

Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project

Grant County Project Advisory Team Meeting #2

Morning Meeting Summary

November 19, 2009

Mt. Vernon Grange Hall

59491 Hwy 26

Mt. Vernon, OR 97845

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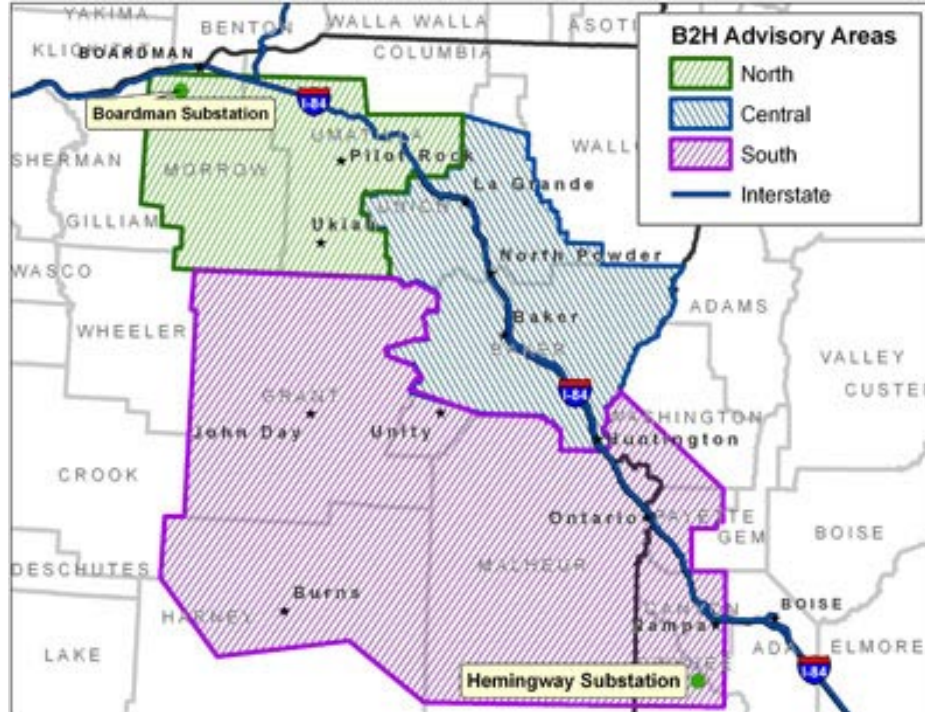
Introduction

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 will work 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)*



(Introduction 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 North 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, Idaho Power asked communities in Grant and Harney counties to participate in the CAP.

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 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 Harney County Project Advisory Team and a Grant County Project Advisory Team. All teams will work closely with Idaho Power and technical experts to recommend proposed and alternate routes for the transmission line.

Grant County Project Advisory Team (PAT) Background

On Oct. 21 Public Meeting #1 was held in John Day, Oregon for Grant County residents. 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.

The public meeting was conducted in an open house format. Attendees were given a meeting guide and comment sheet. Attendees were encouraged to view the 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 Project Advisory Team (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 purpose and need for the transmission project.
- Provide 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 will be 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. A full summary of the second Grant County PAT morning meeting is included in this document. A summary of the first Grant County PAT meeting and Grant County PAT #2 Evening Meeting are available on the project Web site www.boardmantohemingway.com.

Grant County Project Advisory Team Meeting #2 Overview

The Grant County PAT #2 morning meeting was held Nov. 19, 2009 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Mt. Vernon Grange Hall in Mt. Vernon, Oregon.

The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Present the outcomes of the public meeting.
- Review and discuss draft community criteria.
- Review the regulatory and engineering criteria.
- Explain the mapping workshop.
- Begin to identify a range of possible routes for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line.

Thirty-one people attended the Grant County PAT #2 morning meeting. A complete list of invitees, attendees and the invitation e-mail are available in Appendix 1.

Meeting Format

Presentations

The meeting began with presentations by Idaho Power and RBCI, the consulting firm that is managing the public involvement activities for the Community Advisory Process. The presentations included:

- Welcome – Kent McCarthy, Idaho Power, Community Advisory Process Project Leader
- Team Business and Public Meeting Outcomes – Rosemary Curtin, RBCI
- Review of criteria and how routes will be analyzed – Kent McCarthy, Idaho Power, Community Advisory Process Project Leader
- Explanation of mapping workshop – Kent McCarthy, Idaho Power, Community Advisory Process Project Leader

A question-and-answer session was held after the presentations. These questions and answers have been recorded and can be found on page 14 of this summary.

Mapping Workshop

The presentations were followed by a three-hour mapping workshop. The purpose of the mapping workshop was to:

- Begin to identify a range of possible routes for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line.
- Collect input about routes proposed by the North, Central and South Project Advisory Teams.

Handouts

The following handouts were provided to team members. Copies of these handouts can be found in Appendix 2.

- Agenda for Grant County PAT #2

- PowerPoint presentations given by Idaho Power
- Grant County draft community criteria
- Grant County criteria analysis worksheet
- Community Criteria comment sheet
- Meeting Evaluation comment sheet
- Route Record Form comment sheet

Team Input

Comment sheets

Idaho Power provided team members three comment sheets. Transcriptions of these comment sheets are available in Appendix 3.

Route Record Form – Team members were asked to provide a written description and comments for each route they developed. They could also provide comments about other PAT proposed routes on this comment sheet.

- Eighteen team members completed this comment sheet. Comments included:
 - The transmission line should be built along the I-84 corridor because this is the most direct route.
 - The transmission line would have negative effects on the pristine forests and wilderness areas in Grant County.
 - The transmission line should not be built in Grant County.

Meeting Evaluation comment sheet – Team members were asked what worked well and what didn't work well for the meeting.

- Three team members completed this comment sheet. Comments included:
 - The hard copy maps should have included the routes proposed by the other PATs.
 - Significant data was missing from the GIS system.

Community Criteria comment sheet – Team members were asked if any of the draft community criteria needed to be changed or if additional community criteria needed to be added.

- Three team members completed this comment sheet. Comments included:
 - Wild and scenic rivers need to be added to the community criteria.
 - Threatened and endangered species and plants need to be added to the community criteria.

Grant County PAT proposed routes

No routes were developed by PAT members at the Grant County PAT #2 morning meeting. Meeting attendees commented on routes developed by the other PATs.

Presentations

Welcome and Introduction - Kent McCarthy, Idaho Power, CAP Project Leader

McCarthy welcomed PAT members, reviewed the meeting agenda and gave a brief review of the CAP process to date. McCarthy's presentation included the following information:

- The North, South and Central PATs developed the proposed transmission line routes that have been presented at the Grant PAT meetings.
- Baker and Malheur County residents asked Idaho Power to get input from Grant County residents on the proposed routes in Grant County. After routes were proposed in Grant County, Idaho Power set up PAT meetings in Grant County so they could meet with Grant County citizens.
- The CAP is in the early stages of the mapping process. The initial routes proposed by the North, South and Central PATs are not final. There will be more mapping workshops in the North, South, Central, Grant County and Harney County areas to refine the initial PAT proposed routes.
- Routes are now being considered in Grant County because the Sand Hollow substation is no longer being built. The removal of the Sand Hollow substation allows more options for where the line can be sited. Idaho Power wants to hear the input from Grant County residents as they begin to analyze proposed routes.
- Idaho Power is committed to gathering input from all communities in the project area. A county with a larger population doesn't have more influence on the location of the transmission line than a county with a smaller population.
- Idaho Power is planning to ask Grant PAT members to work with citizens in Baker and Union counties in December or January to revise the range of proposed routes.

Overview of Public Meetings, Meeting Summaries and Community Criteria - Rosemary Curtin, RBCI, Facilitator

Curtin welcomed team members and reviewed the following information:

- Binders were handed out to team members at the first Grant PAT meeting on Nov. 5, 2009. If a team member has not received a binder, please contact Amanda Edge, Amanda@rbc.net, (208) 377-9688. Materials will be added to the binders as the CAP continues.
- A summary has been developed from the first Grant PAT meeting.
 - The summary was emailed to PAT members.
 - Anyone who didn't receive that email should request a copy from RBCI.
 - RBCI will mail a hard copy to those who do not have e-mail and to those who request a hard copy.
 - Important information in the summary is highlighted with a yellow border.

- Questions and answers from the Harney County PAT #1 meeting and the Grant County PAT #1 meeting were combined in one document in the appendices.
 - Idaho Power wants to ensure PAT members are satisfied with the content of the summary before it is made public. PAT members should notify RBCI if they have comments or changes they would like made to the summary before it is posted on the Web site.
- Several PAT members indicated they had not received any communication from Idaho Power regarding the second PAT meetings. Idaho Power and RBCI will re-evaluate the notification process and will make sure that all parties receive an e-mail, U.S. Postal mail notification and/or phone call invitation for the next meeting.
- On Oct. 21, 2009 a public meeting was held at the John Day Senior Center in John Day, Oregon. Seventy-six people attended this meeting and comment sheets were collected. On the comment sheets, public meeting attendees were asked to provide input on the following questions:
 - What are your concerns about siting the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line?
 - What are your suggestions for siting the transmission line?
 - Do you have any questions or comments about the routes proposed by the citizens in eastern Oregon and western Idaho?
 - Other comments.
- Public meeting attendees said they were concerned about adverse effects to the environment, scenery, designated wilderness areas and property values. Suggestions that were submitted on comment sheets included:
 - Use existing energy corridors.
 - Site the transmission line along I-84.
 - Site the line on public land.
 - Use other methods of energy.
- A summary of the public meeting will be posted on the project Web page at www.boardmantoemingway.com.
- The first Grant County PAT meeting was held in Canyon City, Oregon on Nov. 5, 2009. PAT members were asked to give their concerns about the project and suggestions for where to site the routes for the transmission line. Responses from PAT members were consistent with the responses submitted at the public meeting.
- The most often-repeated concerns submitted by Grant County PAT members at the first meeting included:
 - The transmission line would have a negative effect on scenic areas.
 - There are few clear benefits to Grant County of having the line constructed here.
 - Building the line so far west is not practical.
 - Residents of Malheur County and Baker County pushed the line into Grant County because they don't want it there.

- Suggestions from Grant County PAT members included:
 - The line should be constructed close to the I-84 corridor.
 - The line should be as short as possible to save Idaho Power money.
 - The line should be available to be used locally for transmission if wind projects (or other alternative energy sources) are developed nearby.
 - Idaho Power should seek in-state sources of energy so it doesn't need to transmit energy from Oregon.
 - The line should not go through the John Day Valley, where many Grant County citizens live.

- RBCI will develop a summary of the Grant County PAT #2 morning and evening meetings, documenting all comments and routes. This summary will be distributed to PAT members and posted to www.boardmanto hemingway.com by the end of December.

Criteria Overview and Route Analysis – Kent McCarthy

McCarthy reviewed the community, regulatory and engineering criteria that would be used to site potential routes for the transmission line. McCarthy's presentation included the following information:

- The terms avoidance and exclusion are both used in discussing criteria for the placement of transmission lines. A transmission line cannot be routed through an exclusion area because of regulatory criteria (i.e., a wilderness area or a sage grouse lek). Avoidance areas should be avoided if possible because of regulatory, environmental or community criteria. Many avoidance areas can be mitigated.

- Some examples of avoidance areas are:
 - Undeveloped areas
 - Wilderness areas
 - Rural areas
 - Roadless areas
 - Riparian areas, the strips of land that border creeks, rivers or other bodies of water
 - Scenic areas
 - The cedar grove
 - Fossil beds
 - View sheds
 - Recreation areas
 - Wildlife habitats
 - Big game winter range
 - Sage grouse leks
 - Forest land and old growth
 - Private property
 - Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) land

- The concerns and suggestions submitted by PAT members at the first PAT meeting have been developed into community criteria. These community criteria will be used with regulatory and engineering criteria when siting potential routes for the transmission line. Community criteria might not match up with federal and state criteria.

- Community criteria are divided into placement opportunities and avoidance areas. Placement opportunities for Grant County include:
 - Existing energy corridors (corridors that already have transmission lines on them)
 - I-84 corridor
 - A direct route between Hemingway and Boardman
- The mapping sessions will be an iterative process. The PATs will use community, regulatory and engineering criteria to develop proposed routes. Idaho Power will analyze these routes and present this analysis back to the PATs at the next meeting. The goal of the PAT mapping workshops is to develop one proposed transmission line route and a range of reasonable alternatives.
- Grant County PAT members are welcome to develop new routes or comment on routes that the other PATs have proposed.
- Routing tools for team members include a routing criteria table; a regulatory framework table; and a summary of exclusion, avoidance and placement opportunities.
- Team members may choose to develop routes on the paper maps or work with GIS operators to plot routes at the computer stations. All PAT routes that have been developed to date have been done on the GIS system. No PAT members so far have used the paper maps.
- A set of hard copy reference maps are displayed on the walls. These maps are separated into different categories to make the routing constraints easier to see. The categories are:
 - Cultural and visual resources
 - Land use
 - Physical and natural resources
 - Fish and wildlife
 - Exclusion areas
 - General constraints
 - Topography
- Not all areas have been surveyed or mapped. While there is data for almost all the criteria that will be used to identify routes, there might be some constraints and opportunities that are not shown on any of the maps.
- The mapping data will continue to be updated throughout the process. While Idaho Power has been using a wide variety of sources to collect data, PAT members are encouraged to keep Idaho Power informed of any information missing from the maps.
- The data are from a variety of sources and there is varying quality assurance and quality control. The GIS data has not been validated. Idaho Power does not currently expect more data to come to light that will result in significant route changes in the future.
- Not all of the mapping data includes all of the routing criteria. For example:
 - In northern Morrow County, some information about transmission line voltages might be incorrect.
 - Idaho Power does not have data on private resource lands, areas of tourism or rangelands.
 - The data is based on 2005 aerial photographs.

- 2009 data has not yet been released.
 - Sage grouse data is expected to be updated by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).
 - Some data is incomplete, especially in rural areas.
 - GIS data has not been fully validated.
 - Not all the planning areas have been surveyed or mapped for all the routing criteria.
- Idaho Power relies on community members to help point out any inaccuracy in the data. Community members who know of a resource near their ranch or home that is not on a map should let Idaho Power know so they can correct the data.
- Idaho Power will keep a detailed record of all routes developed by the PATs. Team members will be asked to provide a written description and comments for the routes they identify. This documentation will help Idaho Power understand the location and reasoning behind each route.
- A Route Record Form (yellow form) will be provided to each PAT member. The Route Record Form will be used to:
 - Assign each route a number.
 - Make notes about proposed routes.
 - Provide a description of why the route was chosen.
 - Raise any questions or concerns about constraints or other items that are not displayed on the maps.
 - Provide contact information. Idaho Power may contact the developer of the route during the analysis to clarify information about the route.
- PAT members should take the following factors into consideration when developing a route:
 - Cost (It will likely cost Idaho Power \$1 million to \$2 million to build the transmission line, so a proposed line that adds 100 miles to the route is likely too long).
 - Construction feasibility (i.e., A line that goes straight across the top of a mountain can't be built and some roadless areas might be inaccessible for construction and maintenance).
 - Must be able to be permitted (must meet regulatory criteria).
- If a PAT member does not want to develop a route they may use the Route Record Form to comment on other PAT proposed routes.
- Idaho Power will analyze all routes developed by the Project Advisory Teams using regulatory, engineering and community criteria. This analysis will include:
 - Reviewing Route Record Forms in order to understand the purposes and concerns behind particular routes.
 - Combining routes if several similar proposed routes are submitted.
 - Categorizing routes according to ranked community criteria.

- The 44 routes developed by the North, South and Central PATs are currently being analyzed. These routes can be viewed on the GIS system.
- During analysis all routes will be categorized as having a low, moderate or high probability of being permitted. A table that quantifies opportunities and constraints of each route will also be developed. This information will be presented back to the PATs at the next set of meetings in December.
- It is not yet known how long it will take for Idaho Power to analyze the routes developed by the Grant County PAT. The analysis timeline depends on how many routes are developed.
- The routes that Idaho Power originally proposed are not available on a hard copy map or on the GIS system. Some of the routes proposed by the South and Central PATs are very similar to the routes originally proposed by Idaho Power.
- After the Grant County mapping session, PAT members will begin the process of revising and eliminating routes. Additional mapping sessions may be necessary.

Questions and Answers

After the presentations, team members were given the opportunity to ask questions. Idaho Power has added information to the answers in this summary in order to clarify a point or more accurately answer a question.

Can we add more community criteria? Designated wild and scenic rivers are not on the list. In Grant County there are critical designated wild and scenic rivers that could affect this route.

Yes, certainly. The community criteria you see right now is a draft. We want to get your input tonight on what needs to be changed and what needs to be added or removed. The final community criteria will include the input you give us tonight.

Can you explain some of the obstacles to permitting?

In permitting there are several different levels. Exclusion areas cannot be crossed, for example a sage grouse lek. However, there are different levels of avoidance areas; they are categorized as high, medium and low avoidance. Examples of avoidance areas are designated scenic byways and designated scenic areas.

Does the exclusion reference map include the proposed routes?

The proposed routes are not on the hard copy reference maps. You can view the proposed routes on the GIS system.

Are we going to be able to see the route Idaho Power prefers?

Idaho Power has not proposed any routes. All the routes you see tonight have been developed by PAT members. Idaho Power's original routes were taken off the table this past spring.

Can we see the route Idaho Power originally proposed?

Idaho Power has taken the original routes off the table. The routes that are on the GIS have all been developed by the Central, South and North PATs. Several of the PAT routes are very similar to Idaho Power's original route.

Will we be able to review the routes that Baker County and Malheur County developed?

All routes that were developed in the North, South and Central advisory areas are available on the GIS.

Is there any feasible route through Grant County given the number of exclusion areas? I would like to see a GIS analysis of a potential route using the exclusion areas. Your GIS should be able to produce this.

According to the regulatory criteria, there is a way to get through Grant County. Some exclusion areas can be crossed perpendicularly. However, there are other factors to take into consideration, such as the U.S. Forest Service and input from the communities in this area.

So an exclusion area is not absolute?

Yes and no. For example, there have been cases where a transmission line is able to cross a scenic river as long as crosses at location that does not have wide vistas. When the route is analyzed, many factors are taken into consideration.

It would be useful to have an analysis before we start developing routes.

All data is available on both the hard copy maps and the GIS systems.

You don't have it synthesized, which is what the GIS system is capable of doing.

A GIS system will be available for you to use tonight. The data is synthesized on the GIS. The data is not all put on the hard copy maps because there would be too much. On the GIS you will be able to pull up all constraints and decide if you think a route is feasible or not.

You have said there are transmission line easements already established. Will these easements be shown on the GIS?

There are two easements that affect this project. One is a designated national energy corridor that runs through Harney County. The PacifiCorp line follows this corridor. The other corridor goes through the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest near La Grande, along I-84. The original route Idaho Power proposed followed this corridor. Some of the Central PAT members developed routes that follow this corridor.

Does Idaho Power have an existing transmission line between Boardman and Idaho?

To get energy into Idaho from the Boardman area, Idaho Power uses space on a Bonneville Power Administration 230 kV line from Boardman to La Grande. Idaho Power owns a 230 kV transmission line from La Grande to the Boise area.

Can you identify where that transmission line is located?

That transmission line is shown on the GIS system.

Instead of building a new transmission line can Idaho Power use existing lines or upgrade the towers to a higher voltage?

Idaho Power currently has three 230 kV lines and one 500 kV line that run into Idaho. The capacity on all these lines is full. All lines need to have extra capacity reserved for the purpose of reliability. If one of those lines were to go out of service, the other three lines have to be able to carry the same amount of electricity that all four were carrying before.

Corridors are already established for those lines. Can't Idaho Power engineer the existing lines to correctly carry the new line? Can the corridors be widened?

That would be possible, but new construction on all of those lines would cost \$1.5 million or \$2 million per mile. Additionally, one of Idaho Power's existing lines goes through the Hells Canyon Wilderness Area. The line was built before this area was designated as a wilderness area. This line could not be expanded. Idaho Power has researched these options and the best option is to build the new 500 kV line. However, we recognize building a new transmission corridor will be difficult.

Has there been an evaluation of the routes that the other counties proposed?

The analysis of these routes has not been completed yet. We know some routes will be difficult to permit. Other routes will probably have a high likelihood of being permitted. All information from the analysis will be available when it is completed.

The State Historic Preservation Office has data that is not public. Are you working with them to ensure there will be another cultural resource data set?

Idaho Power will conduct cultural surveys and detailed field studies after a proposed route and alternate routes are selected. When these surveys begin, Idaho Power will work with the State Historic Preservation Office.

Are there other resource concerns not subject to public knowledge that will have to be reviewed?

Yes. For example the federal government would not let the location of a Native American cultural site be publicized in order to prevent plundering.

Can we see what the transmission line would look like?

We have provided brochures tonight that show images of 500 kV towers. If you would like to see an actual 500 kV line, there is one that crosses Highway 20 between Burns and Vale. These towers are similar to the lattice towers that would be built for the Boardman to Hemingway line.

I don't see anything that addresses fire protection issues. There are a lot of rangeland fires in Grant County. How close can the fire retardant airplanes come to a transmission line?

If fire retardant is being dropped, the U.S. Forest Service often asks for the line to be de-energized to make sure there's not a flashover on the line. The National Electrical Safety Code requires a 250-foot-wide corridor. The purpose of this corridor is to prevent lines from swinging out and touching trees and thus igniting them.

What about rangeland fires? Will the transmission line prevent local fire crews from getting to our land?

When we build a line we need to have access to it for maintenance purposes. If there were a fire, the crews would be able to use these access roads.

Are we going to develop routes only in Grant County? Or will we be able to develop routes for the entire area?

The other PATs developed routes both in and outside of their counties. You can make adjustments to routes that have already been developed, or develop a completely new route. You can develop a route in Grant County or outside of Grant County.

Will the power on this transmission line come from the coal-fired plant in Boardman?

No. The purpose of connecting at Boardman is to get energy from the mid-Columbia region in Washington. From the mid-Columbia trading hub to the Boardman Substation, Idaho Power obtains space on a Bonneville Power Administration transmission line to transmit its energy. The Boardman to Hemingway transmission line would be used to get that energy from the Boardman Substation to the Hemingway Substation. Idaho Power does get some energy from the Boardman coal-fired power plant; however, that energy is transmitted over existing 230 kV transmission lines.

Who will be the decision-maker on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) if you are dealing with two states, the federal government and private land?

Many parties will be involved in the decision-making process, including the BLM, U.S. Forest Service and Oregon Department of Energy – Energy Facility Siting Council. The BLM is the lead agency for the EIS process and will ultimately be the decision-maker, in conjunction with other federal agencies for the EIS. ODOE-EFSC also has decision-making authority for lands in Oregon.

So will you have multiple decision-makers? Who will sign the Record of Decision?

At the federal level, the BLM district manager at the Vale District Office will sign the Record of Decision. At the state level, the ODOE-EFSC will give us a site certificate, which is analogous to record of decision. Idaho Power will negotiate with private property owners. If you would like more information on the review process, please visit www.boardmantoemingway.com.

I think your GIS map is incomplete. Why is the John Day Fossil Bed National Monument not on the screen?

The GIS coverage that showed the John Day Fossil Bed National Monument boundaries was put up on the screen by the GIS operator.

Why is privately owned forestland not shown on the maps or the GIS?

Idaho Power does not have data for privately owned forestland.

Many general maps show where forests are located regardless of land ownership. Will these be available?

Tetra Tech said these maps could be obtained.

The GIS gives a misleading impression that there is a large area in the north-central part of county with nothing on it. Why is the data for that area not shown?

On GIS we can pull up the aerial images to show this area.

I sent you data of the state scenic rivers. The middle south and north fork of the John Day River is a state scenic view. Why don't we see any listing of that?

The GIS operator put this data up on the screen.

I would like to see what the routing consideration ruling is for the state scenic rivers. I just brought this to the attention of Oregon Parks and Recreation yesterday and they didn't seem to know much about it. They were aware of the process, but why haven't they been involved yet?

We can add it. We have it. It was acquired after we had put these layers together.

Is the north fork a national scenic waterway? I didn't see that up there on the GIS layer.

I can go and pull up those data layers as well. I just don't have them right now. You can use your community criteria avoidance areas too. Even if we don't have the layer, or if it's not federally designated or state-designated and you think it should be, that should be part of your own criteria as you do your mapping. And then tell us why.

Do you have the land use zones for the Exclusive Farm Use land? We have two agricultural zones in the county.

Yes, these areas can be seen on the GIS data.

Exclusive Farm Use land is only one of our agricultural zones. We also have a designation called Multiple Use Range. It's a lower productivity agricultural zone, but it is still designated an agricultural zone.

Multiple Use Range will show up under range designation.

This designation is a pretty extensive part of the county's land.

This data is available on the GIS.

The rules for both designations are essentially identical. The differences are related to acreage requirements for specific uses. But the criteria used to evaluate land use requests in both those zones are similar. I just want to make sure you are aware there is another agricultural zone designation.

The data shows Exclusive Farm Use designated lands from Oregon statewide zoning. We have not been able to get digital data from Grant County. In the counties where we do not have digital data, we ask for maps.

Do you have to stay away from the roadless areas?

Building in roadless areas is not prohibited, but it would usually require plan amendments by the Forest Service. Roads cannot be built in these areas, so we would have to access them by helicopter. Roadless areas are shown as an exclusion area on the maps. However, if we had no other option we would see if the line could be built in that area without roads.

One of the proposed routes cuts across the John Day Valley, Highway 26, the John Day River and almost goes through a roadless area.

The PAT members that developed these routes did not all focus on the same constraints. The analysis will show these red flags. Modifications will be made to these routes. If you see routes going through areas that you know are exclusions, please include this information on your Route Record Form.

Who is on this advisory committee?

Idaho Power asked community leaders to identify people in their areas that were interested in participating in this process. In October, Idaho Power hosted a public meeting in John Day and asked people to give us their information if they were interested in being on the Project Advisory Teams. All Project Advisory Team meetings are open to the public and if you feel someone is missing tonight, please give us their contact information and they will be invited to the next meeting.

We are not engineers. How will we know where to site a route?

We want to get your input about the areas in your communities that are important. You have the best information because you have knowledge of the geography in this area.

How much old growth timber will have to be removed if the line is built through the forest? You need to consider old growth forest a very important part of your study.

We have some of it at least mapped in the National Forest. I am not sure if we have mapping of that outside the National Forest. The Forest Service does designate old growth timber.

This is my first meeting. You said someone had determined that this transmission line route was a win-win situation for Grant County. Who said this comment?

All the comments that were submitted on comment sheets are recorded verbatim in the meeting summaries. The meeting summaries are available on www.boardmantohealingway.com.

It sounds like you are asking the people of Grant County to map a way through this county and we don't want the line through this county at all. If we mapped, wouldn't it look like we are helping you design it?

Developing a route today is not mandatory. You are welcome to only submit comments about other routes or only observe.

It seems you are asking us to put a route through Grant County as best we can. Nobody wants this going through Grant County. This line should stay in Idaho, it has nothing to do with the state of Oregon, it shouldn't even be in the state of Oregon, and the entire eastern Oregon doesn't want this going through here. Have you heard one person today say, "We want this line in Grant County?"

The purpose of the meeting today is to present you the routes the other PATs have developed and gather your input. If you are not supportive of the routes, be sure to include this information on your comment sheet.

Where did the routes in Grant County come from?

In September Idaho Power hosted mapping workshops for the North, South and Central PATs. At these mapping workshops some team members developed routes in Grant and Harney counties. After these routes were developed Idaho Power organized meetings in Grant County and Harney County to gather input.

We only found out about this meeting yesterday. Why didn't Idaho Power do a better job of notifying people?

In October, Idaho Power hosted a public meeting in John Day and a public meeting in Burns. We sent a postcard invitation to every resident and property owner in Grant and Harney counties and also placed display ads in local newspapers. At the public meetings we asked attendees if they would like to participate on the Project Advisory Team for their area. Invitations to the Project Advisory Team meetings were sent to those that gave us their contact information at the public meeting.

You said this was an invitational meeting. You said you asked for volunteers. But if there was one meeting for the public to say we absolutely do not want this line, how fair is that?

This will not be the only meeting. Another public meeting will be held once a proposed route and a range of alternate routes are selected.

Did Baker County and Malheur County really suggest the routes that we are seeing today?

The routes you see today are the initial routes developed by the North, South and Central Project Advisory Teams.

Did they put routes in Grant County because they didn't want the transmission line in their counties?

The other PATs developed routes within their own counties also. It is not Idaho Power's intent to pit county against county. The other PATs asked us to evaluate these routes and gather your input.

How can you even consider other routes other than the I-84 corridor?

Currently we are considering many routes. Idaho Power made a commitment to the PATs that we would analyze any initial route they developed during the CAP. The range of routes will be narrowed down as the process continues.

So you haven't ruled out the route that follows the I-84 corridor?

No. The PATs have developed many routes that follow the I-84 corridor. All of these routes will be analyzed.

If you determine from the criteria that there is no feasible route through Grant County, will you say, "Sorry, there is no way we can use these routes in Grant County?"

Until the analysis is complete no routes have more significance than others. The analysis will show the feasibility of each route.

You indicated at the beginning of the presentation that you want to buy power from the mid-Columbia area. Is it possible to build a line up through Idaho and over to Washington? That would avoid Oregon completely.

Routing the line that way would add a tremendous amount of length to the transmission line, about 120 miles. To access the energy from the mid-Columbia area the line has to go to the Boardman hub. Essentially the entire Northwest is a trading hub. Boardman is the closest spot where Idaho can connect to the larger trading hub.

You said that you could pony onto BPA's existing transmission lines from Boardman. Can you pony into an existing grid to go south to Idaho?

The transmission system from Boardman south to Idaho is at capacity. The lines going up to the mid-Columbia region have extra capacity for us to tie into.

The lines north of Boardman are not at capacity yet?

No.

Instead of going through Oregon, can't you get energy from the east coming out of Montana?

A tremendous number of transmission lines are being built in the western United States right now. There is one from Montana into central Idaho, one from Wyoming to Idaho, one going south into Nevada and many others planned for the region. Many transmission lines are going to be built in the Northwest because the grid in this area is full. All utilities go through an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). The IRP looks at the individual utility and what that utility needs to do to meet customer loads.

Has Idaho Power investigated the use of the solar and wind technology? The Obama administration has set aside funds to change the infrastructure of our roads and grids and highway and energy sources. Shouldn't you be thinking long term? How serious of a feasibility study have you done?

Nationally, the utility industry renewable technology is being evaluated. Currently, there is no technology to make these reliable resources. These technologies will be developed, but we have to deliver electricity now. Transmission lines are needed to get the energy from these renewable resources to the areas that use the electricity.

How close are we to developing satellite technology that replaces power lines?

That technology is a long way from being fully developed.

If everything works out and the line is built, what will be the total cost? Please include eminent domain and lawsuits.

Building the line will probably run between \$1.5 and \$2 million per mile. If mitigation costs, environmental impacts, easements from private property owners, access roads, etc. are taken into account, the total cost will probably be about \$600 to \$800 million.

Has Idaho Power considered local generation of solar power? John Day has potential for solar generation.

For solar power, the electricity rates that the consumers pay in the northwest are too low. There is more solar generation happening down in the Nevada desert and in the California desert because their energy rates are so high. The cost of solar power is coming down. Currently, Idaho Power is building a large natural gas-fired generator in the Boise area and 100 MW of wind resources that will tie into Idaho. Geothermal resources are being developed too.

Incorporating some solar and wind project development would be good for your public relations. It seems that Idaho power is very focused on trying to seek alternative energy sources and “green” your power strategy. Coming through Grant County strikes me as being very inconsistent with that goal. When you start talking about building a corridor of this magnitude in Grant County, that’s an entirely new development. A tremendous amount of forested area will be affected.

Our current IRP calls for a lot of wind and geothermal. There is one proposed solar project in eastern Oregon that we could tie into soon. However, large contingencies of people get upset when we buy more renewables because it makes rates go up.

Is it correct that the major plan is to get power from the Northwest to Utah and Colorado?

The intent is to build this line for service into Idaho. This line will have more capacity than we need, so there will be partnerships formed. But our need for the line is just to serve Idaho.

So essentially it’s for you to take cheap energy from the Northwest and bring it into Idaho?

Energy will be brought into Idaho, but extra energy will also be transmitted from Idaho.

Wouldn’t it be best to develop power in Idaho, Utah and Colorado?

The IRP has determined, that the energy from the mid-Columbia hub is the least expensive resource we can access. Idaho Power plans to build a large natural gas plant right outside of Boise to serve Idaho. We also need to have a diversified range of options to serve the customers. When Idaho uses less electricity in winter, we can send that power to the Northwest and serve all the communities that use more electricity in winter. With local power generation and transmission, this option isn’t possible.

Do the large transmission lines leak a lot of power?

Less than 2 percent.

In our community we probably pay lower costs than they do in larger cities. Wouldn't putting the line here raise our power costs to serve other people?

Most likely the electricity rates in Grant County are higher than they are in Boise. Oregon Trail Electric Consumers Cooperative does not generate their power. They have to buy their power and have it come through Idaho Power or BPA. Although this is an Idaho Power transmission line, everyone is interconnected. Electricity usage is on the rise, and the need for the line is not just for Idaho Power's needs. The need is for the entire Northwest.

Can you give us a little history on the Columbia River power generation and the effect of the Indian lawsuits on water and fish? I've heard in the past that the Indians have won some pretty significant lawsuits and they've been able to basically buy them off for a while. Do they want to breach the dams?

My knowledge of Indian lawsuits on the Columbia is very limited so I couldn't answer that. The mid-Columbia trading hub is regional. The energy traded on that hub is not just hydropower. Wind power, nuclear power, the Columbia generating station, the Boardman power plant, coal and natural gas power plants are feeding into that hub. Even if the dam were breached, that power would have to be replaced. Sources of renewable energy are increasing but they are always far away from the cities. The energy will still probably concentrate on that mid-Columbia area.

The routes C9 and C18 look like they would add 75 to 100 miles to the direct route. Have you considered this?

These are only the initial routes proposed by the PATs. We are here to gather your input. Give us your comments and we will take that information back to the PATs that developed these routes.

Would it be less expensive to go along I-84 instead of going through Grant County?

Yes, most likely.

Isn't cost a consideration?

Yes, cost is a consideration, along with permissibility and constructability.

So you were going to build the line along I-84 until the public threw a fit. They told you to go through Grant County and you just took their advice?

We asked the PAT members to develop routes. They asked us to consider routes in Grant and Harney counties in addition to the routes that they developed in their own counties.

What are the obstacles to taking the I-84 route?

The Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is a big issue because of the view shed. Exclusive Farm Use land is a big issue in Malheur County and farmland in Idaho caused a lot of problems. Right next to the Boardman power plant there is a Navy bombing range that cannot be crossed. Beneath the power plant and to the west is a Nature Conservancy preservation area that cannot be crossed.

I understand sage grouse came up earlier in this process as a concern. But there are a lot of other species associated with the Endangered Species Act that you initially didn't cover in scoping, such as spotted owls. You might need to rethink the type of habitat you're potentially going to cross.

When we reach a reasonable range of alternatives, all of these issues will be looked at in more detail. We will conduct on-the-ground surveys of what species are listed.

What is your timeline now?

Last year at this time, the in-service date for this line was 2013. As a result of the Community Advisory Process, the in-service date is now 2015. The line will take at least two years to construct, so ideally, we would like to complete the NEPA process by 2013.

Mapping Workshop Summary

Following the presentations and question-and-answer session, a mapping workshop was held for the Grant County Project Advisory Team members from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The objective of the mapping workshop was to enable Grant County residents to identify possible routes for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line.

Team members had the option to lay out routes on a paper map or work with a Geographic Information System (GIS) computer and operator to lay out routes at the computer stations. The GIS system contains a computerized database of opportunities and constraints. The team members chose to map their routes on the GIS computer stations.

Other informational materials included:

- **Large reference maps showing:**
 - o Cultural and visual resources
 - o Land use
 - o Physical and natural resources
 - o Fish and wildlife resources
 - o Exclusion areas
 - o Topography
 - o General Constraints
- **Community criteria** that the Grant County Project Advisory Team identified as important to their area.

A Route Record Form was provided to each team member. On this form, team members were asked to provide a written description and comments for the routes they identified. Each Route Record Form had a pre-assigned number that would be used to identify each route that was mapped. This assigned number would also identify the route during the analysis after the mapping workshop.

Team members were also asked to provide the following information on the Route Record Form:

- What method they used to map their route (paper map or GIS).
- If and how they could be contacted to answer questions for clarification concerning their route.
- Specific factors that made their route important.
- Any additional comments.

If team members did not map a route, they were asked to use the Route Record Form as a comment sheet to give input on other routes.

The Grant County PAT did not map any additional routes at the morning mapping workshop.