



September 25, 2008

Dear Interested Citizen:

Idaho Power Company, headquartered in Boise, Idaho, is proposing to construct and operate a new electric transmission system consisting of approximately 298 miles of single circuit 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Boardman, Oregon and Murphy, Idaho. The proposed transmission line will cross federal, state and private lands. Approximately 86 percent of the lands are privately owned, 11 percent are administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), two percent are national forest lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and one percent are state and other lands. The enclosed map shows the proposed and alternate transmission line corridors. This map highlights proposed corridors that are preliminary, subject to change and may change as a result of comments received during the public comment process.

The proposed corridor crosses Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Baker and Malheur Counties in Oregon and Payette, Canyon and Owyhee Counties in Idaho. The northern terminus of the project will be at the Boardman Power Plant near Boardman, Oregon. The proposed corridor will then continue southeast until reaching a southern terminus at the planned Hemingway substation<sup>1</sup> in Idaho.

Two separate environmental analysis processes are required to evaluate the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project. Each of the processes contain a rigorous public involvement component. The first is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, which is required for any proposed action on federally-managed lands. The second is the Energy Facility Siting process required by the Oregon Department of Energy-Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC), which is required for any large energy project within the state of Oregon.

- **National Environmental Policy Act Process (NEPA)**

On September 12, 2008, the Bureau of Land Management published a Notice of Intent (BLM-NOI) in the Federal Register to prepare an environmental impact statement for this project. The purpose of the BLM-NOI is to (1) initiate public comment on the proposal and (2) notify the public and affected agencies of the preliminary issues associated with this project. For more information on the NEPA process, please see Attachment 1.

- **Energy Facility Siting Process**

On August 28, 2008, Idaho Power submitted a Notice of Intent (EFSC-NOI) to EFSC to submit an Application for Site Certificate by early 2009. The purpose of the EFSC-NOI is to (1) initiate public comment on the proposal and (2) allow Oregon state agencies and affected local governments to identify applicable requirements and special issues of concern. Idaho Power will then address these comments and concerns in their Application for Site Certificate. For more information on the EFS process, see Attachment 2.

### **Where can I find copies of the NOIs?**

To see and/or print a copy of the BLM-NOI or EFSC-NOI, please visit the project Web site at [www.boardmantohemingway.com](http://www.boardmantohemingway.com). Printed copies of the BLM-NOI will be available for public review at the BLM offices in Boise and Marsing, Idaho and Vale and Baker City, Oregon. Printed copies of the EFSC-NOI will be available for public review at the ODOE office in Salem, Oregon. In addition, printed copies of the EFSC-NOI will also be available at public libraries in the following communities: Boise and Nampa, Idaho; Ontario, Baker City, La Grande, Pendleton and Boardman, Oregon.

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<sup>1</sup> The proposed Hemingway substation is not included in the Boardman to Hemingway analysis.

**How can I become involved?**

In order to facilitate initial public comment through the NEPA and Energy Facility Siting processes, joint public information and scoping meetings will be held on the date and locations listed in the table below. All meetings will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., with formal presentations at 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	10/20	10/21	10/22	10/23	10/24
<b>IDAHO and OREGON</b>	No meetings	<b>Marsing, ID</b> 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Marsing American Legion Community Center 126 N. Bruneau Hwy.	<b>Ontario, OR</b> 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Four Rivers Cultural Center 676 S.W. 5th Ave.	<b>Baker City, OR</b> 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Baker County Fairgrounds 2610 Grove St.	No meetings
	10/27	10/28	10/29	10/30	10/31
<b>OREGON</b>	No meetings	<b>Island City, OR</b> 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. OSU Agricultural Service Center 10507 N. McAlister Rd.	<b>Pendleton, OR</b> 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Pendleton Convention Center 1601 Westgate	<b>Boardman, OR</b> 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Port of Morrow Riverfront Center 2 Marine Dr.	No meetings

**How can I provide comments?**

Public comment on this proposal can be submitted in writing or verbally at the public meetings, electronically through the project Web site ([www.boardmantohemingway.com](http://www.boardmantohemingway.com)), via E-mail, via U.S. Postal mail or by fax (see BLM and ODOE contact information below). **To be most effective in the analysis, comments should be submitted by November 14, 2008.**

**NEPA Comments**

Boardman to Hemingway Project  
Attn: Lucas Lucero  
Bureau of Land Management  
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89130  
Phone: 702-515-5059  
Fax: 702-515-5010  
[B2HComments@blm.gov](mailto:B2HComments@blm.gov)

**EFSC Comments**

Boardman to Hemingway Project  
Attn: Adam Bless  
Oregon Department of Energy  
625 Marion St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: 503-378-8692  
Toll free (Oregon only): 1-800-221-8035  
Fax: 503-373-7806  
[adam.bless@state.or.us](mailto:adam.bless@state.or.us)

If you do not comment at this time or attend any of the public meetings, there will be other comment opportunities throughout the review process. However, the earlier you raise any concerns, the better the opportunity the agencies and proponent have of addressing them.

Thank you for your interest in activities affecting public and private lands in Oregon and Idaho. We hope to visit with you at one of the upcoming public information meetings.

Sincerely,

David R. Henderson, Vale District Manager  
Bureau of Land Management

Adam Bless, Energy Facility Analyst  
Oregon Department of Energy

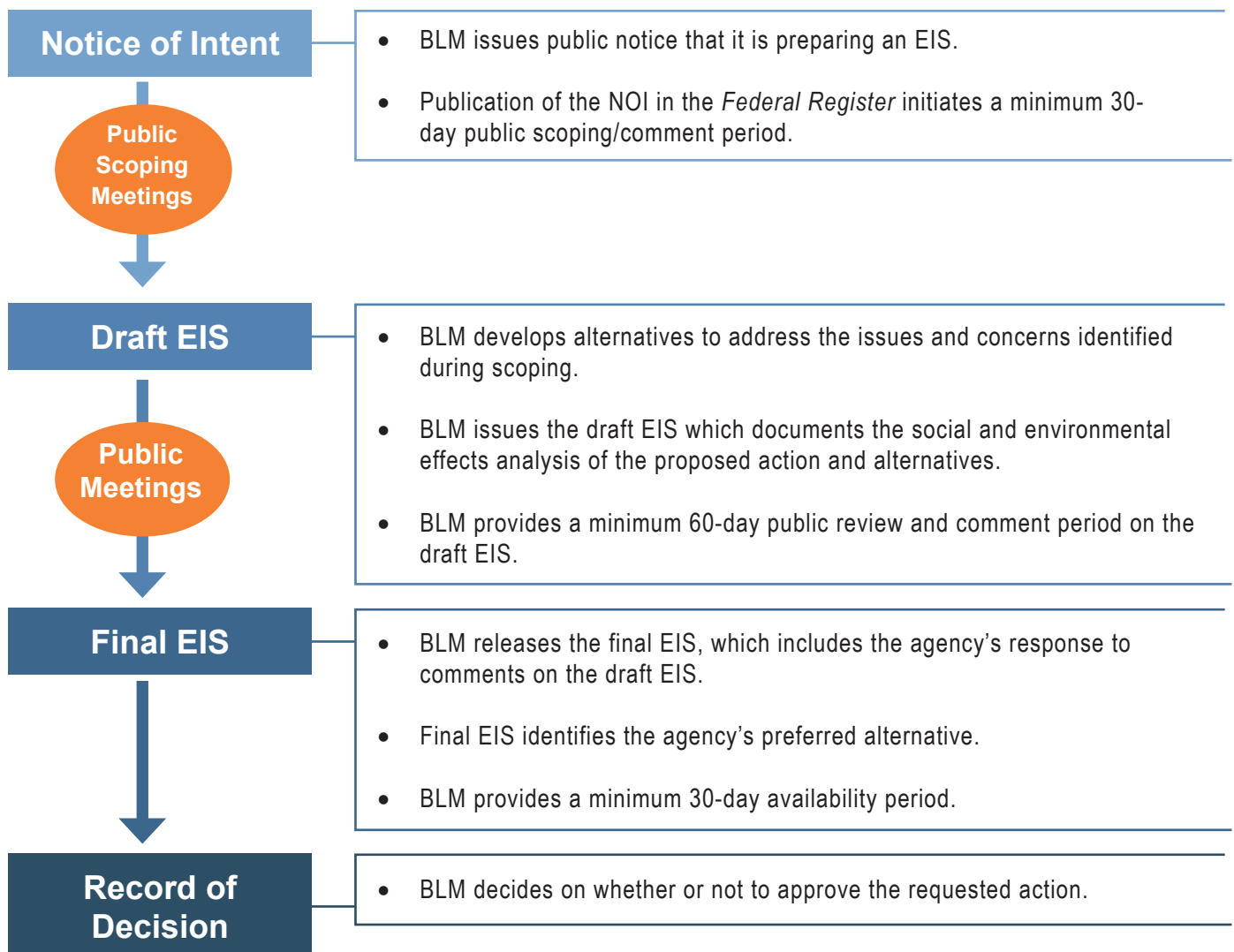
# NEPA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires agencies to undertake an assessment of the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions. Two major purposes of the NEPA environmental review process are:

1. Citizen involvement
2. Better informed decisions

The NEPA process began on the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project when Idaho Power submitted a proposal for a right-of-way from the BLM to construct a 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line across portions of federally-managed public lands. The BLM has issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on this project.

The following flowchart shows the key points within the NEPA process. For more information, check out **A Citizen's Guide to the NEPA** at [http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/nepa/Citizens\\_Guide\\_Dec07.pdf](http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/nepa/Citizens_Guide_Dec07.pdf).

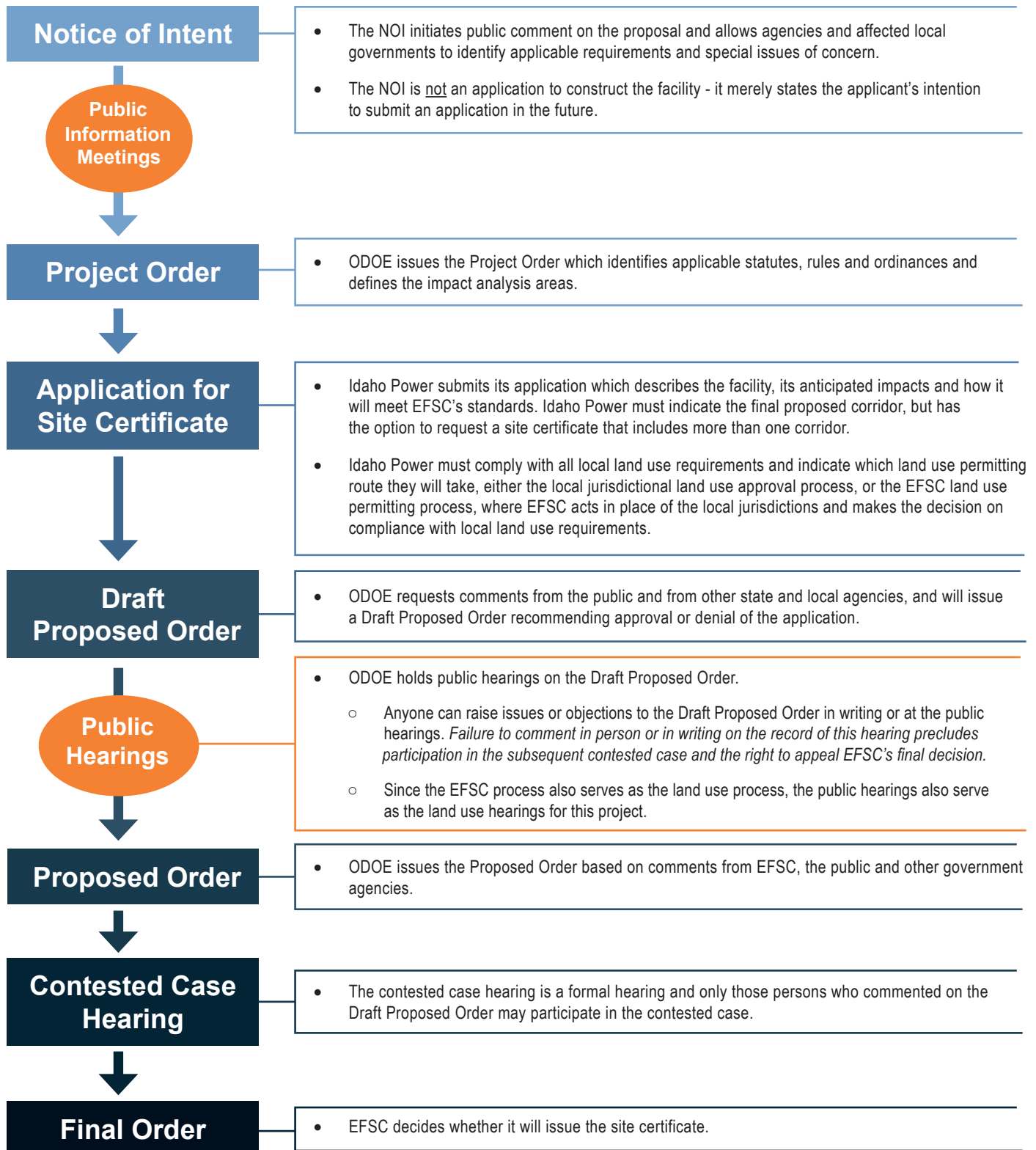


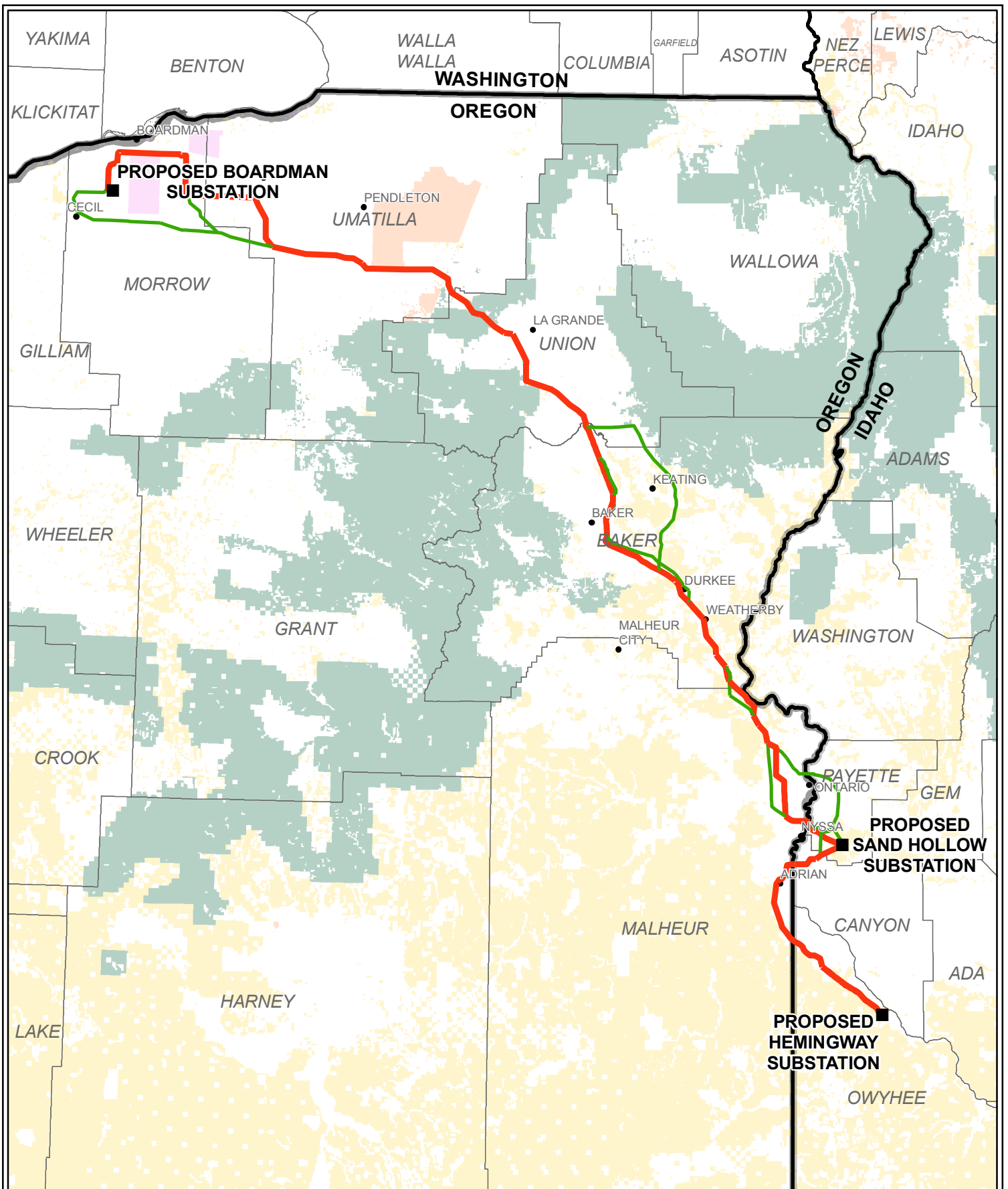
# EFSC Process

The Oregon Department of Energy-Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) Site Certificate process is a consolidated permitting process that includes regulations of Oregon state and local agencies. You can participate in the process by:

1. Attending a public information meeting about the Notice of Intent.
2. Submitting comments about Idaho Power's application.
3. Attending the public hearing on the Proposed Draft Order.

ODOE provides public notices following each step of the EFSC process. The diagram below outlines the process.





**IDAHO POWER COMPANY**

**PROJECT LOCATION**

**AUGUST 2008**

**Legend**

- Proposed Substation
- Proposed Corridor
- Alternative Corridor

**Major Land Ownership**

- BLM
- Indian Reservation
- DOD
- Private
- USFS

