

Public Meeting Summary

Meeting name: Medicine Bow Community Conversation

Location: Medicine Bow, Wyoming

Date: September 15, 2009

Time: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Purpose and introduction: The Gateway West Transmission Line Project team hosted a public meeting to update attendees on project progress, new conceptual routes, answer questions, collect comments and document concerns. The meeting was facilitated by Bob Taranatola, Rocky Mountain Power consultant.

Notification and attendance: Approximately 1,500 landowners and residents along the two-mile study corridors within the segments 1E/1W area were notified by mail and invited to attend. Posters announcing the meetings were posted in key community businesses. Approximately 40 people attended, including Medicine Bow Mayor Kevin Coleman and Carbon County Representative Jeb Stewart.

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: Matt Grant, RMP
- Project overview: Bob Tarantola, RMP
- Routing overview: Cameo Flood, Tetra Tech
- Questions and answers: facilitated by Bob Tarantola, RMP

Key questions and themes:

- Does Rocky Mountain Power pay landowners for right of way access? Other companies I have dealt with do. *No, Rocky Mountain Power does not pay for right of way access to perform studies. We are a public utility and need to keep our costs down for our customers.*
- If there is additional space on the transmission line, who can use it? Are those people in line to use the line to transmit power all paid up to do so? *Rocky Mountain Power transmission lines are open access transmission lines, meaning anyone that submits an application and is approved can transmit power on our lines. Costs vary but studies are done to see what would be needed to connect the person into the grid. This process is closely monitored by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) so no preferential treatment is given to any particular customer, including Rocky Mountain Power.*
- Can you build another transmission line in the 150 foot easement in the future? *No, we would need to go through a similar process again for a different project.*
- Can you explain a bit about the overall energy grid plan? We are concerned about there being too many power lines through our state. Is there an overall plan? *The Rocky Mountain Power transmission lines tie into the overall grid. To minimize the number of transmission lines, we are sizing the line from Aeolus to Hemmingway to be 500 kV which is the largest voltage on our system. We have also provided flexibility by having two 500 kV lines for Gateway West if we can find a partner for the second line. We cannot build super sized power lines without partners (i.e. generators) willing to assume some of the financial cost since the first 500 kV line is to meet the needs of our ratepayers. We can build lines with some additional capacity for long term purposes, but we must be able to justify the cost for ratemaking purposes.*