

Public Meeting Summary

Meeting name: Cassia County Public Meeting

Location: Burley, ID

Date: June 2, 2009

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Purpose and introduction: The Gateway West Transmission Line Project team participated in a public meeting, at the request of the Cassia County Commissioners, to update attendees on project progress, answer questions, collect comments, and document concerns. The meeting was facilitated by State Representative Scott Bedke.

Notification and attendance: Residents were invited by interested citizens within Cassia County. Attendees included State Representatives Scott Bedke, Jim Patrick and Steve Kren; as well as staff representing U. S. Representative Mike Crapo, U. S. Representative Walt Minnick, and U. S. Senator Jim Risch.

Format: State Representative Scott Bedke facilitated the meeting. Large-size wall maps of the proposed and alternate routes and parcel ownership maps for Cassia County were available for review. Attendees were also provided with the general project fact sheet, project FAQs, a field work and cultural resources fact sheet, electromagnetic field (EMF) materials and comment forms. Presentations were given, followed by questions and answers, and discussion. Presentations included:

- Welcome and introductions: Dan Olmstead, Idaho Power
- Project purpose and need: Todd Adams, Idaho Power
- Community perspective, “Move It Move It”: Brent Stoker, Cassia County farmer and Cassia County Gateway West task force

Key questions and themes:

- Attendees expressed concern about the risks associated with the transmission lines including health impacts, decreased values of homes, increase of taxes, interruption of phones, radios and GPS devices, and reduced production of their livestock.
- How will the project acquire right of way from private landowners? *The project team will work to reach easement agreements first and will use eminent domain only as a last resort. Idaho Power has used eminent domain only once to condemn a property.*
- How were the criteria used to prioritize routes determined? *The project uses a third-party contractor to help develop routing and siting criteria.*
- Attendees requested that the project team look at using the northern route only.