

Public Meeting Summary

Meeting name: Jerome County Town Hall Meeting

Location: Jerome, Idaho

Date: July 21, 2009

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Purpose and introduction: Idaho Power hosted a public meeting in Jerome, Idaho to update attendees on project progress, answer questions, collect comments and document concerns.

Notification and attendance: Approximately 161 landowners and residents along the two-mile study corridors within Jerome County were notified by mail and invited to attend. Approximately 20 people attended, including Joe Davidson, Jerome County Commissioner.

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: Joe Davidson, Jerome County Commissioner and Dan Olmstead, Idaho Power
- Project overview: Dan Olmstead and Doug Dockter, Idaho Power
- Routing overview: Jim Nickerson, TetraTech

Key questions and themes:

- What happens if the line goes over my property and completely diminishes the value of my land? *Ultimately the line will be within a 300-foot wide right of way, not the two mile wide corridor. Once the route is narrowed to that identifiable right of way, real estate agents will be sent out to meet with individual landowners to negotiate an easement and associated compensation.*
- Will Idaho residents benefit from this project? *Yes. All of Idaho Power customers will benefit first, as required by law. Other customers may benefit as well after Idaho Power's needs are met.*
- Will there be rate changes? *Idaho Power cannot start charging customers until the first kilovolt of power is flowing through the line. This is a public utilities decision and it is anticipated that the cost of the new line will be amortized. If Idaho Power sells power to other utilities at the market rate, the profit made from those sales can be used to reduce rates or at least keep them low.*
- Will wind power be connected to the line? *Not directly since the wind power generated in this area is at such a low voltage it would not be cost effective to load it on to a 500kV line. However, this line will open up space on smaller lines that can transmit power generated through wind.*
- If LS Power builds the SWIP line, why does Idaho Power need to build one in the same area? *Only one 500kV is needed but it serves two different needs. Idaho Power needs to move power from east to west and LS Power is interested in moving power north to south.*
- Why did Idaho Power sell the SWIP project to LS Power? *Some time ago, Idaho Power's needs changed and the company decided it did not want to get into the merchant line business. Our priority is to serve our customers first.*