

Public Meeting Summary

Meeting name: Kemmerer Landowner Meeting

Location: Kemmerer, Wyoming

Date: November 5, 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 potential routes, answer questions, collect comments and document concerns.

Notification and attendance: Approximately 550 landowners and residents along the two-mile study corridors within the Segment 4 area were notified by mail and invited to attend. Approximately 50 people attended.

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: Joe Drnas (RMP)
- Project update: Joe Drnas (RMP)
- Routing overview and NEPA Process: Walt George (BLM)
- Questions and answers: Project team

Key questions and themes:

- What kind of base will the towers have? *It depends on what they find in the geotechnical surveys. If the earth is soft the base will be larger. It mainly depends on the earth content underneath. It will all be engineered and designed and they are working very early on to understand varying slopes and earth conditions.*
- What would happen to sage grouse once the towers are in place? *Sage grouse will likely avoid towers and other tall structures. The birds may see those and abandon the area. They could displace many miles and nest in other locations. In addition, the towers could create perching zones for raptors and other predators.*
- What is a sage grouse core area? *Sage grouse core areas have been identified by the Governor's office. Wyoming has 64 percent of the total sage grouse population in North America. Core areas were designed to protect 82 percent of the 64 percent that exist in Wyoming. This gives the Department of Fish and Wildlife the ability to keep the animal off the endangered species list.*
- Is the red route less destructive? *Yes, from the historical trails perspective. But other alternatives may be less destructive from different perspectives.*