

Newsletter

GATEWAY WEST Transmission Line Project

Bureau of Land Management selects agency preferred alternatives

In August 2012, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) identified the agency preferred alternatives for the Gateway West Transmission Line Project. As lead federal agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the BLM must identify agency preferred alternatives that best fulfill the agency mission and responsibilities while giving consideration to environmental, economic, social and other factors analyzed in the draft environmental impact statement (EIS).

The BLM identified agency preferred alternatives from the range of alternatives considered in the draft EIS. The agency preferred alternatives were selected after reviewing changes made in February 2012 by Rocky Mountain Power and Idaho Power, considering comments submitted on the draft EIS, and coordinating with state, local and federal governments and agencies.

View a map and description of the BLM agency preferred alternatives inside and visit www.gatewaywestproject.com for links to the map tools below:

- [BLM interactive map](#) – View detailed maps and descriptions of route segments.
- [Parcel search map](#) – Explore the entire project area and routes and search for specific parcels or addresses.

To request printed maps from the companies, or if you have additional questions regarding the maps, please contact the project team using the information found in the Stay Connected section of this newsletter.

Issue 4 – September 2012

Snapshot

- The BLM identified agency preferred alternatives in August 2012.
- The final EIS is expected to be released by the BLM before the end of 2012. The BLM will continue to accept comments from the public for 60 days following the final EIS release.
- A Record of Decision (ROD) is expected in Summer 2013.
- Interactive and searchable parcel maps illustrating the agency preferred alternative are available on the project website.

Project overview

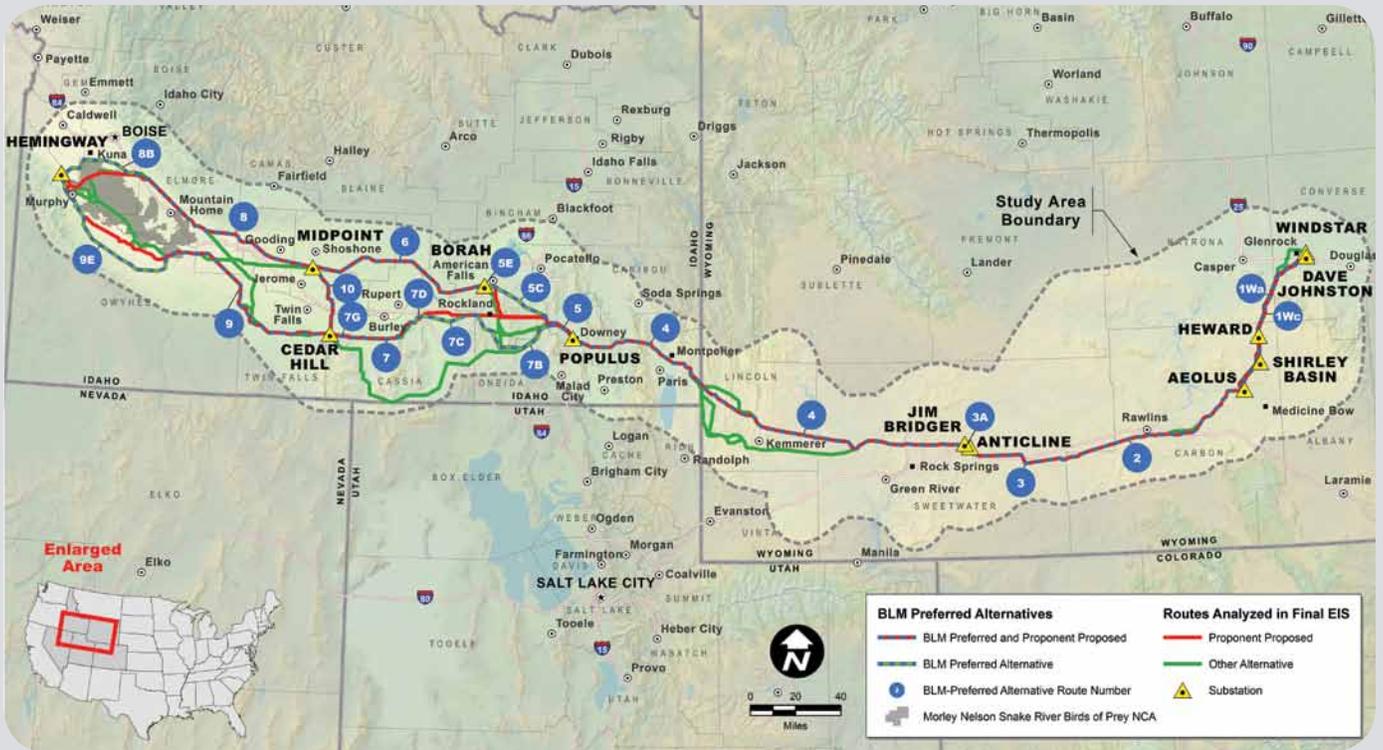
Rocky Mountain Power and Idaho Power are proposing to construct, operate and maintain the Gateway West Transmission Line Project, which would include approximately 1,000 miles of new 230 kilovolt (kV) and 500 kV electric transmission lines between the Windstar substation near Glenrock, Wyoming and the Hemingway substation near Murphy, Idaho. Line segments will be completed in phases between 2016 and 2021.

New to Gateway West?

Learn more about the project background and history by visiting our project website or by contacting the project team using the information found in the Stay Connected section of this newsletter.

BLM agency preferred alternatives

This map illustrates the BLM's preferred alternatives identified in August 2012, as well as the routes currently proposed by Rocky Mountain Power and Idaho Power and other alternatives being analyzed in the final EIS.



Segment 1W: Windstar to Aeolus

- Proposed Route including the substitution of Alternative 1E in the vicinity of Glenrock, Wyoming as part of the companies' February 2012 revisions.
- Proposed Route.
- The companies will pursue permitting only one new 230 kV line for Segment 1W(a) and reconstruction of the existing line for Segment 1W(c).

Segment 2: Aeolus to Wamsutter area

- Proposed Route including the substitution of Alternative 2C as part of the companies' February 2012 revisions.

Segment 3: Wamsutter area to Anticline/Jim Bridger

- Proposed Route.

Segment 4: Anticline to Populus

- Proposed Route including the substitution of Alternative 4A as part of the companies' February 2012 revisions.

Segment 5: Populus to Borah

- Proposed Route, Alternative 5C and 5E.
- The BLM supports Alternative 5E as part of its preferred alternative so long as Western Electricity Coordinating Council reliability issues are resolved.

Segment 6: Borah to Midpoint

- Proposed upgrade to the existing line voltage from 345 kV to 500 kV (no line construction is required).

Segment 7: Populus to Cedar Hill

- Proposed Route and Alternatives 7B, 7C, 7D, and 7G.
- The Proposed Route in the East Hills and Alternative 7G will be micro-sited to avoid the BLM-identified Preliminary Priority Sage-grouse Habitat (PPH).

Segment 8: Midpoint to Hemingway

- Proposed Route and Alternative 8B.

Segment 9: Cedar Hill to Hemingway

- Proposed Route and Alternative 9E.
- Alternative 9E will be modified to avoid BLM-identified PPH.

Segment 10: Cedar Hill to Midpoint

- Proposed Route.

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www.gatewaywestproject.com/mailling_list.aspx

What's next?

The BLM is expected to release the final EIS by the end of 2012. The final EIS will further analyze the alternatives shown on the adjacent map, including the agency preferred alternatives and proposed routes as updated in February 2012. The BLM will accept public comments for 60 days following the release of the final EIS. A Record of Decision (ROD), which will present the agency's decision on transmission line routing, is expected in Summer 2013.

State and local permitting

In addition to environmental review at the federal level, the companies will obtain all the necessary local permits in Idaho and Wyoming. These include local conditional use permits and state certificates of public

convenience and necessity. The companies have and will continue to work with state and local authorizing entities throughout the remainder of the NEPA process and after the federal ROD is issued.

Since the BLM has identified the agency preferred alternatives, the companies plan to move forward with state and local permitting efforts for the portion of the project between Windstar and Populus. This includes meeting with individual local governments prior to submitting formal permit applications to best understand the needs and requirements for specific areas.

Stay connected

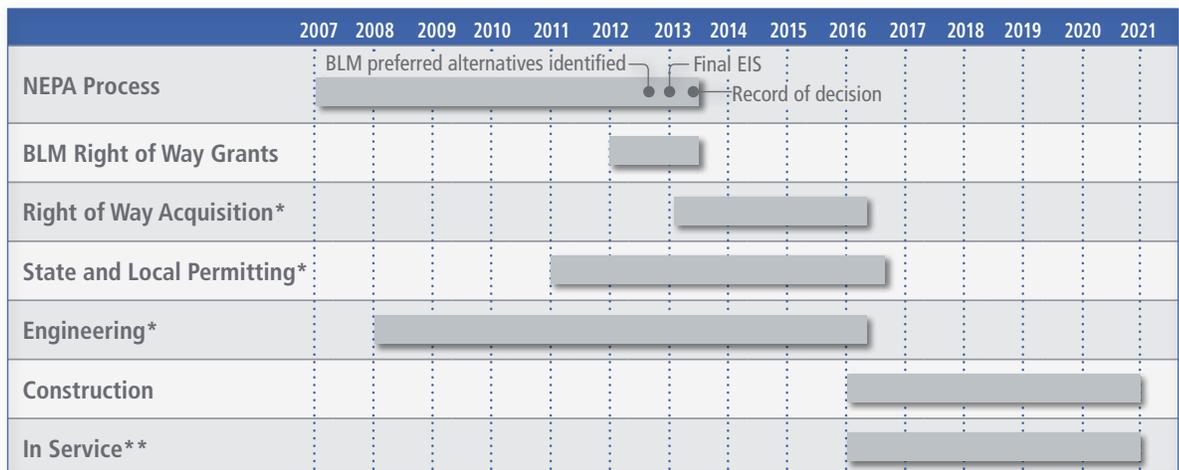
Since the beginning of the project, Rocky Mountain Power and Idaho Power have encouraged public participation. The BLM invited the public to participate throughout the NEPA process, beginning with public scoping, through comments on the draft EIS, and continuing through the completion of the final EIS. The companies will continue to meet with landowners, community leaders, elected officials and other interested parties through public, group and individual meetings as the local permitting process moves forward.

If you have questions or comments about the project, you may provide them via the project website at www.gatewaywestproject.com/contact_us.aspx or contact the project team by phone or email at:

For Rocky Mountain Power customers
 Call 801-220-4221
 E-mail ConstructionProjects@pacificorp.com

For Idaho Power customers
 Call 888-757-6957
 E-mail gatewaywest@idahopower.com

Proposed project timeline



* Dates for segments between the Populus and Hemingway substations are to be determined.
 ** Line segments will be in service at different times.

- Information on next steps
- Update on companies' proposed route changes (February 2012)
- Bureau of Land Management preferred alternatives description and map

Inside you'll find:

**Gateway West
Transmission Line Project
Newsletter**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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GATEWAY WEST Transmission Line Project

The Gateway West Transmission Line Project is a joint project between Rocky Mountain Power and Idaho Power to build, operate and maintain approximately 1,000 miles of new transmission lines across southern Wyoming and southern Idaho.



What's ahead?

- The BLM identified the agency preferred alternatives and is expected to release the final EIS by the end of 2012.
- The BLM will accept public comments for 60 days following the release of the final EIS.
- The Record of Decision (ROD) is expected to be published by the BLM in June 2013.
- Rocky Mountain Power and Idaho Power will begin working with state and local governments to obtain local permits in Idaho and Wyoming.

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