

Public Meeting Summary

Meeting name: Twin Falls Public Meeting

Location: Twin Falls, Idaho

Date: July 9, 2009

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Purpose and introduction: The Gateway West Transmission Line Project team hosted a public meeting, in coordination with the Twin Falls County Commissioners, to update attendees on project progress, answer questions, collect comments and document concerns. The meeting was facilitated by County Commissioner Terry Kramer.

Notification and attendance: Approximately 300 landowners and residents along the two-mile study corridors within Twin Falls County were notified by mail and invited to attend. A newspaper ad announcing the meeting was also placed in the *Twin Falls Times News*. Approximately 45 people attended, including Representatives Jim Patrick, Sharon Block and Stephen Hartgen, as well as Senator Bert Brackett.

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: Terry Kramer, Twin Falls County Commissioner and Dan Olmstead, Idaho Power
- Project overview: Todd Adams, Idaho Power
- Routing overview: Walt Vering, TetraTech
- Questions and answers: facilitated by Dan Olmstead, Idaho Power

Key questions and themes:

- Putting the line on public land vs. private land. How much power do environmental organizations have in this process? Are they going to push the line onto private property to protect sage grouse, by filing a lawsuit? *This is a complex question, without an easy answer. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will listen to both sides of the argument and make an unbiased decision and do its best to balance the impacts. The BLM cannot speak to what the environmental agencies might do, but it is within their legal right to file a lawsuit.*
- If you get an easement and build a power line on my property does that mean you can build future lines on that easement also? *No, the easement would only be for the one power line. If Idaho Power wanted to build another line in the area they would need to go through the entire process again.*
- Why are proposed substations at a certain location? Can they be moved? I am speaking mostly about the Cedar Hill location because it is in a very scenic and a heavy tourist area. *The location was chosen because this was the location where two of the lines intersected, so this was the logical place. Idaho Power hopes to avoid negative effects wherever possible.*