At the second 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 July 28, 2009:

What role does or will FERC play in the siting and/or approval of the power line?
FERC plays no role in siting or approving the Boardman to Hemingway line at this time. There is movement in Congress to give FERC some siting authority over transmission, though the form of that authority is unknown right now.

Why doesn't Idaho Power suggest routes through public land in Idaho?
Idaho Power does not wish to suggest any routes during the Community Advisory Process. We want to leave that up to the Project Advisory Teams. Any route recommended by the PATs will have to be buildable from a community perspective as well as engineering, environmental and regulatory perspectives.

When are the state, federal government & environmental people going to come down to earth?
The state and federal governments are following the requirements that are laid down in the regulations they must enforce. These regulations were formulated from laws passed by state legislatures and congress. Where there is room to negotiate or interpret the regulations to the community's advantage, we will make every attempt to do so.

The environmental community values things differently than some community members may. Idaho Power attempts to respect both the values of the community in general and the values of the environmental community. We hope there is a way to route the transmission line such that as many values as possible are respected.

Questions submitted from Central PAT meeting (Baker City, OR) on July 29, 2009:

Why can't Idaho Power put their new line in Idaho rather than Oregon, since the only users who benefit live in Idaho?
The location of the line's terminus is Boardman, Oregon so it would be impossible to site the line entirely in Idaho. Idaho Power serves all of Malheur County as well as parts of Baker County, so it is not correct to say that the users that benefit from the line live in Idaho.

Is Idaho Power looking into more efficient methods of power transmission? Is underground even a possibility? What about high efficiency aluminum units (as in New Zealand and Australia)?
Idaho Power will be using standard and up-to-date technology for the transmission line. The conductor that will be used is made of aluminum with steel reinforcement for strength. This type of conductor is very efficient and will result in losses over the entire length of the transmission line that are less than 3%.
Underground 500kV transmission would cost from 10 to 20 times more than overhead 500kV transmission. Also, there are daunting power flow problems that would have to be solved in order for an underground 500kV transmission line to work. There are no underground 500 kV transmission lines in the United States at this time.

I would like to know if anybody has talked to landowners where lines run on their property, like in Central Oregon near Powell Butte.
Idaho Power has not spoken to property owners near Powell Butte. However, we have spoken to other property owners in southeastern Oregon and in Idaho about their perceptions of 500kV lines running through their property. In general, these property owners are not negatively affected by the lines.

Federal agencies have a multitude of laws & regulations to protect federal land. Who protects private land?
In Oregon, the Oregon Department of Energy, Energy Facility Siting Council takes private property issues into account when evaluating an application for a transmission line. Idaho Power has also formed the Project Advisory Teams to hear from private property owners about their issues.

Will any of us be given the opportunity to present our perspectives at the August public meetings, or is this just an Idaho Power showcase?
The public meetings in August are an open house format. Idaho Power will not be making presentations at these meetings. Members of the Project Advisory Team are encouraged to attend and are welcome to speak with other attendees.

Is there a Plan B for Idaho Power if this power line route is rejected? If so, what is that Plan B route to get the needed power? Would the power come from some other source than BPA?
Idaho Power is also building another 500kV line from Hemingway to Wyoming. Plus, a natural gas fired combustion turbine power plant is being constructed in western Idaho. If the Boardman to Hemingway transmission project is rejected by the Oregon PUC or the Oregon Facility Siting Council, Idaho Power will have to make a determination as to what would need to be built to replace the line. At this time, there is no "Plan B."

What role, if any, could condemnation and/or eminent domain play when it comes to siting the line on private land if that landowner is not willing?
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.

The question was asked if there are other "other routes" beyond the one(s) that will be drawn by the group and if those routes are going to be considered. It appeared to me that Kent's statement that the original routes would not be part of the proposal and Renee's (BLM) statement that they will be considered seemed to contradict each other. Can someone clarify?
When Idaho Power submits a revised application to the BLM, the original routes will not be included. However, because the original routes are part of the record under the original project scoping, the BLM could feasibly consider them. This however, is not Idaho Power's desire.

Questions submitted from North PAT meeting (Hermiston, OR) on July 30, 2009:

Will we be going back to the first group of people on the committee or will there be more? I would like to see it go back to the first members.
Idaho Power has purposely not limited who attends the PAT meetings. We want this process to be as open and fair as possible.

Who are the other 17 agencies, and why aren't they attending these meetings?
We assume this question asks who are the cooperating agencies under the BLM NEPA process for the Boardman to Hemingway project. The BLM said they would get this information to the PAT members. When it is available, we will share it.

Why are we considering siting a power line without first having need being shown?
Idaho Power has shown the need through its Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and is updating the need in its next version of the IRP scheduled to be released at the end of 2009. Further, Idaho Power hosted purpose and need meetings in Baker City and Ontario at the request of PAT members in those areas. The presentations given to those members can be found on the Boardman to Hemingway website under the Central and South PAT sections.

Will Idaho Power share easements with other utilities?
Idaho Power can share easements with other utilities though likely not with other power lines. The easements we will be obtaining for the Boardman to Hemingway line will be only adequate for one transmission line.

Who are Idaho Power partners in this transmission line?
Idaho Power does not have partners for this line at this time. However, there are other utilities that have submitted their interest in writing.

Will wind power from Morrow County be added to this purposed transmission line?
Wind power from Morrow County can access this line by tying in at a lower voltage to the regional power system. Other transmission lines will carry the wind power to the Boardman Substation where it can be transmitted over the Boardman to Hemingway transmission line.