

At the first set of Project Advisory Team meetings, team members were given the opportunity to submit questions about the project on comment sheets. If duplicate questions were submitted, they are only listed once in this document.

Idaho Power team members that are closely involved with the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project provided the answers below.

Questions submitted from South PAT meeting (Ontario, OR) on May 21, 2009:

How do you submit an application for right-of-way (ROW) with the BLM before a route is selected?

Applicants for a right-of-way grant on BLM land are required to complete SF-299. Items 7 and 8 (see below for more information) require the applicant to provide details, about the proposed project, including the location of the requested right-of-way. Therefore, Idaho Power was required to submit a proposed route with our SF-299.

- Item 7 – Project Description: This section requires you to provide details about the project you are applying for. Be as specific as possible in describing the project, its location, and dimensions. Include the legal description of the affected public land.
- Item 8 – Map: Attach a map (BLM intermediate scale map, 1: 100,000; U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle; aerial photo; or equivalent) showing the approximate location of the proposed ROW on public land and existing improvements adjacent to the proposal. Only improvements that may directly affect the proposal need to be shown on the map. Include the township, range, section and a north arrow.

How do you submit an application for special use permit with the USFS before a route is selected?

The Forest Service also uses SF-299.

What is the length of the term (years) for the ROW area permit?

The term can vary and may range from 10 to 50 years, or more. BLM considers the following factors in establishing a reasonable term:

- (i) The public purpose served;
- (ii) Cost and useful life of the facility;
- (iii) Time limitations imposed by licenses or permits required by other Federal agencies and state, tribal or local governments; and
- (iv) The time necessary to accomplish the purpose of the grant.

Because of the costs associated with the construction, operation, and maintenance of a line this size, Idaho Power would like a grant of 50 years or more.

Before you select a route, how do you know what type of data to collect?

Data that was collected and used in developing a route was selected based on knowledge of regulatory requirements and land use within the general project area; preliminary

discussions with regulatory and resource agency staff and county staff; and data availability.

Does Idaho Power receive money when it provides “transmission for others?”

Yes, under Idaho Power’s Open Access Transmission Tariff, Idaho Power does receive fees for when a third party uses Idaho Power transmission lines. The tariff is approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and is meant to partially offset the embedded costs associated with the transmission system. The fees charged are based on the term of use and amount of energy to be flowed across the line.

What is the width of the route Idaho Power is seeking?

Idaho Power will seek a right-of-way width of approximately 250-foot wide (125 feet on both sides of the centerline of the transmission line). Note that this width is established to provide a safety zone to adjacent structures. Utilization of the right-of-way within the easement width is still permissible under many circumstances.

What type of tower will be built? Lattice, iron, etc?

A variety of transmission line structures may be used for the project. The structures may be a combination of steel lattice and tubular towers. The tower heights will be between 140 and 190 feet high for steel lattice and 100 to 150 feet high for steel pole H-frame construction. Graphical depictions of the towers can be seen on the B2H website at http://www.boardmantoemingway.com/idaho_power_construction.aspx .

Will there be a gas plant build in Payette County?

If approved by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, Idaho Power Company will begin to build the Langley Gulch Power Plant south of Interstate 84 at exit 9 in Payette County, Idaho. The 300-megawatt (MW) plant will help integrate intermittent alternative resources, such as wind and solar, in Idaho Power’s service area. This power plant is necessary to fulfill our commitment of reliable, responsible energy services for generations to come.

What is the average cost per mile to build the line?

The preliminary cost estimates for 500-kV transmission lines range from approximately \$1.25 million to \$2.0 million per mile of construction for a single circuit transmission line. These costs are estimates based on past projects and industry experience. However, many intangible variables can vary the cost significantly, including right-of-way costs, substation and line equipment necessary, accessibility, and mitigation measures. Idaho Power anticipates having partners in building the transmission line; Idaho Power will only own a portion. The cost won’t be calculated into the rates until the line is built.

What type of compensation will be provided to landowners?

Idaho Power has a long history of working collaboratively with property owners to ensure equally satisfactory terms are reached between both parties. Easement compensation, terms and conditions will be negotiated individually with each property owner to develop a mutually agreeable package.

If we have problems with the CAP how will we address these?

Idaho Power and RBCI will continually evaluate the process and make corrections where necessary. We also invite Project Advisory Team members to contact us directly and suggest changes. Any suggested changes will be submitted to the Project Advisory Teams for their approval.

Could we get a list of who is on each PAT and who they represent?

The B2H Community Advisory webpage includes lists of those invited to attend each PAT meeting and also a list of who actually attended. These lists include either who they represent or where they are from. Please visit

http://www.boardmantohemingway.com/idaho_power_CAP_PAT.aspx and click on the area of interest under Meetings and Materials.

Can we have future meetings in the afternoon?

We have attempted to accommodate as many PAT members as possible with the times scheduled. Based on surveys with the PAT members, the evening meeting times are best for the majority of the PAT members.

Is there a yearly lease on private land?

On private land Idaho Power purchases an easement. The easement is a one-time payment made to the property owner in return for the grant of access to build the power line and subsequently maintain the line. Because the property is still owned by the property owner, the owner is still at liberty to utilize the ground within the power line easement as they wish, of course honoring the negotiated terms of the easement documentation.

Does BLM receive money for right-of-way?

The BLM collects rent for linear right-of-way according to the schedule in 43 CFP parts 2800 and 2880. The rent schedule covers most linear rights-of-way granted under the Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA). Those laws require the holder of a right-of-way grant to pay annually, in advance, the fair market value to occupy, use or traverse public lands for facilities such as power lines, fiber optic lines, pipelines, roads and ditches.

Will landowners receive an incentive for having the line on their land?

If it is determined that the line route will cross a parcel of privately owned land, Idaho Power will negotiate an easement with the individual property owner such that mutually acceptable compensation and terms are agreed upon.

Can existing lines be modified to carry more power?

Yes, some lines can be modified to carry more power. However, the lines that deliver power into Idaho from the Northwest are in general not capable of being upgraded because the towers that support them are not capable of carrying larger wire and would have to be completely replaced. Even if the towers were replaced and new wire strung, this would have to be done to all the lines feeding into Idaho from the Northwest because

of redundancy requirements. The existing lines are rated at 230,000 volts and would not have the capacity that can be provided by a 500,000-volt line.

When was the “in-line” substation removed?

Idaho Power made the announcement that the Sand Hollow Substation was removed from the project on April 3, 2009 in letters to both the BLM and the Oregon Department of Energy.

Where was the “in-line” substation originally planned to be located?

A definite location was never specified for the Sand Hollow Substation. It was proposed in the area northeast of Parma, Idaho and east of Nyssa, Oregon.

What is the current position of Idaho Power’s consultant? Will Tetra Tech be a part of the CAP?

Idaho Power does not have the resources internally to provide the necessary level of detail required to help facilitate the routing and permitting of the Boardman to Hemingway transmission project. Therefore, outside consulting firms have been hired to help Idaho Power navigate the federal NEPA process, the state of Oregon EFSC process, and will additionally assist in developing support material for the Idaho Power CAP.

Who was invited to the public meetings that were held in fall 2008?

These public scoping meetings were held to comply with both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) administered by the BLM, and the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) process for public information meetings associated with Idaho Power’s notice of intent to submit an application for an energy site certificate.

The meetings were separately advertised through news releases and paid display ads in area newspapers by Idaho Power and jointly by the BLM/Oregon Department of Energy-EFSC. BLM also published legal notices in the same papers, in addition to the format notice of intent published in the Federal Register. In addition, the meetings were noticed through joint letters from the BLM and ODOE-EFSC sent to the project mailing list (approximately 4000 people).

A total of 306 people signed in for the meetings. Attendance at each meeting varied from 20-90 people:

- Marsing: 27 (including: 1 local official, 1 newspaper columnist)
- Ontario: 85 (including: 8 local officials; 1 FAA official; 1 legislator)
- Baker City: 90 (including: 5 local officials; 1 newspaper columnist)
- Island City: 57 (including: 4 local officials; 1 newspaper columnist)
- Pendleton: 20 (including: 1 local official; 1 Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council member)
- Boardman: 27 (including: 4 local officials; 1 EFSC council member)

Will the route that we site during the CAP be seriously considered?

While this is Idaho Power’s first time using the CAP process to site a transmission line, we are 100% committed to this process. At the first Project Advisory Team meeting, Dan

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Questions and Answers from PAT Meeting #1

Minor, Idaho Power Senior Vice President of Delivery said Idaho Power and its management and board of directors are committed to this process and will work with the Project Advisory Teams to site a route that is acceptable to all parties.

What is the projected percentage of private land you will need to complete this project?

There is no percentage of private land needed to complete this project. The line route established through the CAP and subsequently analyzed through NEPA and EFSC will likely include federal, state and private properties, depending on the routes developed.

Questions submitted from North PAT meeting (Boardman, OR) on May 27, 2009:

Why do you leave biomass off your list of renewable power?

The omission of biomass from our list of renewable energy sources was unintentional. Idaho Power currently receives power from biomass projects in Idaho and supports the further development of biomass to feed into the Idaho Power system.

What will change in negotiations with landowners once power to condemn is granted?

The right of eminent domain and the implementation of condemnation will only be used by Idaho Power under rare circumstances and as a last resort.

The right of eminent domain and the implementation of condemnation will only be used by Idaho Power under rare circumstances and as a last resort. Idaho Power has a long history of working collaboratively with property owners to ensure equally satisfactory terms are reached between both parties. However, given the appropriate circumstances Idaho Power can be given the right of a condemning authority. If mutually acceptable terms cannot be agreed upon, and the specific property in question is an essential portion of the project, Idaho Power could turn to the district courts in each region to help claim easements on private property for the construction and operation of the transmission line. At that point, an appraisal of the property will be conducted by an independent, licensed appraiser to determine the estimated fair market value. Based on that appraisal the courts will decide the appropriate ‘just compensation’ to be paid to the property owner. Easement terms for ingress and egress, as well as right-of-way widths to maintain appropriate safety clearances, will be similar to those on negotiated properties.

What prevents Idaho Power from ending negotiations at fair market value?

Idaho Power relies on our experienced Right-Of-Way Agents to work collaboratively with each and every property owner on an individual basis to develop the most appropriate payment and terms of a negotiated easement. Idaho Power strives to be a community steward and every effort is made to make affected property owners feel they were treated fairly and honestly.

Will meetings with environmental groups will be open to the public? Or open to the CAP?

Any meeting scheduled with environmental groups will be announced on the B2H website prior to the meeting.

Will meetings be announced via e-mail and/or the Idaho Power CAP website?

All Project Advisory Team meetings and public meetings will be announced both via e-mail and via the B2H website prior to the meeting. As much advance notice as possible will be given before each meeting. Additionally, team members without e-mail will be provided announcements via mail.

When will the Project Advisory Teams get to look at maps?

The first mapping session is scheduled for September. At this meeting, PAT members will be asked to begin routing lines on maps that fit the PATs' community criteria as well as engineering criteria set by Idaho Power and environmental and regulatory criteria set by the regulatory agencies.

Has Idaho Power studied seismic concerns?

Idaho Power will do a complete geotechnical analysis of the project when developing structure designs, including foundation designs. On-site geotechnical investigation will not occur until a centerline is developed, then the project engineers will design the system appropriately. However, as a routing consideration, a high-level overview of geotechnical constraints, including seismic activity, has been developed and included in the considerations for routing and design.

How does the current B2H line fit in with other transmission line planning efforts of PGE, PG&E, PacifiCorp, Trans-Canada and smaller lines?

Idaho Power is coordinating with the companies planning these other lines via both the Northern Tier Transmission Group and other regional planning entities. Additionally, Idaho Power is in direct contact with these companies to ensure as much coordination as possible.

Will additional lines be necessary to balance loads created by the intermittence of renewables (i.e. wind)?

In general, Idaho Power balances the intermittence of renewables with company-owned generation. Because the balancing activity cannot be exactly planned in advance, Idaho Power prefers to have control over the generation that provides the balancing. Transmission lines connected to these generators will be necessary but will likely be internal to the Idaho Power system.

How are additional lines for dispatchable power figured into the equation, or are they?

Additional lines are not planned at this time for connection to power plants dispatchable by Idaho Power that are external to the Idaho Power system.

Is there an official definition of “renewable energy?”

It depends on who you talk to. Idaho Power considers its hydro facilities to be renewable energy though at the federal and state level, they may not be considered as such for renewable portfolio standard requirements. The U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration defines “renewable energy sources” as “*Energy resources that are naturally replenished but flow-limited. They are virtually inexhaustible in duration but limited in the amount of energy that is available per unit of time. Renewable energy resources include: biomass, hydro, geothermal, solar, wind, ocean thermal, wave action and tidal action.*”

What do you perceive the process, i.e. regulatory or legislative, to influence the definition of renewable energy?

The process is likely legislative in nature. Some legislators in the Northwest are attempting to influence the definition of “renewable energy” to include large hydro projects for renewable energy portfolio standard requirements.

Questions submitted from Central PAT meeting (Baker City, OR) on June 4, 2009:

Have all the concerns from previous meetings been retained? Will these concerns be included in the CAP or will they have to be re-submitted?

All the concerns, comments and questions that have been raised throughout the history of the project are logged in a database and will continue to be considered throughout the CAP as well as the NEPA and EFSC processes.

Through www.boardmantohemingway.com website contact information for all the different parties is available and all comments submitted to any of the entities are categorized and logged for further evaluation. In addition, comments are received in hard copy and those too are added to the database. Comments sent directly to the BLM, USFS, or EFSC are also included in the detailed analysis during the NEPA and EFSC processes. Furthermore, many comments and concerns can be, and have been, addressed through frequently asked questions (FAQ) on the project website.

Have view sheds and impacts to tourism been seriously considered in the routing process? Impacts to view sheds were considered in the original routing.

The BLM and Forest Service both have processes to identify and categorize visual resources. The original routing took these categories into consideration. Additionally, impacts to view sheds are addressed in ODOE-EFSC standards. Impacts to tourism were not addressed as a routing consideration; this would be addressed in the NEPA document.

What benefits will this line bring to Baker City citizens?

The proposed transmission line would reduce constraints on the Northwest’s transmission system as demand for energy continues to grow. The transmission line would also increase transmission capacity, improve system reliability and ensure Idaho Power can

provide future service for its customer as well as other utility customers in Idaho and Oregon.

Will this line only benefit Idaho Power customers?

While the line is being built specifically for the benefit of Idaho Power customers, all electricity users in the region will benefit from the additional reliability to the Northwest's interconnected transmission system and the increased regional transmission capacity.

What will happen if other major utility services (i.e. gas lines) conflict with the selected route?

Other utility services can work both in favor of and in opposition to transmission lines. Often long, linear facilities, such as gas lines existing around transmission lines, and even roads are opportunities for routing transmission lines where an existing right-of-way has been established.

However, engineering design is complicated with the presence of other utilities, both overhead and underground. Underground structures have to first be identified and located and either avoided or relocated to ensure continued operation. Overhead facilities require adequate separation for safety and reliability. Various utilities can often coexist given the appropriate engineering considerations are designed prior to construction.

What health issues are associated with high-voltage transmission lines?

For a description of safety and health issues associated with power lines, please visit the B2H website, http://www.boardmantohemingway.com/idaho_power_safety.aspx.

Can Idaho Power provide cost details for building this line?

The preliminary cost estimates for 500-kV transmission lines range from approximately \$1.25 million to \$2.0 million per mile of construction for a single circuit transmission line. These costs are estimates based on past projects and industry experience. However, many intangible variables can vary the cost significantly, including right-of-way costs, substation and line equipment necessary, accessibility, and mitigation measures. Idaho Power anticipates having partners in building the transmission line; Idaho Power will only own a portion. The cost won't be calculated into the rates until the line is built.

Is there alternative technology that could be used instead of building a 500-kV line?

Idaho Power could install generation instead of building the B2H transmission line, though this would be a more expensive option and would not provide the reliability benefits to the Idaho Power transmission system, and the Northwest as a whole, like the B2H transmission line would. Idaho Power is aggressively pursuing greater use of energy efficiency but this has not yet to reduce the need for the line.

Would Idaho Power consider building a generation plant at Hemingway instead of building the 500-kV line?

Idaho Power could install generation instead of building the B2H transmission line, though this would be a more expensive option and would not provide the reliability

benefits to the Idaho Power transmission system, and the Northwest as a whole, like the transmission line would.

Can existing power lines be upgraded to transmit more power?

Yes, some lines can be modified to carry more power. However, the lines delivering power into Idaho from the Northwest are, in general, not capable of being upgraded because the towers that support them are not capable of carrying larger wire and would have to be completely replaced.

Even if the towers were replaced and new wire was strung, this would have to be done to all the lines feeding into Idaho from the Northwest because of redundancy requirements. The existing lines are rated at 230,000 volts and would not have the capacity that can be provided by a 500,000-volt line.

Why is an overloaded line a problem?

Every transmission line has the thermal rating associated with the physical characteristics of the conductor material being used. Electrical current generates heat in the conductor and should the electrical current become too great, the line can be damaged and can even break. The electrical current a given line is carrying can also be limited to prevent overloads on parallel lines should the line be taken out of service.

How does Idaho Power plan for energy conservation and have they done research in distributed generation?

Idaho Power is aggressively pursuing energy conservation and has initiated a number of new programs over the past few years. Predicted energy benefits from energy conservation are included in Idaho Power's load forecast for the Integrated Resource Plan and thus directly affect the timing for new generation and transmission.

Idaho Power has been tracking distributed generation technologies for a number of years and has participated in pilot programs in association with other utilities and research institutes. Some of the technologies Idaho Power has been involved with are fuel cells, photovoltaics, micro-turbines and energy storage. At this time, all of these technologies are still quite expensive in comparison to the B2H transmission line and some, such as fuel cells and micro-turbines, suffer from the expense of their fuel supply. Idaho Power will continue to track distributed generation technologies with the expectation that costs will come down and they may become useful in our energy supply portfolio.

Why is a 500-kV line the best system for transmitting power?

To serve Idaho Power's present need, a 230-kV transmission line would be adequate. However, a 230-kV line would not allow for future load growth in the region so more lines would soon be needed. A 500-kV transmission line provides as much capacity as multiple 230-kV transmission lines. Also, transmitting power long distances at 500-kV is more efficient than using a 230-kV line.

Why is the BLM in charge of developing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for private land?

Compliance with the NEPA was triggered when Idaho Power submitted an application to the BLM and Forest Service for a right-of-way grant and special use permit, respectively. In accordance with the NEPA and agency procedures, the BLM was identified as the lead agency responsible for the preparation of the EIS. In accordance with the NEPA regulations, the BLM is required to include reasonable alternatives not within the jurisdiction of the lead agency; this can include alternatives on private lands. The BLM is also required to identify potential impacts its action (e.g., issuing a right-of-way grant) can have on cultural resources, regardless of land ownership. This is sometimes called the “but-for” argument. The potential impact on private property would not occur but for the authorization on federally managed lands.

Moreover, the BLM as lead agency is required to address potential impacts of their action. However, the right-of-way grant that the BLM will issue is only for the federally managed lands in which the BLM has jurisdiction. Simply stated, the analysis of the impacts covers the entire route, regardless of ownership, but the authorization to Idaho Power to build will only be on federal land. Idaho Power will continue to work with, and negotiate with, private property owners to obtain private easements.

Why doesn't the State of Oregon require utility companies to use established energy corridors?

While the State of Oregon may not have any state-mandated energy corridors, Idaho Power is required to comply with Oregon's land-use planning goals, adopted by the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) and County planning requirements. In Exhibit B of the Application for Site Certificate, the applicant is required to provide information on how a corridor was selected and the percentage of line that is located within or adjacent to public roads, existing pipeline or transmission line.

Does Idaho Power have contracts with various entities for using the power from this line?

A number of entities have requested transmission service on the Boardman to Hemingway transmission line.

Does Idaho Power pay taxes?

Yes. Idaho Power is not exempt from paying federal, state or local taxes. On a county basis, the property tax paid by Idaho Power to each county along the Boardman to Hemingway line route would be based upon the county's share/allocation of Idaho Power's assessed market value (Idaho Power's market value is determined by the Idaho State Commission in Idaho and by the Department of Revenue in Oregon). Each county's share/allocation of the Company's market value is established based upon the Company's total property costs in that county. If all other things remain constant, the more property investments that Idaho Power makes in a county, the more market value it will have in that county, which results in additional property tax the Company will pay in that county.