



Community Advisory Committee

Meeting #5

Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game Regional Office
318 South 417 East in Jerome (U.S. 93 Business Park)

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Results

Meeting Purpose:

- To develop the initial range of alternatives to meet the Magic Valley's electrical needs

I. Attendance

Committee

- Daniel Stapleman
- Rick Naerebout
- Charlie Howell
- Bill Block
- Lori Armstrong
- Brad Wills
- George Urie
- Mitch Humble
- Mark Mitton
- Louis Zamora
- Clay Handy
- Richard Dunn
- Jackie Zapf
- Richard VanZante
- Dan Armstrong (ITD for Chuck Carnohan)
- Dave Burgess
- Debbie Dane
- Ken Miller
- Tom Faulkner
- John Miller
- Debra Rose
- David Mead
- Marlin Eldred
- Bill Chisholm
- Jay Loesche

Planning Team

- Kent McCarthy, Idaho Power, Project Leader
- Dave Angell, Idaho Power
- Dan Olmstead, Idaho Power
- Bryan Hobson, Idaho Power
- Marc Patterson, Idaho Power
- Mike Pepper, KMP Planning – Facilitator
- Amber Buckley, Civil Science – Clerical

Other Idaho Power Employees

- Chris Punt
- Mark Lupo
- Mike Barrie
- Lynette Berriochoa
- Lon VanWyck
- Mel Trammel
- Steve Fullmer
- Jared Hansen
- Kristi Pardue

II. Review CAC Meeting #4 – March 13, 2008 – Mike Pepper

- Comments / Changes to the meeting results – no changes from the committee

III. Brief Review of Goals – Mike Pepper

- Confirm revisions to goals and siting criteria developed at the March meeting
 - The committee had no further changes to the goals
- Miscellaneous comments:
 - Bill Chisholm presented information about distributed generation in Southern California, where solar panels are being put on warehouses so that they can generate energy. By using existing warehouse infrastructure, this energy alternative doesn't cost a lot because it doesn't require permits and it delays the need to have big power lines brought in. This is an idea to look at. Idaho Power commented that at this point the solar distributed generation (like they have in California) is not a feasible option because that technology is not yet a cost effective option. In its Integrated Resource Plan, every two years Idaho Power looks at available resources, and also looks at the cost of the resource and the emissions that are coming out of them and compares the costs of each. If in the future the solar distributed generation becomes an affordable and plausible source of energy this will be taken into consideration and added to the resource plan.
- Additional general questions and discussion

Q: Can we go anywhere across BLM land? Is that a concern?

A: Lori Armstrong provided information regarding BLM lands. She also commented that the answer isn't necessarily no, but you need to be aware of the places you can go and the process to go through. There are some lands you cannot go through, and some will be complicated to get through. Before any installation of facilities on BLM lands, Idaho Power will have to go through an EIS process and there is a chance the BLM will not let Idaho Power build on that site.

Q: What is the cost factor in the EIS process?

A: EIS costs include payment of BLM employee salaries for doing the EIS process, and it also pays for any mitigation costs. Some significant mitigation costs may arise due to re-direction of lines if they can't be run through BLM land.

Lori also stated that when a utility comes through federal land the utility company has to pay a yearly fee to use that public land, whereas private land the utility company can buy out.

Q: Can distributed generation, like the earlier example of California solar energy, be put into the planning process? The solar power option may not prevent the need for power facilities, but it may delay the need because of the use of local facilities; Can it be factored in?

A: Idaho Power will have to go through cost effective analysis to determine if it is more expensive to put in solar power generation equipment or transmission lines. If solar power becomes a more cost effective solution, Idaho Power will use it. At this point this is not really a concern of the Magic Valley Electrical Plan planning process. Technology will change and the electrical plan will change to reflect the availability of feasible current technology.. Idaho Power will do an analysis of each new energy source as it becomes available. At this point it is hard to include that on the paper plans as it is not a financial feasibility. **The final electrical plan report will read that distributed generation will be considered as technology becomes feasible in the future.**

Clay Handy commented that as the committee plans major line development they should try to place them as close to sites of future energy development as much as possible. (He used the geothermal plant as an example of future energy producing sites). The committee should try to site lines close enough to these facilities to accommodate exportation of energy.

During summer peaks when there isn't a breath of wind, the potential solar power (from above mentioned solar distribution) could be used to provide backup to wind sources. There needs to be a transmission plan that can work forever with the technologies we have now, other technologies will be

implemented as they come along. Keep in perspective that future technologies will be part of the report but the transmission plan is a “worst case” scenario plan.

David Mead stated that some people have commented to him that they are concerned that existing transmission lines need more maintenance. These people are concerned that the big transmission lines are carrying big loads and are weakening the transmission poles.

Q: Are there problems with the existing transmission lines? Is there enough maintenance going on to keep these lines up and running?

A: There is a significant amount of maintenance going into the old transmission lines. Idaho Power has a fairly aggressive maintenance program that looks at the existing transmission lines and acts accordingly. Certainly not all power failures can be prevented, but Idaho Power looks at the transmission lines frequently. Transmission lines have a finite life and will eventually need to be replaced. Since we are talking about putting more lines on the big poles and people are worried that the existing poles won't carry additional lines, Idaho Power will analyze those to be sure that once the plan is in place they will be able to carry the loads designated for them. There are annual and bi-annual programs in place that call for inspection of the lines and poles. Inspections are fairly significant.

IV. Mapping / Alternatives Development Orientation – Bryan Hobson

- Review buildout needs and system components
- Overview the contents of the mapping exercise packets
- Review the mapping steps
- Small group exercise orientation and purpose
 - Products, maps, use of materials and associated notes
 - Small group (5) membership assignments

Q: Does Idaho Power have property they already own that the committee could consider putting the new substations on?

A: No, Idaho Power doesn't have land at this point.

Q: Does Idaho Power have a preference of how close these substations are to the load?

A: There isn't a specified distance in terms of a number, but certainly the closer the substations are to the major load, the shorter the transmission lines can be to get to the substation.

Q: Filer is another new substation to a source station, but there is not 5 acres there. Where will Idaho Power expand that station to?

A: Idaho Power would have to expand to where there is additional land available in that area. The expansion won't be exactly where the existing substation is but it would be very near.

Q: We are not worried about the Mini-Cassia area right?

A: The transmission system will have to be changed and upgraded; as load continues to grow we'll want to mitigate the system by building new transmission lines.

Q: With the 120 ft right of way for the H frame poles, what are the limitations on a farm? Can a farmer still farm the land under the H frame pole?

A: Yes, Idaho Power just has to be able to access the line, which may mean driving trucks through the crop if the pole needs servicing. There would also be height limitation for any crop grown under the lines but this would really only affect something like a tree farm.

Q: If two transmission lines are run lines parallel to each other, how close can they be?

A: Idaho Power would have to follow the required safety rules, defined as part of the reliability standards. There is a minimum amount of clearance that is required and Idaho Power would have to follow that guideline. The standards developed by the Western Electricity Coordinating Council say that for two transmission lines in a common corridor, the centerline separation must be less than the

longest span length of the two transmission circuits at the point of separation or 500 feet, whichever is greater between the transmission circuits. This means that if the span length (distance between towers) of one circuit is 1200 feet and the span length of the parallel circuit is 900 feet, the two circuits must be at least 1200 feet apart. This separation requirement does not apply to the last five spans of the transmission circuits entering a substation.

Q: Does the committee have the opportunity to locate lines in a railroad right of way?

A: Yes that is an option; Idaho Power would work with the railroad company to work out easements in that case. For main line railroad lines, it is often very difficult to obtain permission from the railroad to place power lines in their right-of-way. The railroad has concerns that the power lines will interfere with track signaling (which is transmitted down the rail) and safety concerns also.

Q: How far apart is the H frame construction span?

A: They're generally 600 ft. between frames.

Q: What is the avoided cost if steel poles are installed which last much longer than wood poles?

A: The wood and steel price is very comparable at this point. The steel pole is becoming the preferred pole because they are cost comparable and stronger than the wood poles.

Q: Do you use concrete poles?

A: Idaho Power does have a few concrete poles in the system, but the cost to ship these is high because of the weight of the poles, and there is no company around here that makes or distributes those poles, which contributes to their high cost.

Q: What are the restraints for spanning the Snake River?

A: If Idaho Power has an existing line across a section of the Snake River it would be assumed that it would be easy to get another line through that same area. Other areas would be determined by the permitting process and what local jurisdictions would allow.

V. Small Group Mapping Exercises

- Committee members were divided into five (5) groups for the mapping exercise. Final instructions were provided and the small groups began the siting/mapping process. The committee small groups were organized as follows

- **Group 1**

- Daniel Stapleman
- Rick Naerebout
- Charlie Howell
- Dave Parrish / Mike McDonald
(not present)
- Bill Block
- Jane Kollmeyer (not present)

- **Group 2**

- Lori Armstrong
- Brad Wills
- George Urie
- Mitch Humble
- Mark Mitton
- Louis Zamora

- **Group 3**

- Clay Handy
- Richard Dunn
- Sara Cohn (not present)
- Jackie Zapf
- Richard VanZante
- John Bokor (not present)
- Dan Armstrong

- **Group 4**

- Dave Burgess
- Debbie Dane
- Ken Miller
- Rich Yankey (not present)
- Tom Faulkner
- John Miller
- Jon Anderson (not present)

- **Group 5**

- Debra Rose
- David Mead
- Marlin Eldred
- Bill Chisholm
- Jay Loesche

12:00 p.m. Lunch – catered on-site by Aramark Catering

VI. Small Group Mapping Exercises (continued)

VII. Small Group Reporting

- Each group presented the highlights of their work in progress toward developing initial alternatives

VIII. Next Steps and Wrap up / Adjourn by 2 p.m. – Mike Pepper

- Final discussion
- Next CAC meeting #6 – Thursday, May 8th / 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. / IDFG Regional Office
 - Continue mapping work as needed to complete identification of alternatives
 - Discuss goals matrix for evaluating alternatives
 - Outline committee work between meetings; to evaluate alternatives by completing matrix
 - Alternatives will be refined and placed on maps by Idaho Power staff and sent to the committee for their use in the goals matrix prior to the June meeting
 - Northwestern Energy and LS Power presentations - tentative
 - The June meeting (#7):
 - Ranking of alternatives and committee discussion to consensus in identifying the most preferred alternative and confirm the list of other acceptable alternatives
 - Discussion of steps in implementation of the plan