

Public Meeting Summary

Meeting name: Laramie Community Conversation

Location: Laramie, Wyoming

Date: September 16, 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 70 people attended, including Representative Johnnie Burton and Albany County Commissioner Tim Sullivan.

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 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have authority over where transmission lines go on private land? *No, the BLM does not have authority over where transmission lines go on private land. However, they do have some influence because of where they decide they want lines on public land. The transmission lines must connect when it leaves public land to go on private land then connect to the next public land section.*
- Why can't you put all of the new transmission lines in existing energy corridors? *To maintain reliability we need to keep transmission lines in separate areas. That way if a common event came through an area, such as a fire or tornado then not all of our transmission lines would be taken out.*
- Is any of the space on the transmission line dedicated to renewable energy? *No, since it is an open access system we cannot hold space on the line. However, we do anticipate wind energy to be transmitted on the line.*
- Have you considered burying the lines? *There are a lot of issues with burying transmission lines. One is the ground disturbance because we need to build 1,100 miles of transmission lines and there must be maintenance access points along that route. The cost of burying lines is also about 10 times what it is to build overhead lines. Also there is a concern with properly insulating the wires underground and keeping them cool. Current technology does not allow the undergrounding of 500 kV lines for long distances due to losses that would occur on the line.*