

Public Meeting Summary

Meeting name: Douglas Landowner Meeting

Location: Douglas, Wyoming

Date: April 20, 2009

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Purpose and Introduction: The Gateway West Transmission Line project team hosted a landowner meeting to update attendees on project progress, particularly a new alternative along the 1E corridor, collect comments, and document concerns.

Notification and Attendance: Approximately 300 landowners and residents along the two-mile 1E and 1E Alternate corridors were notified by mail and invited to attend. Approximately 75 people attended, including Jim Anderson, Wyoming state senator, Aaron Clark, Wyoming Governor's office, and Sandy Tinsley, U.S. Senator Enzi's office.

Format: Attendees were greeted at a sign-in table and encouraged to take informational materials and complete comment forms. The meeting began as an open house, transitioning to short presentations followed by questions and answers. The open house provided general information about the project, with project staff available to answer questions and help identify specific parcels on landowner maps. Presentations included:

- Welcome and introduction: Leslie Blythe, Rocky Mountain Power Regional Representative
- Project purpose and need: Bob Tarantola, Rocky Mountain Power consultant
- Routing Process: Walt Vering, Gateway West consultant team
- National Environmental Policy Act: Tamara Gertsch, Bureau of Land Management

Key questions and themes

- What is the difference between public and private lands with regard to the NEPA process? *The environmental impact statement will evaluate all actions having potential impacts to the environment. The project team will be conducting the same studies on both public and private land.*
- What is the purpose of segment 1E and why can't it be routed closer to 1W? *Segment 1E will improve reliability and redundancy for the entire system while providing new transmission access to new energy resources in the area.*
- How would the line affect property values and how will landowners be compensated for easements? *Studies vary, but generally show property values, particularly over the long-term, are largely unaffected by transmission lines built nearby. If the transmission line does cross a landowner's property, they will be paid a onetime sum at fair market value for the right-of-way used as a utility easement. Value is determined using several different sources including county assessor records, an appraiser's corridor study and local comparable sales.*
- Where will energy on these lines travel to (within the state or outside)? *Power is transmitted where it is needed. The energy transmitted by the Gateway West Transmission Line will benefit Rocky Mountain Power customers both directly and indirectly through system reliability and market expansion of alternative energy sources.*