

**Treasure Valley Electrical Plan  
Community Advisory Committee  
Meeting Summary  
February 22, 2006**

**Committee Attendance:**

- Dave Aspitarte
- Teri Bath
- Kevin Bayhouse
- Susie Brocke
- Elaine Clegg
- Dave Dykstra
- Matt Ellsworth (in for Anna Canning)
- Kelli Fairless
- Ken Jantz
- Kathleen Lacey
- Mike McGown
- Mayor Frank McKeever
- Commissioner Bryce Millar
- Bruce Poe
- John Tomkinson
- John Velikoff
- Donna West

**Idaho Power Attendance:**

- Dave Angell
- Lynette Berriochoa
- Layne Dodson
- Jared Ellsworth
- Ric Gale
- Margareta Ionescu
- Kent McCarthy
- Kristi Pardue
- Kip Sikes
- Bryan Wewers
- Mike Ybarguen

**RBCI Attendance:**

- Rosemary Curtin
- Jennifer Oxley

**Meeting Objectives:**

- Follow up transmission discussion
- Present information on Idaho Power rates and regulatory structure
- Present and discuss substation briefing paper

**Meeting Handouts:**

- Agenda
- January meeting summary
- Guidelines for locating Transmission Corridors
- Power Plant briefing paper
- Substation briefing paper
- Substation PowerPoint presentation
- n-1 Reliability Example
- Typical Transmission and Distribution Structures

**Note:** Ric Gale's PowerPoint presentation will be available at the next meeting.

**Meeting Highlights:**

- Kent McCarthy opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions
- Rosemary reminded the group to let her or Kent know if they have any changes to the meeting summaries
- Rosemary reviewed the dates for the half-day March workshops. They will likely be held March 22, 23 and 24. Many committee members have signed up for a workshop. Rosemary will follow up with those who haven't. She encouraged committee members to invite colleagues who might be interested in the discussion or may have a contribution to make. She emphasized that committee members should attend the workshop as well, so they can share their knowledge during the exercise.
- Kent reviewed the Guidelines for locating Transmission Corridors handout with the group. This handout was developed based on the small group discussion at the January meeting. Questions and comments included:
  - Idaho Power needs to communicate with local jurisdictions and involve them in transmission corridor decision making processes
  - Please consider land uses when planning for transmission corridors. Land uses can change – in the future there will probably be more mixed-use areas
  - Idaho Power needs to be at the table when local jurisdictions discuss and approve planned communities
  - Jurisdictions should adhere to their land use and comprehensive plans
  - What kind of landscaping does Idaho Power use with transmission lines?
- Kent presented a PowerPoint presentation about substations. Comments and questions included:
  - Can changing growth patterns, such as planned communities, change the location of hub substations?
  - Idaho Power and other utility companies need to be included as critical infrastructure in the planned community discussion
  - How does the density of development change the need for substations and the system buildout cost?
  - When Idaho Power plans for the future, does it include DSM?
  - Can more DSM reduce the size of substations and the need for them?
  - At build out, Idaho Power staff thinks the valley may have four source substations that will serve as a basis for a transmission ring around the valley
  - As technology improves, will some of the transmission infrastructure disappear? If it initially grows larger, can it be reduced later?
    - Similar analogy to telephone service – land lines vs. cell phones
  - At build out, will Idaho Power have the flexibility to accommodate changes such as increased industry and planned communities?

- Committee member requested to have the legend included on the graphic of existing and future substations
- Can Idaho Power buy enough land to expand existing substations instead of building new ones?
- Does Idaho Power buy transmission corridors at the same time it buys substation land?
- Seattle has substations that are venues for public art. Has Idaho Power considered that?
- Expectations for substation landscaping are changing and becoming more aesthetically pleasing
- Following the PowerPoint, Ric Gale did a presentation about rates and rate structures. Questions and comments included:
  - What is success in a rate case?
  - Idaho Power has legislation pending that would allow it to get a return on investment for land purchases
- Before the small group discussion, Kent showed the group some potential sites that Idaho Power is considering for future substations. Questions and comments included:
  - Could be some environmental concerns with some of the sites
  - Why aren't future generation plants included?
  - Instead of a 500 kV loop around the valley, could it be a half circle for lines less than 500 kV?
  - Seems like a good use of resources to convert distribution substations to hub substations
- This led to the small group discussion which asked the following questions:
  1. What are important issues to consider when locating source and hub substations?
  2. What are possible locations in the Treasure Valley to locate source and hub substations?
- Below is a summary of the comments recorded on flip chart notes:

**What are important issues to consider when locating source and hub substations?**

  - Put in commercial and industrial areas
  - No wetlands/parks
  - Consider cost of ground and expense
  - Future land use
    - Commercial vs. residential
    - Look at zoning and comp plans

- Include Idaho Power on committee to rewrite comp plans
- Allowable use in the area – justifiable?
- Landfills
- Coordinate with Communities in Motion and Blueprint for Good Growth
- Partner with those who might have compatible land uses
- Be aware of areas of impact, future annexations
- Work with cities and counties
- Put RFP out

**What are possible locations in the Treasure Valley to locate source and hub substations?**

- Depends on where Idaho Power can get ROW
- Outside city impact areas
- Along interstate
- Part of Ada or Canyon county
- Consider parallel corridors
- Farmland – open ground
- Locate near existing electric or transportation corridors to provide line access
  - Adjoin railroad corridor
  - Near Orchard area
  - Near landfills
  - Swan Falls area
  - Existing lines and substations
- Double up circuits – put 230 kV and 138 kV on the same structure
- Locate where transmission lines can get to downtown
- Make the siting process more formal
- Off main travel ways by a few hundred feet
- Industrial and commercial areas
- Use natural terrain to conceal a substation
- Landscape properly
- Behind large truck stops
- Next to other major infrastructure such as water treatment plants and landfills

**Committee members will be contacted about confirmed dates, times and locations of the March workshops.**