

PUBLIC HEARING

Input on Draft Proposed Order)
(DPO) for the Boardman to)
Hemingway Transmission Line)
Department of Energy, State of)
Oregon)
_____)

BEFORE

HEARING OFFICER ALISON GREENE WEBSTER

Date: June 19, 2019 - 4:30 p.m.

Location: Baker City VFW
2005 Valley Avenue
Baker City, Oregon

REPORTED BY:

BEVERLY A. BENJAMIN, CSR No. 710

Notary Public

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1 ATTENDEES:

2 Barry Beyeler, Chairman

3 Hanley Jenkins, II, Vice Chairman

4 Kent Howe, Councillor

5 Marcy Grail, Councillor

6 Betty Roppe Councillor (telephonic)

7 Hearing Officer Alison Greene Webster

8 Patrick Rowe, Counsel

9 Todd Cornett, Council Secretary

10 Kellen Tardaewether, Oregon Department of Energy, Senior

11 Siting Analyst

12

13 SPEAKERS:

14 Mark Bennett Fuji Kreider

15 Whit Deschner Mark Stokes (Idaho Power)

16 Karen Yeakley

17 Irene Gilbert

18 JoAnn Marlette

19 Mike Meyers

20 Laurie Solisz

21 Gail Carbiener

22 Wayne Kaaen

23 Bruce Owen

24 Bruce Nickels

25 Christine Menlascina

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 June 19, 2019 - 4:30 p.m.

3 Baker City, Oregon

4

5 CHAIRMAN BEYELER: Good evening and welcome.

6 I would like to call the June 19, 2019, meeting of the

7 Energy Facilities Siting Council to order.

8 Mr. Secretary, please call the roll.

9 SECRETARY CORNETT: Marcy Grail?

10 COUNCILLOR GRAIL: Here.

11 SECRETARY CORNETT: Kent Howe?

12 COUNCILLOR HOWE: Here.

13 SECRETARY CORNETT: Hanley Jenkins?

14 VICE CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Here.

15 SECRETARY CORNETT: Barry Beyeler?

16 CHAIRMAN BEYELER: Present.

17 SECRETARY CORNETT: Betty Roppe?

18 COUNCILLOR ROPPE: Here.

19 SECRETARY CORNETT: Mr. Chair, you have a

20 quorum.

21 CHAIRMAN BEYELER: Mr. Secretary, are there

22 any agenda modifications?

23 SECRETARY CORNETT: Mr. Chair, there are no

24 agenda modifications at this time.

25 CHAIRMAN BEYELER: Okay. First off, I'd like

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1 to express the Department's appreciation to the VFW for

2 allowing us to have a meeting room in Baker City

3 tonight.

4 I will say we may have a minor, a minor agenda

5 modification. At 5 p.m. there may be some interruptions

6 due to the VFW's Taco Night Wednesday, where they will

7 be coming in one or two at a time and getting tacos and

8 so on and so forth. If we have interference or an

9 interruption, we will stop the time and then take the

10 rest of the testimony when we get to that point.

11 I have the following announcements: Comment

12 registration cards, if you wish to speak tonight, are

13 right over there. Signing up for messages and notices

14 for the B2H project you can find on this card. That's

15 in the same location. And for general information for

16 the Department of Energy, they'll be on this card. And

17 all of those are on the table. Gov delivery sign-up

18 cards are on the table.

19 Those participating, please put your phones on

20 silent so as to not interrupt the meeting any more than

21 need be. Those participating via the AT&T phone lines,

22 please mute your phone. And if you receive a phone

23 call, please hang up from this call and dial back in

24 after finishing your other call.

25 If you would like to address the Council,

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1 please do not use the speakerphone feature because it

2 will create feedback. For those signed on to the

3 webinar, please do not broadcast your webcam.

4 The Energy Facility Siting Council meeting

5 shall be conducted in a respectful and courteous manner

6 where everyone is allowed to state their positions at

7 the appropriate times, consistent with Council rules and

8 procedures.

9 Willful accusatory, offensive, insulting,

10 threatening, insolent or slanderous comments which

11 disrupt the Council meeting are not acceptable.

12 Pursuant to Oregon Administrative Rule 345-011-0080, any

13 person who engages in unacceptable conduct which

14 disrupts the meeting may be expelled.

15 I am now going to hand the meeting over to

16 Alison Greene Webster, who is the Council-appointed

17 hearing officer for the Boardman to Hemingway Project

18 and will be the presiding officer for tonight's public

19 hearing.

20 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Good afternoon.

21 Before I get started here, I believe that Council Member

22 Grail has a statement to make.

23 COUNCILLOR GRAIL: Thank you.

24 For the record, this is Councillor Grail. I

25 do not intend to vote on any Energy Facility Siting

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1 Council actions relevant to the proposed Boardman to
 2 Hemingway transmission line. I was employed by Pacific
 3 Power from approximately 2001 until 2006. I have no
 4 financial interest in Pacific Power, PacifiCorp, or any
 5 related entity.
 6 However, as a condition of my accepting
 7 appointment to the Council, I agree to recuse myself
 8 from voting on any projects owned by Pacific Power.
 9 Given Pacific Power's involvement with the proposed
 10 Boardman to Hemingway transmission line, I will be
 11 recusing myself from voting on any matters requiring
 12 Council action on this project.
 13 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you. All
 14 right.
 15 This is the public hearing in Baker County on
 16 the draft proposed order, which we call DPO for short,
 17 on the application for site certificate for the Boardman
 18 to Hemingway transmission line.
 19 I am Alison Greene Webster, the presiding
 20 administrative law judge in the Oregon Office of
 21 Administrative Hearings, and the EFSC-appointed hearing
 22 officer for these public hearings.
 23 I am serving as the presiding officer at this
 24 hearing. I am not an employee of the Department of
 25 Energy. I am with the Office of Administrative

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1 Hearings, which is an independent agency within the
 2 State of Oregon.
 3 We are located today at the Veterans Building
 4 in Baker, Oregon. It is now 4:33. And before we go to
 5 public comments, Kellen Tardaewether from the Oregon
 6 Department of Energy, the senior siting analyst, and a
 7 lead on the Boardman to Hemingway transmission line
 8 facility, will provide a county overview of the proposed
 9 transmission line within Baker County and summarize the
 10 opportunities for the public to participate in the EFSC
 11 process at the DPO phase.
 12 Welcome.
 13 MS. TARDAEWETHER: Thank you. I think you can
 14 hear me.
 15 Thank you so much. For the record, my name is
 16 Kellen Tardaewether. I'm a senior siting analyst at the
 17 Oregon Department of Energy. Let me get to -- I was
 18 just going to say, I'm wondering, Sarah, is there any
 19 way to turn off these lights? Because you can't see the
 20 screen, is that the issue? I understand it's a little
 21 bit light in here and the presentation may be hard to
 22 see. So I apologize about that in advance. We'll work
 23 and see if perhaps we could get...
 24 (Off the record.)
 25 MS. TARDAEWETHER: All right. Thank you,

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1 folks.
 2 Again, thanks to the VFW for letting us crash
 3 their Wednesday Taco Night. Again, so I'm going to go
 4 over some about the proposed facility and facility
 5 components within Baker County, and then at the tail end
 6 of my presentation, I'm going to go over some assistance
 7 on guidance of how the public can provide their comments
 8 during this commenting opportunity.
 9 I may take a moment to explain if there's
 10 acronyms. We understand that there's lots of acronyms
 11 in our process. And we do have a court reporter tonight
 12 that will be recording the testimony, and so some of it
 13 is for her but it's also for the members of the public
 14 so we don't get so -- so we're all talking about the
 15 same thing.
 16 So I'll explain for those folks that can't
 17 quite see this slide, it's what we call the procedural
 18 history slide. And it basically lines out the
 19 milestones that are reached at what date in the EFSC
 20 process; so in the Council's review process, when did
 21 Idaho Power, the applicant, reach milestones.
 22 The takeaway from this, because I don't
 23 want -- I'm not going to go through each of these, the
 24 takeaway, and most folks in the room know, that this
 25 project has been around for a while. What I'm going to

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1 point out with this slide is one thing, even though the
 2 applicant began the state process or the EFSC review
 3 process back in 2008 and 2010, due to the fact that they
 4 were going through the federal permitting and the NEPA
 5 review process with the federal government, led by the
 6 Bureau of Land Management, or the BLM, the applicant
 7 kind of essentially paused the state process that we're
 8 in now to get to a point in the federal process where
 9 the BLM issued its record of decision, or a ROD.
 10 Because based on the BLM's decision, that's what told,
 11 they essentially informed the applicant of where the
 12 transmission line or the proposed facility would be
 13 located on federal lands.
 14 Based on that information, the applicant,
 15 Idaho Power, resubmitted an application to the
 16 Department in July 2017 that the Department has been
 17 reviewing. We reviewed it for completeness, we saw you
 18 folks about, what, in October, so like 8 months ago,
 19 because we had informational meetings on the complete
 20 application. So we deemed that application complete.
 21 And then from that information that's what the
 22 Department uses in putting together and issuing this
 23 draft proposed order, and that's the reason for these
 24 hearings tonight.
 25 So let's see. So looking ahead on this

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1 timeline, so as folks know, we are holding a public
 2 hearing in each of the five affected counties crossed by
 3 the proposed transmission line.
 4 I wanted to let the members of the public know
 5 if somebody you know or your neighbor is occupied or
 6 busy tonight, there's nothing that prevents a resident
 7 in any one county from attending a hearing in another
 8 county, and they may provide comments at any location.
 9 And the dates, times, and locations of all of the
 10 hearings, you can ask one of the staff. It's on the web
 11 page; it's in several places. It's also in the notice
 12 of the DPO.
 13 Looking ahead, the Department anticipates
 14 issuing a third amended project order. And this is just
 15 for Council's information, the project order is not a
 16 final order; it is an administrative document that
 17 outlines the process procedural and information in the
 18 application. And the Department would like to -- the
 19 Department can amend it at any time, and it would be
 20 done just to be consistent with the project as it stands
 21 now. So that's just kind of an administrative update
 22 for the Council.
 23 And then for the public and for the Council,
 24 the Council's review of the draft proposed order is
 25 going to happen at a later Council meeting. These

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1 meetings are for the public testimony and the oral
 2 testimony. These are the hearings on the draft proposed
 3 order. And then at a later date, I'm going to come up
 4 or staff will come up and will actually go through each
 5 of the applicable Council standards and conditions, and
 6 we'll go through and guide members of the public and
 7 Council through the DPO. And then we will also go over
 8 how we've incorporated the public comments received on
 9 the record.
 10 So looking into the future, I'm not sure what
 11 Council meeting it's going to be but it will be after
 12 the close of the record, which is July 23rd at this
 13 time.
 14 Again, apologize, kind of hard to see. This
 15 is a map, and I understand it's not a detailed map in
 16 Baker County, this is a high-level map of the general,
 17 of the proposed route in Baker County. The proposed
 18 transmission line crosses 68.4 miles in the county.
 19 This slide also has some bullet points, and
 20 the title, it says "Key Siting Opportunities and
 21 Constraints." And I wanted to talk about those because
 22 those kind of are a way of framing how a transmission
 23 line is sited. When I say "sited," I mean kind of
 24 positioning or locating or putting in the location of
 25 the transmission line.

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1 And so these are some of the items that the
 2 applicant utilized. So some siting opportunities within
 3 Baker County are that the transmission line is proposed
 4 to be co-located in the existing utility corridors or
 5 right of ways. "Co-located" basically means that you're
 6 putting transmission lines next to existing transmission
 7 lines to reduce the amount of impacts on the landscape.
 8 There's also, and then some siting
 9 constraints, meaning some resources that the applicant
 10 intended to avoid or minimize impacts to Oregon Trail
 11 segments and Bureau of Land Management ACECs. These are
 12 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Acronyms.
 13 So there's several ACECs within Baker County.
 14 One of them, and we've received comments on them, is
 15 what we refer to as NHOTIC, or the National Historic
 16 Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. Folks from Baker
 17 County or the region are going to be familiar with this
 18 area. This is a BLM managed area that has an
 19 interpretive center. And the proposed transmission line
 20 is proposed to cross very nearby the center. It is
 21 proposed to be co-located or within the area where
 22 there's an existing transmission line.
 23 Some other ACECs within the area are the Straw
 24 Ranch parcels and there's also the Powder River Canyon
 25 parcel. So those are ACECs as well, Areas of Critical

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1 Environmental Concern, which are BLM designated areas
 2 where the BLM has a management plan for those areas.
 3 And I kind of touched on this last night, and
 4 I'll expand a little bit so folks that are familiar or
 5 have started working their way through the draft
 6 proposed order, table PA-1 on page 233. That's the
 7 Protected Areas section of the draft proposed order.
 8 And that table outlines all of the protected areas
 9 identified in the analysis area.
 10 So what's nice about that table is that
 11 they're organized by the distance from the proposed
 12 transmission line. So at the top of the table is the
 13 closest to -- I say "transmission line," sorry -- the
 14 site boundary. The top of the table is going to be
 15 closest to the site boundary and then the bottom of the
 16 table is further away.
 17 So a couple other notes about the Oregon Trail
 18 segments and ACECs and just how the draft proposed order
 19 functions, is that there can be a resource, for
 20 instance, the NHOTIC or this ACEC, and it is an EFSC
 21 protected area. So it is identified as a protected area
 22 that Council would consider in its draft proposed order.
 23 It is also evaluated as a scenic resource
 24 under the Council's Scenic Resources standard. So that
 25 is another area where it would be discussed. It's also

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1 in the Recreation section under the Council's Recreation
 2 standard. Lastly, it would also be discussed in the
 3 Council's Historic, Cultural and Archaeological
 4 Resources section, which corresponds to that standard.
 5 So this is very typical of some resources. They may
 6 qualify for protections or evaluation under several of
 7 the Council standards.
 8 I just wanted to make a couple notes because
 9 the Oregon Trail's a very important resource in Baker
 10 County and within this region, and tying it to items in
 11 the draft proposed order is that there is the Scenic
 12 Resources condition two, which modifies -- and so
 13 because it is a Scenic Resources condition, this is
 14 where the condition is recommended, it's in that
 15 section, but it is a condition, too. And that condition
 16 modifies the towers within the area of NHOTIC, and then
 17 it is also discussed in the other sections.
 18 Another note about Oregon Trail Resources is
 19 there is a condition in the Historic, Cultural and
 20 Archeological Resources section, and it is based on the
 21 discussion and the proposal of Idaho Power and is
 22 actually just a kind of a good thing to know is that
 23 Idaho Power isn't proposing to directly impact Oregon
 24 Trail resources. So that's a good thing to keep in
 25 mind.

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1 Other constraints, for instance, those
 2 familiar with NHOTIC, on the east side of NHOTIC is
 3 greater sage-grouse core area habitat. So that was
 4 taken under consideration, and that's also BLM lands.
 5 They were told not to site the transmission line in that
 6 area.
 7 As folks from Baker County know, there's also
 8 a lot of agricultural areas, including irrigated ag in
 9 Baker County.
 10 So I apologize for this being small. This is
 11 from Exhibit C in the application. This is also in the
 12 draft proposed order in the introduction portion. And
 13 this basically has the facility components that are
 14 proposed for that 68.4 miles within Baker County.
 15 I'm not going to read these in detail, but I
 16 just wanted to use this as an opportunity to highlight
 17 the difference of how alternative routes are handled in
 18 the Council's review process. There are no alternative
 19 routes proposed in Baker County; it is just the proposed
 20 route. However, as some folks know through, by
 21 participating in the NEPA review process and during
 22 siting studies, the applicant has looked at several
 23 different routes. Also for those that are familiar with
 24 other counties, there are alternative routes proposed in
 25 other counties.

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1 And Council understands and it's also to
 2 reiterate but also for the public to keep in mind, that
 3 the Council's process is a standards-based process. And
 4 what that means is the applicant proposes any variety of
 5 routes or alternative routes, primary routes, an
 6 applicant proposes the facility. We as staff review the
 7 application and we review the information within the
 8 context of the Council's standards, and we make
 9 recommendations to the Council for any routes proposed.
 10 So if they meet all of the Council standards, we
 11 recommend approval; and if they don't meet Council
 12 standards, then we would recommend that it be denied.
 13 That's just a boiled-down version of it.
 14 So this is different from the result of the
 15 federal review process, which at the conclusion, the
 16 Bureau of Land Management, as part of that NEPA review,
 17 as folks are aware, they issued a -- in their record of
 18 decision was their agency-preferred alternative or
 19 their, I'm sorry, agency-preferred route. So the BLM
 20 essentially selected which route on federal lands and --
 21 well, which route, and told the applicant that that's
 22 where the route would go on federal lands. That won't
 23 be the result of the Council's review.
 24 So it's possible, for instance, in the draft
 25 proposed order we are recommending approval of the

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1 proposed route and of all the alternative routes, which
 2 then leaves the applicant the ability to select which
 3 one of those they would actually construct if the
 4 project ends up being approved.
 5 Wrapping this up. These are actually from
 6 when we were here at the complete application, and these
 7 are for folks that are going to provide either written
 8 or oral testimony either today or in writing after the
 9 hearings, any written comments can be submitted to the
 10 Department. There is contact information of how to
 11 submit written comments in the notice or you can ask us
 12 and we can provide that information.
 13 So I'm just going to go through these because
 14 the presiding officer, Alison Greene-Webster, she's
 15 going to go through some of the various specific items,
 16 kind of the procedural steps that we have to go through
 17 to proceed with these hearings. But I just kind of
 18 wanted to -- there's the last slide, because you'll
 19 actually hear a lot of this, and this is the language by
 20 which we speak because it's very consistent with rules
 21 and statute and that's how we operate. But we want to
 22 be as helpful as possible.
 23 So there's a couple concepts from this slide.
 24 One of the big points of this slide is that tiny Matters
 25 For Comments. For your ability to participate in the

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1 process later, we would need, we, the Department and
 2 Council, would need a comment, either written or oral
 3 testimony at these hearings, before the close of the
 4 record on July 23rd.
 5 And then the second part of this is the
 6 content of your comments. So for consideration in the
 7 contested case, your issues must be raised with
 8 sufficient specificity so that the Council, the
 9 Department, and the applicant are afforded the
 10 opportunity to respond. So what does that mean? It
 11 basically means, like, help us understand what your
 12 issue is so we can, so we have the opportunity to
 13 respond to that issue.
 14 This slide I think is helpful, and I'll kind
 15 of go through it and then I'll pass it over for your
 16 oral testimony. It kind of gives the examples, as best
 17 we can give examples, of effective comments and less
 18 effective comments.
 19 So ways that you, in your oral testimony or
 20 your written comments, if you can reference specific
 21 Council standards or rules or statutes, if you can
 22 provide specific information supporting whether or not a
 23 standard has been made, that is very helpful. That is
 24 for commenting. If you can state supporting facts and
 25 comments and attach reference materials and provide

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1 reference to those reference materials, that's very
 2 helpful. And then also if you can point to specific
 3 pages in the application or in the draft proposed order
 4 to identify what your issue is and help us understand
 5 that, that is very helpful.
 6 And so less effective comments, and yet
 7 totally fine comments to make, but are comments of just
 8 stating support or opposition to the project or only
 9 providing those reference materials without providing a
 10 discussion of the issue and connecting it to the
 11 documentation. Less effective comments are raising
 12 issues outside of the Council's jurisdiction or just
 13 making unsubstantiated statements.
 14 I think that that is my presentation, and I'll
 15 hand it over. Thank you so much.
 16 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 17 The purpose of the public hearing is to
 18 provide an opportunity for the public and the applicant,
 19 if we they wish to do so, to present oral and written
 20 testimony on the Boardman to Hemingway transmission line
 21 application for site certificate and draft proposed
 22 order. The 62-day record of the public hearing comment
 23 period on the draft proposed order closes on July 23,
 24 2019, at 5 p.m.
 25 Anyone who wishes to provide oral testimony

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1 must fill out a registration form located near the
 2 entrance.
 3 Sarah, I believe you have the forms?
 4 MS. ESTERSON: Blank ones, yes.
 5 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Yes, you have the
 6 blank ones.
 7 So Sarah over there, department staff, can
 8 provide a form if you have not received one yet to fill
 9 out. Any forms that have not been filled out and
 10 provided to Department staff, please do so at this time,
 11 as I am going to begin establishing the time each
 12 commenter will have in person and over the
 13 teleconference line. I will call each person up to
 14 testify individually, and will also indicate who the
 15 next person will be to testify so that they can be
 16 prepared.
 17 Do we have anybody on the phone? Do you know?
 18 IT PERSON: I don't know.
 19 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Is there anybody on
 20 the phone who would like to give public comment tonight?
 21 All right. Hearing none, I'll check back in to see if
 22 anybody joins us.
 23 But I will go with obviously the in-person
 24 commenters to provide their testimony first, then I will
 25 repoll and hear testimony from participants on the

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1 phone, if there are any.
 2 For the commenters, I would ask when you sit
 3 down, please provide your first and last name to
 4 indicate -- well, this is to indicate who you are, where
 5 you're from, and to speak clearly because the court
 6 reporter here will be taking this down.
 7 I think at this point I have a handful of
 8 people who would like to give in-person testimony
 9 tonight, and I'm going to give everybody about 10
 10 minutes to provide their testimony. If you need more
 11 time, we can make some adjustments, but ideally if you
 12 can give your testimony within 10 minutes so we can keep
 13 the hearing moving along.
 14 We also, as indicated at the outset, there may
 15 be some interruptions of people coming in for their
 16 tacos. We will also probably take a break sometime
 17 between 6:00 and 6:30, a 10- or 15-minute break. And if
 18 we still have commenters after that, we'll reconvene and
 19 hear from them.
 20 Department staff will track the time for each
 21 commenter, and the commenter should be able to view how
 22 much time is remaining. If the commenting time ends and
 23 the commenter is still speaking, I will gently let you
 24 know that your time is up and we will hopefully
 25 transition to the next speaker sooner than later.

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1 Please be respectful of the allotted time and the other
 2 speakers.
 3 If I or a Council member asks a person giving
 4 testimony questions, the time will be stopped for the
 5 question and response time, and then restarted to
 6 provide the commenter the full time allotted. Any
 7 requests made to EFSC will be brought up at the
 8 conclusion of the public testimony opportunity of the
 9 hearing.
 10 Today's hearing, as well as all of the public
 11 hearings on the B2H draft proposed order are being
 12 documented by a certified court reporter, and there will
 13 be transcripts of the testimony made available after
 14 completion of the public hearings. We are also
 15 recording today's hearings. The presentations, written
 16 comments, and oral testimony are part of the decision
 17 record for the proposed facility.
 18 Now, here's the important stuff that we need
 19 to get on the record. Pursuant to OAR
 20 345-015-0220(5)(a) and (b), please note the following:
 21 "A person who intends to raise any issue that may be the
 22 basis for a contested case must raise the issue in
 23 person at the hearing or in a written comment submitted
 24 to the Department of Energy before the July 23rd
 25 deadline stated in the notice of the public hearing.

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1 "A person who intends to raise any issue that
 2 may be the basis for a contested case must raise the
 3 issue with sufficient specificity to afford the Council,
 4 the Department of Energy and the applicant an adequate
 5 opportunity to respond, including a statement of facts
 6 that support the person's position on the issue.
 7 To raise an issue in a contested case
 8 proceeding, the issue must be: Within the Council's
 9 jurisdiction; raised in writing or in person prior to
 10 the close of the record of the hearing comment period,
 11 July 23, 2019; raised with sufficient specificity to
 12 afford the Council, the Department, and the applicant an
 13 adequate opportunity to respond; to raise an issue with
 14 sufficient specificity a person must present facts that
 15 support the person's position on the issue.
 16 We'll now begin with the public testimony. I
 17 have 5:01 p.m. And a reminder, when you sit down to
 18 give your testimony, please provide your name and
 19 address for the record at the beginning of your
 20 testimony.
 21 The first person to call up is Mark Bennett,
 22 and then after Mr. Bennett, we'll hear from Whit
 23 Deschner.
 24 MR. MARK BENNETT: Good evening. Welcome to
 25 Baker County. I'm Mark Bennett, Commissioner, and

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1 representing Baker County Board of Commissioners. So
 2 thank you to Vice Chair Jenkins, Hanley, and the rest of
 3 the members. Thank you once again.
 4 Baker County would like to, as I mentioned,
 5 thank you for coming out here, meeting and hearing the
 6 folks. Baker County has participated in this project
 7 for actually 12 years. Prior to even the initial onset,
 8 we met with Idaho Power and discussed the vision I guess
 9 at that point. So we have really been engaged from the
 10 get-go on this entire project.
 11 We can safely say, between my colleague
 12 Planning Director Holly Kerns and myself, we have not
 13 missed one meeting through the entire process, through
 14 the BLM process, through the Community Advisory Process
 15 that Idaho Power put on, and also comments and
 16 objections during the entire process.
 17 Baker County's position from the get-go, and
 18 continues to this day, is that we do not support a line
 19 going through Baker County for 71 miles; 71 miles of our
 20 county is being transected by this line. And 25 percent
 21 of the entire project is in Baker County, and yet the
 22 critical point is, Baker County has not received any
 23 mitigation in the form of a point of presence here.
 24 This is not in keeping with our comprehensive land use
 25 plan, which says -- and I'm paraphrasing here -- I

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1 should mention that we will be submitting written
 2 comments. I'm going to give kind of a 747 view of the
 3 project from our eyes, but we will submit by the 23rd
 4 comments.
 5 But 25 percent of this entire project is in
 6 Baker County. And we do not have a substation, we do
 7 not have any opportunity to directly utilize the line,
 8 which is a requirement within our comprehensive land use
 9 plan. There is no direct benefits, as I mentioned, to
 10 the economy or to the environment of Baker County. And
 11 the impact to the Baker County economic drivers outweigh
 12 the minimal tax benefits that the County will be
 13 receiving.
 14 Baker County participated, along with our
 15 community, in a year-long process initiated by Idaho
 16 Power, called the Community Advisory Process. This
 17 process caused our communities to view that their voice
 18 would be heard. That was set aside and actually thrown
 19 in the dustbin when we went through the NEPA process.
 20 Because at that point, here you have 83 percent of this
 21 line on private lands and yet for less than 20 percent
 22 ownership, the federal government dictated where this
 23 line would go. They obviously, surprisingly not, they
 24 dictated that it wouldn't be on federal lands but it
 25 would be impacting private lands. 73 percent of this

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1 line is on private lands in Baker County and yet the
 2 Baker County voice is silenced in a number of these
 3 areas.
 4 As I said, the outcome, and I really recall
 5 one of my constituents here, Bruce Owens, going, You
 6 know, Mark, we don't want this line but if we can come
 7 up with this route, it will be tolerable. I didn't ask
 8 you, Bruce, hopefully I didn't get you out of context
 9 there.
 10 But that to me is really sad. It's really sad
 11 as an elected official. This is a David-Goliath type of
 12 a situation. Baker County utilized its resources, and
 13 we're a small county, to attend those meetings, to
 14 perform context. And I do have to really thank the
 15 Oregon Department of Energy, Todd and his staff, they
 16 assisted us and worked with us the entire time. They
 17 were able -- and the Council was able to give us some
 18 funding for comments later on. But all during the NEPA
 19 process, the counties bore the cost all by themselves.
 20 And I guess that's for good or bad but that's the way it
 21 is.
 22 Shifting the direction, as mentioned earlier,
 23 Baker County has two principal economic drivers or
 24 engines: Agriculture, which is primarily the beef
 25 industry; and tourism. We have the uninterrupted

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1 viewshed, we have wildlife, solitude, and as Kellen so
 2 adequately addressed, the NHOTIC, or the National
 3 Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.
 4 But both of these economic drivers are
 5 impacted by this project. As I mentioned earlier, a
 6 71-mile long freeway, 83 percent of the private land
 7 transecting Baker County with no on or off-ramps,
 8 25 percent of this entire project.
 9 The ag industry will be impacted through the
 10 placement of towers on the EFU lands nearly the entire
 11 route, and on the high-value grounds as you look out
 12 here in Baker valley.
 13 And it's also important to note that in Baker
 14 County, in excess of 70 percent of the producers are
 15 64 years of age or older. The application fails to
 16 address this social justice issue. And I serve on the
 17 Governor's Ag Heritage Commission and am well aware of
 18 this throughout the state of Oregon. The expectation
 19 that folks in this age bracket are able to review and
 20 respond to the thousands of pages created by this
 21 project are, at best, incredulous and sadly
 22 discouraging. The taxpayers would be victimized by the
 23 companies and agencies who have an expectation of them
 24 to not only digest the work but make detailed responses
 25 to this extensive criteria.

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1 Hanley and I were laughing at the beginning.
 2 We have 7 feet long of records and I don't even know how
 3 many file boxes.
 4 Ag is not only directly affected -- or
 5 threatened by the line, there is an inaccurate invasive
 6 weed section. Your draft order fails to provide
 7 continuous inspections and treatment for the life of the
 8 project. The wildfire section does not address the
 9 risks that occurred in the Paradise disaster. Lack of
 10 long-term support to the rural fire agencies, the roads
 11 impact. Just mentioning the more superficial areas of
 12 weakness.
 13 Perhaps the largest unaddressed threat is on
 14 the horizon. The proposed line placement will transect
 15 Baker County, causing the Baker County sage-grouse
 16 primary area of concern, which is the northwestern-most
 17 population of sage-grouse, greater sage-grouse, to be
 18 isolated from the remainder of all sage-grouse habitat
 19 and populations in the western United States. This in
 20 turn may, at a future date, result in a review of the
 21 Baker pack and a determination that it's a distinct
 22 subpopulation, which would then cause a listing of the
 23 bird as a threatened and endangered species within Baker
 24 County. This will devastate the cattle industry and the
 25 economy of the county. Once again, no mitigation has

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1 been offered.
 2 In the interest that I've gone on a little
 3 longer, I'm going to quickly just jump to the bottom.
 4 And here's -- even though I'm speaking for my three
 5 colleagues, too, I was going to beg for more time.
 6 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Do you need more
 7 time? We can --
 8 MR. MARK BENNETT: I probably need about
 9 2 minutes more.
 10 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: That's fine.
 11 MR. MARK BENNETT: Thank you.
 12 As Kellen pointed out, the NHOTIC, National
 13 Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, is best
 14 described as the crown jewel of eastern Oregon tourism.
 15 Individuals travel daily from all over the world to
 16 connect with the Oregon Trail. The line will be in the
 17 front picture window of the NHOTIC, the Trail
 18 Interpretive Center. And no mitigation offered.
 19 Baker County and the community has requested
 20 time and time again that a study be conducted to
 21 determine the feasibility, or that it doesn't work, of
 22 burying the line over that period, and we continue to
 23 put that request forward. And we would request that it
 24 be an ODOE directed to the panel in that analysis.
 25 We also request that there is no impact to the

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1 ag industry without mitigation, and we will provide a
 2 detailed summary of those impacts.
 3 Probably one that's near and dear to our
 4 hearts is that the county ag producers and Idaho
 5 Power -- and I want to compliment the field staff, they
 6 have worked closely with that -- but bureaucracies, be
 7 what they may, it hasn't come. We've requested a line
 8 placement movement, a micrositing, within the Durkee
 9 area, and at this point it hasn't occurred. And we
 10 would request, as a condition of approval, that the
 11 Council direct that this occur. That it meets the
 12 needs, that, once again, that it causes the least impact
 13 to the landscape and to those managing the land here and
 14 to the residents. Once again, these residents are in
 15 excess of 65, 70 years old, and impacting their entire
 16 life and their way of life is just really tough.
 17 We also, in closing, request that the Baker
 18 County comprehensive land use plan requirement of
 19 benefit to Baker County be met in that a guaranteed
 20 point of presence be placed in Baker County to serve as
 21 mitigation to meet future requirements for needs of the
 22 economy of Baker County.
 23 Are there any questions?
 24 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: No. Thank you.
 25 MR. MARK BENNETT: Thank you very much.

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1 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: After we hear from
 2 Mr. -- assuming it's Mr. Deschner, it will be Karen
 3 Yeakley.
 4 MR. WHIT DESCHNER: My name is Whit Deschner.
 5 I live at 1640 3rd Street, Baker.
 6 I want to preempt this speech, out of
 7 frustration, if I say anything to Idaho Power about
 8 Idaho Power, please don't take it personally. You're
 9 probably real nice people.
 10 I appreciate the Council for hearing me. And
 11 I appreciate Marcy Grail for recusing herself off of
 12 this case. And also I want to thank Mark Bennett and
 13 Holly for their work on this.
 14 Upon reviewing the discrepancy in the 20,000
 15 or so EFSC standards in Oregon Administration Rule, I
 16 have found a serious flaw. Oregon Administration Rule
 17 345-025-0007 is missing. Upon further investigation, I
 18 discovered that the key set of OARs was redacted with
 19 white-out. I failed to find the original version but I
 20 have a good idea why this was omitted. Unfortunately, I
 21 can't replicate the legalese of this administrative rule
 22 nor do I speak the language but I can give you the gist.
 23 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Mr. Deschner, if you
 24 want to slow down just a stitch so that the court
 25 reporter can take everything down.

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1 MR. WHIT DESCHNER: OAR 345-025-0007, the real
 2 issues.
 3 Ethics.
 4 (a) in 2007, B2H was announced. No vote was
 5 offered whether the people wanted it or not.
 6 (b) Under Governor Tom McCall, an energy
 7 corridor was established for high-voltage power line
 8 routes. It was a low-impact route. When Idaho Power
 9 proposed B2H, they either ignored or deemed this route
 10 too costly.
 11 (c) Idaho Power is a for-profit corporation
 12 traded on the New York Stock Exchange.
 13 Roman numeral i. This brings up conflicts of
 14 interests. What is right for IPC's shareholders is not
 15 always in the best interest of the public. Idaho Power
 16 Corporation will turn a profit to satisfy shareholders
 17 at the expense of Baker County and eastern Oregon. With
 18 sparse population, Idaho Power rides roughshod through
 19 the county, dictating how and where they choose to run
 20 the line.
 21 Also, Roman numeral ii. A crooked playing
 22 field. Opponents are not given adequate or the same
 23 amount of time as Oregon Department of Energy or Idaho
 24 Power to review new documents or developments.
 25 And Roman numeral iii. Skewed data, like

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1 averaging numbers to falsify state or bend IPC's
 2 position.
 3 (d) The Interpretive Center opened in 1992
 4 through a highly effective partnership of local, state,
 5 and federal government agencies, nonprofit
 6 organizations, and local residents. I'll read that
 7 again.
 8 The Interpretive Center opened in 1992 through
 9 a highly effective partnership of local, state, and
 10 federal government agencies, nonprofit organizations,
 11 and local residents. There was a gentlemen's
 12 understanding that nothing would be built in the
 13 viewshed of the Center, nor did anyone dream that the
 14 view would be degraded in such a manner. Nothing was
 15 signed but this was Baker and handshakes were valid and
 16 honored.
 17 (e) Idaho Power is proposing to blatantly run
 18 their up to 190-foot tall pylons in front of the BLM's
 19 Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. Where is the BLM's
 20 voice in all of this? Why are they allowing a
 21 corporation to build in front of the BLM historical
 22 center, ruining the whole historical presentation of
 23 what the taxpayers' \$16 million national showcase
 24 interpretive center represents?
 25 Conclusion.

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1 (a) Idaho Power is a large, powerful
 2 corporation bullying its way through a small rural
 3 community just because it can. Regard their contractual
 4 agreement to provide fish ladders on the dams they built
 5 on the Snake, but then reneged on their obligation once
 6 the dams were up and running. They cannot be trusted.
 7 There are no repercussions in place if they won't and
 8 don't follow up on their promises and again, we, the
 9 local citizens, have to live with the damages.

10 (b) Morals and decency have been thrown out
 11 the window. Money and greed are trying to replace them.
 12 If approved, Idaho Power is guaranteed an \$80 million
 13 profit for itself and their partners' shareholders.
 14 What does Baker get?

15 (c) This process needs to ask bigger
 16 questions. B2H is the subject to a vetting system that
 17 can't and never has said no to other similar projects, a
 18 vetting system that is allowing this boondoggle to get
 19 its rubber stamp. This process needs a non-partial
 20 forum for fairness, a council made up of people not
 21 picked or reinstated by a governor who was backed by
 22 PacifiCorp, Idaho Power's silent partner in B2H.

23 (d) While these hearings are supposed to bring
 24 out the flaws in the proposed plan, they also help Idaho
 25 Power plug their leaking dike. These are problems Idaho

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1 Power should have already foreseen if they had planned
 2 better.

3 (e) I have fought this B2H proposal since near
 4 the beginning. It was a bad idea then and it's an even
 5 worse idea now.

6 (f) All we, the public, would like in this
 7 process is impartiality and that we have not been given.
 8 Thank you.

9 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 10 After we hear from Ms. Yeakley, we'll hear
 11 from Irene Gilbert.

12 MS. KAREN YEAKLEY: I made copies for the
 13 Council and the Department of Energy.

14 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Start with your name
 15 and address.

16 MS. KAREN YEAKLEY: Yes.

17 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.

18 MS. KAREN YEAKLEY: For the record, my name is
 19 Karen Yeakley. I'm a former mayor of Baker City and the
 20 former manager of the Baker County Chamber of Commerce,
 21 and former president of the Chamber.

22 Let's be clear, Idaho Power is a profit-making
 23 business. They are in business to make money. The
 24 board of directors have a fiduciary responsibility to
 25 protect the investment and provide shareholders with a

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1 return on their investment. This has been 12 years, and
 2 if I was on the Idaho Power board, I would be asking if
 3 this was the best investment. I'd be jumping up and
 4 down wondering, why can't we get this done? If it was
 5 that necessary 12 years ago, it should be even more
 6 necessary today. There is new technology, and the data
 7 used is not current nor represents residents' input
 8 along the proposed route.

9 I'm old school, I was raised differently. I
 10 was taught to give more here while I was here before I
 11 leave. I've never seen too many people leave with their
 12 wagon full of their goodies off to heaven. So that's
 13 why I volunteer and do things. And I appreciate your
 14 time in volunteering, too. It's not an easy job.
 15 Believe me, I understand that.

16 In your siting standards of protecting against
 17 adverse environmental impacts, this project, due to
 18 construction, will have significant adverse impacts.
 19 Construction decreases farmland that affects our food
 20 source, the wildlife, pollinators like bees and
 21 butterflies, and cattle grazing.

22 Oregon Administrative Rules and Council
 23 standards have numerous references to mitigation.
 24 Mitigation will not help dead eagles, dead owls, dead
 25 blue heron, dead ducks, dead geese, dead hawks, dead

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1 trumpeter swans, and dead sage-grouse that we've so hard
 2 and diligently tried to protect.

3 It will not protect the Oregon Trail ruts at
 4 the Interpretive Center. I watch from my house busloads
 5 of students in May headed up to the center to learn of
 6 our history from across the state. Use of compensatory
 7 mitigation is not okay; dead is dead. It will not come
 8 back. The land will not come back. You cannot mitigate
 9 that, and you cannot buy off property and values and the
 10 way of life in Baker County.

11 We should learn from the California fires that
 12 killed 85 people and destroyed thousands of buildings.
 13 PG&E utility company seeks bankruptcy protection over
 14 California fires. Governor Kate signed House Bill 2222
 15 requiring annual report on wildfire protection efforts.
 16 The bill was inspired in part by the wildfire last year
 17 in Paradise, California. Frankly, I would hate to have
 18 been on that board knowing that my transmission lines
 19 caused that fire and all the damage it did to places in
 20 California.

21 I've enclosed an article on electric and
 22 magnetic fields affecting milk production and behavior
 23 of cows. If the transmission lines can cause that
 24 effect on cows, then what is the long-term effect? Why
 25 would we want to risk public health with the side

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1 effects of the transmission lines? We don't want the
 2 transmission lines here any more than we need the oil
 3 drilling on the Oregon Coast.
 4 I have included several news clippings and our
 5 testimony during the NEPA process for your review.
 6 I thank you for your time.
 7 Do you have any questions of me? Thank you.
 8 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 9 Following Ms. Gilbert, we'll hear from JoAnn
 10 Marlette.
 11 MS. IRENE GILBERT: Hi. Irene Gilbert, here
 12 representing myself, Friends of the Grande Ronde Valley,
 13 and I'm a member of the Stop B2H group. So thank you
 14 for allowing me to speak again. I spoke yesterday on
 15 noise. And actually, if anyone in the audience wants
 16 copies of my comments, I have them with me.
 17 Today I kind of wanted to introduce with a few
 18 sort of responses to Commissioner Bennett's comment, and
 19 he talked about the need for mitigation. I would be
 20 concerned, or I am concerned in this county with the
 21 fact that this line is taking some of the very limited
 22 allotment of basically damage to sage-grouse habitat.
 23 And when you talk about mitigation, I start thinking,
 24 what could they use with that land? Could they build a
 25 manufacturing site? Would they build homes and utilize

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1 it? In this county, they can't build a garage once they
 2 run out of that allotment of sage-grouse habitat that
 3 they can damage.
 4 So I'm really concerned about, No. 1, the lack
 5 of mitigation; No. 2, the way mitigation is dealt with.
 6 I know with habitat impacts there is no mitigation
 7 provided whatsoever for all the farm damage. So of
 8 course, developers like to place their developments on
 9 high-value farmland. When they do provide mitigation,
 10 it's only for the basis of structures. So when you're
 11 talking about a transmission line, what they consider
 12 permanent is a basis of those big metal structures, and
 13 they make the folks reseed what they have torn up as far
 14 as the habitat around there.
 15 I don't think that was ever the intent of the
 16 rules, but that's the way it's being interpreted. You
 17 end up with thousands and thousands of acres of damage
 18 in a 60-acre mitigation site. I'm making that up but it
 19 really is that radical. It's unbelievable.
 20 Anyway, I want to talk about mitigation. I
 21 was reading the developer's material and they said, Oh,
 22 we're going to mitigate for these damages, and we'll
 23 provide land that's going to be protected permanently.
 24 Well, that marsh is a federal mitigation site for the
 25 Bonneville Power dam for the damages, and that's

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1 supposed to be protected forever. There is supposed to
 2 be absolutely no damage to that federal site. Or the
 3 F&W gets paid every year to make sure there's absolutely
 4 no impacts to that site.
 5 Well, this is going to impact that site. It's
 6 going to impact the animals that go back and forth
 7 daily. And so I'm not sure that when they say permanent
 8 protection that Idaho Power really means permanent
 9 protection.
 10 I'm concerned because moving this line, I know
 11 Idaho Power has worked with people and said, Oh, they're
 12 so mad about this, we'll see if we can do a little
 13 micrositing. Well, first off, their area that they can
 14 microsite is 500 feet across. So without an amendment
 15 there's not going to be a lot of micrositing going on.
 16 And I'm concerned that if it's not in the site
 17 certificate, it isn't a guarantee and they can back out
 18 on anything they say and it will be after the period of
 19 time has lapsed when anyone can ask for a contested
 20 case.
 21 I'm also concerned because when you move the
 22 line, you're just changing the damage to somebody else.
 23 You're changing the damage to making it apply to other
 24 animals, other people. The answer is, this is not a
 25 line that's needed, and it shouldn't be placed, and it's

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1 causing a whole lot of damage in this state without
 2 benefits to us.
 3 So anyway, now I'll get on to what I mainly
 4 was going to talk about, which was weeds. And I've been
 5 kind of taking these sections one at a time, which is
 6 challenging because when you talk about weeds, you have
 7 to check about, well, eight or nine different areas in
 8 the application. I don't think that ODOE did a real
 9 good job of trying to put things in a capsule form where
 10 people can find information.
 11 But the invasive weeds, there's a state law
 12 that says that the owner or the user of property has to
 13 assure that no invasive -- that invasive weeds do not go
 14 to seed. Now, Idaho Power has suggested that they will
 15 do annual monitoring for the first 5 years unless Oregon
 16 Department of Energy tells them they can get out of this
 17 earlier. But it's once a year. And I went through some
 18 of the invasive species of weeds that are along this
 19 transmission line, and they come to -- they bloom and go
 20 to seed at different times. So I can absolutely assure
 21 you there's nowhere on this line where a once-a-year
 22 approach to dealing with invasive weeds is going to keep
 23 them from going to seed.
 24 Idaho Power thinks that they should only be
 25 responsible for their right of way. Well, if they're

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1 not making sure that nothing is going to seed along that
 2 right of way, they are seeding the whole area along
 3 this, which is creating negative impacts to our
 4 agriculture, it's a loss of agricultural growth, it is
 5 causing damages to our threatened and endangered
 6 species, it's causing damages to our habitat. There's a
 7 bunch of rules that apply when you start sending weeds
 8 out over the country.
 9 The Indians have commented directly, saying
 10 they would like this site certificate to apply to the
 11 state law that says that vehicles and equipment have to
 12 be cleaned before they go on to a site or off of the
 13 public roadway. They have to be cleaned before they go
 14 from one landowner to another.
 15 The developer is saying they'll put these
 16 cleaning sites at their multiple use areas. Well, those
 17 are temporary, they're a long ways away from where these
 18 areas are that they're supposed to be cleaning. So
 19 they're flat out not planning on adhering to the state
 20 statutes.
 21 I'm a little upset about this whole weed thing
 22 because they're saying that if the weeds already exist,
 23 well, they're not responsible for more of them. If
 24 there are weeds in the area, they're not responsible for
 25 them going on to the site. Well, I can tell you right

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1 now, that when you start tearing up land and habitat,
 2 that transmission line is going to be a focal point of
 3 noxious weed development. And when they start growing
 4 along the transmission line, that means that they're
 5 going to increase all the way along it with all the
 6 private property.
 7 And at least in Union County, I know we're in
 8 Baker County right now, but in Union County, the line is
 9 81 percent on private land. We have 51 percent BLM
 10 land. And I wish I could remember the figures because I
 11 wrote them down in a comment for Baker. But Baker is
 12 comparable. And so you're talking about private
 13 landowners suffering because this developer wants to
 14 create a freeway that's 250 feet wide across our whole
 15 state practically.
 16 And other things, just in terms of, I'm just
 17 throwing things out here, they're undervaluing our
 18 farmland, they're undervaluing our forest land. They're
 19 saying that in Union County, for instance, that they can
 20 destroy over 500 acres of our forest land, and that it's
 21 worth \$97,000 to our economy. I own forest land. I can
 22 tell you that I wouldn't own forest land if it was worth
 23 \$97,000 over a 50-year period, which is kind of the
 24 period that they talk about.
 25 They say that it's temporary impacts, their

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1 impacts are temporary, if they don't exceed the life of
 2 the development. Now, okay, so you cut our timber down,
 3 there's no timber growing there for the life of the
 4 project, and that's a temporary impact? Hmm. Well, I
 5 think it's kind of a creative definition. There are a
 6 bunch of creative definitions about how they look at
 7 what they have to mitigate for.
 8 Anyway, I'm actually going to give you a
 9 minute or so free time here. But I thank you. You know
 10 you'll be hearing from me again. I hope anybody here
 11 that wants help with their comments, I've been fighting
 12 with EFSC for 8 or 9 years. And while I have far more
 13 losses in my columns than wins, I do have a few wins and
 14 I'm very actively concerned about this.
 15 Thank you.
 16 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 17 Following Ms. Marlette, we'll hear from
 18 Michael Meyer. And Mr. Meyer, when you do come up,
 19 please provide your address and contact information.
 20 MS. JoANN MARLETTE: Hello again. I'm JoAnn
 21 Marlette, and I live at 2031 Fort Street, Baker City,
 22 Oregon. And I am a member of Stop B2H Coalition.
 23 Well, I think all of you are aware that Oregon
 24 has an existing utility corridor, which was set in place
 25 during the administration of Governor Tom McCall. I

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1 knew Tom McCall. As a matter of fact, I typed the first
 2 draft of his mother Dorothy Lawson McCall's book "Ranch
 3 Under the Rimrock."
 4 It was his love of this ranch and to central
 5 Oregon that led him to his commitment to preserve farm
 6 and forest lands. In the early '70s as governor, he
 7 signed Senate Bill 100, which created a statewide land
 8 use regulatory system, aimed at preserving farm and
 9 forest land.
 10 Knowing how important preserving farm and
 11 forest land would be, a utility corridor was set from
 12 Boardman, Oregon, to the Idaho border, so that issues
 13 such as what we are having right now would not exist.
 14 All the utilities would have their corridor and would
 15 not encroach on farm and forest land in other parts of
 16 the state. Idaho Power has claimed many times that
 17 using our existing utility corridor would cost them too
 18 much money.
 19 Also, I find a discrepancy as to their need.
 20 My research shows that market is not growing. Idaho
 21 Power's bill of sales for the last 10 years have been
 22 essentially flat, if not declining. That's supported by
 23 reports from the US government and Idaho Power's own
 24 data.
 25 And thank you so much for your time.

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1 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 2 After Mr. Meyer, we will hear from Laurie, is
 3 it Solisz?
 4 MR. MIKE MEYER: My name is Mike Meyer. I
 5 live in Baker City. This will be one of them less
 6 effective comments.
 7 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Mr. Meyer, I think
 8 just for the record we do need an address more specific
 9 than just Baker City.
 10 MR. MIKE MEYER: And why do you need my
 11 address?
 12 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: So that we can
 13 provide you notice of the things that are happening.
 14 MR. MIKE MEYER: Do I -- mailing address?
 15 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Mailing address.
 16 MR. MIKE MEYER: Mailing address?
 17 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Yes.
 18 MR. MIKE MEYER: Is 3155 Grove Street, Baker
 19 City, Oregon.
 20 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 21 MR. MIKE MEYER: I find it unfathomable that
 22 anyone from Idaho, including Idaho Power, has the
 23 audacity to rape 71 miles of Baker County with what I
 24 think will be unnecessary and outdated towers by the
 25 time they're ever put in. And I also would like to

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1 shame anyone that would ever permit this to happen.
 2 Thank you.
 3 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 4 Following Ms. Solisz, we'll hear from Gail, is
 5 it Carbiener?
 6 MR. GAIL CARBIENER: Close.
 7 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Sorry for maiming
 8 names.
 9 MS. LAURIE SOLISZ: My name is Laurie Solisz.
 10 I'm a direct descendent of the land that this is going
 11 to go across. My mailing address is P.O. Box 1110,
 12 Baker County, Oregon.
 13 So what I have brought today, I'm not very
 14 high tech, but I have provided some pictures of how this
 15 will impact our property, which is directly below the
 16 Interpretive Center. I have four pictures here, and the
 17 shadow, which is so interesting how this works, this is
 18 what happens in the morning, sunrise, the shadow falls
 19 directly on the line where the transmission line is
 20 proposed, which I find very fascinating.
 21 We don't have -- we just -- and this is a
 22 picture of how the line will go across these hills. And
 23 I will leave these pictures with you. The little bump
 24 on the hill is the Interpretive Center. So if anyone
 25 thinks that this isn't going to interrupt what's going

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1 on with the Interpretive Center, which is a beautiful
 2 museum -- and if you people are not from here, I would
 3 highly recommend you going there. It is so inspiring.
 4 I cry every time I go. This bump is the Interpretive
 5 Center. So this is looking east. The Interpretive
 6 Center looks west, which is the towers are going to come
 7 up, supposedly not be able to be seen, under the
 8 Interpretive Center.
 9 So we have about 300 acres. We already bear,
 10 our particular property already bears the burden of the
 11 high-voltage 230 line. That was placed in 1950. That
 12 line, they gave my ancestors, who thought it was a good
 13 idea to help get electricity, a little bit of money.
 14 However, 60 years later, we still have the line on our
 15 property. It impacts our ability to do crops, it
 16 interrupts our grazing. They were sagging close to the
 17 ground. My husband was in jeopardy on his tractor this
 18 last year. There's not much maintenance that goes on
 19 with these lines.
 20 So the B2H, and you've already heard about the
 21 right-of-way difficulties that are going to be expected.
 22 We've already had impact from the B2H; people, they've
 23 entered our land without permission, claimed ignorance,
 24 they drive on our property, they've flown over with
 25 helicopters, interrupted the cattle. So we've already

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1 experienced disturbance. And everyone claims ignorance,
 2 Oh, we didn't mean to do that. Well, we didn't think,
 3 and so forth. But it happens, and we are the ones that
 4 bear that burden.
 5 Well, I guess I ran through all my thoughts.
 6 Any questions?
 7 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Do you want to leave
 8 the photos?
 9 MS. LAURIE SOLISZ: I would.
 10 And if you have any questions, you can always
 11 ask.
 12 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Any questions,
 13 Council? Thank you.
 14 MS. LAURIE SOLISZ: Thank you for listening.
 15 Thanks for coming.
 16 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: We will next, after
 17 we hear from you, we will hear from Wayne -- is it
 18 Kaaen?
 19 MR. WAYNE KAAEN: You're doing good on the
 20 names.
 21 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 22 MR. GAIL CARBIENER: My name is Gail
 23 Carbiener. I live in Bend, Oregon, on 2920 Northeast
 24 Connors Avenue. I represent the Oregon-California
 25 Trails Association. I have been before the Council

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1 before.
 2 Tonight I'm speaking a couple of times to the
 3 people behind me. Because if you read the literature
 4 that Idaho Power has provided in the fire prevention
 5 area, it's as if the California fires never existed.
 6 They have a sentence in there that says: "In operation,
 7 the B2H line will not significantly increase fire
 8 potential."
 9 Now, the State of California, and the day
 10 before yesterday the State of Nevada, have legislated
 11 that their utility companies prepare a detailed fire
 12 prevention plan. I have sent to the Chairman my letter
 13 with details on what I think Idaho Power should do.
 14 The other thing that I would like to talk to
 15 the people sitting behind me, is in reclamation. Idaho
 16 Power says that the power line will be active in
 17 perpetuity; that means forever. They provide no data,
 18 no references. 500-kilovolt power lines in the state of
 19 Oregon have begun in the 1980s. That's not a hundred
 20 years.
 21 What's more, in reclamation, they say because
 22 it's going to be forever, they're shifting the risk of
 23 reclaiming the land to the public for the first
 24 50 years, because they're not going to bond reclamation
 25 after and during from the time that it's in operation

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1 until the first 50 years. Now, that's like not insuring
 2 a new home because you don't think it's going to burn
 3 down until it gets old.
 4 They don't provide any data. Hard data. And
 5 what's more -- I'm looking at Todd -- what's more, it
 6 concerns me that the EFSC can approve without requiring
 7 more detail.
 8 Now, in the last 7 minutes, I have sent you
 9 this letter as well, and again, I'm talking to the
 10 people behind me, wearing my Oregon Trail cap. Exhibit
 11 BB, section 3.4.2, the conclusion regarding
 12 undergrounding the power line. Idaho Power continues to
 13 says it's too expensive. I have sent to Mr. Beyeler,
 14 the Chairman, and I don't know how far my letters go,
 15 pictures of a comparison of 3.7 miles down in Chino
 16 Hills, California, of a 500-kilovolt power line that was
 17 put underground for 3.7 miles. Almost every foot of
 18 that ditch had an infrastructure under the ground. That
 19 cost \$224 million.
 20 I've recommended, as I hope people in the
 21 audience have, that the line be put underground in front
 22 of the Interpretive Center.
 23 For illustration purposes, Idaho Power has
 24 used 1 1/2 miles and asked POWER Engineering, one of the
 25 consultants, it's a good firm, but it's a consultant

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1 that's working for Idaho Power, in the burying of a
 2 power line in Hailey-Sun Valley, Oregon [sic], that
 3 they're having difficulty with because of scenic views.
 4 POWER Engineering says this 1 1/2 miles here at the toe
 5 of the foothill, sagebrush off irrigated land will cost
 6 \$111 million.
 7 If it's just a straight line, it doesn't cost
 8 that much. In reality, they have not had a foot on the
 9 ground that they have documented. They've not turned
 10 over a shovel of dirt in front of that Interpretive
 11 Center that they've documented. I've documented the
 12 Chino Hills, and I've talked with those people. And
 13 they say it's probably 50,000, but that's their guess --
 14 50 million, excuse me.
 15 You will receive other letters from me rather
 16 than speaking this last 4 minutes, but I would certainly
 17 hope that you would seriously consider the
 18 undergrounding. POWER Engineering in their estimate
 19 states that they are a Level 5 estimate, based on their
 20 civil engineering standards. They have given the
 21 definition of a Level 5 as ratio, ballpark, blue sky,
 22 seat of the pants, idea study, prospect, estimate,
 23 concession, license, or guesstimate. That's their
 24 definitions. You've got to do better.
 25 Thank you very much.

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1 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 2 After we hear from Mr. Kaaen, we will hear
 3 from Bruce Owen. And if anybody else that has not yet,
 4 that wants to be heard tonight, if you have not
 5 completed a comment form, please do so and provide it to
 6 staff. I think we will, after Mr. Owen, we've run out
 7 of comments, people who want to comment at this point,
 8 so we will take a break after that. And if anybody else
 9 wants to be heard, we'll reconvene and hear from you.
 10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can we have it quieter
 11 in here? It's really noisy in the back. Can you
 12 address the noise in the back of the room, please.
 13 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Well, I know that we
 14 do have some people coming in to get their tacos and --
 15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's really hard to
 16 hear.
 17 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Is it?
 18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, it is.
 19 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: I'm sorry about
 20 that. And when you speak, if you'll speak into the
 21 microphone.
 22 MR. WAYNE KAAEN: Certainly.
 23 My name is Wayne Kaaen. I'm from Halfway,
 24 Oregon. Post Office Box 402, Halfway. I have property
 25 which B2H is impacting. Obviously that's why I'm here.

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1 I'd like to digress momentarily to put forth a
 2 brief history of where I'm coming from. No. 1, I've
 3 been here in this area long enough to remember some of
 4 the promises that were made by Idaho Power. Fish
 5 passage either fish ladder, trucks or with -- pardon me,
 6 thank you, Todd -- or with the construction of
 7 fish-raising facilities. In every case, they have
 8 waffled under these regulations to which is part of
 9 Oregon law.

10 I could go on and have reams of material I've
 11 collected on this. I'll get to some of the more recent
 12 things here. Idaho Power most recently went to Oregon
 13 asking about changing the laws about fish habitat in the
 14 Snake River. They managed to do it, not because Oregon
 15 felt it was appropriate, this was against Oregon law as
 16 it stood, but because our own politicians waffled
 17 underneath this.

18 This has been done over and over again. Most
 19 recently in the paper as of June 6, 2019, once again,
 20 our own politicians waffled under the regulations of
 21 fish habitat, the passage of Clean Water Acts. It goes
 22 on and on.

23 From a personal standpoint, the property to
 24 which I have that is being impacted, years ago, 20 years
 25 ago, we were required by Oregon state law to build

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1 another road that did not follow a tributary to Ladd
 2 Creek. That road was built because we were required by
 3 Oregon law to do it. This very same power line that B2H
 4 wants to put in impacts that same tributary. A 250-foot
 5 wide swath of barren ground to which they said they did
 6 not want a road, barren ground road next to the water
 7 source that would impact the redband trout.

8 Question to Oregon I have: Why is it I have
 9 to obey Oregon laws and Idaho Power does not?

10 The other thing I question about that, too, in
 11 terms of habitat, if you look at an aerial photograph of
 12 our place, it's the only place within miles that has
 13 old-growth timber, that has been a wildlife habitat in
 14 our family for 60 years. That, in effect, is going to
 15 be erased by this B2H line.

16 The question remains: Who's running Oregon;
 17 Idaho or the Oregon citizens?

18 CHAIRMAN BEYELER: I did have one question.
 19 MR. WAYNE KAAEN: Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN BEYELER: The nature of the lobbying
 21 that you have talked about with Idaho Power, that was
 22 with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife or the
 23 Oregon DEQ?

24 MR. WAYNE KAAEN: Near's I can tell it was
 25 both.

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1 CHAIRMAN BEYELER: Was the nature of it
 2 nitrogen supersaturation?

3 MR. WAYNE KAAEN: It had to do with water
 4 temperature, it had to do with fish passage, and it had
 5 to do with pollution in the river. Those three items
 6 are the items that I researched on.

7 CHAIRMAN BEYELER: Okay. Thank you.

8 MR. WAYNE KAAEN: This is all on the Internet
 9 that I have got out. And the last portion is my own
 10 personal experience. Everything before that is stuff
 11 that I extracted off the Internet and Oregon laws.

12 CHAIRMAN BEYELER: Will that be submitted?
 13 MR. WAYNE KAAEN: I thought I just submitted
 14 it.

15 CHAIRMAN BEYELER: I mean in writing, the
 16 article?

17 MR. WAYNE KAAEN: I can do that, but I cannot
 18 afford a dozen Philadelphia lawyers to defend me either.
 19 Idaho Power can and I can't. But I suppose I could get
 20 somebody to write up something for me. Would that be
 21 appropriate?

22 CHAIRMAN BEYELER: Yes.

23 MR. WAYNE KAAEN: Okay, Barry. Thank you very
 24 much for that comment. I appreciate it.

25 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: And if you submit

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1 it, please do so by July 23rd.

2 MR. WAYNE KAAEN: Boy, that's quite a time.
 3 That really puts me under the crunch. Okay. Thank you.

4 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 5 Mr. Owen?

6 And is there anybody on the phone that would
 7 like to give comment? Hearing none, we will take a
 8 break after we hear from Mr. Owen, probably about a
 9 15-minute break, and then we'll reconvene and then I
 10 have a comment card here, we'll hear from Idaho Power.

11 MR. BRUCE OWEN: My name is Bruce Owen. I
 12 live at 27910 Oxman Ranch Lane in Durkee, Oregon.

13 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Your street name
 14 again.

15 MR. BRUCE OWEN: 27910 Oxman Ranch Lane,
 16 Durkee.

17 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.

18 MR. BRUCE OWEN: You're welcome.

19 Twenty-five years ago, I retired and moved to
 20 a lifelong dream of mine, a ranch in the Durkee area. I
 21 bought it because of the scenic value and the isolation
 22 with that. And for 25 years I've lived happily on that
 23 ranch with the elk and the deer, and all the other game
 24 animals there.

25 There is a power corridor through Durkee right

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1 down the freeway. There's two roads on Highway 30,
 2 Interstate 84, and there is a railroad track with
 3 multiple tracks through Durkee. There's a gas line --
 4 two gas lines, as a matter of fact. And already at
 5 least one power line that I know of.
 6 And why they deviated from that direct route
 7 up the power corridor in Durkee, I have no idea. But
 8 they have put -- they've deviated to the southwest right
 9 through the middle of my ranch. I mean, right through
 10 the middle of my ranch.
 11 I've had some discussions with Idaho Power,
 12 and they have talked to me about maybe running it down
 13 the south border of my ranch and then up the west side.
 14 I said if worse comes to worse, I can agree to that.
 15 But then I found out that they won't even talk to me
 16 about it with any authority until after this meeting
 17 that we have now and after the Siting Commission comes
 18 up with their comments.
 19 So I really have no good feelings about what
 20 may happen. They've not promised me anything at all
 21 except that they would avoid my cabin and my house by
 22 the noise allotment area of 2,000 feet. Which, I mean,
 23 that's nice I guess. But still right through the middle
 24 of the ranch. It's been a lifelong dream, and I resent
 25 it very much.

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1 And you know, if it was in a direct route
 2 through the area, I could understand it. But they're
 3 actually leaving the power corridor by about 2 1/2 miles
 4 to come through my place. And for the life of me, I
 5 don't understand why. And I would appreciate it if
 6 someone would tell me the reason for that.
 7 Those are the comments I have. They're
 8 personal and I feel very strongly about them.
 9 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 10 MR. BRUCE OWEN: Do you have any questions?
 11 CHAIRMAN BEYELER: No.
 12 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Okay. It is
 13 2 minutes to 6:00. Why don't we take a break and we'll
 14 try and get everybody back and reconvene about 6:15.
 15 (Recess taken.)
 16 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: All right. Thanks
 17 everybody for taking your seat again. We're back on.
 18 We have one more commenter before we hear back
 19 from Idaho Power. And Commissioner Bruce Nickels wanted
 20 to make a statement?
 21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Off microphone.)
 22 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Ma'am, I was just
 23 clarifying that this is an opportunity to give your
 24 comment, but the Council is not going to be answering
 25 questions. But you'll have your opportunity to be heard

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1 tonight.
 2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.
 3 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Mr. Nickels. Thank
 4 you.
 5 COMMISSIONER BRUCE NICKELS: Thank you for
 6 making me first.
 7 So basically what I'm going to do is reiterate
 8 what Baker County's position is. And one, the first
 9 thing, there's no mitigation for the people that have
 10 been promised things from Idaho Power in Durkee. And
 11 the farm ground there is important to people. And
 12 there's been cases that there's other sites that are
 13 better.
 14 Anyway, that's what I wanted to say. They
 15 were promised they would be taken care of. That's now
 16 been taken away, for whatever reason, I don't know.
 17 There's also the Oregon Department of Energy.
 18 There hasn't been any analysis done of burial to
 19 mitigate the visual impact of the Interpretive Center or
 20 compensatory mitigation for Baker County. That
 21 Interpretive Center is very important to tourism for our
 22 whole county and all of eastern Oregon. Tourism is very
 23 important to Baker, and we have a hard enough time
 24 trying to build that up and then you take away the
 25 visual aspect of it, and you're making us go backwards

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1 again. And we get nothing other than grief out of it.
 2 The last thing, you didn't comply with Baker
 3 County's land use plan. We need a substation if you're
 4 going to put this thing here. And I know substations
 5 cost a lot of money but Baker County is getting really
 6 nothing out of this but grief. And with power, extra
 7 power for Baker, we have a chance of some economic
 8 development. We need some or a lot of power for
 9 manufacturing and also business. If we don't have that,
 10 Baker County has little chance to grow because we don't
 11 have enough power; we can't attract those kind of
 12 businesses.
 13 So that's all I have to say. Other than the
 14 fact I personally don't want to look at the dang lines
 15 because I'm living very close to the freeway so I will
 16 be able to see them, whether they're brown or whatever
 17 color you want to make them. So I really don't want to
 18 look at those. You should have put them on the other
 19 side of somebody else's hill.
 20 So thank you.
 21 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you. And
 22 we'll need the green sheet.
 23 MR. BRUCE NICKELS: Yes. I told you I'd give
 24 you that.
 25 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: And I don't know if

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1 you provided your address at the outset but if you could
 2 do that.
 3 MR. BRUCE NICKELS: I live at 1140 F Street in
 4 Baker City, Oregon. I am a Baker County Commissioner.
 5 And I have a phone number and everybody can call me and
 6 talk to me about it.
 7 Thank you.
 8 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you,
 9 Mr. Nickels.
 10 And did you want to --
 11 MS. CHRISTINE MENOLASCINA: Yes.
 12 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: So this is, is it
 13 Christine Menolascina?
 14 MS. CHRISTINE MENOLASCINA: Menolascina.
 15 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Menolascina, okay.
 16 We'll hear from Ms. Menolascina and then we
 17 will also hear from Fuji Kreider before we -- I'm going
 18 to have Idaho Power go last just so it can have the
 19 opportunity to respond to some of the concerns that have
 20 been raised. So if you want to have a seat.
 21 MS. CHRISTINE MENOLASCINA: I'll stand. It's
 22 Christine, C-h-r-i-s-t-i-n-e, Menolascina is
 23 M-e-n-o-l-a-s-c-i-n-a.
 24 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: If you could provide
 25 an address for us, please.

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1 MR. CHRISTINE MENOLASCINA: Um-hmm. It's PO
 2 Box 84, Baker City, Oregon 97814.
 3 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 4 MS. CHRISTINE MENOLASCINA: Hi. So here in
 5 Baker, I think people have felt railroaded a little bit.
 6 I've known this meeting is coming. I didn't know about
 7 the previous meetings.
 8 So my understanding is Idaho Power needs more
 9 power for its citizens, and it does have some of eastern
 10 Oregon, Malheur County, which is I believe east of here,
 11 more Ontario, and then to Blackfoot, Idaho. So it
 12 really doesn't affect too much of Baker or Boardman, or
 13 any of the beautiful land it will be going through.
 14 Though a lot of it will be on irrigation and
 15 farmland, a lot of it will be going through some of our
 16 favorite places; La Grande, Pendleton, over the
 17 mountains, where truck drivers from all over the country
 18 see that, travelers from all over the country see that.
 19 Down 84 here where people traveling from Utah, Idaho,
 20 and everywhere else go down this freeway.
 21 I understand it goes through Morgan Lake, one
 22 of my favorite fishing places, along with probably many
 23 others that people aren't aware of, because a lot of
 24 people don't get the paper here or a lot of people don't
 25 think that it will affect them. But when the windmills

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1 were put up not far from here, just up on the ridge, I'm
 2 sure everybody can point out where it is or what they
 3 call the Stonehenge snow fence, which was an eyesore and
 4 not correctly placed, was put along 84 up here.
 5 People do notice. But they're at home sitting
 6 on Facebook pushing "like," but I am not; I am here
 7 because this is what makes a difference.
 8 So my question is, since everybody is here --
 9 is there a representative from Idaho Power here? No?
 10 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: No, I believe we
 11 will hear from somebody from Idaho Power.
 12 MS. CHRISTINE MENOLASCINA: And there is
 13 somebody here in this room that can hear my voice?
 14 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Yes.
 15 MS. CHRISTINE MENOLASCINA: Okay. So to that
 16 person who has pitched a bid to whoever to build these
 17 and start finding out everything there is to know about
 18 where to put 80 towers, how many towers are there going
 19 to be in Baker County? How many towers are there going
 20 to be from Boardman to the border? How many towers
 21 along 84? How many towers along a mile?
 22 There are federal regulations that I'm sure
 23 that they know about. State regulations. I grew up in
 24 southern California; I know these towers. They are
 25 God-awful, unsightly, noisy, cancer-causing interruption

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1 of solitude and peace of mind, knowing that something is
 2 humming overhead, drawing power from out of your area,
 3 crossing through your yards, over your children, your
 4 food, your house, your land, to eastern Idaho. Where in
 5 return, they will give us, we can draw off the solar
 6 power, 4 percent they get from solar power which they
 7 buy from Phoenix because they can't guarantee sunshine.
 8 We're in Oregon; nobody guarantees sunshine.
 9 So why not run it down the Snake River?
 10 Because it's a couple miles shorter. Why not run it
 11 through eastern Washington and down the border? Because
 12 it affects everybody. Yes, everybody needs power. I
 13 use blow dryers, I like coffee in the morning, everybody
 14 does. But these are gigantic, monster towers. And you
 15 don't put just one or we don't know how many, somebody
 16 knows. I have a friend who puts up solar or puts up the
 17 windmills, and before it even hits the table, those
 18 engineers know that -- this is what I was told -- it
 19 depends on how many feet it rises above the previous
 20 tower.
 21 Now, we all go to La Grande to go shopping at
 22 Walmart because we have one grocery store in this town.
 23 So going from Walmart, do you think you're going to stay
 24 the same level or do you think you go up 2 feet, 5 feet,
 25 a hundred feet? How many towers are going to go in

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1 between here and La Grande? What do you think that's
 2 going to look like out in that cow pasture? Are the
 3 cows going to be happy? No. They aren't happy now when
 4 it gets hot or it snows. I'm not happy when it gets hot
 5 and it snows. There's a lot that needs to be said and
 6 done here.
 7 Now, Idaho could rectify this by putting in a
 8 natural gas plant. It's expensive but they're close to
 9 Wyoming, and there's lots of natural gas there. And
 10 Wyoming is not that pretty of a state. I've been there
 11 many times, I used to drive long haul from Boise to
 12 Chicago twice a week. Lots of open area from Blackfoot
 13 to Sinclair. They have the big towers, they have the
 14 natural gas. There's a natural gas pipeline that runs
 15 to the West Coast. Put it in, extend it.
 16 Don't put the towers through this valley
 17 because we're going to stop you. And I like to talk a
 18 lot. I have nothing to lose. Shoot, I've been camping
 19 for a day and look at this, I still look good.
 20 So come on, really, we need to think about
 21 this. We need to get together, inform the people,
 22 there's got to be a solution. I know this needs to
 23 happen. We need to get eastern Oregon bigger, we need
 24 to help Idaho. I get that. But we cannot do it running
 25 down 84 where everyone sees. We cannot do that.

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1 There's a big mountain up there, I know there's a
 2 airstrip because I fly. Put it up there. Go over the
 3 mountain. It's going to cost more.
 4 But even though you're not going to start
 5 building until 2023 when most of us will be gone or in a
 6 home or not able to remember this meeting, it's going to
 7 make a difference on the kids, and the kids that are
 8 going to come and visit you in that retirement center.
 9 Not in Salem, not in Washington, DC. But every rancher,
 10 and I heard somebody saying, Oh, we're not going to get
 11 the promises. You know, it's politics. Forget about
 12 the promises, we all know how that worked out. So
 13 that's off the board.
 14 We're all going to get together, we're going
 15 to be informed and we're not going to go on Facebook and
 16 push "like" any more. We're going to get people to
 17 these meetings. The '60s were great. We need to go
 18 there.
 19 Thank you.
 20 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 21 MS. FUJI KREIDER: I'm Fuji Kreider, 60366
 22 Marvin Road, La Grande. That's all you need; right?
 23 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Yes. If you would
 24 spell your last name.
 25 MS. FUJI KREIDER: K-r-e-i-d-e-r.

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1 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 2 MS. FUJI KREIDER: I was not planning on
 3 speaking tonight but a couple things came up that I've
 4 been hearing about and I just want to make a couple
 5 comments. It won't even take the whole time I don't
 6 think.
 7 I am with the Stop B2H Coalition. I'm a board
 8 member. We are not a NIMBY organization; we are
 9 activists fighting the line entirely. I'm not talking
 10 about moving the line; we do not want the line.
 11 However, you will hear, as you heard tonight
 12 and you'll hear all along the way, and all the public
 13 comments will be directed towards your standards and
 14 about the siting of the line, all the impacts that
 15 you've heard tonight and more, so I won't get into that.
 16 What I do want to just say is I related to the
 17 cost and some of the issues that I've heard tonight
 18 mentioned. Things are changing for Idaho Power.
 19 Technology is changing radically and the costs are also
 20 changing. I started in the 2015 OPUC docket. Since
 21 that time I've attended every Idaho Power Integrated
 22 Resource Planning meeting in Boise. I go every month;
 23 anywhere from two to five of us attend those meetings
 24 every month. We went through eight meetings and a
 25 workshop in the 2017 IRP and the PUC docket. We've been

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1 to every meeting in the 2019 IRP. The docket will be
 2 opened in the summer when OPC opens it up.
 3 Much of what I -- well, generally a lot of
 4 what I talk about with cost I will be referring to the
 5 PUC on to protect the ratepayers. But I do want you to
 6 know that this B2H line is not the only option. It is
 7 not the only option for Idaho Power. And the options
 8 keep changing. As technology keeps changing, they have
 9 more and more options.
 10 Also, the cost of things are going down. So
 11 back in the 2017 IRP days, when we insisted put
 12 batteries, put stored, put some alternative technologies
 13 into your Integrated Resource Plan, it was like, Oh, no,
 14 no, no, that's too far out. Ten, 20 years from now I'll
 15 say, Well, it seems like it's coming awfully sooner than
 16 that. Talk to the Idaho Power executives and stuff that
 17 are in the room, Oh, I agree with you, Fuji, yes,
 18 distributed generation and distribution is the way of
 19 the future, but that's still 20 years out.
 20 Well, next round IRP 2 years later, we're a
 21 year and a half later, solar and batteries are in their
 22 Integrated Resource Plan. They just signed on with
 23 Jackpot Holdings, the cheapest solar in the country.
 24 Things keep changing.
 25 Now, when you hear tonight a number of things

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1 that people have talked about, the federal corridor, the
 2 central Oregon road, go to the federal corridor. Why
 3 don't you go that way, that's what Baker County has been
 4 saying from the beginning. Idaho Power, No, that's a
 5 hundred miles out of the way. That will cost too much.
 6 Burying the line. Oh, can't bury the line, it
 7 might cost as much as Chino Hills that went under an
 8 interstate and shopping mall and a whole -- I mean,
 9 okay, that's what they wanted to use.
 10 Substations, dropping off some pops along the
 11 way, some substations, the cost of that. All these
 12 costs, why are they saying it's too expensive or we
 13 can't do it? I'll tell you why. Because that changes
 14 the cost of the B2H portfolio.
 15 In the 2019 round, there were 24 portfolios to
 16 beat Idaho Power's need. We won't even get into all
 17 that stuff yet, we'll maybe talk about that tomorrow in
 18 La Grande. But to meet their need now, this go-round in
 19 2019, we listened to and they created in their computer
 20 modeling 24 portfolios; 12 with B2H, 12 without B2H.
 21 B2H portfolio is the cheapest portfolio.
 22 If you added one of those things, the federal
 23 corridor, the burying the line or some substations, B2H
 24 is no longer the least-cost portfolio in Idaho Power's
 25 toolbox.

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1 So we're not going to go away. We'll take
 2 this to the PUCs in both states. We keep on, we keep
 3 going. You'll hear more tomorrow, and all of our stuff
 4 will be in writing of course by the deadline.
 5 Thank you.
 6 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 7 Is there a last call for anybody to give
 8 comment before we have Mr. Stokes up? Is there anybody
 9 on the phone that's listening in that would like to give
 10 comment? Okay. Hearing none, we'll hear from
 11 Mr. Stokes.
 12 MR. MARK STOKES: Good evening. My name is
 13 Mark Stokes. Address is 1221 West Idaho Street, Boise,
 14 Idaho 83702. I'm an engineering project leader for
 15 Idaho Power, and the project leader for the Boardman to
 16 Hemingway project.
 17 Here tonight, I was not going to make any
 18 specific comments on everything that's been said this
 19 evening but I did want to avail myself to answer any
 20 questions that Council members may have.
 21 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Any questions,
 22 Council, for Mr. Stokes?
 23 CHAIRMAN BEYELER: No.
 24 VICE CHAIRMAN JENKINS: I do have a question
 25 for Mark.

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1 Mark, one of the issues that has been raised
 2 is invasive weed spread and whether or not Idaho Power
 3 is going to be submitting an invasive weed management
 4 plan. I believe that was referred to in the
 5 application. Can you talk a little bit about that.
 6 MR. MARK STOKES: Yes, certainly, Vice
 7 Chairman.
 8 There's a lot of plans like the noxious weed
 9 plan that were, we call them frameworks at this point,
 10 that were developed as a part of the NEPA process,
 11 working through that with BLM. And the intent all along
 12 has been that when we get to the point where we have
 13 more certainty on the route and other things associated
 14 with the line, that we would then go back and flesh out
 15 those plans, put all the details in. And it would be at
 16 that point that we would expect to work through each of
 17 the counties to make sure that the specific plans met
 18 their needs.
 19 So it's certainly in our plan to go out and do
 20 that. And that will all happen here roughly a year and
 21 a half, 2 years when we develop what's called the
 22 construction POD, or plan of development, which is a
 23 pretty sizable document that will include all of those
 24 other plans. There will be things in there that address
 25 section 106, cultural issues, fire prevention and

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1 protection plans. There's a lot of them. We can go
 2 back and look at the list if we need to. But we
 3 certainly do plan on addressing those.
 4 VICE CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Thank you.
 5 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Any other questions?
 6 Thank you.
 7 What is going to happen on our end now is we,
 8 those of us, the Council members and the DOE people and
 9 me, we will be here until 8:00 or close to 8:00 in case
 10 there's anybody that comes in that wants to provide
 11 public testimony. But for now, it's 6:38 and we'll
 12 recess and we will reconvene if somebody does join us
 13 and want to give testimony.
 14 So thank you everybody.
 15 (Hearing recessed at 6:38 p.m.)
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1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2 I, BEVERLY A. BENJAMIN, CSR No. 710, Certified
3 Shorthand Reporter, certify:


4 That the foregoing proceedings were taken before
5 me at the time and place therein set forth;

6 That the testimony and all objections made were
7 recorded stenographically by me and transcribed by me or
8 under my direction;

9 That the foregoing is a true and correct record
10 of all testimony given, to the best of my ability;

11 I further certify that I am not a relative or
12 employee of any attorney or party, nor am I financially
13 interested in the action.

14 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I set my hand and seal this
15 27th day of June 2019.

16
17
18 

19 _____
20 BEVERLY A. BENJAMIN, CSR
21 Notary Public
22 P.O. Box 2636
23 Boise, Idaho 83701-2636
24
25

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