

Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project

Central Public Meeting Summary

August 2009

The first set of Central public meetings was held:

- Aug. 12, 2009 in Baker City, Oregon - Baker City Community Event Center, 2600 East Street from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Aug. 13, 2009 in La Grande, Oregon - Blue Mountain Conference Center, 404 Twelfth Street from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Preparation

Several steps were taken to organize the first set of public meetings in the Central advisory area. To begin, roughly two months before the Central public meetings took place, Idaho Power consulted with PAT members to plan the public meetings and future mapping sessions. A planning meeting took place at the Best Western Sunridge Inn, 1 Sunridge Lane, in Baker City on June 18, 2009, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

- Meeting attendees included the following PAT members: Karen Yeakley, Nancy Peyron, Garth Johnson, Connie Pound Lewis, Jerry Franke, Dennis Dorrah, John Milbert, Diane Bloomer, Vivian Zikmund, Scott Hartell. Kent McCarthy, Idaho Power CAP project leader, and Rosemary Curtin, RBCI, facilitated the meeting.
- Attendees gave Idaho Power suggestions for preferred times, dates, locations and notification processes for the public meetings. They also discussed what information should be presented. The notes from this meeting are included in this tab.

Notification

Idaho Power conducted an extensive notification process to generate awareness and participation from residents of Baker and Union counties. With advice from the PATs, the following methods were used:

- **U.S. Mail:** Invitations to the meetings were sent to all the residents and businesses in the following cities: Baker City, Bridgeport, Cove, Elgin, Haines, Halfway, Hereford, Oxbow, Imbler, La Grande, North Powder, Richland, Summerville, Sumpter, Union, Unity, Durkee and Huntington. A total of 19,602 invitations were sent in the Central area. Invitations were also sent to project stakeholders. Stakeholders include elected officials, community leaders and people who attended past scoping meetings. A copy of the invitation and a detailed list of cities where the invitation was mailed are included in this tab.
- **Electronic notification:** An e-mail was sent to project stakeholders with a link to the project Web page, which had a list of meeting dates and locations. PAT members were also e-mailed electronic versions of the meeting invitation to distribute. Baker City and La Grande chambers of commerce posted notification on their Web pages. Idaho Power

also posted an announcement on the project Web page, www.boardmantohemingway.com.

- **Display Ads:** Display ads detailing the dates, times and locations of the meetings were placed in the Record Courier (Baker City), and the Observer (La Grande). A copy of the display ad is included in this tab.

Additional Materials

A list of the Central PAT members and community criteria were displayed at the public meetings. These materials are included in this tab.

Meeting Outcomes

In all 108 people attended the first set of Central public meetings for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project: 59 attended the Baker City meeting and 49 attended the La Grande meeting. A total of 28 comment sheets were collected. Transcribed sign-in sheets are included in this tab.

The following is a summary of the information collected from the comment sheets. The summary is an overview of the themes and opinions expressed by the public. The information provided is not intended to be statistically reliable. The comments are grouped based on the specific questions asked on the comment sheets. A verbatim transcription of all comments is located in this tab.



Summary of Comments

A verbatim transcription of all comments is included in this tab.

Question 1: What are your concerns about siting the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line?

Of the 23 responses to this question, the most often repeated were:

- **Preservation of private and farm land**
 - Public land should be used instead of private land.
 - Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) land should be preserved.
 - If private land is used, the transmission line will decrease the value of the land.
- **Necessity of transmission line**
 - According to a study by Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Council, reported in the Oregonian and the La Grande Observer on Aug 12th, 2009, 85 percent of Pacific Northwest power needs over the next 20 years could be met by conservation practices. If this is the case, a new transmission line may not be necessary. Time and effort should be spent furthering conservation practices instead.
 - If alternative energy sources, such as wind and solar power, were used closer to the areas of need, this transmission line would not be necessary.
- **Preservation of scenic beauty**
 - A transmission line through Baker and Union counties would be visual pollution in a scenic area.
- **Preservation of wildlife**
 - A transmission line would be damaging to the large amount of wildlife in the area.
- **Economic effects**
 - If the transmission line goes through Union and Baker counties, the counties should receive tax revenue.
 - Could the new transmission line provide the opportunity for industry to expand, using alternate energy sources with the existing 230 kV lines?

Question 2: What are your suggestions for siting the transmission line?

Of the 21 responses to this question, the most often repeated were:

- **Avoid private land and maintain its value**
 - Use public land including sagebrush land and BLM land. Taxpayers already pay for this land.
 - Use sparsely populated land.
 - If use of private land is necessary, give landowners market value for the property.
- **Do not build the transmission line**
 - Use alternative energy sources closer to the area of need.
 - Focus efforts on conservation.

- With all of the technological advances happening, this project could become obsolete quickly. Wait for a few years and see what advances in technology bring about.

Question 3: Other comments

The seven responses to this question included:

- “Will the people's comments actually be listened to, not disregarded? This will affect generations to come. So everything should be thought out for everyone concerned.”
- “Idaho Power is a ‘for profit’ corporation and is only looking at their bottom line.”
- “Look at smaller energy producing facilities closer to your projected needs.”
- “Good luck! I am for progress. Keep-up the community involvement.”

Criteria Comment Sheet Summary

Regulatory and engineering criteria

There were no comments on this topic.

Community criteria

Comments on this topic included:

- **Environmental concerns**
 - The line should be sited to avoid wildlife habitats.
- **Preservation of scenic beauty**
 - The line should not obstruct scenery.