

# Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project

## South Public Meeting Summary

### August 2009

#### The first set of South public meetings was held:

- Aug. 25, 2009 in Parma, Idaho - Community of Kirkpatrick Church, 305 East Bates Ave. from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Aug. 26, 2009 in Marsing, Idaho - Community Center – American Legion Hall, 126 N. Bruneau Hwy. from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Aug. 27, 2009 in Ontario, Oregon - Four Rivers Cultural Center, 676 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

#### Preparation

Several steps were taken to organize the first set of public meetings in the South advisory area. To begin, two months before the South public meetings took place, Idaho Power consulted with Project Advisory Team (PAT) members to plan the public meetings and future mapping sessions. A planning meeting took place at the Four Rivers Cultural Center, 676 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, in Ontario, Oregon, on June 23, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

- Meeting attendees included the following PAT members: Jon Beal, Jay Chamberlin, Vic Conrad, Bruce Corn, Sidney Erwin, Jean Findley, Bill Gotsch, Larry Grant, Keith Green, Barney Harper, Gary Pearson, Tom Phillips, Steve Rule, Evelyn Sayers, Melody Smit, Pat Trenkel, Shelby Hilliard. 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 the South advisory area. With advice from the PATs, the following methods were used:

- **U.S. Mail:** Invitations to the meetings were sent to all residents and businesses in the following cities: Fruitland, Greenleaf, Homedale, Huston, Marsing, Murphy, New Plymouth, Notus, Parma, Payette, Weiser, Wilder, Fields, Burns, Princeton, Diamond, Crane, Frenchglen, Hines, Riley, Bates, Canyon City, Dayville, John Day, Kimberly, Long Creek, Monument, Mount Vernon, Prairie City, Seneca, Adrian, Arock, Brogan, Drewsey, Harper, Ironside, Jamieson, Jordan Valley, Juntura, Nyssa, Ontario, Vale, and Westfall. A total of 40,345 invitations were sent in the South 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 the where 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. Idaho Power posted an announcement on the project Web page, [www.boardmantohemingway.com](http://www.boardmantohemingway.com).
- **Display Ads:** Display ads detailing the dates, times and locations of the meetings were placed in the Malheur Enterprise (Vale), Idaho Press Tribune (Nampa), Idaho Business Review (Boise), Independent Enterprise (Payette), Kuna-Melba News, Messenger Index (Emmett), Mountain Home News, Owyhee Avalanche (Homedale), Weiser Signal American, Idaho Statesman (Boise), Middleton Gazette, Argus Observer (Ontario) and Western Canyon Chronicle (Parma). A copy of the display ad is included in this tab.

## Additional Materials

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

## Meeting Outcomes

In all, 287 people attended the first set of South public meetings for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project: 121 attended the Parma meeting, 58 attended the Marsing meeting and 108 attended the Ontario meeting. A total of 133 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

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

Of the 120 responses to this question, the most often repeated were:

- **Preservation of prime farmland**
  - Avoid prime farmland in Idaho and EFU land in Oregon.
  - A transmission line would disrupt farming operations, specifically irrigation.
  - A transmission line could disrupt livestock areas.
- **Preservation of EFU rights and laws**
  - Avoid EFU land.
- **Preservation of private property**
  - Public land should be used instead of private land.
  - There is plenty of uninhabited land in the area.
- **Preservation of property value**
  - If private land is used, the transmission line will decrease the property value.
- **Credibility of Idaho Power**
  - Idaho Power started the public process (October 2008 scoping meetings) on the wrong foot.
  - Idaho Power may have a “secret preferred route.”
- **Preservation of areas of impact**
  - Avoid areas of economic and agricultural development.
  - Avoid Parma’s area of impact.
- **Health concerns**
  - There may be unknown or uncertain effects of high voltage exposure for humans, livestock and wildlife.
  - A transmission line would interfere with residents’ pacemakers.
- **Safety Hazards**
  - The transmission line might create physical danger to residents.
- **Uncertainty about the process**
  - State, federal, and public processes.
  - What is the BLM going to do with the original routes?
  - Wilder is not represented well enough in the PAT.

- **Negative economic impacts**
  - The transmission line could limit land for farming, which would result in less revenue from agriculture.
- **Electronic reception**
  - Transmission lines could disrupt TV, radio and cell phone reception.
- **Flight hazard**
  - A transmission line in close proximity to rural airports would be a flight risk.
  - A transmission line near Sunrise Sky Park would be a flight risk.
- **Routes need to be made for Idaho and for Oregon**
  - It should not be assumed that all proposed routes need to be in Oregon.
- **Idaho is pushing the route into Oregon**
  - Keep the line in Idaho as much as possible.
- **Preservation of scenic beauty**
  - A transmission line would disrupt the view in the valley.

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

Of the 111 responses to this question, the most often repeated were:

- **Site the transmission line on public land**
  - Utilize BLM and Forest Service land. For example, site the line south of Adrian or west of Vale on BLM land.
  - Do not site the line on private land.
- **Avoid farmland**
  - Avoid prime farmland in Idaho and EFU land in Oregon.
  - Landowners must abide by EFU regulations, so Idaho Power should too.
- **Minimize the impact on populated areas**
  - Avoid residential areas, airports and schools.
  - Avoid the city of Parma.
  - Use non-productive land.
- **Use existing corridors**
  - Follow existing power lines.
  - Site south of existing PPL Electric line.
- **Create Idaho routes**
- **Use the Stop Idaho Power routes**
- **Go west out of the Hemingway substation**

### **Question 3: Other comments**

There were 36 varied responses to this question. Some examples of those comments are:

- “We appreciate these meetings. It is my concern, however, that Idaho Power, BLM, and other large entities will do what is best for their pocketbooks before they really take in the concerns of the landowners.”
- “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 Idaho Power really give us what our land is worth?”
- “Thank you for making the effort to seek community input and consider the options.”
- “Keep the public aware of what is happening. Make sure the people are informed when meetings occur.”

### **Comments on: Regulatory and engineering criteria**

Of the six comments received, the most often repeated were:

- **Site the line on public land, rather than private land**
- **Use existing corridors**

### **Community criteria**

Of the three comments received, the most often repeated was:

- **Site the line away from farm land**