



Eastern Idaho Electrical Plan Community Advisory Committee Meeting #8

Idaho Central Credit Union
4400 Central Way, Chubbuck, ID

Friday, May 8, 2009

Results

Meeting Purpose:

- To confirm consensus for the committee's preferred and acceptable alternatives
- To present and discuss the proposed project implementation plan
- To discuss and reach consensus for the local plan implementation activities

I. Attendance

Committee

- Brandon Bird
- Blaine Newman
- Jake Evans
- Jeff Hammes
- Jim Mende
- Ken Estep
- Kristen Jensen
- Larry Ghan
- Lynne Schultz
- Michael Watson
- Mike Virtue
- Mori Byington
- R.E. Bob Steinlicht
- Robert Jensen
- Sam Nettinga
- Scott Rasmussen
- Steve England
- Steve Smart
- Paul Schneider (for Ladd Carter)

Planning Team

- Bryan Hobson, Project Leader
- Marc Patterson, Idaho Power, Engineering Leader, Planning
- Jared Hansen, Idaho Power
- Mike Pepper, KMP Planning – Facilitator
- Amber Buckley, Civil Science – Clerical

Other Idaho Power Employees

- Dave Angell
- Dan Olmstead
- Dave Joerger
- Mike Barrie
- Chris Punt
- Mel Trammel
- Becky Stewart

II. Welcome and Introductions

- Dan Olmstead, *Community Relations Representative*
- Mike Pepper, *Facilitator*
- Bryan Hobson, *Project Leader*
 - *Review purpose of the Committee*
 - *Meeting purpose, agenda and format*
 - *Review planning steps / Where we are in the process*

Review CAC Meeting #7 Results – April 10, 2009

- Comments / Corrections, etc. – no comments or corrections – approved as distributed

III. Confirm Committee Preferred and Acceptable Alternatives – Bryan / Mike

- Review preliminary committee consensus from April 10 meeting
- Present / Discuss possible adjustments as outlined by IPCO – see handouts
- Reach final committee consensus for preferred and acceptable alternatives

POCATELLO AREA

Comments / Discussion

Rio Vista Station:

Q: What is the need for another substation in this area?

A: The new Rio Vista station would become the source station for the new 138kV lines. We added this station to provide a second source to Pocatello. This Rio Vista station will be a bigger than a normal substation.

Q: In what area/location would the committee like to see this station placed?

A: The gravel pits to the south of the new Rio Vista are zoned for industrial so that would be a good area to put it.

The section by the gravel pit isn't going to have much residential development because of the wastewater treatment plant, and other developments.

Moving the station further west or south, by the gravel pits will keep the station away from residential areas and other possible future development and keep the station off the reservation.

Q: Can we name the station something besides the street name? Some neighbors may worry that the station will be right in their neighborhood.

A: We can change the name. We'll call it the West Chubbuck source station.

Show the preferred location in the gravel pit area and the alternative to be to the west.

Q: What concerns are there for placing the station in the gravel pit?

A: Our biggest concern would be flooding because it is close to the river. Though there may be other issues associated with building down there.

Spreading out the power lines would be a good consideration. That way there isn't a 345kV line on one side of the road and a 138kV on the other side of the road. Keep the 138kV and 345kV lines separate as much as possible.

Q: Will there be a problem with the farms and gas storage being in that area?

A: No, we would do enough separation from these facilities to avoid causing any issues.

There is concern about the park area by the gravel pits because there are recreation areas there. We need to avoid the park areas on the east side of the river; to avoid conflict with recreation activities and aesthetic impacts.

Q: When does IPCO start acquiring land for building?

A: IPCO typically plans to acquire the land about 10 years in advance of project development.

Q: What is the timeline for this station?

A: It'll be at least 30 years before this station is built.

NW Pocatello Station:

Q: What is the time table for development of this station?

A: The development of this station will be about 30 years out.

Q: Would it save money to put the NW Pocatello & Chubbuck stations together?

A: It would save money and that is doable.

When the distribution station and the source stations are combined, there will be a lot of lines associated with that facility. Generally distribution lines will follow roads. If we combine the source and distribution stations, we want to make sure we have enough access points to get lines out of that station.

The committee is comfortable with the combination of those stations. When the time comes for implementation, IPCO can take into consideration economics, aesthetics, etc., and the committee's goals and objectives to determine if that will be the best solution. Currently, keeping the stations separate would be the preferred choice.

IPCO could place this station in the gravel pit location in that area.

Q: Is the gravel pit on the corner of I-86 and Philbin depleted?

A: In approximately 30 years it probably will be.

There is talk right now of making that gravel pit area into an interstate exchange which would change the nature and use of the land around it.

Q: In 30 years are there still going to be all overhead lines? Is it possible that the lines will all be underground in 30 years?

A: That is a possibility, but we don't see the cost of those lines decreasing in the future. We're not sure what the technology will be in the future.

Q: Are there reasons to not move the station closer?

A: IPCO determined that the yellow circle would be best placement but we can do it outside of the circle and still provide adequate service to the load area (inside the circle).

Plan to keep the station where it is shown. If when IPCO is ready to construct the station, the location is not acceptable, then the Committee could reconvene and identify a different location that is suitable at that time.

IPCO could build the station downwind from the wastewater treatment plant because there won't be much development there.

Committee preferred choices for the station location would be: Preferred location - keep the station where it is shown, 2nd alternative would be east of the wastewater treatment plant, 3rd alternative would be to combine the source and distribution stations.

POCATELLO AREA CONSENSUS

The group reached consensus for the Pocatello area preferred alternative – The Green Alternative as presented (see handouts), with the following changes.

- **Re name the Rio Vista Station to West Chubbuck Station**

- **Re locate the West Chubbuck Station, south of the location shown to the area near the existing gravel pit and wastewater treatment plant. The alternate location would be nearby to the west of the gravel pit.**
- **Locate the new NW Pocatello Station as follows:**
 - **Preferred location - keep the station where it is shown – see handout**
 - **2nd alternative would be east of the wastewater treatment plant**
 - **3rd alternative would be to combine the source and distribution stations.**

AMERICAN FALLS AREA

Comments / Discussion

Q: Do we want to get a second line into the Pleasant Valley? We need to be sure there are sufficient sources there to meet industrial and agricultural needs in that area.

A: One of the reasons IPCO used the green alternative is because once we built the model there ended up being an existing 138kV line that is adequate to serve the northwest side of the reservation. We decided that if the existing line was adequate and there was no need to build a new line.

Q: If Bingham County is short of power, how have you (IPCO) made it work currently?

A: The shortage indicated occurred at build out – there is not a shortage under current conditions. The number that shows needed capacity is based on future estimates, not current usage. Right now it is approaching capacity but the big deficiency is at future build out.

Q: What is the time frame for the projected Pleasant Valley/Borah loads?

A: The load growth in that area could be 20-30 years depending on load growth.

The problems we have now in the area are distribution problems, which can and will be resolved. We have a number of projects that will be going up within the next 5 years or so to resolve those issues.

The wastewater treatment plant for Rockland is in the NW areas so placing a new station in that area would be a good option.

Q: There is a new line coming out of Brady. Is it serving Rockland or going to the new subdivision?

A: It is an upgrade on the Falls distribution lines.

AMERICAN FALLS AREA CONSENSUS

The Group reached consensus for the American Falls area preferred alternative – The Green Alternative as presented (see handouts).

BLACKFOOT AREA

Comments / Discussion

Q: Have you (IPCO) decided if the easements for the existing distribution lines are in the road right of way or the railroad right of way?

A: Currently it is the road right of way.

Q: What is the risk of having all wires on 1 pole?

A: Car accidents can take out the pole.

If you (IPCO) moved those lines from the road right of way to the other side of the road or on the other side of the tracks, it would be less of a liability for car accidents.

Q: What is the time frame for implementing this project?

A: This is about 30 years out.

The Blackfoot detail on page 11 of the slides will be built out sooner than the others.

BLACKFOOT AREA CONSENSUS

The Group reached consensus for the Blackfoot area preferred alternative – The Blue Preferred Alternative as presented (see handouts).

Other Discussion

Q: What purpose does the Gateway West project serve?

A: With the current government administration's position on coal plants, we expect to be using more wind, geothermal, natural gas, etc... as power sources. The 500kV line will bring in power from those sources in Wyoming and Montana and will deliver more power into the areas to meet demand. Gateway West will provide connection to an additional 3000 MW when it is fully built. It will benefit load services throughout the state.

IV. Project Implementation Plan – Jared Hansen

- Present proposed project implementation plan
 - Include basic description of project development / permitting / public opportunities and gather committee input
 - See handout for implementation plan outline

Q: What will determine the development of the Aiken station over the Blackfoot station?

A: Cost and public acceptance. The decision will probably be based mostly on cost.

Q: You (IPCO) said the Blackfoot Substation is hard to expand because it is near the river. What improvements could you make that wouldn't be influenced by that?

A: Replacing the 46kV transformer with a 138kV transformer won't be a huge expansion that causes those kinds of problems.

10:00 a.m. Break

V. Local Plan Implementation Activities – Mike Pepper / Bryan Hobson

- Discuss desired activities to introduce and integrate the plan with local jurisdictions
- Identify specific activities, desired schedules, roles, responsibilities, etc.

EIEP incorporation into local plans / documents and introduction to the public:

Comments / Discussion

- First Steps - Start with a general informational meeting on the EIEP for local government and the general public. Make it an open meeting and hold in more than one location (at least one in each county) throughout the region.
 - Coordinate these initial meetings through the economic development organizations, as these groups are less politically driven and won't cause any potential conflict with local governments, commissions, etc.
 - The economic development groups should plan to hold meetings in politically neutral place.

- Be sure to include in the meetings, as much education as possible. Make sure the public understands why it is important to provide these upgrades.
- Second - Provide meetings to specialized/local groups like civic groups, sportsman groups, farmers, labor organizations, etc... This way the plan is presented to everyone including those who may not come to the general public meeting.
 - These meetings are especially important as information for those potentially affected by projects in the near future.
- Third and ongoing as needed - Presenting as much to the public as possible is best.
 - As part of those efforts, mailers can be included to inform residents of upcoming meetings and projects.
- Fourth - Once the general meetings are completed, then present to local planning and zoning commissions to request incorporation into local comprehensive plans.
- Fifth - Present to City Councils and County Commissioners for final adoption into local plans. This may also be done by the local entity planning and zoning commissions.

Committee Consensus - The EIEP Committee supports integrating all or as much of the plan as possible into local comprehensive plans. It may also be appropriate, depending on local needs and preferences, to limit parts of the plan that are incorporated into comprehensive plans to only those sections that are needed to meet local interests in the plan. However, the preference of the committee is that the entire EIEP be integrated into local plans.

It is important that plan information and introduction opportunities is distributed to all three counties at the same time so there isn't confusion or people wondering why they haven't heard about it yet.

The Committee members expressed willingness to participate in these informational sessions.

Media:

- Hold a meeting with as many media sources as possible to be sure they get all the information about the EIEP and accurate information regarding the plan. Do not have this meeting before the initial public meeting. This could be a planned to support advertisement / promotion of the public events described above.
- When ready to roll out the EIEP to the public, provide the media with a link to the website that they can review the entire plan and incorporate the web link with their stories regarding the plan.
 - On the website, provide a place where comments can be made and logged.
- If an area has a local access channel, put plan info on those channels to provide access to plan information to a broader range of people.
- Members of the committee can provide opinion/editorial letters to help promote and present the plan.
 - This type of letter would be most effective after public meetings have occurred or as the comprehensive plan process starts.

Remember this is still a plan, there is a lot of broad language "maybe", "could", so that means it is flexible

Agencies:

- Agencies (like the BLM, etc..) would only need to be contacted if the plan changes and directly affects land, wildlife, or other factors that they would need to know about.
- No initial presentation would be needed with an agency. Just provide them with copies of the plan for their information.

- We will want to include ITD and local highway districts in the information process, since a lot of the new lines will follow road right of ways.

If possible, have a representative from the PUC present at public presentations to emphasize the need for these types of plans.

Q: What time frame is IPCO looking at to have these plans adopted into comprehensive plans?

A: We hope to be approaching the cities and counties about incorporation of the EIEP into local comprehensive plans by or before the beginning of 2010

Q: What happens when the comprehensive plan is different than IPCO's plans?

A: IPCO will coordinate with the affected local government to address that issue

Power County is getting ready to adopt their new comprehensive plan. It would be good for IPCO to meet with Bob Steinlicht (Power Co. Building Administrator) to discuss the specific integration of the EIEP into the Power County comprehensive plan. IPCO would like to get a copy of the Power County comprehensive plan utility section to review potential language.

VI. Proposed EIEP Plan Document Outline:

Comments / Discussion

- Executive Summary
 - Include an implementation schedule showing planned projects from 0-5 years, 5-10 years, 10-20 years, and 20-30 years.
 - State in the executive summary why this plan is so important and what the projected electrical need will be to this area. – describe the buildout needs
 - Include 5 maps in the Executive Summary: Overall preferred alternative, 3 detail maps (one for each planning area), and the implementation plan map/schedule.

VII. Next Steps and Wrap up – Mike Pepper

- Develop draft plan document – by IPCO over the summer and early fall
- Circulate / post the draft for committee review – early fall
- Next CAC meeting #9 – Friday, November 13th at 10 a.m. to noon at ICCU – confirmed with Michael Watson at ICCU 5-12-09 - *Review and gather comments on the draft plan document*

VIII. Lunch – Adjourn by 1:00 p.m.