



# Oregon

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**To:** Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council

**From:** Kellen Tardaewether, Senior Siting Analyst

**Date:** October 12, 2018

**Subject:** Agenda Item G (Information Item) - Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project Update for the October 25-26, 2018 EFSC Meeting

## Background

Idaho Power Company (IPC or applicant) proposes to construct, operate, and maintain a 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line extending from Boardman, Oregon to the Hemingway Substation in southwestern Idaho. The Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line (proposed facility) is approximately 272-miles and would cross five counties in Oregon. The proposed facility is under Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) jurisdiction and must obtain a site certificate. Because portions of the proposed route would cross federal land, the proposed facility must also receive regulatory approval from the federal government.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the federal agency leading the National Environmental Policy Act review process. The BLM published the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in November 2016 and the BLM published the Record of Decision (ROD) in November 2017. The US Forest Service and the US Navy anticipate issuing its ROD's in December 2018.

The applicant submitted the Notice of Intent (NOI) in July 2010 and the Department issued the Project Order in March 2012. IPC submitted a preliminary Application for Site Certificate (pASC) to the Department in February 2013. The Department issued an amended project order in December 2014. IPC submitted an amended pASC in July 2017. The Department issued a second amended project order in July 2018. The application underwent the completeness review for approximately 14 months by the Department in consultation with reviewing agencies, Special Advisory Groups, and Tribal Governments.

## Complete Application for Site Certificate

On September 21, 2018, the Department notified IPC that the application for site certificate (ASC) is complete. The Department's determination of completeness does not denote a recommendation of approval; rather, an application is complete when the Department

determines that it contains adequate information for the Council to make findings or impose site certificate conditions on all applicable Council standards. Pursuant to OAR 345-015-0190(9), during the Department's continued review of the application and preparation of the draft proposed order, the applicant shall submit additional information to the Department if the Department identifies the need for that information. Pursuant to OAR 345-015-0190, the date of filing is the date the Department receives the application. On September 28, 2018, the ASC was submitted as a "...total revision of the application...to provide a clear presentation of new information", consistent with OAR 345-021-0055(1). For context to the scope of review, the application is approximately 20,000 pages long and weighs 240 pounds.

### **Public Notice of the Informational Meetings on the Application**

Pursuant to OAR 345-015-0190(7), on October 3, 2018, the Department issued public notice of the complete application for site certificate and public informational meetings. The public notice was issued electronically via the Department's GovDelivery system to the Council's general mailing list and the project-specific mailing list. The public notice was published on October 3, 2018 in nine newspapers within the region of the proposed facility, including western Idaho. Finally, mailed notices were sent to approximately 8,400 individuals that have requested to receive information on the proposed facility since the scoping meetings that occurred in 2010-2012. The mailed notices were also sent to the property owners identified in Exhibit F of the application as well as owners of "noise sensitive properties" as defined in Exhibit X of the application. The Department provided information for individuals to "opt-out" of the mailings and continues to receive these requests. Individuals will be removed from the master mailing list, to narrow the mailing list for future notices for the proposed facility.

### **Informational Meetings on the Application**

The notice issued on October 3, 2018 listed the dates, times and locations of the informational meetings on the complete application. These have been shared with Council and are available on the Department's project webpage. The meetings will be hosted by the Department, with the applicant, in each of the five affected counties where the facility is proposed. The intent of the meetings is to provide the public information about the Council's review process. The Department's presentation will emphasize the next opportunity for the public to participate, which will be at the on-the-record comment period and hearings of the draft proposed order. The meetings are scheduled to occur the week of October 15-18, 2018, after Council receives this staff report, yet prior to the Council's October meeting. Kellen Tardaewether, the project siting analyst, will provide an update of the meetings and next steps during Agenda Item G (Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line update) of the October 25-26, 2018 Council meeting.