

# Newsletter

## GATEWAY WEST Transmission Line Project

Issue 1 - July 2009

### Project overview

Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power have proposed the approximately 1,150 mile Gateway West Transmission Line across southern Wyoming and southern Idaho. New transmission infrastructure is necessary to help meet the growing electricity needs of our residential, commercial and industrial customers.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the lead federal agency responsible for the environmental review process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The BLM is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) which will analyze project effects on the environment. Our two companies are working collaboratively with the BLM to ensure that the public is well informed and involved throughout the NEPA public involvement process.

### Project snapshot

- We continue to engage landowners, elected officials and other key stakeholders to review and discuss routing suggestions.
- We are currently evaluating all routing suggestions in coordination with the BLM and how they relate to the environmental review process.
- Please keep in touch – we encourage your continued comments on the proposed and alternative routes.



- Inside you'll find:**
- Project overview
  - Outreach update
  - Route siting and field work information
  - Answers to common questions
  - Information on how to stay involved

Gateway West  
Transmission Line Project  
Newsletter

3380 Americana Terrace, Suite 201  
Boise, ID 83706-2519



## GATEWAY WEST Transmission Line Project

### What's new?

- We developed a new project Web site — [www.gatewaywestproject.com](http://www.gatewaywestproject.com). For the latest news and information, visit the site regularly, bookmark this page or sign up for our Latest News RSS feed.
- Public meetings continue along the project area, which help us understand community concerns and ideas. For the latest information on upcoming meetings and details on past meetings, please view our online meeting calendar at [www.gatewaywestproject.com/calendar.aspx](http://www.gatewaywestproject.com/calendar.aspx).
- The Bureau of Land Management recently released an environmental assessment for geotechnical drilling work needed to complete the draft environmental impact statement (EIS). For more information visit the BLM's project Web site at [www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway\\_west/](http://www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west/).



The Gateway West Transmission Line Project is a joint project between Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power to build, operate and maintain approximately 1,150 miles of new high voltage transmission lines across southern Wyoming and southern Idaho.

Idaho Power | 888-757-6957  
[gatewaywest@idahopower.com](mailto:gatewaywest@idahopower.com)

Rocky Mountain Power | 801-220-4221  
[ConstructionProjects@pacifiCorp.com](mailto:ConstructionProjects@pacifiCorp.com)

[www.gatewaywestproject.com](http://www.gatewaywestproject.com)





## Outreach update

### Landowners

In December 2008, we sent letters to nearly 9,000 landowners within the project's two-mile wide study corridor, notifying them of their proximity to the project and inviting them to landowner meetings to discuss the proposed and alternative transmission line routes. Nearly 250 people attended these meetings and as a result, we received requests to continue the conversation regarding specific alternative route suggestions.

Since December, we have met with more than 500 landowners and stakeholders and received more than 1,000 comments on this project. We continue to meet with landowners, receive and respond to comments and are committed to engaging key stakeholders throughout the course of the project.

### NEPA public involvement

An important aspect of public involvement in this project is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. For Gateway West, the BLM is the lead federal agency responsible for conducting public involvement and outreach related to environmental analysis and preparation of the environmental impact statement (EIS). The BLM hosted public scoping meetings at the beginning of the NEPA process in June 2008 and continues to collect public feedback on the proposed and alternate routes.

We encourage your involvement in this project both through the formal NEPA process and through meetings and conversations by our two companies.



## Route siting and field work

A final route centerline for the project has not been chosen. **The final size of right of way needed for the centerline, after a final route has been identified, will be up to 150 feet for 230 kilovolt (kV) lines and up to 350 feet for 500 kV lines.** One of the many important steps that must be completed before the final right of way is determined is to conduct field work and analysis. As part of this step, we are currently requesting property access within a limited area along the study corridor in order to conduct field work which may include soil borings, land surveys and studies documenting cultural and natural resources. These studies are needed to help complete the environmental analysis for the project.



## Common questions

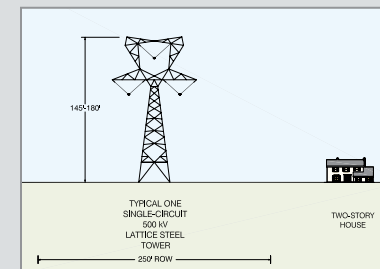
### What will this project look like?

The Gateway West Transmission Line Project plans to utilize a variety of different tower structures. The towers for each segment and area of the project depend on the location, topography and needs of a specific area. The four different tower types proposed for this project are shown to the right.

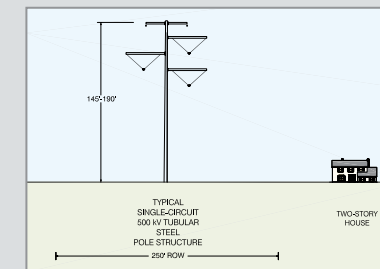
### Who will have access to the energy transmitted on the Gateway West Project?

This project is necessary to help meet the growing electricity needs of our customers in Idaho, Wyoming, Utah and other Western states. The energy transmitted on this project will come from a variety of sources, including wind, geothermal, natural gas and coal.

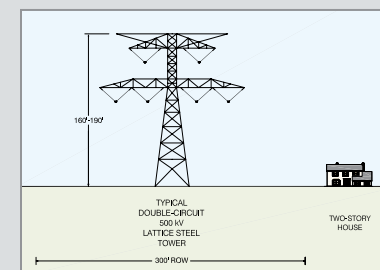
As regulated utilities, we are also required to provide access to this transmission line to third-party energy generators when capacity is available. The Gateway West Transmission Line will be open to all generators who meet regulatory requirements, regardless of the generation source.



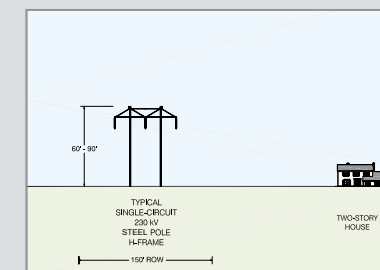
500 kV single circuit steel lattice tower



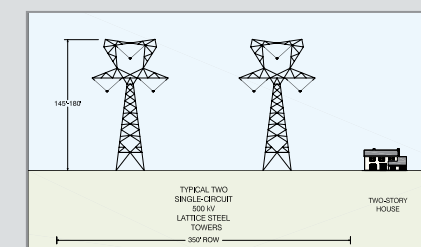
500 kV single circuit single steel pole



500 kV double circuit steel lattice tower



230 kV single circuit steel H-frame



Two 500 kV single circuit steel lattice towers

## Stay involved

### Get the latest information on the Web

For the most up-to-date project information, visit the project Web site at [www.gatewaywestproject.com](http://www.gatewaywestproject.com). You'll find the latest information on upcoming meetings, answers to commonly asked questions, project maps and more.

### Let us know what you think

We want to hear from you. You can provide comments via the project Web site at [www.gatewaywestproject.com/contact\\_us.aspx](http://www.gatewaywestproject.com/contact_us.aspx) or contact us at the following:

#### For Idaho Power customers

Call 888-757-6957

E-mail [gatewaywest@idahopower.com](mailto:gatewaywest@idahopower.com)

#### For Rocky Mountain Power customers

Call 801-220-4221

E-mail [ConstructionProjects@pacificorp.com](mailto:ConstructionProjects@pacificorp.com)

### Participate in the environmental review process

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the lead federal agency responsible for preparing the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for this project. Once this document is released, the BLM will host public hearings and a comment period to gather feedback on the EIS. Please visit the BLM's Web site at [www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway\\_west](http://www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west) for updated information on the EIS.

