

Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project Community Advisory Process Public Meetings Parma, Marsing and Ontario Summary of Comments

Idaho Power is committed to partnering with communities from northeast Oregon to southwest Idaho to identify proposed and alternate routes for the proposed transmission line. Idaho Power initiated the Community Advisory Process to engage communities in siting the proposed transmission line.

In August 2009, Idaho Power hosted seven public meetings. The public meetings were held to give the public the opportunity to:

- Learn more about the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project.
- Review and provide input on criteria for evaluating routes for the proposed transmission line.
- Speak to Idaho Power representatives.

The public meetings in Parma, ID (August 25), Marsing, ID (August 26) and Ontario, OR (August 27) had an overall attendance of 287 people.

Attendees were given the opportunity to complete a comment sheet that asked 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 comments on the regulatory and/or engineering criteria?
- Additional comments.

A total of 131 comment sheets were collected. A detailed meeting summary and transcription of all comments will be posted on the project webpage www.boardmantohemingway.com.

The following is an overview of the themes and opinions expressed by the public:

Concerns:

- Preservation of prime farmland and EFU land
- Preservation of private property
- Preservation of property values
- Disruption of farming operations, specifically irrigation
- Disruption of livestock
- Credibility of Idaho Power
- Preservation of areas of impact

- Health and safety concerns
- Interruption of T.V., radio and cell phone reception
- Causing flight hazards
- Preservation of scenic beauty

Suggestions:

- Site the transmission line on public land
- Stay off of Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) land
- Keep the line in Idaho as much as possible
- Create both Idaho and Oregon routes
- Place the line in unpopulated areas, on non-productive land
- Use existing corridors as much as possible
- Go west out of the Hemingway substation

Other comments included:

- “We appreciate these meetings. It is my concern, however, that Idaho Power, BLM and other large entities will do what is best for their pocket books before they really take in the concerns of the landowners.”
- “I know that the state of Oregon, the state of Idaho and the federal government are a difficult task to fight, but they must be made to understand that the land is not their land, but the people of this country own it. The power lines should run on non-productive lands, not our farms or over our homes.”
- “We believe Idaho Power is providing a valuable service, we use and appreciate the services they offer. We hope to see a sincere effort on the behalf of Idaho Power to avoid our farm and the farms of our friends and to make this project have as little impact on private land as humanly possible.”
- “If absolutely necessary will I.P. really give us what our land is worth?”
- “Thank you for making the effort to seek community input and consider the options.”
- “To keep the public aware of what is happening. Make sure the people are informed when meetings occur.”