

Boardman-Hemingway 500kV Transmission Line Project (B2H)

- CAP vs. NEPA
- Responsibilities of agencies
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- Contact Info

Community Advisory Process (CAP) vs. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- **CAP** is a process chosen by Idaho Power to identify proposed and alternative routes
- **NEPA** is a Federal law that requires agencies to analyze and disclose potential impacts of projects or programs to ensure agencies make well informed decisions
- **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** is a detailed analysis prepared by Federal agencies to comply with NEPA when a project is expected to have significant environmental impacts

Responsibilities of Lead Agency in NEPA Process

- Lead agency for NEPA is responsible for preparation of the EIS
- BLM agreed to function as lead agency for NEPA since preliminary routes affected more BLM administered lands than other Federal agencies
- Because BLM must select an agency preferred alternative in the EIS, BLM will not participate in CAP team's development of specific routes
- BLM will also consult as required with other agencies and Tribes

Responsibilities continued

- BLM must evaluate the project against numerous laws, regulations and policies prior to making final decisions
- BLM Decisions to be made:
 - Record of Decision on EIS (final agency preferred alternative & mitigation)
 - Right-of-way grant (approve or deny)
 - Land Use Plan Amendment(s) (approve or deny)
- Some BLM land use plans, laws, regulations or policies allow placement of transmission lines, some require mitigation for placement, and some exclude placement

Responsibilities continued

- Section 503 of Federal Land Policy & Management Act (FLPMA) states “in order to minimize adverse environmental impacts and the proliferation of separate rights-of-way, the utilization of rights-of-way in common shall be required to the extent practical (e.g. rights-of-way shall be co-located in corridors)

Responsibilities continued

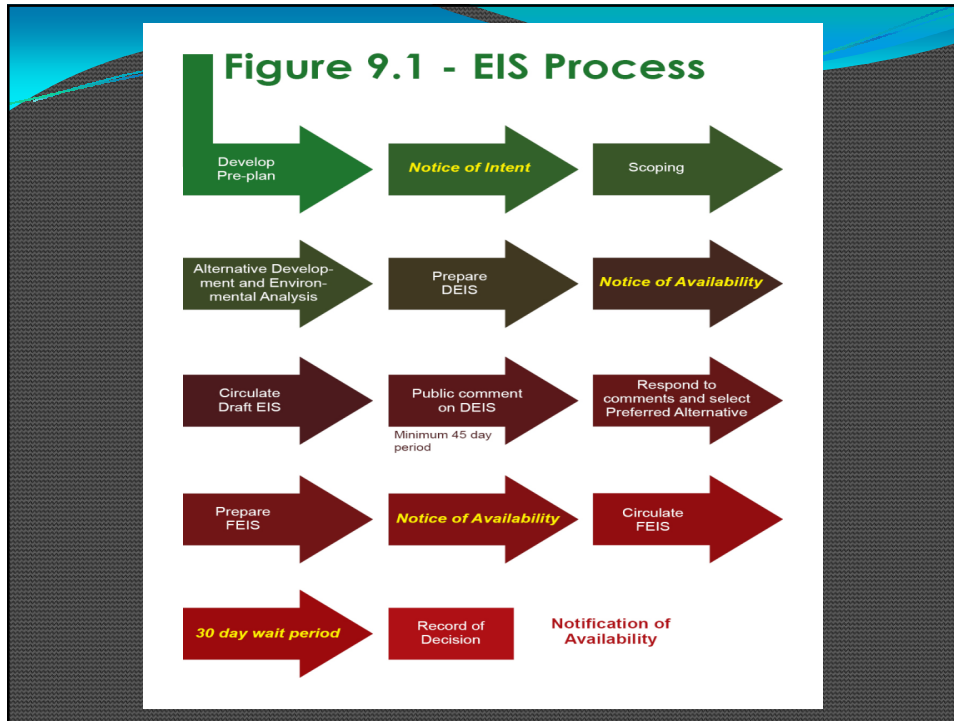
- BLM right-of-way regulations (43 CFR 2801.2) states the objective of BLM right-of-way program is to direct and control use of rights-of-way on public lands in a manner that:
 - Protects natural resources on public and adjacent lands
 - Prevents unnecessary or undue degradation to public lands
 - Promotes the use of rights-of-way in common considering engineering and technological compatibility, national security, and land use plans
 - Coordinates to the fullest extent BLM actions with state and local governments, interested individuals and quasi-public entities

Role of Cooperating Agencies in NEPA Process

- Cooperating agencies are responsible for assisting BLM with preparation of the EIS
- Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations allow agencies with legal jurisdiction or special expertise to assist the lead agency
- Purpose of cooperators is to eliminate duplication of efforts, streamline environmental reviews, and ensure a thorough NEPA analysis
- 17 agencies in Oregon and Idaho expressed interest in participating as cooperators

Cooperating Agencies continued

- Not required to agree with BLM's agency preferred route or final decisions
- Not required to take action favorable to Idaho Power
- Do not give up their right to disagree or dispute the analysis in the EIS or file a protest or appeal



- ### Basic EIS Outline
- Cover Sheet
 - Summary
 - Table of Contents
 - Chapter 1 – Introduction
 - Chapter 2 – Proposed Action & Alternatives
 - Chapter 3 – Affected Environment
 - Chapter 4 – Environmental Effects
 - Chapter 5 – Consultation & Coordination
 - Appendices & Supporting Information

EIS Issue Areas To Be Analyzed

Include but are not limited to:

Public health & safety	Wildlife species & habitats
Vegetation	Visual quality
National historic sites & trails	Air Quality
Geology/Soils	Paleontological resources
Water quality (drinking & ground)	Land use
Public access & recreation	Socioeconomics
Noxious and invasive species	Environmental Justice
Noise	Floodplains
Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	Wetlands/Riparian Zones
Wastes (hazardous or solid)	Wild & Scenic Rivers
Wilderness	Rangeland/Livestock Grazing
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	Fuels/Fire Management
Native American traditional cultural properties	
Cumulative effects	

BLM Suggestions for Idaho Power & CAP Teams

- CAP teams will not be able to resolve all routing issues or mitigate all environmental impacts (that's the role of NEPA and Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) processes)
- CAP teams should focus on developing routes in "opportunity areas" and keep routes away from "avoidance" or "exclusion" areas to reduce potential environmental impacts
- CAP teams should consider routes in the BLM Public Scoping Report that make use of "opportunity areas"
- CAP routes are not "final approved" routes
- After conclusion of the CAP process, team members are encouraged to remain involved in NEPA and EFSC processes by reviewing and commenting on the Draft EIS and Draft Proposed Order

Completion of Scoping and EIS Preparation

- After completion of CAP process, all routes including CAP developed routes, will be presented by BLM and Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) in public scoping meetings (dates/locations TBD)
- After close of scoping, BLM with help from cooperating agencies, will identify “reasonable” routes for detailed analysis in the EIS

BLM Contacts & Project Information

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