

Public Meeting Summary

Meeting name: Burley Community Conversation

Location: Burley, ID

Date: April 14, 2009

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Purpose and introduction: Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power hosted a community meeting focused on dairy owners and operators for the proposed Gateway West Transmission Line Project. The meeting purpose was to answer questions, listen to feedback and to encourage the public to submit comments.

Notification and attendance: Approximately 60 dairy farmers along the proposed and alternative corridors were notified of the dairy meetings in Twin Falls, Burley and Gooding. Attendees could choose the most convenient meeting to attend. Approximately 84 people attended this meeting.

Format: Attendees were greeted at the sign-in table and provided an overview of the room and the process. Open house stations included a project overview, the tower structures, parcel ownership maps, informational materials, and comments and requests. Staff assisted participants in finding their parcels on the maps and answered questions. The presentations were followed by an approximately 90-minute questions and answers session. Presentations included:

- Welcome and introductions: Dan Olmstead, Idaho Power
- Project background: Dan Olmstead and Todd Adams, Idaho Power
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process: Walt Vering, Tetra Tech
- Right of entry and survey process: Mike Takac, Land Services, Inc.

Key questions and themes:

- Do our comments have an impact on the final routing alternative? *The BLM will ultimately determine the route based on impacts and comments received.*
- How do you decide how much money we get for our land when the project needs an easement? *A third party appraiser will be conducting the appraisals and landowners may also obtain their own appraisal.*
- Support for Alternate 7R.
- Concerns about the dangers of living under the power line, that animals were more important than people in routing decisions, and that transmission lines will inhibit recreational activities.
- Concerns that once the corridor is in place it will be opened up for new lines, such as other transmission lines and gas pipelines.