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Routes Identified For Analysis In The Gateway West Transmission Line Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced today the proposed and alternate routes that will be analyzed in the draft environmental impact statement for the Gateway West Transmission Line Project, jointly proposed by Rocky Mountain Power and Idaho Power. The routes can be viewed on the BLM's project Web site at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west, as well as on the companies' joint project Web site at www.gatewaywestproject.com.

The BLM identified these routes using information gathered from the formal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process scoping period, comments received from the public, evaluation criteria and cooperating agency input as part of the NEPA process.

The BLM is scheduled to release the draft EIS in summer of 2010 and will analyze environmental studies and potential effects of the proposed project and alternatives. A 90-day public comment period and associated public meetings will follow the release of the draft EIS.

“Collaboration and coordination with local communities, landowners and other stakeholders helped greatly improve the routes that will be analyzed in the draft EIS,” said Richard Walje, president, Rocky Mountain Power. “We look forward to continuing to work with the many stakeholders involved as we move forward with this important transmission project.”

“Continued participation and collaboration are critical to this project, which will ensure safe, reliable electric service to our customers and those across the region for years to come” said Vern Porter, Vice President of Delivery Operations, Idaho Power.

Rocky Mountain Power and Idaho Power proposed the Gateway West Transmission Line Project to build approximately 1,150 miles of high-voltage transmission lines from Glenrock, Wyoming to Melba, Idaho. The lines will increase the transmission capacity of the two utilities in order to meet customers' growing need for electricity and will contribute to the economic vitality of local communities across Wyoming and Idaho.

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The utilities encourage the public to participate in the process and provide their comments directly to the BLM. Comments can be provided by e-mail at Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or by regular mail to: Bureau of Land Management, Gateway West Project, P. O. Box 20879, Cheyenne, WY 82003.

About Idaho Power: IDACORP, Inc. (NYSE: IDA), Boise, Idaho-based and formed in 1998, is a holding company comprised of Idaho Power Company, a regulated electric utility; IDACORP Financial, a holder of affordable housing projects and other real estate investments; and Ida-West Energy, an operator of small hydroelectric generation projects that satisfy the requirements of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978. IDACORP's origins lie with Idaho Power and operations beginning in 1916. Today, Idaho Power employs approximately 2,050 people to serve a 24,000 square-mile service area in southern Idaho and eastern Oregon. With 17 low-cost hydroelectric projects as the core of its generation portfolio, Idaho Power's 489,000 residential, business and agricultural customers pay some of the nation's lowest prices for electricity. To learn more about Idaho Power or IDACORP, visit www.idahopower.com or www.idacorpinc.com.

About Rocky Mountain Power: Based in Salt Lake City, Utah, Rocky Mountain Power provides safe, reliable and competitively-priced electric service to more than 982,000 customers in Utah, Wyoming and Idaho. As part of PacifiCorp, the company has more than 13,257 megawatts of generation from coal, hydro, natural gas, and renewable wind and geothermal power. For more details about the company, visit www.rockymountainpower.net

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