLM the same route from 2008?

There are significant differences between the current proposed route and the route that originally was proposed in 2008. Through the Community Advisory Process, Idaho Power was advised by community members where the transmission line should or should not go in each region. For example, in southeastern Oregon the proposed route avoids issues such as Exclusive Farm Use land in Oregon and irrigated farmland in Idaho. Another difference is that the proposed route now goes behind the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center rather than crossing the front view shed.

What is the purpose of each alternate route? What are they each trying to get around?

- The alternate route to the south of the Navy bombing range near Boardman gives another option for entering the Grasslands substation should permitting/easement difficulties occur with the proposed route.
- The alternate route just south of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center gives an option should permitting/easement difficulties occur with the proposed route.
- The alternate route in the south near Brogan was developed to get around a newly discovered sage grouse lek that is in the way of the proposed route.

When the proposed route leaves the Hemingway substation it will run parallel to the Pacific Power and Light 500 kV line. Will the Boardman to Hemingway line be north or south of the Pacific Power & Light line?

The Boardman to Hemingway line will run south of the Pacific Power and Light 500 kV line.

Why does the proposed route not go further north in Idaho before coming into Oregon?

There are a couple of issues at play here. First, one of the major criterion agreed upon by the South PAT was that the line should stay off of irrigated farmland. In order to site the route on rangeland and federal land in the southern part of the project, the route enters Oregon further south. Another reason the proposed route crosses the Oregon-Idaho border at the current location is because it follows a utility corridor and parallels an existing 500 kV line.

Another route that was suggested during the CAP was one that headed east from the Hemingway substation and circled the Treasure Valley in the foothills to the east of Boise. This route would

require building many pieces of new infrastructure not related to the Boardman to Hemingway project, such as substations, which would increase the scope of the project tremendously. This route would have also added many miles of construction to the project and thus impacted much more land and resources. The route that went east of Boise was eliminated from consideration during the CAP in December 2009.

How far behind the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is the proposed route?

The current proposed route will be one mile from the Interpretive Center and approximately one third of a mile from the main entrance of the Interpretive Center. Idaho Power is currently investigating the possibility of siting an alternative route that would go approximately three miles east of the Interpretive Center.

There is a shooting range behind the Interpretive Center. How far is the proposed route from that shooting range?

A little over three quarters of a mile.

How close is the proposed route to Neil Hot Springs?

The present alignment looks like it may go over the location for a new proposed geothermal well. Idaho Power will work with Neil Hot Springs owners to site the route appropriately around this area.

Is Idaho Power currently working with the Navy to site the Boardman to Hemingway transmission line on the Navy bombing rangeland?

Idaho Power has submitted an application to the Navy requesting to site the transmission line on the bombing range. *Update:* The Navy has responded to Idaho Power's application and denied its request for an easement across the northern portion of the bombing range. Idaho Power is now working with Portland General Electric and Morrow County to request the Navy reconsider its decision.

Does the Navy have a time-limit or deadline for getting a response back to Idaho Power on its application to use the bombing range land?

The Navy has responded to Idaho Power's application and turned down its request for an easement across the northern portion of the bombing range. Idaho Power is now working with Portland General Electric and Morrow County to request the Navy to reconsider its decision.

If Idaho Power gets approval to site the transmission line on the bombing range, how far inside the bombing range would the easement for the line be?

Idaho Power has applied for a 250-foot easement inside the northern bombing range border.

How many feet is the southern alternate route from the border of the bombing range?

At its closest point (west end, south of the Nature Conservancy preserve) the line is about 750 feet from the boundary. In the center of the area, halfway between the bombing range and Nature

Conservancy preserve, the line jogs out about one half of a mile. At the east end of the bombing range, the line is about one mile from the southern border of the bombing range.

Would going down Bombing Range Road be an acceptable corridor to Idaho Power for the Boardman to Hemingway transmission line?

Idaho Power is continuing to analyze alternate routes around the Boardman area. Locating along Bombing Range Road is an option that Idaho Power is evaluating.

Would 100-foot towers on the Naval bombing range satisfy safety regulations for a 500 kV line?

Idaho Power cannot answer this question until receiving requirements from the Navy.

Can Idaho Power provide a map that shows where the transmission line would be sited around the Nature Conservancy preserve?

Maps have been developed that show aerial photo views of the transmission line route around the Nature Conservancy preserve. To obtain a map, please contact Kent McCarthy, kmccarthy@idahopower.com, (208) 388-2565.

There has been some interest from Portland General Electric (PGE) on co-locating its proposed transmission line with Idaho Power's Boardman to Hemingway line. What is the status of this?

Idaho Power is currently working with PGE on potential ways to co-locate the Boardman to Hemingway line with PGE's Cascade Crossing Project. Idaho Power and PGE are working together to gain access to the bombing range for an easement.

When will construction of the transmission line begin?

Idaho Power anticipates construction will begin in 2013. The estimated in-service date for the Boardman to Hemingway transmission line is 2015.

If someone is still upset with the current proposed route, what is the best way to assert that option?

The BLM will be taking written comments through the scoping process, which is anticipated to begin in late August 2010. Comments can also be submitted to Idaho Power at the project website www.boardmantohemingway.com.

Federal and State Siting Processes

Will Idaho Power have to resubmit its application to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Oregon Department of Energy-Energy Facility Siting Council (ODOE-EFSC)?

Yes. Idaho Power will resubmit its SF-299 application to the BLM this spring to restart the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process. After the BLM published its Notice of Intent in the Federal Register, Idaho Power will resubmit its application to ODOE-EFSC to restart the state process.

Will the BLM publish a new Notice of Intent for the project in the Federal Register?

Yes.

Have dates been established yet for upcoming NEPA and ODOE-EFSC meetings?

The BLM and ODOE-EFSC will hold joint public scoping meetings. These meetings are anticipated to be held in late summer or fall 2010. Dates for other federal and state public meetings have not been scheduled yet.

Where will the BLM/ODOE-EFSC public scoping meetings be held?

Many public scoping meetings will be held throughout the project area. Most likely the public scoping meetings will be held in the same, or nearby, areas where the Project Advisory Team meetings were held.

Who will notify property owners about the BLM/ODOE-EFSC public scoping meetings?

The BLM will conduct a property-owner-level notification for the scoping meetings. The BLM will also send invitations to all people who attended Project Advisory Team meetings and/or public meetings during the Community Advisory Process. Idaho Power will also notify all Community Advisory Process participants of the scoping meetings.

At what point in the NEPA and ODOE-EFSC processes should citizens comment about their issues and concerns?

BLM and ODOE-EFSC will hold joint public scoping meetings will be held in late summer or fall 2010. Idaho Power encourages all stakeholders to attend these meetings and submit comments about any concerns and issues you have with the project.

Will Idaho Power continue to inform people that live along Idaho Power's original route, but are no longer near the new proposed route (Parma, Canyon County, etc.)? Will people in these areas receive invitations to the BLM/ODOE-EFSC public scoping meetings?

The BLM will conduct a property owner level notification for the scoping meetings. The BLM will also send invitations to all people that attended Project Advisory Team meetings and/or public meetings during the Community Advisory Process. Idaho Power will also notify all Community Advisory Process participants of the BLM/ODOE-EFSC public scoping meetings.

Will cooperating agencies from the 2008 NEPA process still be included?

All current cooperating agencies will remain included. Any entity will remain included unless they choose to pull themselves out of the process.

Specifically, how can people submit alternate routes during the NEPA process?

Alternate routes can be submitted to BLM in writing during the scoping process. Idaho Power will be willing to facilitate mapping sessions with community members if they are requested.

Can the BLM completely deny the Boardman to Hemingway project?

Yes, but only on federal lands. However, Idaho Power is making an exhaustive effort to identify all possible problematic issues so this does not occur.

What action would Idaho Power take if the BLM's Record of Decision denied the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project?

Idaho Power would likely appeal this decision. In the long run, if a permit cannot be obtained, the transmission line cannot be built.

Will the BLM make decisions based on data provided by Tetra Tech?

The BLM will review data it has collected and data submitted by Tetra Tech.

What will be the last opportunity for people to submit comments, in both the NEPA and ODOE-EFSC processes?

The last formal public comment period for NEPA follows the release of the Draft EIS. This comment period has to be a minimum of 45 days, but can be longer. Once the BLM issues the Final EIS, it will publish a Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register and this initiates a 30-day availability period. This is not a formal comment period, but the BLM can receive comments at this time. On Idaho Power's Gateway West Transmission Line Project, the BLM has indicated that they will accept comments on the Final EIS. If the BLM receives comments on the Final EIS, it can either address them in the Record of Decision, or depending on their level of significance, determine if the Final or Draft EIS should be supplemented. If the decision the BLM makes is subject to the 30-day appeal period to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) then this may be another chance for the public to comment. This would not be considered a formal comment period, but more of a legal action.

In the ODOE-EFSC process, the last chance to comment follows the Council's final order. Any party to a Contested Case has 30 days to apply for a re-hearing. A party may petition for judicial review within 60 days after the date of service of the Council's final order. These are more legal/administrative opportunities to comment. People can comment following the release of a Draft Proposed Order – they would comment at the public hearing. There is also an opportunity to comment at the Contested Case proceeding, but you must have commented during the Draft Proposed Order comment period to participate.

If people submit comments after the NEPA and ODOE-EFSC processes, will it make a difference in where the line is sited?

If Idaho Power is allowed latitude through its permits with the State of Oregon and the federal government, it will certainly work with landowners to place the line in the location most favorable to a landowner.

How does the BLM evaluate "social and environmental issues?"

"Social" refers to socioeconomic impacts. Socioeconomic impacts are not, by themselves, sufficient to require preparation of an EIS. An EIS is normally required only when an action poses a threat, or the potential of a threat, to the physical aspects of the environment. However,

when an EIS is prepared and socioeconomic impacts are interrelated with effects on the physical environment, then all such impacts must be addressed together. A commonly encountered example is the temporary influx of numerous construction workers. The EIS would look at how the influx could impact traffic, burdens on emergency services, housing, etc. These are the socioeconomic impacts. The increased population could impact air quality (due to increased traffic); this is the environmental impact.

As to the “how” part of the question, the methodology is similar to that for other resources and potential impacts, but the socioeconomic analysis is typically prepared by an economist. The EIS must consider and address direct, indirect and cumulative impacts. Effects are typically thought of as detrimental, but can be beneficial. When analyzing effects, the level of detail must be sufficient to support reasoned conclusions by comparing the amount and degree of change (impact) caused by the proposed action and alternatives. The level of detail and level of significance can vary by resource.

Will the NEPA process evaluate only the proposed route or will it evaluate alternate routes as well?

The NEPA process will evaluate Idaho Power’s proposed route and the three alternate routes, shown as green on the map. The NEPA process will not evaluate all 49 routes that were developed and eliminated during the Community Advisory Process.

Can anyone submit a route that has been previously eliminated back into the NEPA process?

Yes. The BLM will analyze routes submitted during scoping. The BLM may also develop its own alternate routes and analyze these routes as well.

Does the BLM have a time limit for completing their Draft EIS?

The BLM does not have a time limit to complete the Draft EIS.

What specific actions does BLM take to analyze private land? If possible, please provide an example.

The NEPA process analyzes the effects of the federal decision on private property. Potential effects to resources and socioeconomics on private land are addressed in the NEPA document if they are a connected or cumulative action. If the connected non-Federal action and its effects can be prevented by BLM decision-making, then the effects of the non-Federal action are properly considered indirect effects of the BLM action and must be analyzed as effects of the BLM action. Below is an example from the BLM’s NEPA handbook.

For example: The BLM receives a right-of-way request from a private company to build a road across BLM-managed land to provide access to adjacent private land, on which the company plans to create and operate a quarry. The creation and operation of the quarry cannot proceed unless the road is constructed. The road cannot be constructed without the grant by BLM of a right-of-way. The grant of the right-of-way must be analyzed as a BLM action. The BLM can grant or deny the right-of-way request. The construction of the road and the creation and operation of the quarry are connected actions.

Alternatives: The BLM must analyze the proposed action and granting the right-of-way, and consider the alternative of denying the right-of-way (the No Action alternative) and any other reasonable alternatives related to the right-of-way request. Because the construction of the road, and the creation and operation of the quarry would not be BLM actions, you do not need to consider alternatives to the road construction and creation and operation of the quarry.

Direct and Indirect Effects: The BLM must analyze the direct and indirect effects of granting the right-of-way. You must also analyze the direct and indirect effects of constructing the road and creating the operating quarry, because these effects could be prevented by a BLM decision to deny the right-of-way request, and therefore are property considered indirect effects of the BLM right-of-way grant.

Cumulative Effects: The BLM must analyze the cumulative impact of the right-of-way grant, the road construction, and quarry creation and operation, taking into account the effects in common with any other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

If the connected non-Federal action cannot be prevented by BLM decision-making, but its effects can be modified by BLM decision-making, then the changes in the effects of the connected non-Federal action must be analyzed as indirect effects of the BLM proposed action. Effects of the non-Federal action that cannot be modified by BLM decision-making may still need to be analyzed in the cumulative effects analysis for BLM action, if they have a cumulative effect together with the effects of the BLM action.

For the ODOE-EFSC process, will Idaho Power submit all three route alternatives that were presented during the Community Advisory Process in March (eastern, central and western routes)?

No. For both the NEPA and ODOE-EFSC processes Idaho Power will only submit one proposed route, the eastern route that follows the I-84 corridor.

Does ODOE-EFSC have a time limit for their comment periods?

No, ODOE-EFSC does not have set time limits for public comment periods.

Is there a new ODOE representative for the Boardman to Hemingway project?

Yes. Sue Oliver is the new ODOE representative. Her contact information is sue.oliver@state.or.us, (541) 567-3840 ext. 225.

Where and when will the Contested Case Hearing be held?

A date and location has not yet been scheduled yet for the Contested Case Hearing. The hearing could be held anywhere in Oregon.

What people or parties usually contest a project in an ODOE-EFSC Contested Case Hearing?

Concerning the ODOE-EFSC Contested Case procedure, anyone can participate in a Contested Case Hearing. The only qualification to participate is that you must have submitted comments on the Draft Proposed Order in person or in writing.

If there are no objections, will ODOE-EFSC still hold a Contested Case Hearing?

Yes, a Contested Case Hearing will be held regardless of the number of objections submitted.

Was the Pacific Power and Light 500 kV line built before Oregon established the ODOE-EFSC siting process?

Yes.

Can ODOE change the Project Order after the Contested Case Hearing? If so, when can one comment on the revised Project Order before the Final Order is decided?

The Project Order will not change. The Contested Case Hearing comes prior to the Final Order and can have a bearing on that Final Order.

If you are an Idaho resident can you comment on the ODOE-EFSC process?

Yes.

Does ODOE-EFSC have a requirement for the distance from the route that they must notify?

ODOE-EFSC requires notification to all residents that live 2,000 feet on each side of the centerline of the proposed route.

How can the ODOE-EFSC and NEPA processes be compatible?

The ODOE-EFSC and NEPA processes are not compatible; in fact they are opposed to each other in how they are set up. The Oregon Department of Energy and BLM are currently meeting to determine how to align the two processes.

If someone has already commented on the ODOE-EFSC's Project Order that was issued in 2008 on the original route, do they need to comment again?

Yes. ODOE-EFSC will be developing a new Project Order for Idaho Power's new proposed route.

Purpose and Need

Is the purpose of building this transmission line to take power to Idaho?

The Boardman to Hemingway Project is important to Idaho Power's service area and the Northwest as a whole. The line will reduce constraints on the Northwest transmission system as demand for energy continues to grow. Idaho's peak electrical usage is in the summer and the Pacific Northwest's peak usage is in the winter. Energy will be exchanged between Idaho and the Northwest on this line to meet the peak loads in both areas.

Is this a direct line to Idaho? Will people be able to access power from the line between Boardman and Hemingway?

Yes, this is a direct line between the Grasslands substation near Boardman, Oregon and the Hemingway substation near Melba, Idaho. Power will only be able to be accessed from these two substations.

Doesn't Idaho Power get enough power from their dams, such as Brownlee and Oxbow?

Idaho Power's service area has grown greatly since the Brownlee and Oxbow dams were built. The demand for electricity is now greater than what the dam system is currently providing.

How many dams does Idaho Power own and operate?

Idaho Power owns and operates 17 hydro-electric projects on the Snake River and tributaries.

Has Idaho Power started building the Hemingway substation near Melba yet?

Yes, construction began approximately two years ago. Idaho Power energized the electrical tap into PacifiCorp's Summer Lake 500 kV transmission line in early June. This is the first part of the substation to be energized.

Is Idaho Power building a transmission line from Wyoming to Idaho?

Yes. Idaho Power is working with Rocky Mountain Power on the Gateway West transmission line project that will run from Wyoming to the Hemingway substation near Melba, Idaho. The project would include approximately 300 miles of 230 kV lines in Wyoming and approximately 850 miles of 500 kV lines in Wyoming and Idaho. Segments of the line are scheduled to be completed in phases between 2014 and 2018. More information on this project is available at <http://www.gatewaywestproject.com/>.

How will the Boardman to Hemingway line tie in with Gateway West?

The Boardman to Hemingway transmission line will connect to the Gateway West transmission line at Hemingway substation.

Has the state of Wyoming put a moratorium on eminent domain because of all the issues with transmission line projects and property owners? If so, will that affect Idaho Power?

In March of this year, a one-year moratorium on the use of eminent domain for *collector lines* went into effect in Wyoming. This moratorium covers those lines needed to connect wind farms

to major intrastate and interstate transmission lines. The moratorium is narrowly focused on collector lines and does not affect intrastate and interstate transmission lines.

Is Idaho Power building a transmission line to California?

Idaho Power is not currently involved in any transmission line project being built to California.

Is the federal government giving Idaho Power money to build the Boardman to Hemingway transmission line?

No. Only private money is being used to build the Boardman to Hemingway transmission line. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) may or may not have backstop authority if Idaho Power is unable to successfully site the transmission line. In that situation, neither Idaho Power nor the landowners would have any say in where the transmission line is sited. Idaho Power wants to continue working with landowners through the Community Advisory Process and federal and state processes to negotiate easements without FERC becoming involved.

Where does Idaho Power stand on receiving their Certificate of Public Necessity from the Oregon Public Utilities Commission (PUC)?

Idaho Power submitted their Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) to both the Oregon and Idaho public utilities commissions in December 2009. In order to get a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity in Oregon, the Oregon PUC must acknowledge Idaho Power's IRP. The Oregon PUC's acknowledgment of the IRP gives the Oregon Department of Energy proof that the transmission line project is needed. The Oregon PUC is currently in the process of analyzing the IRP; public hearings were held in Ontario in March 2010.

When will the Oregon Public Utilities Commission reach a decision on Idaho Power's Integrated Resource Plan?

At this time it is estimated that a decision will be made in late summer 2010.

Will the Oregon Public Utilities Commission go through another round of public meetings after it issues Idaho Power their Certificate of Public Necessity?

Yes, it is expected the Oregon PUC will hold public meetings before issuing the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

How does the Oregon PUC's decision on Idaho Power's IRP relate to the ODOE-EFSC process?

Proving need for the project is one of the ODOE-EFSC standards that Idaho Power must meet. The Oregon PUC's acknowledgement of Idaho Power's IRP will prove that the project is needed and fulfill this standard.

Can the Oregon PUC approve only part of Idaho Power's IRP? Or is it an all-or-nothing approval?

The Oregon PUC can give an order that acknowledges only part of the Integrated Resource Plan.

What would happen if the Oregon Public Utilities Commission did not acknowledge Idaho Power's Integrated Resource Plan?

In order to fulfill OCOE-EFSC's requirements for "need" the Oregon PUC must acknowledge Idaho Power's IRP, so this is a very important procedural step. However, there is another route that could be taken to fulfill the "need" requirement with ODOE-EFSC. Idaho Power would take this route should the Oregon PUC not acknowledge the IRP.

Private Property

At what time will Idaho Power begin working with property owners to negotiate easements?

Idaho Power is currently scheduling meetings to begin negotiations with property owners. If you would like more information please contact Boardman to Hemingway's Project Manager, Keith Georgeson, kgeorgeson@idahopower.com, (208) 288-2034.

If landowners do not want the transmission line on their land, will Idaho Power go around their property?

Idaho Power will work with all landowners to find an acceptable way across their properties. If there is an option to go around a property, we will certainly consider it and negotiate with neighboring property owners.

Idaho Power has said that they met with farmers in Boardman and negotiated ways to route the transmission line through their properties. Do those property owners have any guarantee that the final route will be built along the routes they suggested across their properties? Can property owners lock in easements with Idaho Power now?

Idaho Power will meet with landowners to discuss easements throughout the NEPA scoping period. In the future, property owners will be able to lock in easements. However, this will not occur until after the route has undergone environmental surveying. Idaho Power has to make sure that the route connecting to each side of an individual's land can be permitted.

Before the easement happens, there is an agreement made between Idaho Power and the property owner. What is the name of this agreement?

In anticipation of obtaining an easement with a landowner, Idaho Power may seek an option for the right-of-way.

Community Advisory Process

Will Idaho Power be holding more Community Advisory Process meetings?

Idaho Power would like to inform communities about the proposed route and meet affected property owners before the federal and state siting processes begin. In order to do this, a series of Community Advisory Process public open houses will be held throughout the project area before the BLM and ODOE-EFSC hold their joint public scoping meetings. Idaho Power's CAP public open houses will be held in summer 2010.

Did Grant County have the opportunity to see and work with the same data Baker County used when they developed their routes?

Yes. During the Community Advisory Process, in fall 2009, mapping workshops were held in John Day, Burns, Baker City, Ontario and Boardman. Workshop attendees had access to GIS data and worked with technical experts to develop potential routes for the transmission line. All areas used the same data when developing their routes.

Did the North PAT community criteria list “irrigated agriculture” as an exclusion area?

The community criteria did not designate “exclusion areas.” Community criteria were separated into “avoidance areas” and “placement opportunities.” The North PAT listed irrigated agriculture as an avoidance area.

Will all the information that was collected during the Community Advisory Process be submitted to the BLM?

Yes. Idaho Power will submit all comments that were collected during the Community Advisory Process to the BLM. The BLM has told Idaho Power it will include the CAP comments in its NEPA documentation; however the process for how this will be done has not yet been determined.

How far from the route will Idaho Power conduct property owner notification for the CAP public meetings?

Idaho Power will send a letter of invitation to all property owners that live within 2,000 feet of each side of the centerline of the proposed route and alternate routes. Idaho Power will also invite all people that have attended Project Advisory Team meetings and/or public meetings.

Constraints and Resource Issues

The sage grouse have been categorized as a “listed, but precluded” species. How is this different from being officially listed on the endangered species list?

In early 2010, the Department of Interior made the decision that the sage grouse warrants the protection of the Endangered Species Act, but that listing the species at this time is precluded by the need to address higher priority species first. The sage grouse will be placed on the candidate list for future action. This means the species would not receive statutory protection under the Endangered Species Act and states would continue to be responsible for managing the bird.

Besides the Washington ground squirrel, what are the other threatened or endangered species that inhabit the land that the Nature Conservancy manages?

According to the Nature Conservancy website, the Boardman Grassland preserve “supports a wide array of wildlife species recognized as sensitive or vulnerable in Oregon, including the Washington ground squirrel – listed in Oregon as an endangered species – white tailed jackrabbit, burrowing owl, ferruginous hawk, Swainson’s hawk, loggerhead shrike, long-billed curlew, grasshopper sparrow, sage sparrow and northern sagebrush lizard.”

Is there a set criteria for how close the transmission line can come to the Oregon Trail?

The line can cross the Oregon Trail, but should avoid paralleling it. The areas of the Oregon Trail that are considered constraints, and should try to be avoided, are the portions that are considered “intact sections.”

Is there a way to see intact areas of the Oregon Trail on a Global Information System (GIS)?

Yes. GIS information systems have a data layer that shows all intact sections of the Oregon Trail.

How far can the transmission line parallel the Oregon Trail?

We are unaware of any regulation that requires a specific setback from the Oregon Trail or other historic trails.

Can the line be undergrounded?

No. Undergrounding a 500 kV line is extremely expensive and too difficult to maintain. It would also have to be replaced in 20 years, as compared to an overhead line which will last for at least a minimum of 80 years.

Does lightning ever hit the towers?

Yes, lightning often hits electric towers. Transmission towers typically have *static shield* wires that run above the actual conductors. These shield wires are designed to carry energy from a lightning strike to the ground so the towers and transmission lines will not be destroyed.

For More Information

Many questions were asked about the Oregon Department Fish and Wildlife's policies and regulations. For more information, please visit <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/> or contact ODF&W:

Carter Kerns
Commissioner – Eastern Oregon
503 N. Main St.
Pendleton, OR 97801-2243
Eastern Oregon

Bobby Levy
Marketing/Management Consulting
PO Box 69
Echo, OR 97826
Congressional District 2

Many questions were asked about the management and land-use of the Nature Conservancy Property. Idaho Power does not have enough information about these issues to sufficiently answer these questions. For more information about the Nature Conservancy please visit <http://www.nature.org> or contact:

The Nature Conservancy – Northeast Oregon Office
P.O. Box 386
Enterprise, OR 97828-0386
(541) 426-3458
Oregon@tnc.com 426-0228

Many questions were asked about the Navy bombing range near Boardman. Idaho Power cannot speak on behalf of the Navy and suggests you contact:

Richard Melaas
NAS Whidbey Island
3731 N. Charles Porter Ave.
Oak Harbor, WA 98278

Many questions were asked about a proposed natural gas pipeline in the Boardman area that may cross the Nature Conservancy preserve. Idaho Power has no knowledge about this project and does not have enough information to sufficiently answer these questions. For more information about the proposed natural gas pipeline please contact:

Carla McLane
Morrow County Planner
(541) 922-4624
cmclane@co.morrow.or.us