

Treasure Valley Electrical Plan Community Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

Dec. 5, 2007

Committee Attendance:

- Dave Aspitarte, City of Eagle Planning & Zoning
- Teri Bath, Eagle Chamber of Commerce
- Richard Cook, WRG Design
- Sharon Church-Pratt, Gem County Commission
- Jim Dakan, City of Caldwell
- Dave Dykstra, Windemere Real Estate
- Jay Gibbons, Ada County Planning and Zoning
- Kent Hanway, CSHQA
- Leonard Herr, DEQ
- Dan Hunter, Canyon County Development Services
- Leon Jensen, Canyon County Development Services
- Kathleen Lacey, City of Boise
- Cliff Long, City of Nampa
- Jerome Mapp, Planning & Facility Management
- Mayor Frank McKeever, City of Middleton
- Mayor Elect Vicki Thurber, City of Middleton
- Bryce Millar, Nampa Highway District No.1
- Stan Olson, Olson and Associates Architects PA
- Bruce Poe, Cole Poe Architects
- Commissioner Fred Tilman, Ada County Commission
- John Tomkinson, Ada County Planning and Zoning
- Michael Truden, BLM
- John Velikoff, Miron Technology
- Justin Walker, Keller & Associates representing city of Kuna

Idaho Power Attendance:

- Dave Angell
- Lynette Berriochoa
- Layne Dodson
- Jared Ellsworth
- Lisa Grow
- Brent Lulloff
- Dan Minor
- Kristi Pardue
- Mark Patterson
- Kip Sikes
- Denny Trumble
- Stacey Baczkowski
- Bryan Wewers
- Lon Van Wyck
- Mike Ybarguen

RBCI Attendance:

- Rosemary Curtin
- Kay Lynn Brown

Meeting Objectives:

- Review Community Advisory Committee recommendations for Treasure Valley electrical supply
- Present Gateway West and Idaho to the Northwest 500,000-volt transmission projects
- Describe changes to Treasure Valley Electrical Plan brought on by the 500,000-volt transmission projects and by regulations governing transmission lines and substations in the Birds of Prey National Conservation Area.

Meeting Handouts:

- Agenda and PowerPoint slides (spiral bound)

Meeting Introduction:

- Kent McCarthy, Lisa Grow, Dan Minor and Kip Sikes (Idaho Power) gave opening remarks to the committee.
- Idaho Power would like to meet with the committee annually in the future.
- General questions from the committee included:

Would Idaho Power purchase nuclear power?

A. Purchase of power from a nuclear power plant is anticipated in Idaho Power's Integrated Resource Plan if a plant should be built in Idaho. There is a high cost, however, and the decision depends on economics.

Is Idaho Power using "peakers"?

A. Peaking resources will come on from time to time. But the biggest need is for a baseload block of resources (a new facility). Presently Idaho Power owns natural gas-fired peaking plants located in Mountain Home with a new peaking generator due to be complete in 2008.

Electricity Education:

- Kent McCarthy gave an overview of electrical terms, Idaho Power's integrated resource plan and demand-side management.
- Questions from the committee included:

Why are there height differences in poles?

A: Poles must be a certain distance off the ground for safety reasons. Sometimes, it is necessary to add height to a pole when a low-voltage line runs under a high-voltage line.

What is the per-mile loss when loading a 500,000-volt line?

A: There is a 3-4 percent loss from transmission lines and a 7-10 percent loss from distribution lines.

Is there a problem with building close to a big power pole? A big metal pole is sitting next to metal-roofed building in Eagle.

A. The pole came first. The property owner just built next to the pole. Idaho Power will re-evaluate this situation to ensure it has been addressed properly.

Is there a difference in the amount of per-mile loss between overhead and underground lines?

A. It makes no difference. There is the same amount of loss.

What would happen if a city's comprehensive plan calls for underground lines? Who picks up the cost when Idaho Power adds a new line? Could it just be an underground line, since Idaho Power has to add it anyway? Can property owners pay to bury a new line?

- A. New lines are included in Idaho Power's ratebase, which means that all our customers pay for any new line. If a city or group required underground lines, they would pay the difference between overhead and underground.

Where does industry fit into load and population projections? How do you make adjustments for industrial growth in the existing system?

- A. New industrial growth is not explicitly calculated into projections; Idaho Power just accelerates acquiring or building more power.

I don't agree with this calculation. It seems to be "just keeping up with growth." This whole process is only looking at one side; it's important to talk about the generation side, too. Economic development agencies are generating new industries for the valley but have found out that Idaho Power cannot serve the energy needs of prospective or new industries. What does Idaho Power plan to do to increase generation? There needs to be a conversation between Idaho Power and local land use planners.

- A. Load capacity is a big concern. It's a nationwide problem that is bigger than Idaho Power. Rapid growth was not foreseen, and Idaho Power can't meet the requested timeline without encountering reliability problems. Several businesses are discussing this issue and how to prevent it from happening again. Partnerships are in process to communicate about generation decisions.

If everyone in the valley were to use the new energy-efficient light bulbs, would this help with energy supply or lower the need for more energy?

- A. Yes, it would help.

What is the west-most boundary of the valley in the Treasure Valley Electrical Plan?

- A. The Snake River.

500,000-Volt Transmission Projects

- Dave Angell (Idaho Power) reviewed Idaho Power's plans for 500,000-volt transmission lines, including the Gateway West project, the Idaho to Northwest project, and the Northern Tier Transmission Group.
- Questions from the committee included:

Will the 500,000-volt line be in place by 2012?

- A. Yes.

Will the 500,000-volt line give us the power we need to solve the "industrial power" problem – that is, Idaho Power's ability to supply electricity?

- A. The new line will give Idaho Power the ability to bring electricity into the valley. Now it's time to discuss what the generation resources will be.

What are the plans for coal power?

- A. The proposed coal-fired plant has been pulled off the table. Some plants are already

permitted, but coal is too far out of favor. Idaho Power is in a transition away from coal.

The Gateway West project assumed added coal generation for the Jim Bridger plant in Wyoming. Now that coal is off the table, is there still a need for Gateway West? Wyoming is primarily generating wind power. Is that enough of a baseload resource?

A. Wind is not a “baseload” resource because the level of energy varies depending on time of day. Hydropower and solar power are also not baseload resources. However, the wind resources in Wyoming will provide a much-needed energy resource for the valley. There is a future for clean coal plants in Wyoming.

When will renewables be integrated? What about wind resources in the Magic Valley, and what about methane production?

A. Renewables like wind, geothermal and solar are all being pursued. For example, dairy farmers are generating biomass-based energy on their land.

Comment: The energy outlook for the valley has changed quicker than we expected. During the original committee process, a concern was raised that Idaho Power needed to look at more futuristic technologies for generation and distribution. Things have changed dramatically in just two years. Now that concerns about carbon emissions and global warming are growing, has the premise of this committee changed?

A. No, we still need the transmission to deliver wind and geothermal-generated energy to the valley.

Changes to Treasure Valley Electrical Plan

- Kent McCarthy explained that the new 500,000-volt transmission plans, as well as regulations about building on the Birds of Prey conservation area, have necessitated changes to the plan.
- The Pearl Substation will be deferred until growth dictates it. Land and right-of-way purchases will still move forward.
- A new Hemingway Substation will be built to tap into PacifiCorp’s 500,000-volt transmission line. Two 230-kV lines would run between the Hemingway and Bowmont substations and two more 230-kV lines will run between Hemingway and another, yet-to-be-determined substation or substations.
- A new substation would be built at Sand Hollow.
- The Melba and Southwest Canyon substations would not be built. Instead, Hemingway will serve as the source for the transmission lines originally run from Melba and Southwest Canyon substations.
- Two right-of-way routes need to be identified between Hemingway and Bowmont. Idaho Power would like the committee’s input.
- Questions from the committee included:

Will Idaho Power exercise eminent domain to build these lines?

A. Idaho Power does not like to exercise eminent domain whenever possible. Idaho Power will be discussing the two new right-of-way routes with Owyhee and Canyon

counties.

Has land already been purchased for the Pearl Substation that is being postponed?

A. No land has been purchased yet.

Will the line to Cloverdale Substation be built before the Kuna/Mora planned communities are built?

A. Yes. Idaho Power will have time to build the infrastructure for these communities because the development is moving slowly.

Has the permitting process begun yet for the new Hemingway Substation?

A. No. Idaho Power will be talking with Canyon County to begin the process.

- Kent McCarthy and Dave Angell asked the committee how best to communicate in the future. Should annual communication be face-to-face or by letter? Comments from the committee included:
 - **It would be easier to receive materials prior to meetings.**
 - **Is there a better map of the routes from the Hemingway station?**
 - **Face-to-face meetings are best.**
- Bruce Poe (Modus Architecture) distributed materials about the Green Expo that will be held on May 17-18, 2008. Idaho Power will support the expo.

Next steps

- The committee is invited to discuss these changes and send comments to Kent McCarthy by e-mail (kmccarthy@idahopower.com) or phone (208-388-2565).
- Kent or a representative from Idaho Power would be happy to present information to local jurisdictions or city council meetings if it would be helpful.
- Idaho Power will distribute a meeting summary to all committee members that includes a more detailed map of new lines from the Hemingway Substation.
- Idaho Power will discuss Commissioner Tilman's concerns about generation.

Members will be contacted about the date and time for the next annual meeting. Idaho Power will provide maps or other materials in advance of the next meeting.