

**Treasure Valley Electrical Plan  
Community Advisory Committee  
Meeting Summary  
June 21 and June 28, 2006**

**Committee Attendance:**

- Kevin Bayhouse
- Susie Brocke
- Anna Canning
- Richard Cook
- Dave Dykstra
- Matt Ellsworth
- Kelli Fairless
- James Grunke
- Ken Jantz
- Miguel Legarreta
- Mike McGown
- Frank McKeever
- Kathleen Lacey
- Commissioner Bryce Millar
- Stan Olson
- Allan Perma
- Paul Raymond
- Donna West

**Idaho Power Attendance:**

- Dave Angell
- Layne Dodson
- Kristi Pardue
- Kent McCarthy
- Kip Sikes
- Bryan Wewers
- Mike Ybarguen

**RBCI Attendance:**

- Rosemary Curtin
- Jennifer Oxley

**Meeting Objectives:**

- Discuss technical analysis of mapping exercise
- Discuss how to incorporate needed electrical infrastructure into local comprehensive plans
- Discuss the public process needed to gain support for future electrical infrastructure

**Meeting Handouts:**

- Agenda
- April 26 meeting summary
- PowerPoint presentation
- Map – Treasure Valley Electrical Plan Analysis Layout

**Meeting Highlights:**

- Kent McCarthy opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions
- The draft TVEP will be sent to the committee prior to the next meeting. The next TVEP CAC meeting is expected to take place in late August or early September.
- Kent reviewed the outcomes of the April meeting, including:
  - The committee agreed that Idaho Power could report some transmission line locations as swaths (general locations) instead of exact locations
  - 500 kV substation locations were grouped into general bubbles with some latitude for location
  - At the June 28 meeting, Kent gave the committee new information, saying it may not be possible to put more transmission along the existing southern corridor because of new federal regulations
  - There may still be a southern route for the line, Idaho Power will let the committee know as it gets more information
- Kent showed the committee a visual model that demonstrated how power would flow through the Treasure Valley based on the committee recommendations at the March workshops.
- **Questions and comments from the committee included:**
  - **Does the western transmission line swath go into Oregon?**

A: Yes, the western 500 kV transmission line swath goes as far west as the rail line right-of-way running along the Snake River in Oregon.
  - **Are the generators shown source substations?**

A: The generators shown in the model feed directly into source substations. This is just for modeling purposes. In reality the generators would likely be located far from the Treasure Valley. These generators will be moved to locations away from the valley in future models and transmission lines will connect them to the source substations feeding the valley.
  - **If the line from Homedale fails, will another line be able to sustain Homedale?**

A: Yes, Homedale substation is fed by two 230 kV transmission lines and designed such that either line can carry the entire load.
  - **How come some arrows are moving faster than others?**

A: In the power flow program used, the speed of the arrow movement indicates the relative amount of power flowing on a given transmission line. The faster the arrow, the more power is flowing on a line.
  - **Is power coming into the area faster than it's leaving?**

A: The Treasure Valley acts as an energy sink. Power flows to the valley to serve the load and doesn't generally leave the valley. As the power system is built up, there will be transmission available for energy to flow past and perhaps across the valley to

serve Idaho Power loads outside the valley and also as a market path.

○ **Is this the actual amount of power flowing on the lines?**

A: Yes, the amount shown in the model is the actual power flowing. As the design is refined, the power flow will likely change somewhat.

○ **Would you lose service if a line went out?**

A: No, a single line outage will not cause any loss of service. The n-1 criteria that Idaho Power operates by make it mandatory that a single 230 kV or 500 kV line outage cannot make the system inoperable.

○ **What percentage of load can a line handle?**

A: A line can be loaded to 105% of its capacity (thermal capability) without concern. Idaho Power will not design the system such that a line is loaded to 105% except in emergency situations. At levels above 105%, operators will take action to redirect the power flow to reduce power on an overloaded line.

○ **Does that percentage change with weather – heat or wind?**

A: Yes. Heat will reduce the amount of power a line can carry and wind can increase it due to the cooling affect of air moving over the line.

○ **How long can an overloaded line run?**

A: This depends on how large the overload is. At 105%, the line can operate indefinitely. Above 105%, Idaho Power will take action to reduce the load within the hour. As overloads go above 110%, the load must be reduced faster.

○ **How does Idaho Power make the decision to cut off an overloaded line?**

- A: Idaho Power's operators are trained to reduce line loading any time the loading goes above 100%. If a line is above 110% in the summer, the line might have to be opened to prevent damage

○ **Why does the line from Melba have so much load on it?**

A: The lines leaving Melba source substation are supplying a lot of load at the downstream substations. This might indicate that another line is needed or that the size of the wires needs to be increased.

○ **How much load is on the whole system?**

A: In the model presented to the committee, the Treasure Valley is modeled with 5400 MW of load.

○ **Where does the power go when a line goes down?**

A: When a line goes down, the power that it was carrying will flow to other lines that can provide an alternate path to the load that line was serving. If a major line goes down, you might see the power increase on nearly every line in the valley.

○ **Are there two lines on the same structure?**

A: Only if the two lines are not feeding to the same substation. The system must be designed such that a single incident will not remove all the power from a hub or source substation.

- **What would be the result if the Hells Canyon complex was shut down?**

A: Power would have to be brought in from the southeast or would need to be purchased from the northwest, assuming that transmission from the Hells Canyon complex was still available. It is possible that Idaho Power would have to shed load (shut power off to some homes and businesses) should all the lines from the Hells Canyon complex become unavailable.
- The Treasure Valley has tapped out its generating ability, but no one wants a coal-powered generator in their community.
- Direct, local generation could help with transmission. Would be helpful to have local generation if a big generator went down.
- Kent and Rosemary Curtin led the committee in a discussion about how they want to acknowledge the Treasure Valley Electrical Plan.
- It was suggested that the committee be given time to review the plan. Then a work session could be held. Following that, the committee will be asked to provide some kind of “sign-off” on the report. Possibilities include:
  - A letter saying the committee members represented their agencies in the development of the plan
  - An individual or group statement from the committee
- Committee members said their respective agencies would likely not have a problem with their sign off, as long as the focus of the report was on recommendations and not approval
- **Questions and comments about the plan included:**
  - **Have the 11 planned communities that have applied for permits been included in the plan?**

A: The source and hub substations included in the Treasure Valley Electrical Plan will be sufficient to serve the planned communities. However, it is likely that some distribution substations that are not currently planned will need to be built.
  - **What happens if a heavy user comes in?**

A: A very large industrial facility will likely change the plan to some extent, depending on how large the facility is.
  - **Did it make big difference to Idaho Power when the FMC plant (a heavy user in Pocatello) closed?**

A: Yes, the closing of the FMC plant was both a large loss of revenue and also affected the system reliability. When the FMC plant was operating, it was contracted as an interruptible load and as such Idaho Power could open the transmission to the plant in emergencies. This allowed Idaho Power to operate the system more heavily loaded than it now can.
  - **As areas like the Magic Valley, eastern Idaho and Ontario grow, will that affect the Treasure Valley’s electrical system?**

A: Yes, growth outside the Treasure Valley can affect the power flowing into the

valley. Some changes might be required to accommodate growth outside the valley.

○ **How far up Idaho Power's food chain will this committee's work go?**

A: The plan will be shared with Idaho Power's executive management. Large projects such as a 500 kV line or even a long 230 kV line will require approval from the Board of Directors.

○ **Will this plan go before the Public Utilities Commission?**

A: This process has been shared with the IPUC and they have been kept up-to-date on its progress. The final plan will be shared with the IPUC though it does not require their approval.

- Idaho Power is committed to listening to the communities and involving them in the planning process

- Rosemary led the committee in a discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of including the Treasure Valley Electrical Plan in the comprehensive plans of cities and counties.

### **Comprehensive Plans**

- Comments from the committee included:
  - It is important that Idaho Power be involved in comprehensive plan development. The power supply is every bit as important as transportation. The TVEP will help Ada County plan where growth should be.
  - There is a new comprehensive plan in place in Canyon County
  - A comprehensive plan is not static. It changes and evolves. It's important for Idaho Power to maintain a relationship with Ada and Canyon Counties.
  - Comprehensive plans are malleable, not like ordinances. Comprehensive plans are guidelines.
  - If jurisdictions adopt comprehensive plans, but make many deviations, it will affect planning. It's important for jurisdictions to stick with comprehensive plans.
  - Extensive modifications to comprehensive plans go through significant public review. Smaller changes go through less review.
  - It would be beneficial to have a distribution map included in the comprehensive plan to which jurisdictions could refer
  - Maybe cities and counties should adopt the TVEP outside their comprehensive plans, maybe as an appendix or addendum. This allows it to be less specific.
  - The TVEP map could be incorporated into comprehensive plans like Communities in Motion. Some may require land use amendments. Zoning and subdivision ordinances are a good way to assure implementation.
  - If a map shows a potential corridor, Idaho Power could be approached for more information if an application is received for that area. Narrowing the swaths can occur after applications are received.
  - May have multiple maps, one showing the full project and specific maps showing the

jurisdictions

- When the maps are finalized, Idaho Power will share them with its distribution division
- Idaho Power might have to narrow swaths on maps because they are too wide now. This might be difficult because of right-of-way issues.
- If neighborhood groups write a comprehensive plan, do they work directly with Idaho Power or the city? Probably the city.

### **How the TVEP will be used by jurisdictions**

- Comments from the committee included:
  - It is important that all jurisdictions agree on the TVEP for it to be effective
  - If all local entities have to review and approve the TVEP, that might be difficult
  - Maybe jurisdictions could give input on narrowing corridors
  - The city of Nampa is interested in where transmission lines are planned
  - Cities need to recognize transmission corridors and future substation locations. At some point, this needs to be set in stone.
  - Cities need to know where even the smallest elements will go
  - Involving cities in this is important so they know what the future infrastructure will bring (overhead lines, etc.)
  - Most of the new transmission lines will be in counties, not cities
  - About half of the map's planned infrastructure is along existing corridors
  - Canyon County is growing so fast, it's hard to know what's planned for the future of the county
  - Once the TVEP is drafted and reviewed by the committee, Idaho Power should bring it to the jurisdictions. Then it can be decided if the plan should be included in comprehensive plans as a map, an appendix or an addendum.
  - Canyon County highway districts are pursuing east-west routes such as Kuna-Mora, U.S. 20/26, Amity, Deer Flat and Lake Hazel
  - As applications come in, the TVEP could be reviewed to see if the application conflicts with corridors, setbacks, etc.
  - Local land use policies exist that discuss infrastructure. Some communities have standards for substations and transmission lines

### **Maintaining relationships with jurisdictions**

- Comments from the committee included:
  - Idaho Power is currently notified about applications for development and is asked for input. Idaho Power's input is taken seriously, but often it doesn't reply. No response is interpreted as no objection.
  - Local planners do not meet regularly, but a meeting could be arranged with local

agencies and jurisdictions

- Idaho Power could attend Boise City's weekly staff meetings once or twice a year to update them of any changes. They could also keep in contact with COMPASS staff.
- Idaho Power should consider briefing city councils and county commissions about the TVEP
- If Idaho Power changes the locations of transmission lines and substations, the affected cities and/or counties should be updated
- Oregon has a different planning process than Idaho that will need to be accommodated
- Rosemary led a discussion about how the public should be involved in the TVEP
- **Comments from the committee included:**
  - Idaho Power is in the public's favor right now because rates are going down
  - This decision-making is technical and most of the public's comments will be that they don't want infrastructure near their homes or businesses.
  - The public should review the map before it goes into a comp plan
  - Could advertise public input opportunities in the media, or Idaho Power could send notification. Notification needs to be thorough. In rural communities, there are lots of grassroots efforts at notification and often it is negative.
  - Maybe the plan could be included in infrastructure and land-use planning public meetings – joint outreach
  - Idaho Power could conduct small workshops with people interested in the planning process. Workshops with stakeholder groups could make some shifts that didn't alter the technical data.
  - Idaho Power could hold corridor meetings with landowners to hear their input about the abilities and restrictions of their land
  - It's good if the public is aware of the plan before it's finalized
  - The public needs information that is specific as possible. Should incorporate some design features before it goes to the public. Swaths and bubbles are valuable for cities and planners, but the public won't care unless it affects them directly.
  - The plan will be at a high level and show swaths, but will identify a preferred option
  - A high level right-of-way analysis will happen for the plan, but it will later be refined
  - The public needs to be thinking about the big picture rather than specifics
  - Don't ask for public opinion if it can't change technical data
  - Need to have a clear purpose for opening this up to the public.
  - This committee is representative of cities, counties, the private sector and the public
  - Need to get support from jurisdictions so they can assist with getting support from the public

*TVEP Community Advisory Committee*

- May be a waste of time to get public buyoff now because implementation is well into the future
- Idaho Power's impacts are different than new roadways and usually not as severe
- If the plan is endorsed by local elected officials and staff, it may not need to be taken to the public
- The plan should be solidified at the committee level, then taken to jurisdictions for endorsement. Let the jurisdictions take it to the public.
- Committee members can assist with promoting the plan
- Need to include the business community in education about it
- Need to get the plan to cities and developers as quickly as possible – they can plan around obstacles if they are aware of them
- The future is unpredictable, but Idaho Power will follow the plan as closely as possible
- This could be a five- to seven-year plan that could be updated as necessary through process similar to the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)

**A draft of the Treasure Valley Electrical Plan will be circulated to committee members for review and comment prior to the next meeting.**

**Committee members will be contacted about the date, times and locations of the next meeting.**