



# Newsletter

## GATEWAY WEST Transmission Line Project

Issue 2 – August 2010

### Overview

The Gateway West Transmission Line Project proposes to build approximately 1,150 miles of new transmission line across southern Idaho and southern Wyoming.

This project is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as it will cross federally-managed public lands. Under NEPA, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the lead federal agency responsible for the environmental review of the Gateway West project and is currently preparing the draft environmental impact statement (EIS).

### Snapshot

- The BLM determined reasonable routes (proposed and alternates) to fully analyze in the draft EIS (see inside for more information).
- A 90-day public comment period will follow the BLM's release of the draft EIS later this year.
- We continue to engage landowners, elected officials and other stakeholders throughout the project area through briefings and website updates.

### Milestones

The Gateway West project will soon reach an important milestone with the release of the draft EIS. The graphic below illustrates some of the major milestones and activities for both the NEPA process and the companies' outreach activities.

	2008	2009 – 2010	2011	2012
<b>NEPA Process</b>	Scoping Period	Field work Draft EIS	Draft EIS public hearings	Final EIS Record of Decision
<b>Company Activity</b>	Community meetings and outreach Engineering Route analysis and refinement			Construction begins
		Permitting		

**Gateway West  
Transmission Line Project  
Newsletter**

**Inside you'll find:**

- Project overview
- Project milestones
- Outreach update
- Proposed and alternate routes map
- Information on how to comment on the draft EIS

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## GATEWAY WEST Transmission Line Project

### What's ahead?

- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plans to release the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) later this year.
- A 90-day comment period will follow the release of the draft EIS, including public meetings throughout the project area. Please visit the BLM's website at [www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway\\_west](http://www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west) for specific meeting dates and locations.
- Continue to visit our project website at [www.gatewaywestproject.com](http://www.gatewaywestproject.com) for the latest information on upcoming meetings, project maps and more.



The Gateway West Transmission Line Project is a joint project between Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power to build, operate and maintain approximately 1,150 miles of new transmission lines across southern Wyoming and southern Idaho.

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Rocky Mountain Power | 801-220-4221  
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[www.gatewaywestproject.com](http://www.gatewaywestproject.com)



### Outreach update

#### Public comment period opens later this year

A key milestone in the NEPA process is the release of the draft EIS. As the federal agency responsible for the NEPA process on Gateway West, the BLM plans to release the draft EIS later this year. A 90-day public comment period will follow, including public hearings throughout the project area.

For more information on the NEPA process and future draft EIS notifications, please visit the BLM's website at [http://www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway\\_west/](http://www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west/).

#### Outreach by the numbers

We are committed to engaging landowners and stakeholders and we encourage your continued involvement. We've hosted and participated in many formal and informal project-related meetings, gathered your comments and kept in touch. For example the following is a list of some of the things we've done since the project began in 2008.

- Nearly **40** meetings were hosted by our companies since December 2008.
- Nearly **2,000** people attended the company-sponsored meetings.
- We participated in more than **150** formal and informal meetings at the request of landowners and other interested parties.
- Approximately **1,350** comments have been received by our companies since the start of the project.
- More than **5,400** people received our July 2009 newsletter.
- Approximately **9,000** addresses and e-mail addresses are now on our project mailing list, after new alternate routes were added in fall 2009.
- The project website logged more than **17,850** visits, totaling nearly **104,900** page views.



### Routes to be analyzed in the draft EIS

In January 2010, the BLM announced the proposed and alternate routes that will be analyzed in the draft EIS for each of the 10 proposed segments on Gateway West. For details on each route, visit the interactive route map on the Web at [http://www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway\\_west/](http://www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west/).



### Did you know?



- The Gateway West transmission line will provide electricity to meet the growing needs of customers and increase the reliability of the region's electrical system.
- NEPA requires federal agencies to evaluate environmental impacts of proposed actions and reasonable alternatives on federally-managed land.
- All comments received by the companies will be submitted to the BLM to be included in the draft EIS comment analysis.
- The BLM will hold a 90-day public comment period, including public hearings, after publishing the draft EIS later this year.

### Stay involved

#### Participate in the upcoming draft EIS comment period

The BLM plans to release the draft EIS for Gateway West later this year. The BLM will host public hearings and a 90-day comment period to gather feedback on the draft EIS. Please look for notices from the BLM of specific meeting dates and visit the BLM's website for updated EIS information or submit comments at [www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway\\_west/](http://www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west/).

#### Get the latest information on the Web

Please visit our project website at [www.gatewaywestproject.com](http://www.gatewaywestproject.com) for the latest information on upcoming meetings, answers to commonly asked questions, project maps and more.



#### Let us know what you think

We want to hear from you. You can provide your comments via the project website at [www.gatewaywestproject.com/contact\\_us.aspx](http://www.gatewaywestproject.com/contact_us.aspx) or contact us as indicated below.

#### For Idaho Power customers

Call 888-757-6957

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