

## Public Meeting Summary

**Meeting name:** Elmore County Town Hall Meeting

**Location:** Glens Ferry, Idaho

**Date:** June 16, 2009

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

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

**Notification and attendance:** Approximately 309 landowners, residents and organizations along the two-mile wide study corridors within Elmore 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.

**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: Blake Watson, Idaho Power and Larry Rose, Elmore County Commissioner
- Project overview: Todd Adams and Kristi Pardue, Idaho Power
- Routing overview: Jim Nickerson, TetraTech

### Key questions and themes:

- How were the proposed and alternate corridors identified in the Glens Ferry area and who will decide which route is chosen? *Both the “red” (proposed) and “green” (alternate) routes are feasible and will be studied further. The green routes were chosen because they are federally designated Western Energy Commission (WEC) corridors created as part of the Energy Act to encourage transmission line siting in these areas. We are in favor of using the red route as it resolves many of the constraints in this area. The BLM will study both the red and green routes equally and make the final decision based on a completed environmental impact statement.*
- What is the distance between the towers and what is allowed within the easement? *There will be four to five towers per mile, each spanning approximately 1,300 feet. We are sensitive to current farming operations such as irrigation pivots and can use a ground clearance range of 35 to 40 feet to accommodate these activities. We are doing our best to avoid existing structures and subdivisions. Compensation packages will be offered to landowners whose land is impacted by this project.*