

Public Meeting Summary

Meeting name: Gooding County Town Hall Meeting

Location: Gooding, Idaho

Date: July 22, 2009

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

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

Notification and attendance: Approximately 367 landowners and residents along the two-mile study corridors within Gooding County were notified by mail and invited to attend. Approximately 25 people attended, including Tom Faulkner, Gooding 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: Tom Faulkner, Gooding County Commissioner and Dan Olmstead, Idaho Power
- Project overview: Dan Olmstead and Doug Dockter, Idaho Power
- Routing overview: Walt Vering, TetraTech

Key questions and themes:

- How does the county benefit from this project? *Property taxes are paid to the county by line mile and are determined by the state.*
- Do you sell power to other utilities? Are you building in extra capacity? *Yes, we are required by law to share excess power after we have met obligations to our customers. Yes, there will be extra capacity on this line.*
- How definite is the proposed plan and when will we know the final route? *The BLM will evaluate the proposed route on equal footing with all of the other alternates in the environmental impact statement. A final decision is scheduled to be made in the spring 2012.*
- Who determines where the line actually goes and the degree of separation from other lines? *Once we have narrowed the route to approximately 350 feet, Power Engineers will place the route. Separation between towers is approximately 1,500 feet.*
- Are the lines dangerous to eagles? *There was a distribution line problem (on another project) in which the eagle's wings span could touch two lines. The new lines will be far enough apart so that won't be a problem.*
- Will there be a problem with induced voltage? *Induced voltage can occur when fences and heavy equipment are not properly grounded but Idaho Power has requirements and standards to build lines in order to prevent induced voltage.*
- Do you have the right of eminent domain? *Yes, but we only use that as a last resort. We do not have the right of eminent domain over the federal government.*
- Will landowners be paid a monthly usage fee for their land? *Idaho Power purchases easements for a one-time payment.*