

Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project

North Project Advisory Team Meeting Summary

May 27, 2009

Port of Morrow Convention Center

2 Marine Drive

Boardman, Oregon 97818

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Overview

Invitation Process

Idaho Power developed the initial North Project Advisory Team (PAT) by:

- Reviewing previous public involvement activities for this project.
- Identifying community leaders.
- Interviewing community leaders for suggested members.

This information was used to assemble a list of invitees, which generally included elected officials, property owners and residents within the North area. Also invited were representatives from economic development organizations, irrigation districts, businesses, community organizations, resource agencies and advocacy groups. Please see Appendix 4 for the letter of invitation, list of invitees and list of attendees.

During the first meeting, Idaho Power also asked PAT members to identify who was missing from the team. Idaho Power will review these suggestions and add members to the PAT.

North PAT Counties

The North PAT includes representatives from the following counties:

- Morrow County
- Umatilla County

Meeting Agenda and Format

Idaho Power hosted the first North PAT meeting in Boardman, Oregon on May 27, 2009, at the Port of Morrow Convention Center.

The meeting objectives were to:

- Review project background, status and the Community Advisory Process.
- Discuss purpose and need for the transmission project.
- Identify community concerns and suggestions.

The following handouts were provided and are available in Appendix 5:

- Agenda
- Idaho Power Company brochure
- A list of North Project Advisory Team invitees
- Community Advisory Process flowchart
- Handouts about the NEPA and EFSC processes
- “Boardman to Hemingway Newswire” newsletter

- “Boardman to Hemingway Project Advisory Team” PowerPoint presentation
- “For Our Next Meeting” questionnaire
- “Meeting Evaluation” questionnaire

The meeting began with presentations by Idaho Power staff.

- Welcome – Dan Minor, Idaho Power, Senior Vice President of Delivery; Lisa Grow, Idaho Power, Vice President of Engineering & Operations
- Background and Status – Eric Hackett, Idaho Power, Boardman to Hemingway Project Manager
- Community Advisory Processes – Kent McCarthy, Idaho Power, CAP Project Leader
- Purpose and Need – Dave Angell, Idaho Power, Manager of Delivery Planning

After the Idaho Power presentations, the PAT divided into three working groups. The purpose of the working groups was to identify concerns and suggestions for siting the transmission line. Idaho Power staff joined each working group to answer questions. Working groups were limited to 12 -14 members and assisted by facilitators.

Team Member Input

In addition to concerns and suggestions, Idaho Power asked team members to evaluate the meeting and the Community Advisory Process. This input will be used to help plan future meetings.

- 32 members attended the meeting.
- 28 members completed the For Our Next Meeting questionnaire.
- 17 members completed the Meeting Evaluation questionnaire.

Idaho Power asked PAT members to identify who was missing from the discussion. PAT members suggested including specific people as well as:

- Representatives from the Nature Conservancy.
- More tribal representatives.
- Representatives from the Wheat Grower’s Association, Cattleman’s Association and Soil & Water Conservation districts.
- Representatives from Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever.

Idaho Power asked who would be available to help plan:

- Public meetings—17 team members volunteered.
- Mapping sessions—19 team members volunteered.

Idaho Power also gave PAT members two potential dates for the next meeting and asked for availability. The team response was that availability for either June 25 or July 29 was similar.

The team members submitted 13 questions on their Team Input handout (yellow handout). These questions are available in Appendix 3.

- When asked to evaluate the meeting, PAT members responded favorably to the current format of smaller working groups. Suggestions for improvement included requests to move on to siting the line and have experts available to answer questions.
- The detailed summary of both questionnaires is available in Appendix 3.

Presentations

Welcome—Dan Minor, Idaho Power, Senior Vice President of Delivery Lisa Grow, Idaho Power, Vice President of Engineering & Operations

Dan Minor, Idaho Power, Senior Vice President of Delivery, welcomed participants and thanked them for coming. Minor recently participated in two field trips through Malheur County: one with senior members of the Boardman to Hemingway project team and one with members of the Stop Idaho Power citizens group. After these visits, Idaho Power management recognized that the public didn't feel Idaho Power or the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) had heard their concerns.

Therefore, Idaho Power decided to implement the Community Advisory Process (CAP). On March 9, 2009, Idaho Power went to Ontario, Oregon, and announced a change in direction. Idaho Power removed the Sand Hollow Substation from the plan and all proposed transmission line routes from the map. The current map begins at the Hemingway Substation near Murphy, Idaho, and terminates at the Boardman Substation. Idaho Power is now looking to this Project Advisory Team (PAT) and the public to help draw the new transmission line route. Involving the public at this level on a project of this size is new for the industry, but Idaho Power knows they need the help of the PAT.

Lisa Grow, Idaho Power, Vice President of Engineering & Operations, continued by noting that the PAT represents different views—some represent the agricultural industry, others want to bring growth and new businesses into the communities, and others are concerned about the environmental impact of the project. Team members need to help Idaho Power develop a reliable source of electricity that remains as inexpensive as possible. Finding a solution will take collaboration from everyone involved and an understanding of other viewpoints. Many think Idaho Power has enough power and that a power shortage is not a current problem. The system Idaho Power has used reliably for years is out of capacity. Additional infrastructure is not only required for growth but to maintain the status quo. Idaho Power is part of the western United States grid and a weakness in one area can cause problems everywhere—Idaho Power is responsible for the reliability of the interconnection. Idaho Power cares about its customers, stakeholders and community members. Grow asked team members to keep an open mind and ask lots of questions throughout the CAP.

Minor concluded by reminding participants that Idaho Power and its management and board of directors are committed to this process and will work with the PAT to site a route that is acceptable to all parties.

Introductions and Agenda—Rosemary Curtin, PAT facilitator

Rosemary Curtin, PAT facilitator, reminded participants that this meeting was being recorded and asked team members to briefly introduce themselves and comment if they desired. Curtin reviewed the meeting's objectives and agenda. A copy of the meeting agenda is available in Appendix 5.

Curtin told the PAT members that a summary of the meeting would be submitted to them for review as soon as possible. She also informed team members that all finalized materials would be available on the project's Web site—www.boardmantohemingway.com. Curtin also said that the date of the next meeting would depend on feedback from the PAT.

Background and Status—Eric Hackett, Idaho Power, Boardman to Hemingway Project Manager

Eric Hackett, Idaho Power, Boardman to Hemingway Project Manager, introduced himself and delivered a PowerPoint presentation about the background and status of the project. This presentation is available in Appendix 5.

Hackett explained that Idaho Power has proposed building a 300-mile, 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Boardman, Oregon to the Hemingway Substation being constructed near Murphy, Idaho.

Hackett's presentation included information about the following topics:

- Idaho Power is involved in two public processes that evaluate environmental impacts and concerns. The first process began when Idaho Power applied for a right-of-way permit from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and special-use permits from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to cross federal lands. These two federal agencies will work together, with BLM acting as the primary agency. The second process began when Idaho Power filed a Notice of Intent to submit an Application for Energy Site Certificate with the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC). This state process examines environmental and land-use zoning effects at a local level with help from sister agencies such as the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- In 2006, Idaho Power's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) first identified the need for this project. The IRP identifies a portfolio of projects to guarantee that Idaho Power has the resources to supply energy.
- Idaho Power officially announced the Boardman to Hemingway Project in 2007. At the time, the project scope was slightly different and included the Sand Hollow in-line substation. Once Idaho Power announced the project, the company started collecting data, routing the line and submitting applications and Notice of Intent. The resource agencies held public meetings, and prepared the BLM scoping report. The federal Notice of Intent

and right-of-way applications help the federal agencies identify the team who will review Idaho Power's applications and issue a decision using applicable federal regulations to determine if Idaho Power has sited the line properly.

- Idaho Power worked with public managers from federal agencies and ODOE to develop the public information and scoping meetings. These meetings collected comments from the public and agencies. The BLM issued the scoping report that summarized these comments. In 2009, ODOE issued a Project Order, and in spring 2009, Idaho Power announced the Community Advisory Process (CAP).
- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guides the decision-making process of the BLM and USFS. The NEPA process examines environmental impacts and determines the mitigation measures that Idaho Power will have to incorporate. The ODOE will use the EFSC process to obtain input from counties and state agencies to make decisions on state-owned and private land. Both processes are well documented and engage the public.
- Before the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and ODOE application can be published, Idaho Power will complete the CAP. The purpose of the CAP is to collaborate with members of the public, elected officials and private citizens to develop routes to submit to the BLM, USFS and EFSC. At the end of the CAP, Idaho Power will submit an amended right-of-way application to the BLM and USFS. This application will describe the proposed and alternate routes developed by the PATs. Idaho Power will also inform the ODOE of these new routes.
- After the CAP, the BLM will likely re-open scoping and re-publish a revised scoping document. The ODOE will likely re-open their public meetings and issue a revised Project Order. Following the scoping document, the BLM will write a draft EIS that evaluates the alternate routes. Parallel to the EIS, Idaho Power will write the ODOE application.
- Idaho Power will continue to keep the PAT members informed about the state and federal processes.
- All routes are currently off the table, but Idaho Power is still proceeding with actions that are not route specific.

Community Advisory Process (CAP) Overview—Kent McCarthy, Idaho Power, CAP Project Leader

Kent McCarthy, Idaho Power, CAP Project Leader, presented an overview of the CAP. This presentation can be found in Appendix 5. McCarthy explained that Idaho Power has divided the entire area that could potentially be affected by the transmission line into three advisory areas: North, Central and South:

- South Advisory Area – Grant County, Harney County, Malheur County, Washington County, Payette County, Canyon County, Owyhee County.
- North Advisory Area – Morrow County, Umatilla County.

- Central Advisory Area – Union County, Baker County.

McCarthy's presentation highlighted the four steps of the CAP:

1. Identify community concerns and suggestions, which will become the community routing criteria.
2. Develop a range of possible routes that address community concerns and suggestions.
3. Recommend proposed and alternate routes, which will be submitted by Idaho Power to the federal and state agencies.
4. Idaho Power will maintain contact with the PAT during the NEPA and EFSC reviews.

McCarthy then went on to explain what will occur at each meeting:

- *PAT Meeting #1* – The PAT will divide into three facilitated working groups so PAT members can discuss their concerns and suggestions. Idaho Power representatives Dave Angell, Kent McCarthy and Eric Hackett will visit each working group and answer questions.
- *PAT Meeting #2* – A panel of regulatory agencies and Idaho Power representatives will speak to the PAT about environmental and regulatory criteria. Concerns and issues from PAT Meeting #1 will be refined into community criteria.
- *Public Meetings* – Idaho Power will hold a series of public meetings in each of the three advisory areas and ask Project Advisory Team members to help organize these meetings. Results from the PAT meetings will be presented to the public at this point for review and comment.
- *PAT Mapping Sessions* – The PAT will incorporate public input and use regulatory, environmental and community criteria to site alternate routes.
- *PAT Coordinating Teams* – Midway through the process, representatives from the PATs will serve on a coordinating team. The coordinating team will bring together the work of each PAT and ensure that proposed and alternate routes transition smoothly between the three advisory areas.
- *Recommend routes* – The PAT will recommend proposed and alternate transmission line routes. Idaho Power will resubmit applications to the BLM and USFS and the ODOE will continue with its process. Idaho Power will continue to communicate with the PATs throughout the NEPA and EFSC reviews.
- The NEPA process will continue through 2012. Idaho Power may reconvene PAT meetings at this time.

After McCarthy's presentation the PAT facilitator, Rosemary Curtin, reviewed the questionnaire and evaluation forms (Appendix 5) that were included in the packet. She reminded team members that Idaho Power would like assistance with planning the public meetings and mapping sessions. Curtin asked participants to complete the questionnaire and evaluation forms by the end of their working groups or return them by mail as soon as possible.

Purpose and Need—Dave Angell, Idaho Power, Manager of Delivery Planning

Dave Angell, Idaho Power, Manager of Delivery Planning provided an overview of the purpose and need for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project. Angell's presentation included information about the existing transmission system, existing problems, integrated resource planning and regional transmission planning.

The purpose and need presentation included the following information:

Transmission Overview

- Idaho Power generates, transmits and distributes electricity within the Western Electricity Coordinating Council. The power system in the western United States is operated independently of the eastern United States.
- A transmission map of the western system, scaled down to southeastern Oregon and southern Idaho, was displayed. Idaho Power owns and operates a majority of these transmission lines with others, such as PacifiCorp and the Bonneville Power Administration, which own and operate lines as well. Idaho Power is responsible for providing transmission for Idaho Power's customers, electrical cooperative customers, municipality customers, direct service loads, the Bureau of Reclamation generation and independent power producers.
- When Idaho Power first began, hydropower was the primary generation source. As the electrical use grew it was followed by coal-fired plants. These generation sources are not close to the load source; transmission is needed to get the energy from these systems to the users. Recently, Idaho Power has added natural gas, geothermal and wind power generation and expects a substantial amount of wind generation to develop in eastern and southern Idaho.
- Additional transmission lines are needed to move power from available and planned resources to the load. On the western side of Idaho, three 230-kV transmission lines reach into the Pacific Northwest and a single 500-kV line enters southern Oregon. These four lines are important for meeting the electrical needs of customers in southern Idaho and eastern Oregon. The electrical use reaches the full capability of the generation and transmission system every summer. Energy demand varies seasonally and Idaho Power's service area experiences peak electrical use in the summer due to irrigation and air conditioning loads. No additional capacity is available during these summer peaks.
- Reliability becomes an issue when peak electrical use occurs in the summer. Many years ago, western utilities identified areas where seasonal needs varied and generators in the west and northwest developed a sharing agreement. This agreement keeps rates low and allows utilities to operate without having to build as many generation facilities. Therefore, if a coal plant on the eastern side of the system can't stay online, Idaho Power replaces that energy from the Pacific Northwest.
- If transmission lines from the Pacific Northwest are full, Idaho Power is not able to replace the missing energy and must reduce the electrical use. Reducing electrical use requires removing service from several of the distribution lines that supply energy to

homes and irrigation systems. Idaho Power has previously relied on the disconnection of electrical users to maintain the reliability of the transmission system. These conditions may occur anytime during the summer peak usage until additional resources are available.

- Electrical energy that serves electrical customers in southern Idaho and southeastern Oregon is not the only energy traveling the transmission system. When California experiences peak electrical use, energy is drawn from the Pacific Northwest. Electricity flows based on the path of least resistance, so some of the energy going to California flows around the scheduled path and increases the electrical current on Idaho Power's transmission lines as well.

Integrated Resource Planning

- In the 1990s, Idaho Power began the formal process of integrated resource planning. During this process, Idaho Power examines how the company will reliably meet existing and forecasted electrical use over a 20-year planning period. Idaho Power evaluates both supply (building more generation or transmission) and demand (reducing demand) resources. The purpose is to balance cost, risk and environmental concerns.
- In 2004, Idaho Power submitted an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) that was reviewed by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (IPUC). The IPUC mandated that Idaho Power evaluate transmission. Idaho Power incorporated transmission in the 2006 IRP and identified two options that would fit in the preferred portfolio. The first option—originally called the McNary to Locust transmission line, now known as the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Project—was planned as a 230-kV line. The second option was to replace the 230-kV wire on an existing line. If the Boardman to Hemingway Project is built as a 500-kV line, Idaho Power will not have to replace the wires on the second line.
- The 2006 IRP was updated in 2008 to include three projects that are now in service: Raft River Geothermal, Elkhorn Valley Wind Project, and Danskin Simple-Cycle combustion turbine. Two projects are still planned: the 2012 Baseload Resource and the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Project.

Regional Transmission Planning

- The Northern Tier Transmission Group includes several entities that have been working on regional transmission issues. The Northern Tier Transmission Group includes several companies: Deseret Power Electric Cooperative, Idaho Power, Northwestern Energy, Participating Utilities, PacifiCorp, Portland General Electric, Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems and public regulators from Wyoming, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Utah.
- The Northern Tier Transmission Group has examined past studies regarding transmission lines, which all agreed that generation in Montana and Wyoming would be useable if transmission lines existed to get the power to the loads. Generation resources are not located in the areas with the greatest loads—Seattle, Portland and Salt Lake City. Proposed

transmission lines include lines from Montana, Wyoming and Utah and lines into Washington and Oregon. Coal generation is no longer being considered.

- Several western states have adopted standards for the amount of renewable energy they will include in their portfolios. A national standard of 25 percent by 2025 is expected by the end of the year. Although Oregon and Washington have some renewable projects planned, most renewable power will come from Montana and Wyoming. New transmission lines are needed to transport this power from areas of generation to areas of need.

Regional Transmission Projects

Several transmission projects are planned for northeast Oregon (all are 500-kV lines unless otherwise noted):

- Bonneville Power Administration is building a line from McNary Dam to the John Day Dam in Oregon.
- Portland General Electric is evaluating a project across Oregon.
- PacifiCorp has a project planned from Hemingway to southern Oregon and a 230-kV line from McNary Dam, Oregon, to Walla Walla, Washington.
- TransCanada has a project planned from Edmonton, Alberta to the Columbia River.
- Another line is planned from British Columbia to northern California.

Summary of Purpose and Need Presentation

As a transmission provider, Idaho Power is obligated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and state commissions to serve electrical users, connect generation and provide for wholesale and interstate transmission uses.

Working Groups

The goal of the working groups was to identify all concerns and suggestions of the PAT members. The outcomes of the working groups will be the development of community criteria. The community criteria will be added to the engineering and regulatory criteria that will be used in the siting process. Three facilitators helped the working groups as they raised concerns and identified suggestions. The three facilitators were:

- Rosemary Curtin – Working Group 1
- Camille Oldenburg – Working Group 2
- Marsha Bracke – Working Group 3

Detailed working group summaries and transcribed flipcharts are available in Appendix 1. Idaho Power staff joined each group to answer questions; these questions and answers are transcribed in Appendix 2. Each working group member was given a comment sheet to complete and the transcriptions of these are available in Appendix 3.

Working Group Comments

The three working groups had overwhelming agreement on the most significant concerns and suggestions for siting the transmission line. The most often-repeated concerns and suggestions are listed below. A more detailed summary of each working group discussion is in Appendix 1.

Overall Summary

Concerns

Participants in all three working groups identified the following concerns with the Boardman to Hemingway project:

- **Relationship this line will have with other utility projects planned for the region**
 - Multiple other transmission lines are planned for the area.
 - Will Idaho Power coordinate with the other utilities?
 - Uncertainty of where the substation will be located.
 - The line will encourage many spin-offs (lines from smaller electrical companies and/or wind farms).

- **Effects on Boardman, Umatilla, Morrow County region**
 - Increase of utility pollution.
 - The line will make Morrow County even more of a “hub.”
 - Don’t want to see more of a ‘snarl of wires.’
 - Location of line could limit the growth of the city of Boardman.

- **Land values**
 - The line could divide land and reduce the amount of farmable land.
 - Protect private land.
 - Protect Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) land.

Suggestions

Participants in all three working groups identified the following suggestions for siting the transmission line:

- Site the line as far south as possible.
- Coordinate this line with other proposed transmission lines.
- Site the line outside the city of Boardman.
- Site the substation strategically to influence the location of other transmission lines.
- Avoid areas that have the potential for residential or business development.
- Avoid private land (farming, grazing, timber).
- Avoid irrigated land.

Working Group 1

Concerns

Working group participants identified the following concerns with the Boardman to Hemingway project:

- **Land and property values**
 - Line will jeopardize valuable land.
 - The line will prevent future commercial and residential development.
 - The line will cross city land in Boardman that was purchased for future development.
 - Avoid jeopardizing developable land.
- **Effects to the city of Boardman**
 - Towers will bisect the city or fence the city in.
 - Do not split Boardman with the line.
- **Relationship to other transmission line projects planned for the area**
 - Five additional lines are planned for this area (by other utility companies). The utility companies need to coordinate.
- **Access to power from the transmission line**
 - City of Pilot Rock needs additional power
 - The line needs to be user friendly so other companies can have access to the power
- **Community relationship with Idaho Power**
 - Idaho Power needs to be respectful to land owners that the line will be impacting.
 - Idaho Power needs to work closely with them.
 - Is the PAT's route going to be seriously considered?
- **Substation location**
 - Communities need to know the exact terminus for the line
 - The location of the substation will influence the location of future lines.

Suggestions

Working group participants identified the following suggestions for siting the transmission line:

- The line should be as far south as possible.
- Avoid areas of future commercial development.
- Avoid private resource land (timber, grazing and agricultural).
- Consider residential potential when siting the line.
- Avoid southern boundary of Boardman.
- Consider property owner rights.
- Site all future lines in the area together.
- Use existing available utility corridors to minimize impacts.
- Locate the line south of Pilot Rock, where wind development will occur.
- Build or secure a corridor large enough to add more lines to accommodate future growth.
- Site across bombing range.
- Go south of the bombing range.
- Follow I-84.
- Look north for wind power.
- Be aware of ground squirrels.

Working Group 2

Concerns

Working group participants identified the following concerns with the Boardman to Hemingway project:

- **Disruption to agriculture and farming**
 - The line would divide the land and reduce the amount of productive land.
 - Adverse effects on dairies.
 - Height restrictions would disrupt tree farm practices.
- **Effects on irrigation**
 - The line will prevent circle-irrigation.
 - Risk of irrigation touching the line.
 - Disruption to irrigation flow practices.
- **City development**
 - The line could create negative impacts on businesses.
 - Location of line could limit the growth of the city of Boardman.
- **Relationship to other planned transmission lines**
 - Wind farms will connect to the transmission line.
 - This is only one of many other transmission projects that will be built in the Boardman area.
 - This line will determine where the substation is located.
- **Protection of private land**
 - The line is being sited on private land to save federal interests.
 - Private land should not be sacrificed to save the sage grouse.
 - Federal agencies' interests will take precedence over private landowners.
- **Safety and health**
 - Aviation safety.
 - Public safety.
 - Could disrupt military training if sited in the naval bombing range.
 - Effects on human health.
 - Effects on wildlife.

Suggestions

Working group participants identified the following suggestions for siting the transmission line:

- Site the line as far south as possible.
- Build on land that does not impact farms.
- Avoid areas that have economic development potential.
- Avoid irrigated land.
- Site the line on public land.
- Avoid residential areas.
- Coordinate the line with other planned transmission lines.
- Site the line through Ontario, outside of Vale and through Cow Valley.
- Site the line primarily on rangeland.
- Place the towers in the corners of fields or on property lines.
- Site the line inside the naval bombing range, in an area less usable for targets.
- Site the line outside the city of Boardman.
- Build the line underground.
- Move the line closer to the Canada to California Project.
- Site the line through the Blue Mountains.
- Site the line through Umatilla County to develop private wind farms.
- Use the shortest route possible.
- Avoid environmental areas.

Other comments

- The transmission line could be an opportunity for economic development (encourage wind farms).
- The transmission line could provide opportunity for fiber optics.
- Team members would like opportunity to speak with federal legislators about federal priorities.
- The team would like to see studies about the health effects of transmission lines.

Working Group 3

Concerns

Working group participants identified the following concerns with the Boardman to Hemingway project:

- **Relationship this line will have with other transmission line projects**
 - Several projects are all going to converge in the Boardman area.
 - Idaho Power should be aware of other projects.
 - Feeling that there is no coordination between the utility companies.
 - This line will encourage multiple spin-off lines from smaller electric companies and wind farms.
- **Location of the substation**
 - Need more understanding of who is driving the development of the station and who will run it.
 - The location of this substation will impact the siting of this line and other lines.
 - Wind farms will all want to connect to the substation and this will bring more utility pollution to Morrow County.
- **Effects to the Boardman, Morrow County area**
 - Boardman already has three transmission lines running through it.
 - Even if the line is built outside of Boardman, in the future the city could still grow out to it.
 - Would make the area even more of a “hub.”
- **Uncertainty about taxes**
 - Will Idaho Power pay taxes on the line?
 - Landowners should know that Idaho Power is centrally assessed.
 - Will taxes from the line offset any decrease in value that would be assessed on the land underneath the line?
- **Wind farms**
 - Experience that wind farms do not cooperate with each other or the community.
 - Wind farms will spring up along this line.
- **Utility pollution**

- Don't want to see a snarl of wires.
- Boardman is the "bulls-eye."
- **Idaho Power credibility**
 - Idaho Power must cooperate with landowners and communities throughout the entire project, including construction and maintenance.
 - Idaho Power must keep their word when they say "we will work with you."
- **Impacts to farming practices**
 - Protection of Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) land.
 - Some farmland can be more easily crossed than others.
- **Federal government involvement**
 - Fear of the threat that the Federal Energy Regulating Commission (FERC) will step in and build the line without public input.
 - PAT members do not fully understand the role of FERC.
 - Transmission is high priority with federal legislators because renewable energy is high priority.
- **Property values**
 - No one will want to buy a farm that has a transmission line built on it.
 - Uncertainty of how landowners will be compensated.
- **Effects on existing infrastructure**
 - Pipelines
 - Irrigation
- **Uncertainty of schedule**
 - When will the line be built and completed?
 - There will not be enough time in the CAP to have a deliberate analysis to develop criteria for siting the line.
- **Electrolysis**
 - Potential for electrolysis if line goes over waterways.
 - Need more information about how this will be mitigated.
- **Threat of condemnation**

Does Idaho Power have this right? If so will they use it?

Suggestions

Working group participants identified the following suggestions for siting the transmission line:

- Avoid areas that have development potential.
- Coordinate this line with other proposed transmission lines.
- Site the substation strategically in order to influence the location of other transmission lines.
- Site the line very far outside the city of Boardman.
- Site the line on more rangeland than farmland.
- Plan further ahead than 20 years.
- Use the line to bring value to Morrow County.
- Look closely at farming practices before siting the line.

Other comments

- Request for information about the Western Energy Coordinating Council application process.
- Request for more information about how Idaho Power pays taxes. Put tax information on the B2H Website.
- Request for more information about the easement process. Put a sample easement contract on the B2H Website.