

Public Meeting Summary

Meeting name: Malta Landowner Meeting

Location: Malta, Idaho

Date: December 14, 2009

Time: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Purpose and introduction: The Gateway West Transmission Line Project team hosted a public meeting to update attendees on project progress, new conceptual routes, answer questions, collect comments and document concerns.

Notification and attendance: Approximately 1,663 landowners and residents along the two-mile-wide study corridors within the segments 7H and 7I area were notified by mail and invited to attend. Approximately 105 people attended, including Idaho State Representative Fred Wood and Oneida County Commissioners Cecil Sweeten and Larry Etherington.

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: Ara Swanson (Consultant Team)
- Project update: Kristi Pardue (IPC)
- Routing overview: Todd Adams (IPC)
- Questions and answers: Todd Adams (IPC); Shawn Graff (RMP)

Key questions and themes:

- Why can you not use existing utility corridors? *This is a question of reliability and standards set by Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC). WECC rates transmission line systems based on their reliability standards, which is essentially N-1. N is the number of paths in the system so if you subtract one path, the system must still be able to carry the same amount of power. This project will have a 3,000 megawatt path rating, so under ideal conditions, each segment would carry 1,500 megawatts. If, for any reason, this project is rated at anything less than 3,000 megawatts, it will not get built.*
- What is the process for compensating landowners whose land is in the path finally chosen? *Landowners will be compensated fair market value for rights of way regardless of how it is acquired. In most cases a mutual agreement is reached with landowners based on a local and individual property assessment.*
- What is the chance that the red route (7) will be chosen and, if not chosen, how do you decide which green route (7H or 7I) will be picked? *Both green and red routes will be analyzed as part of the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. As the lead agency overseeing the NEPA process for this project, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will assess both routes, as equals, and make a decision based on specified criteria. In other words, the BLM is "color blind" in this process, meaning they view both red and green routes as viable options.*