

Public Meeting Summary

Meeting name: Almo Landowner Meeting

Location: Almo, Idaho

Date: December 15, 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 50 people attended, including Idaho State Senator Denton Darrington.

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); Kristi Pardue (IPC)

Key questions and themes:

- How and why were the alternative routes chosen? *The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations direct that an EIS “rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives, and for alternatives that were eliminated from detailed study, briefly discuss the reasons for their having been eliminated” (40CFR 1502.14(a)). “Reasonable alternatives include those that are practicable or feasible from the technical and economic standpoint and using common sense, rather than simply desirable from the standpoint of the applicant” (Forty Most Asked Questions Concerning CEQ’s NEPA Regulations, March 23, 1981).*

The routes were chosen through a combination of public comments, County Commissioner recommendations, BLM suggestions, community task forces, and organized groups of interested landowners and community members.

- What resources are analyzed under siting constraints and the environmental impact study (EIS)? *The EIS looks at a variety of resources; 23 in all. Some examples include land, visual/aesthetic, cultural and historic resources, paleontology, biological resources, socioeconomics, noise, air quality, recreation, and soils.*

The siting study can viewed in full by going the Gateway West Project Web site at:
<http://www.gatewaywestproject.com/documents.aspx>.