

## Public Meeting Summary

**Meeting name:** Twin Falls Landowner Meeting

**Location:** Twin Falls, Idaho

**Date:** November 9, 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.

**Notification and attendance:** Approximately 340 landowners and residents along the two-mile-wide study corridors within the segment 9 area were notified by mail and invited to attend. Approximately 40 people attended, including Representatives Bert Brackett and Chuck Coiner, Twin Falls County Commissioners Terry Kramer and George Urie, Twin Falls County Planning and Zoning Administrator Richard Dunn, A. J. Church from United States Senator Crapo's Office, and Mike Matthews from United States Senator Jim Risch's office.

**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: Dan Olmstead (IPC)
- Project update: Dan Olmstead (IPC)
- Routing overview: Todd Adams (IPC)
- Questions and answers: Todd Adams (IPC)

### Key questions and themes:

- Can we assume that if both the red and green routes come through the NEPA process without a hitch, the companies would pick the red routes? *The companies don't get to pick the route. The draft EIS will indicate which routes the BLM is leaning towards. As part of the NEPA process, the BLM will spend the winter writing the draft EIS, but they are still taking public input.*
- At Salmon Falls there is a Wilderness Study Area (WSA). The Jarbidge field office is doing their final EIS now. It seems like if that WSA was modified, you could cross Salmon Falls north of where you are currently proposing. The two processes are happening close enough together, is that a possibility? *There are several issues in this area. This area also has a Wild and Scenic designation and ACEC designation (area of critical environmental concern). While these two designations can be modified by the EIS, the WSA designation can only be modified by Congress.*
- I want to know how this project is financed. Who is paying for it? No one wants to see the cost of this on their power bill. *The Gateway West project is being built with company money; we do not have any of the stimulus money for this project. We will eventually recover our money through ratepayers when the line is "used and useful." At that time, the cost of the line will be spread out over a number of years across all the ratepayers.*