

**Treasure Valley Electrical Plan  
Community Advisory Committee  
Workshop Summary  
*March 22-28, 2006***

On March 22-24, Idaho Power hosted three workshops for the Treasure Valley Electrical Plan Community Advisory Committee at the Comfort Suites and Hampton Inn & Suites in Meridian. On March 28, a fourth workshop was hosted at the Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce offices.

All members of the CAC were asked to attend a workshop. CAC members were encouraged to invite colleagues who might be interested in the discussion or who would have a contribution to make. A total of six working groups participated in the four workshops.

The purpose of the workshops was to give Community Advisory Committee members an opportunity to show Idaho Power where future 500 kV transmission lines, 230 kV transmission lines and source and hub substations could be placed.

Each workshop began with Kent McCarthy welcoming the attendees and thanking them for coming. Then Kent gave a PowerPoint presentation that included Idaho Power's preliminary planning for the placement of transmission lines, and source and hub substations.

The reason Idaho Power wanted to show this planning model was for education purposes. The groups were told explicitly that they didn't have to follow Idaho Power's preliminary planning model.

After the presentation, groups were gathered around large maps showing the Treasure Valley from Mountain Home to Ontario, Ore. They were asked to use tape to show where future transmission lines could be placed and stickers to show where source and hub substations could be located.

Idaho Power staff deliberately let the groups lead themselves. Staff was available to answer questions, but didn't try to guide placement of transmission lines or substations.

In addition, Idaho Power told committee members who might be in a position to make future decisions about Idaho Power infrastructure placement that they could excuse themselves from parts of the exercise if they felt it was a conflict of interest.

Following the workshops, Idaho Power took the maps created by the groups and will plot them using GIS. The results of the workshops will be shared with the committee at a future meeting.

This document summarizes the workshops, including who attended, what types of questions were asked and what issues were important to the group. Each group's map will be available for review and discussion at the next meeting and on the Idaho Power Web site, <http://www.idahopower.com/newsroom/projnews/tvep.htm>.

**Committee members will be contacted about the date, time and location of the next meeting.**

## **Workshop Attendance, Objective and Materials**

### **Committee Attendance:**

- Dave Aspitarte
- Shirl Boyce
- Anna Canning
- Richard Cook
- Matt Ellsworth
- Lance Evans
- Bonnie Ford-LeCompte
- John Franden
- James Grunke
- June Hues
- Ken Jantz
- Kathleen Lacey
- Jennifer Maldonado
- Mike McGown
- Frank McKeever
- Bryce Millar
- Carl Miller
- Nathan Mitchell
- Tricia Nilsson
- Stan Olson
- Bruce Poe
- Paul Raymond
- Ray Stark
- Fred Tilman
- Toni Tisdale
- John Tomkinson
- Nancy Vannorsdel
- Bill Vaughn
- John Velikoff

### **Idaho Power Attendance:**

- Dave Angell
- Layne Dodson
- Jared Ellsworth
- Margareta Ionescu
- Kent McCarthy
- Kristi Pardue
- Kip Sikes
- Bryan Wewers

### **RBCI Attendance:**

- Rosemary Curtin
- Kate Nice
- Jennifer Oxley

### **Workshop Objective:**

- Complete a mapping exercise to identify possible locations for future transmission lines, source substations and hub substations

### **Workshop Materials:**

- Map of the Treasure Valley
- Substation mapping pieces
- 500 kV transmission line tape
- 230 kV transmission line tape
- Summary of requirements
- Summary of CAC guidelines for substations
- Summary of CAC guidelines for transmission lines
- Communities in Motion map
- Detailed maps of Treasure Valley communities

## **Workshop #1 – Wednesday, March 22, 2006**

### **Committee Attendance:**

#### **Group #1**

- Mike McGown
- Paul Raymond
- Toni Tisdale
- John Velikoff

#### **Questions asked by the group:**

- Why do different utility companies use different voltages?
- Why are switching stations needed?
- Why is a new transmission line needed from the Mora substation to Mountain Home?
- Can we go beyond the Treasure Valley and hide the 500 kV line in the mountains?
- Do the final buildout numbers include Emmett?
- Where are buildout lines and what areas are restricted?
- Does the 500 kV line have to create a full circle?
- Can the 500 kV line extend into Oregon? Is that a benefit?
- Is there a value to incorporating proposed future hub substations into the 500 kV line?
- Is it hard to cross a river with a 500 kV line?

#### **Issues important to the group:**

- Want to hide the 500 kV line as much as possible using geography
- Want to use existing lines to connect source substations to the new 500 kV line.
- Want to focus more substations in the eastern end of the valley
- Want to connect new source substations with 238 kV lines
- Used mostly existing right-of-way with double circuits

**See Group #1 map for results of mapping exercise**

## **Workshop #2 – Thursday, March 23, 2006**

### **Committee Attendance:**

#### **Group #2**

- Lance Evans
- Carl Miller
- Ken Jantz
- John Tomkinson
- Kathleen Lacey

#### **Group #3**

- Nathan Mitchell
- Bruce Poe
- June Hues
- Fred Tilman
- Frank McKeever

### **Questions asked by Group #2**

- Is there a chance of getting right-of-way from Pacific Corp?
- Can you cross a river?
- Can transmission lines be placed in hills or steep country?
- Can you convert a 500 kV to 138 or 230?
- Is the rail corridor preserved by the Nampa hub substation for right-of-way or has it been sold?
- What is the width of right-of-way for a 230 kV?

### **Issues important to Group #2**

- Lines should already be placed before growth occurs so they don't surprise people
- Try to use existing right-of-way so you don't interrupt any land
- Want to follow right-of-way by Pacific Corp
- Follow the new Highway 95 for the 500 kV line
- Want to use the least amount of turns and corners
- Stay away from ridgelines
- Two options for the 500kV line: Go straight through the small town or go around the small town (refer to map)
- Want to move the line to Simplot Road in Caldwell because it is an industrial area vs. a residential/farmland area
- Want to double circuit any line they can

### **See Group #2 map for results of mapping exercise**

### **Questions asked by Group #3:**

- Should there be more or fewer source substations?
- Cost – how expensive are things?
- Does the 500 kV have to loop the valley?
- Can you go into Oregon?
- How much electricity can be on each pole?

### **Issues important to Group #3:**

- Look at corners of the valley to place source substations
- Use existing infrastructures as much as possible
- Use the Pacific Corp. line as much as possible

- Don't worry about height of lines – if there is a 230, go to 500
- Community members may have problems with raising the height of an existing transmission line
- Put source substation next to landfill
- Having the flexibility to move
- Use the U.S. 95 corridor in the western Treasure Valley to run the 500 kV line north and south
- Assuming source is coming to the valley from north and southwest
- Don't go too close to Emmett bench on north side
- Stay east of Garnett Road
- Miss the houses on U.S. 95
- Best route with least impact – don't go through downtown
- Double circuit a lot of lines
- Consider cost
- Try to create least impact to high-density areas and urban centers – balancing it with the need to ring the valley with transmission lines
- A criticism of the plan is that it is a 30-year strategy, but technology may develop faster and the need for this infrastructure may go away.
  - However, the corridors may still be necessary at the macro level for energy distribution.

**See Group #3 map for results of mapping exercise**

## **Workshop #3 – Friday, March 24, 2006**

### **Committee Attendance:**

#### **Group #4**

- Dave Aspitarte
- Jennifer Maldonado
- Bonnie Ford-LeCompte
- Stan Olson
- Bill Vaughn

#### **Group #5**

- Anna Canning
- Matt Ellsworth
- Tricia Nilsson
- John Franden
- Bryce Millar

#### **Questions asked by Group #4:**

- Does Idaho Power need to have easy or daily access to the source substation?
- Can they cross a river?

#### **Issues important to Group #4:**

- Co-location of transmission lines
- Avoid ridge tops
- Put the source substations in a valley
- Place the 500 kV line south of the bluffs by Emmett
- Don't want a source substation in the view shed in Canyon County, especially in the Lake Lowell area
- Wanted to push the source and hub substations more to the west
- Would like to upgrade several 138kV lines to 230 kV lines.
- Use Highway 16

#### **See Group #4 map for results of mapping exercise**

#### **Questions asked by Group #5:**

- What to start with?
- What is Pearl? Why do you call it Pearl?
- Can you go into Oregon? It's not as developed.
- How difficult is it to cross the river with transmission lines?

#### **Issues important to Group #5:**

- Run transmission lines through the draws so the whole valley does not see
- The weigh stations and rest areas might be worthwhile to locate source substations
- Look at U.S. 95 to go north and south
- Go around Wilder if you use U.S. 95
- Really tried to avoid developed areas for 500 kV
- Struggled with the north-south connection in Treasure Valley at the west end
- Use existing right of way as much as possible
- Need to serve industrial customers too
- Co-locate – roads, bike paths, multi use
- Use Highway 16

- Consider density and future growth
- 500 kV
  - Loop needed
  - Use Pacific Corp line
  - Don't worry about the foothills
  - Connect transmission lines with the west end of valley going north south
  - Locate soon before land is developed
- 230 kV
  - When locating 230 kV lines upgrade/expand existing lines as much as possible
- Source substations
  - More than four
  - Locate soon, before land is developed
- Hub substations
  - When locating hub substations expand existing substations as much as possible

**See Group #5 map for results of mapping exercise**

## **Workshop #4 – Tuesday, March 28, 2006**

### **Committee Attendance:**

#### **Group #6**

- Shirl Boyce
- Richard Cook
- James Grunke
- Ray Stark
- Nancy Vannorsdel

#### **Questions asked by the group:**

- Can we cross into the state of Oregon?
- Does Idaho Power need to have easy or daily access to the source substation?
- Can they cross a river?
- Does Idaho Power have the power of eminent domain?

#### **Issues important to the group:**

- Communicate again and again with new players – elected officials, local jurisdictions, planning staffs
- Regardless of configuration:
  - Develop an abbreviated plan that is reader friendly and make sure you share it with the public
  - Do your best to communicate the plan's parameters
  - Make sure people understand the plan
  - Keep reminding people, leadership, communities and local planning staffs of the plan
- Would like to use the existing infrastructure as much as possible
- Might have to use eminent domain
- Place lines in the identified areas that will be developed in the future but are not developed yet, so people are used to looking at the lines before they move in
- Consider planned communities in southeast Boise in the planning process

**See Group #6 map for results of mapping exercise**