

## Public Meeting Summary

**Meeting name:** Ada County Town Hall Meeting

**Location:** Kuna, Idaho

**Date:** June 11, 2009

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Purpose and introduction:** The Gateway West Transmission Line Project team hosted a public meeting, in coordination with the Ada County Commissioners, to update attendees on project progress, answer questions, collect comments and document concerns. The meeting was facilitated by County Commissioner Fred Tilman.

**Notification and attendance:** Following Ada County guidelines for notifying residents about public meetings, approximately 2900 residents were notified about this meeting. A newspaper ad announcing the meeting was also placed in the *Twin Falls Times News*. Approximately 75 people attended, including Senator Russ Fulcher, Ada County Commissioners Fred Tilman, Sharon Ullman and Rick Yzaguire, City of Kuna Mayor Scott Dowdy and Councilmembers Rich Cordoza and Lisa Bachman, Boise City Councilmember Jim Tibbs, City of Meridian Mayor Tammy de Weerd, and staff members from both U.S. Representative Walt Minnick's Office and U.S. Senator James Risch's Office.

**Format:** Project staff were available at a sign-in table and encouraged attendees to take informational materials and complete comment forms. Project staff also provided general information about the project, answered questions and helped identify specific parcels on landowner maps. Presentations included:

- Welcome and introductions: Fred Tilman, Ada County Commissioner
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) presentation: John Sullivan, BLM
- Project overview: Todd Adams and Kristi Pardue, Idaho Power
- Routing overview: Jim Nickerson, TetraTech
- Questions and answers: facilitated by Commissioner Tilman

### Key questions and themes:

- Why not propose the line in the Birds of Prey NCA to the south or utilize the existing corridor there? *In 2005, the U.S. Congress passed the Energy Policy Act which looks at energy development in key western states. The Energy Policy Act also started a process for energy corridors to be designated in western states called the West-wide Energy Corridors (WWEC). When Idaho Power and PacifiCorp came forward with their proposal for the Gateway West Transmission Line Project, they were directed to use the WWEC where possible, which used this path north of the Birds of Prey NCA. BLM's decision to site the two energy transmission corridors in their present locations was based on an assessment of relative impacts to natural and cultural resources on public land, as well as the response from the over 600 individuals, organizations, and agencies that reviewed the draft NCA Resource Management Plan.*
- Is there a required right of way for transmission lines of this size? How close to a home are these transmission lines allowed to be? Can they go over a house? *The required right of way is 250 feet for a single circuit 500 kV lattice steel tower and 300 feet for a double circuit 500 kV lattice steel tower. No permanent buildings or structures are allowed in the right of way easement. The transmission line cannot go over a house, but a house could be located 125 feet from the easement's centerline.*