



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bureau of Land Management and Oregon Department of Energy Seek Public Input on Proposed Transmission Line Project in Oregon and Idaho

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The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) announced today that they will be co-hosting six public scoping meetings in Oregon and Idaho to gather public input on a proposed high voltage transmission line project.

The BLM and ODOE are collaborating on the initial stages of the public process for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project. This project, proposed by Idaho Power Company, requires right-of-way grants from the BLM and a site certificate from ODOE's Energy Facility Siting Council.

“While the BLM and ODOE have separate regulations and public processes, we wanted to ensure that the public can provide input to each of our agencies as easily as possible,” said Lucas Lucero, Project Manager for the BLM and Adam Bless, Energy Facility Analyst for ODOE. “We hope that by co-hosting these meetings, we will help the public understand the proposed project and how they can participate in both the BLM and ODOE processes.”

The six scoping meetings will be held on the following dates from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., with a 30-minute presentation at 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Both agencies will provide project information, staff to help answer questions and the opportunity to comment.

- October 21 – Marsing, Idaho, Marsing American Legion Community Center
- October 22 – Ontario, Oregon, Four Rivers Cultural Center
- October 23 – Baker City, Oregon, Baker County Fairgrounds
- October 28 – Island City, Oregon, OSU Agricultural Service Center
- October 29 – Pendleton, Oregon, Pendleton Convention Center
- October 30 – Boardman, Oregon, Port of Morrow Riverfront Center

In addition to providing comments at the open houses, input on this proposed project can be provide in several other ways for the BLM:

- Via the project Web site at <http://www.boardmantohemingway.com>

- Via E-mail B2HComments@blm.gov
- Via U.S. Postal mail: Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Lucas Lucero, Vale District Office, 100 Oregon Street, Vale, Oregon, 97918

Comments directly to the ODOE can be providing in the following ways:

- Via the project Web site at <http://www.boardmantohemingway.com>
- Via E-mail Adam.Bless@state.or.us
- Via U.S. Postal mail: Oregon Department of Energy, Attn: Adam Bless, 625 Marion St. NE, Salem, Oregon, 97301

The BLM Vale Office and the USFS Wallowa-Whitman National Forest will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on the proposal to construct electric transmission lines from the proposed Boardman substation near Boardman, Oregon, to the proposed Hemingway substation near Melba, Idaho, approximately 20 miles southwest of Boise. The proposed project is composed 298 miles of high voltage transmission line. Preliminary project information, including a map and other detailed information, is located on the project Web site at <http://www.boardmantohemingway.com>. Authorization of this proposal may result in the amendment of USFS and BLM land use plans.

Over 250 miles of the transmission line will traverse Oregon and so the project must undergo Oregon's energy facility siting process. Energy facility developers, such as Idaho Power, must apply to Oregon Department of Energy- Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) for a site certificate prior to construction. EFSC's energy facility siting process is a consolidated permitting process which incorporates all local and state agency requirements, including land use requirements, into a single decision. The process has public participation components with public meetings at the beginning and formal public hearings toward the end of the process. To learn more about Oregon's energy facility siting process visit the project Web site or the Oregon Department of Energy's Web site at <http://oregon.gov/ENERGY/SITING/index.shtml>.

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