

Public Meeting Summary

Meeting name: Power County Town Hall Meeting

Location: Arbon Valley, Idaho

Date: July 20, 2009

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Purpose and introduction: Idaho Power hosted a public meeting in Arbon Valley, Idaho to update attendees on project progress, answer questions, collect comments and document concerns.

Notification and attendance: Approximately 407 landowners and residents along the two-mile study corridors within Power County were notified by mail and invited to attend. Approximately 50-60 people attended, including Ken Estep, Power County Commissioner.

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: Ken Estep, Power County Commissioner and Todd Adams, Idaho Power
- Project overview: Todd Adams and Kristi Pardue, Idaho Power
- Routing overview: Walt Vering, TetraTech

Key questions and themes:

- If you get an easement and build a power line on my property does that mean you can build future lines on that easement also? *No, the easement would only be for the one power line. If Idaho Power wanted to build another line in the area they would need to go through this process again.*
- Why don't you put the new lines parallel right next to the existing lines? What is the minimum distance between transmission lines? *The minimum distance between lines that Idaho Power would build is 1,500 feet. This ensures that if one or more towers fall (and most of the towers are separated by approximately 1,500 feet), it will not take the other line out.*
- How will this affect my livestock? Will they get shocked? *Stray voltage is extremely unlikely to occur. As long as you have a grounded system stray voltage shouldn't occur. If a shock did occur it would most likely not be strong or harmful -- and again the event is unlikely. Many statisticians have studied electromagnetic fields (EMF) and possible health concerns resulting from them, but have not been able to find a correlation between EMF and negative health effects.*
- Where did the alternate routes on the maps come from? *Many of the alternate routes, particularly those in blue, were suggestions by community members.*
- What about eminent domain? *We make every effort to work with landowners to find an amicable location for our towers. We are not interested in putting lines over houses or causing undue hardship on landowners.*
- How much interest is there in the alternate state line that the Cassia County task force came up with? *It is being considered and it is something that the BLM will look at when they evaluate the draft environmental impact statement.*