

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 20, 2019 - 4:30 p.m.

Location: Blue Mountain Conference Center
404 12th Street
La Grande, 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 SPEAKERS:

13 Sandy Ryman Anita Metlen Ryan Brown

14 David Moyal Joe Horst Ashley O'Toole

15 JoAnne Marlette Gail Carbiener Kerry Tweit

16 Virginia Mammen Irene Gilbert Michael McAllister

17 Adrian Henderson John Williams Charles Gillis

18 Michael Rosenbaum Peter Barry John Winters

19 Lois Barry Steven Clements Bill DeLashmutt

20 John Anderson Greg Larkin Rod Muilenburg

21 Jonathan White Sheri Larkin Irwin Smutz

22 Susan Badger-Jones William Whitaker Jeri Watson

23 Dwight Dill Thomas Thompson Mark Stokes

24 Brian Kelly Norm Cimon Dave Stanish

25 Randy Siltanen

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

2 June 20, 2019 - 4:30 p.m.

3 La Grande, Oregon

4

5 CHAIRMAN BEYELER: Good evening. I would like

6 to call the June 20, 2019, meeting of the Energy

7 Facility Siting Council to order.

8 Secretary, please call the roll.

9 SECRETARY CORNETT: Barry Beyeler?

10 CHAIRMAN BEYELER: Present.

11 SECRETARY CORNETT: Hanley Jenkins?

12 VICE CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Here.

13 SECRETARY CORNETT: Kent Howe?

14 COUNCILLOR HOWE: Here.

15 SECRETARY CORNETT: Marcy Grail?

16 COUNCILLOR GRAIL: Here.

17 SECRETARY CORNETT: Betty Roppe?

18 COUNCILLOR ROPPE: Here.

19 SECRETARY CORNETT: Confirm Betty Roppe is on

20 the phone.

21 You have a quorum, Mr. Chair.

22 CHAIRMAN BEYELER: Thank you, sir.

23 Are there any agenda modifications?

24 SECRETARY CORNETT: Mr. Chair, there are no

25 agenda modifications at this time.

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1 CHAIRMAN BEYELER: I'd like to express

2 appreciation to the Blue Mountain Conference Center and

3 the Oregon National Guard Armory for providing the venue

4 for the size audience we were expecting tonight.

5 I have the following announcements: Comment

6 cards, green cards, if you wish to speak tonight, you

7 need to get with -- they are at the back table and then

8 hand those to either Max Farbman or Sarah Esterson back

9 in the back of the room so she can get them to the

10 hearing's officer.

11 The little cards have the -- you can get all

12 the items associated with B2H that come in the future.

13 And this is for the general delivery of Oregon

14 Department of Energy information for presiding Council.

15 I have the following announcements. Please

16 put your phone on silent so as to not interrupt the

17 meeting. Those participating via the AT&T phone line,

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

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

20 after you finish your other call. If you would like to

21 address the Council, please do not do use the

22 speakerphone feature because it creates feedback.

23 For those signed into the webinar, please do

24 not broadcast your webcam.

25 Energy Facility Siting Council meeting shall

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1 be conducted in a respectful and courteous manner, where

2 everyone is allowed to state their positions at the

3 appropriate times, consistent with the Council rules and

4 procedures.

5 Willful, accusatory, offensive, insulting,

6 threatening, insolent or slanderous comments which

7 disrupt the Council meeting are not acceptable.

8 Pursuant to Oregon Administrative Rule Chapter

9 345-011-0080, any person who engages in unacceptable

10 conduct which disrupts the meeting, may be expelled.

11 I am now going to hand the meeting over to

12 Alison Greene Webster, who is the Council-appointed

13 hearing officer for the Boardman to Hemingway Project

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

15 hearing.

16 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you, Chair.

17 And welcome everybody that is here this evening here in

18 person and the people on the phone.

19 Before we get started, I believe Council

20 Member Grail has a comment to make. So Council Member

21 Grail, please.

22 COUNCILLOR GRAIL: For the record, this is

23 Councillor Grail. I do not intend to vote on any Energy

24 Facility Siting Council actions relevant to the proposed

25 Boardman to Hemingway transmission line. I was employed

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1 by Pacific Power from approximately 2001 until 2006. I
 2 have no financial interest in Pacific Power, PacifiCorp
 3 or any other related entity. However, as a condition of
 4 my accepting appointment to this Council, I agreed to
 5 recuse myself from voting on any projects owned by
 6 Pacific Power.

7 Given Pacific Power's involvement with the
 8 proposed Boardman to Hemingway transmission line, I will
 9 be recusing myself from voting on any matters requiring
 10 Council action on this project.

11 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.

12 This is the public hearing in Union County on
 13 the draft proposed order, which we shortened to DPO, on
 14 the application for site certificate for the Boardman to
 15 Hemingway transmission line. I am Alison Webster, a
 16 presiding administrative law judge at the Oregon Office
 17 of Administrative Hearings, and I am the EFSC-appointed
 18 hearing officer for these hearings. I am serving as the
 19 presiding officer for these series of five hearings that
 20 we are holding. I am independent from the Department of
 21 Energy and my role here tonight is basically to
 22 facilitate this hearing so that it all goes smoothly and
 23 everybody that wants to be heard can be heard.

24 Today is June 20, 2019. It is now 4:33 p.m.
 25 We are located at the Blue Mountain Conference Center in

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1 La Grande, Oregon.

2 Before we hear public comment, Kellen
 3 Tardaewether, from the Oregon Department of Energy, and
 4 she is the senior siting analyst and lead on the
 5 Boardman to Hemingway transmission line facility, and
 6 she'll provide a county overview of the proposed
 7 transmission line within Union County, and she'll
 8 summarize the opportunities for the public to
 9 participate in the EFSC process at the DPO phase.

10 MS. TARDAEWETHER: Thank you, Ms. Greene
 11 Webster.

12 For the record, my name is Kellen
 13 Tardaewether. I'm the senior siting analyst at the
 14 Oregon Department of Energy. I am sitting over here
 15 next to Council Member Howe because at the previous
 16 hearings I was sitting at the testimony table, and the
 17 majority of my presentation is not only for Council's
 18 information, to give them a preview of the
 19 county-specific items that are in the draft proposed
 20 order and in the application, but the vast majority of
 21 my presentation is actually for you folks. So I don't
 22 want to sit with my back to you. So I'm going to be
 23 mostly talking to you and to Council members.

24 As the hearing officer mentioned, I'm going to
 25 be providing an overview and then I'm going to go over

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1 some items on how to generate and provide helpful
 2 comments on the record at these hearings and during the
 3 comment period.

4 I hope folks can see this okay. This is what
 5 we call the procedural history. Really, the main
 6 takeaway from this slide is that this project has been
 7 around for a while. Most of you have also been around
 8 for a while and probably are familiar with this
 9 transmission line proposal.

10 The applicant began the state process, I refer
 11 to it as the "EFSC" process. It's E-F-S-C, which is the
 12 Energy Facility Siting Council, which is essentially the
 13 state process. So when I say "EFSC process," that's
 14 what I mean.

15 So the applicant submitted its notice of
 16 intent in 2010. You'll see that there's a series of
 17 milestones that happened, and then there is this pause
 18 from like 2014 to 2017. In that time the applicant
 19 opted to essentially pause the state process, what we
 20 are here doing now, as they went through the federal
 21 review process, and most of you are familiar with that.
 22 It was led by the Bureau of Land Management or BLM, and
 23 it's the NEPA review process.

24 So the applicant waited to proceed through
 25 that process to get the kind of final route as a result

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1 of that process and restarted or resubmitted their
 2 application in 2017. And then you'll kind of see from
 3 2017 there has been a series of, in relative time, in
 4 B2H time, fairly quickly that lead us up to this point.

5 So we are at the hearings now. So looking
 6 ahead, this is for Council, and we've gone over this,
 7 but this is also for you folks of what to expect. This
 8 is the last public hearing where you can provide written
 9 and oral testimony this week. However, next week there
 10 are -- we are going to be doing the same hearings on
 11 Wednesday and Thursday in Pendleton and Boardman.

12 So once that hearing closes, that is the last
 13 of the public hearings, which is the opportunity to
 14 provide oral testimony. However, your opportunity to
 15 provide written comments stays open until July 23rd. So
 16 that's an important thing to note that there are still
 17 opportunities. So, for instance, if your neighbor or
 18 somebody you know who is interested is maybe out of
 19 town, they can attend the other ones if they are back
 20 because there's also not a restriction on being a
 21 resident of a particular county being able to
 22 participate and provide testimony at any of the
 23 hearings.

24 After the record closes, so the comment period
 25 closes on that July 23rd, we, the Department of Energy,

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1 the Oregon Department of Energy, we're going to take all
 2 of the comments we received and are going to respond to
 3 them. And then at a future Council meeting, I don't
 4 know which Council meeting yet because it just depends
 5 on how many comments are received and how long it takes,
 6 but the next step will be the Council's review of draft
 7 proposed order. And this is where I or another
 8 Department staff present to the Council in as much
 9 detail as humanly possible and at a meeting, will
 10 present the draft proposed order. And then we will also
 11 present to Council how the Department addressed comments
 12 we received. So that is going to happen at a future
 13 Council meeting.

14 And then after that we will issue a proposed
 15 order, which is the document that has the response to
 16 the comments. It then will have direction from Council
 17 and any responses from the applicant in it. When the
 18 proposed order is issued, that is the notice of
 19 contested case.

20 So anybody commenting during this comment time
 21 frame, that is what preserves your right to potentially
 22 participate in the contested case later. So that's why
 23 this is so important.

24 So for the folks in the back, this may be a
 25 little bit small map. This is from the application.

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1 I'm going to stay on this slide for a little bit, and
 2 hopefully it won't put people to sleep.

3 But the intent of this slide is to talk about
 4 specific items and siting constraints and opportunities
 5 within Union County. I would like to point out and talk
 6 about siting, which means the location of or locating a
 7 facility. I like talking about it in the context of
 8 opportunities and constraints because there are ways of
 9 locating energy facilities that minimize impacts, and
 10 that would be considered an opportunity. And then there
 11 is other constraints which are resources that the
 12 applicant sites the facility to avoid or reduce these
 13 impacts.

14 On the maps here, the green, if you can see
 15 them, is Forest Service land, and there is a little bit
 16 of yellow, the yellow portions are BLM-owned land.
 17 These are intended to be high level; they are not
 18 intended to have a lot of detail. We do have maps that
 19 have a lot more detail where you can kind of zoom in to
 20 the area where you live in the application and online.

21 So for the proposed route in Union County
 22 there is approximately 40 miles of proposed transmission
 23 line. Some of the siting opportunities are that the
 24 facility is sited within the Wallowa-Whitman National
 25 Forest utility corridor, and that seems kind of

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1 counterintuitive that they are in a utility corridor
 2 through a forest, but it's a federally-designated
 3 utility corridor. That utility corridor also passes
 4 through the Blue Mountain for a scenic corridor; so
 5 there is some areas that cross into that.

6 On that note and related to that, this is also
 7 for Council's information to kind of give them an idea
 8 on what some of you folks may be commenting on tonight.

9 With respect to forest land, because there are
 10 forest lands within this region, as you folks know,
 11 there is in the land use section of the draft proposed
 12 order, there is a discussion of Goal 4 forest lands and
 13 a goal exception, and kind of the notes, and that's on
 14 page, starts on page 222.

15 But the interesting thing about that goal,
 16 that difference, is that the applicant is proposing a
 17 300-foot right-of-way in Goal 4 forest land; so
 18 basically forest land, which is a wider right-of-way
 19 than in other areas that are not forest lands. And I
 20 know that there are many concerns about the recent
 21 forest fires down in California, et cetera. And so this
 22 is one area where the wider right-of-way is intended for
 23 several purposes, but one of them is to reduce potential
 24 vegetation within the right-of-way that may cause any
 25 fire issues.

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1 The other areas in the draft proposed order
 2 and in the attachments where one can look if you're
 3 concerned about fires and you're wondering what the
 4 applicant is proposing on how to reduce the risks from
 5 fires, there is a Vegetation Management Plan that is an
 6 attachment to the draft proposed order. There is also
 7 the right-of-way clearing assessment, which is also
 8 attached to the draft proposed order. Both of those
 9 kind of outline how the applicant, at what frequencies
 10 they are going to go through and clear vegetation at the
 11 intervals.

12 Also, in the general standard of review, I
 13 think it's a thrilling section of the draft proposed
 14 order, there is also conditions of approval that will
 15 appear in the site certificate that outline when
 16 inspections would need to be done and when reporting
 17 would have to be provided, and those items will be
 18 included in it.

19 Folks know that the Ladd Marsh Wildlife area
 20 is near La Grande. It's actually a really interesting
 21 area -- well, to go and visit, we have gone and visited,
 22 but also with respect to an area that is protected under
 23 the Council standards and the language under the Council
 24 standards. So Ladd Marsh Wildland area is talked about
 25 in the Protected Areas, under the Protected Areas.

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1 In the draft proposed order, beginning on page
 2 240 -- and on the next line I'm going to talk about the
 3 alternative routes in a little bit more -- but in the
 4 context of Ladd Marsh there is a proposed route and then
 5 there is the alternative route. And there are
 6 recommended conditions of approval with respect to
 7 the -- if either route is selected, there's a condition
 8 of approval that it would apply to the proposed route,
 9 meaning that the applicant would be required to
 10 coordinate with ODFW who manages Ladd Marsh.
 11 And then the protected area is condition
 12 No. 2, applies to the Morgan Lake Alternative, which
 13 that condition actually says there would not be any
 14 facility components allowed to be sited within the
 15 boundary of Ladd Marsh. So that's just a couple notes
 16 on that.
 17 And then Oregon Trail. So there are several
 18 Oregon Trail segments in Union County and also that are
 19 potentially impacted within the analysis area. The
 20 Oregon Trail, along with a lot of other resources, are
 21 discussed in several different places in the draft
 22 proposed order. But I just wanted to point out one of
 23 the segments of the Oregon Trail within Union County
 24 that's discussed in the draft proposed order is Whiskey
 25 Creek. And then I wanted to point out on page 408 of

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1 the draft proposed order we have the recommended
 2 historic, cultural, archaeological condition 1, which
 3 actually requires the applicant in their design to
 4 design the facility to avoid direct impacts on the
 5 Oregon Trail. That is not just Union County; that is to
 6 Oregon Trail resources.
 7 So that's just something to keep in mind, that
 8 those are direct impacts to any segment of the Oregon
 9 Trail that would be avoided.
 10 I'm going to talk about -- I see Morgan Lake
 11 is on here, but I'm going to talk about it a little bit
 12 more on the next slide.
 13 This is really small and you probably can't
 14 read it, which is okay, because I'm not going to read it
 15 in any detail. These are taken from the application,
 16 Exhibit C, and these tables are also within the draft
 17 proposed order. What they do is they say how many
 18 facility components are in Union County for the proposed
 19 route and the alternative route. So it has the number
 20 of towers and multiuse areas, which are like
 21 construction areas.
 22 The main thing, and I have reiterated this at
 23 the last hearing, so I'm going to kind of reiterate with
 24 more specificity tonight, is how the Council's process
 25 treats alternatives.

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1 Now, I know a lot of folks have participated
 2 in the siting process during the NEPA review, and the
 3 NEPA review is the federal process, and the Bureau of
 4 Land Management issued its preferred route in its record
 5 of decision. As folks are familiar with, it was a long
 6 process, and we weighed several alternatives, and the
 7 end result of the federal process was the federal
 8 agency, the BLM, asserting preference and basically
 9 saying this is the preferred route, this is the route
 10 that's issued in the record of decision.
 11 The Council's process is what we described as
 12 a standards-based review process. So it does not result
 13 in the Council asserting a preference on a route. The
 14 Council is tasked with evaluating the applicant's
 15 proposal in this application against all of the Council
 16 standards.
 17 So really, an applicant for any facility can
 18 propose any array of routes or alternatives, and the
 19 Council will go through each one and state: Does it
 20 meet all of the standards or doesn't it? So it's
 21 possible you could have three alternatives or three
 22 routes and, say, two meet all of the Council standards
 23 and get it approved, and one doesn't meet a standard or
 24 several standards, and so, therefore, does not get
 25 approved, or all routes are approved. In that situation

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1 the applicant can decide which route they would go with.
 2 So it's an important thing. Standards-based
 3 review is the Council is going to review all of the
 4 alternatives in the proposed route that are proposed in
 5 the application. Now, this is a wrinkle here because we
 6 know that there is the Morgan Lake alternative, which is
 7 right over here, and then the proposed route. And as
 8 folks know, what's missing is what was called the Glass
 9 Hill alternative. The Glass Hill route was the one that
 10 was issued in the BLM's ROD. It is not in this
 11 application. However, the portions on the Morgan Lake
 12 alternative cross the same areas as the Glass Hill on
 13 federal lands. It's a nuance, but I guess my point is
 14 that Council cannot review that alternative because it's
 15 not in the application.
 16 So really, in your comments tonight, it would
 17 be most useful for Council to focus on how the proposed
 18 route and/or Morgan Lake alternative do or do not meet
 19 the Council's standards, because even though there is
 20 that Glass Hill alternative in the federal permitting
 21 process, it's not in this application, and so the
 22 Council can't really do anything with that.
 23 I hope that makes sense, and I can talk more
 24 about it if anybody has questions.
 25 So lastly -- I just have a few more slides and

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1 then we will start the public testimony. Speaking of
 2 the Morgan Lake alternative, as folks know, Morgan Lake
 3 is a site that tourists visit, the locals visit, it's
 4 very popular with recreation.
 5 In the recreation section of the draft
 6 proposed order, there is -- we discussed Morgan Lake
 7 Park, which is managed by the City of La Grande. And
 8 there is actually the recommended recreation condition
 9 1, where the Department imposed modifications to the
 10 towers to use a different, a shorter tower and a
 11 different tower design to reduce the visual impacts to
 12 recreational opportunities at the park. So that's an
 13 example of how visual impacts were mitigated, and that
 14 would only apply, of course, if that alternative was
 15 selected.
 16 So let's see. I can answer more questions,
 17 but I'm going to move on with that because I actually
 18 don't have very much time for my portion here.
 19 My next couple slides -- for the folks that
 20 attended, thank you. The informational meetings on the
 21 complete application, these slides are from there, but
 22 I'm just going to kind of quickly go over them.
 23 Ms. Alison Greene Webster, she's going to go over the
 24 specific details that we have to procedurally go over to
 25 give you folks guidance for how to best submit comments,

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1 and I'm going to try to do that in a way that is most
 2 helpful to you.
 3 So folks received the notice of the DPO, which
 4 had information about these hearings and the comment
 5 period. This is another slide, there's lots of words on
 6 it. There's two concepts here. Basically, one, the
 7 first bullet point is the timing. Time matters. The
 8 time to comment is now, it's at one of these hearings in
 9 writing or in oral testimony or in writing to the
 10 Department before the close of the record, which at this
 11 time is July 23rd.
 12 The second part of this slide is the content
 13 of your comments. And this is to preserve your right to
 14 participate later in the automatic contested case in the
 15 Council's review process.
 16 So to participate in the -- yes, to
 17 participate later, there's this term -- I'm so sorry, I
 18 swear we didn't do it, but they say "sufficient
 19 specificity." I know it's vague. What does that mean?
 20 That is what it is. So we have some guidance, and I'll
 21 get to that.
 22 This bottom one also comes from rule, which
 23 kind of lends to sufficient specificity. It says: A
 24 person must present facts that support a person's
 25 position on the issue. And so I don't know if folks can

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1 see this slide again too well, but it's examples, as
 2 best we can give, of effective commenting as compared to
 3 like ineffective commenting.
 4 So examples of effective comments are comments
 5 that reference a specific Council standard or a rule or
 6 a statute, and then you provide specific information of
 7 how information, either in the application or in the
 8 draft proposed order or DPO, do or don't meet that
 9 standard or rule or statute.
 10 Effective comments, another example is stating
 11 supporting facts in comments and attaching reference
 12 material. So if you have studies or reference
 13 materials, provide those, but help us understand what
 14 you're seeing so we -- when I say "we," the Department
 15 and Council -- so we understand how your comment is
 16 associated or how that study goes back and supports or
 17 doesn't support meeting the Council standard for
 18 whatever that issue is.
 19 And then it also helps if you reference
 20 specific pages in the application or the DPO. Again,
 21 helping us understand what the issue is, and commenting
 22 with sufficient specificity to afford the Department,
 23 us, the applicant, Idaho Power, and the Council an
 24 adequate opportunity to respond to the comments. So
 25 that's some guidance.

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1 So less effective commenting are just stating
 2 support, which you totally can do these, but there's
 3 just not a lot we can do with them. So just stating
 4 support or opposition for the facility.
 5 Only providing your reference materials, so
 6 only giving a report but not tying it to the order or to
 7 a standard, that is less effective. Also, raising
 8 issues outside of the Council's jurisdiction, and then
 9 making unsubstantiated statements.
 10 So I hope that helps. Again, there's going to
 11 be some more direction, and then we'll do oral
 12 testimony. But I did just want to take -- I know that
 13 there's a lot of confusion between the alternatives and
 14 the routes, but I really do want to reiterate that
 15 Council's jurisdiction is, and their view or scope of
 16 what they can review is what's in the application. And
 17 what's in the application is the proposed route and that
 18 Morgan Lake alternative.
 19 Unless Council has any questions for me.
 20 Thank you, folks.
 21 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: All right.
 22 Good evening. Just as some procedural things,
 23 we are going to get started with the public testimony in
 24 just a moment here. Just so you know, we have a lot of
 25 people that have turned in forms. We may have some

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1 people on the phone that also want to give testimony.
 2 So we will be starting -- and I'll come back around to
 3 this -- but we'll be giving people 7 minutes initially
 4 to make their comments. And we ask you to be as
 5 succinct as possible so that everybody that wants to
 6 have an opportunity to give testimony tonight can do so.
 7 If we still have time and you didn't get all
 8 of your comments in, we could maybe come back to you,
 9 but on the first trip up here, let's please limit your
 10 comments to 7 minutes.
 11 Also, we will be taking a break, probably
 12 close, between 6:00 or 6:30 we will be taking a break
 13 for about 10 minutes, and then we'll reconvene and
 14 continue on with the public testimony.
 15 So on the official part here, the purpose of
 16 the public hearing is to provide an opportunity for the
 17 public and the applicant, if it wishes to do so, to
 18 present oral and written testimony on the Boardman to
 19 Hemingway transmission line application for site
 20 certificate and the draft proposed order. The 62-day
 21 record of the public hearing comment period on the draft
 22 proposed order closes July 23, 2019, at 5 p.m.
 23 Anyone who wishes to provide oral testimony
 24 must fill out a registration form located near the
 25 entrance. Department staff can provide a form if you

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1 have not received a form to fill out. Any forms that
 2 have not been filled out and provided to Department
 3 staff, please do so at this time, as I am going to begin
 4 establishing the time each commenter will have in person
 5 and over the telephone lines. I gave you that magic
 6 number of 7 minutes.
 7 I will call each person up to testify
 8 individually and will also indicate who the next person
 9 will be to testify so that they can be prepared.
 10 It looks like there is two seats here. So you
 11 can either -- if you are the No. 2 person, you can
 12 either come up or you can move to the front so we can
 13 move this process along.
 14 Is there anybody on the phone that would like
 15 to give a comment and, if so, please sort of indicate
 16 your presence?
 17 I don't hear anybody. I will come back around
 18 in case somebody joins us later on the phone.
 19 At this time I have approximately 20 in-person
 20 commenters. The DPO has allotted 3 hours for public
 21 testimony, which is 180 minutes. I'm going to come back
 22 around and allow time for people that may join us later.
 23 But as I indicated, because we have a lot of people we
 24 want to hear from tonight, we are going to go with
 25 7 minutes up here.

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1 Department staff will track the time of each
 2 commenter, and you should be able to view how much on
 3 time on the stop clock you have left. Please be
 4 respectful of the allotted time and the other speakers.
 5 If I or a Council member asks clarification questions of
 6 the commenter, the time will be stopped for the question
 7 and response and then restarted to allow the commenter
 8 to have the full time, the full 7 minutes to give their
 9 comment.
 10 Any requests made to EFSC will be brought up
 11 at the conclusion of the public testimony opportunity of
 12 the hearing.
 13 Today's hearing, as well as all of the public
 14 hearings on the Boardman to Hemingway draft proposed
 15 order, are being documented by a certified court
 16 reporter, and there will be transcripts of the testimony
 17 made available after the completion of the public
 18 hearing. We are also recording today's hearing.
 19 The presentations, written comments, and oral
 20 testimony are part of the decision record for the
 21 proposed facility.
 22 Here's the important, the legalese. Pursuant
 23 to OAR 345-015-0220(5)(a) and (b), please note the
 24 following: "A person who intends to raise any issue
 25 that may be the basis for a contested case must raise

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1 the issue in person at the hearing or in a written
 2 comment submitted to the Department of Energy before the
 3 deadline stated in the notice of the public hearing,"
 4 which is July 23, 2019.
 5 "A person who intends to raise any issue that
 6 may be the basis for a contested case must raise the
 7 issue with sufficient specificity to afford the Council,
 8 the Department of Energy and the applicant an adequate
 9 opportunity to respond, including a statement of facts
 10 that support the person's position on the issue."
 11 We'll move to the next slide. To raise an
 12 issue in a contested test proceeding, the issue must be:
 13 Within the Council's jurisdiction; raised in writing or
 14 in person prior to the close of the record of the
 15 hearing or comment period, which is July 23rd; raised
 16 with sufficient specificity to afford Council, the
 17 Department, and the applicant an adequate opportunity to
 18 respond.
 19 To raise an issue with sufficient specificity,
 20 a person must present facts that support the person's
 21 position on the issue.
 22 We will now begin the public testimony. It is
 23 5:03 p.m. I am going to ask that each speaker, when you
 24 come up if you would state your name and provide your
 25 address, and also if it's not a common spelling of your

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1 name, if you would spell it for the record as well, so
 2 the court reporter can get it down correctly.
 3 The first person in this we are going to call
 4 up is Sandy Ryman, and then we are going to follow
 5 Ms. Ryman with David, it looks like Moyal. When
 6 Ms. Ryman finishes and the next person comes up, I will
 7 then identify the person that follows so you'll know who
 8 the next person is going to be.
 9 Good evening.
 10 MS. SANDY RYMAN: Good evening. My name is
 11 Sandy Ryman, R-y-m-a-n, and my address is 604 M Avenue
 12 here in La Grande, Oregon.
 13 I am a lifelong resident of eastern Oregon,
 14 and I have an undergraduate degree in community health
 15 and an MBA. So you can tell this is not my area of
 16 expertise. But what I currently do in my work is I look
 17 at needs and needs assessments; so I decided to focus on
 18 Exhibit N, the needs portion of the application for a
 19 site certificate.
 20 And in doing that, I'm still wading through
 21 all the details, but I wanted to take a look at the
 22 needs portion in particular. And it discusses the fact
 23 that in September of 2009, Idaho Power's board of
 24 directors approved guidelines to establish a goal to
 25 reduce CO2 emission intensity of the company's utility

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1 operations.
 2 One of the primary sources of electrical
 3 energy for Idaho Power is currently hydroelectrical
 4 generation, and they state in the application that
 5 because of the changes in stream flows and production
 6 levels of existing renewable resources, they have been
 7 working on assuring diversity in their energy resources
 8 and they list those. And they're also working on
 9 assuring diversity because changes in extreme flows can
 10 impact the CO2 emissions process for producing energy.
 11 They listed eight different types of
 12 supply-side resources. And my point No. 1 is that I
 13 question whether those aren't -- aren't more of those
 14 power resources available in southern Idaho? Because I
 15 wonder if the cost of this transmission line is
 16 considered in any of those CO2 emission calculations
 17 overall. It seems questionable as compared to more
 18 localized power sources within southern Idaho.
 19 I also did some research in looking at the
 20 April 2015, report from the US Department of Energy.
 21 They do an energy review transmission, storage, and
 22 distribution infrastructure on it, and they came up with
 23 some facts that I found quite interesting.
 24 So my point No. 2 is the fact that they point
 25 out that there is low load growth, that the growth rate

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1 of total US energy electrical consumption has been on
 2 the decline and has even been negative in the last few
 3 years. In fact, the growth rate of the US electricity
 4 load is the lowest levels since 1950.
 5 So moving on from that, and point 3 that I
 6 want to make, is they also discuss the fact that severe
 7 weather and climate changes are currently causing
 8 significant damage to grid infrastructure, and
 9 particularly to transmission lines. And they go on to
 10 talk about the fact that there are certain regions of
 11 the country that are specifically impacted by weather
 12 events. And in the West our weather events are caused
 13 by lightning and wildfires.
 14 And the report goes on, it also talks about
 15 five factors that need to be considered; lightning,
 16 wildfires, extreme cold, extreme winds, and vegetation
 17 growth. And really, all of those are things which can
 18 have an impact on this transmission line and could
 19 create a long-term maintenance impact for Idaho Power.
 20 I'm going to talk also about the fact that the
 21 modeling effort which is sited in this Department of
 22 Energy report states that the modeling effort really
 23 focuses only on new transmission along existing or
 24 proposed corridors, and it doesn't consider local and
 25 regional reliability impacts of these kind of scenarios.

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1 And so it seems like whatever kind of modeling
 2 opportunity Idaho Power had, that if they're using the
 3 standard models, even the Federal Department of Energy
 4 pointed out, those standard models don't really help
 5 with understanding the reliability of the scenario which
 6 they are presenting.
 7 My point No. 4 is the electrical transmission
 8 can take 4 or more years to be built out. And I feel
 9 like, in addition to that, costs are going to be rising
 10 and transmission costs are going to go up due to
 11 maintenance, due to the weather situations. So that is
 12 my point No. 4.
 13 Point No. 5 is that up until now I've only
 14 talked about the transmission line and the factors that
 15 impact its veracity, but there is also a lot of new
 16 technologies which are coming out. And I went back to a
 17 report which I remembered reading a couple of years ago,
 18 it was by Gregory Reed, who is a professor and director
 19 of the Center for Energy and the Grid Institute at the
 20 University of Pittsburgh School of Engineering, and he
 21 did have an article in "The Hill" publication in
 22 December of 2017.
 23 He talked about: Our existing grid was
 24 originally designed to move electricity in one
 25 direction, from large, centralized resources to

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1 factories, commercial facilities, businesses and homes.
 2 But the way that we use energy today is based more on
 3 power electronics and direct current, which is the
 4 format Thomas Edison preferred. Many of the new
 5 resources in energy, such as solar and battery energy
 6 storage, are inherently DC, which is resulting in a
 7 mismatch between AC, which is the transmission line
 8 we're talking about, and the DC-based resources and
 9 loads.
 10 And he talks about how this electricity
 11 resources include not only cleaner natural gas plants,
 12 but distributed solar and wind farms located mainly in
 13 rural areas. This new paradigm was enabling options for
 14 smaller regional microgrids as a method of building
 15 greater resiliency, reliability, and security in our
 16 power infrastructure. And these are defined by smaller
 17 geographical boundaries. Microgrids essentially contain
 18 enough energy resources to meet the demands.
 19 And nowhere in the application does Idaho
 20 Power talk about having looked at microgrids as an
 21 option.
 22 So I asked myself: Why is Idaho Power looking
 23 at this long transmission line? Well, the US Department
 24 of Energy report that I cited previously says that:
 25 Currently power groups, like the American Electric

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1 Power, is not building new power plants; they are
 2 retiring power plants, but they are expanding their
 3 transmission network because it provides reliable
 4 financial returns at a time when an industry's main
 5 source of income, power generation, is flat.
 6 And so I was very concerned that the whole
 7 siting methodology may not have looked at this, and I
 8 was wanting to make sure that you folks heard that.
 9 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you very much.
 10 Following Mr. Moyal, we will have Roger Barnes
 11 on deck.
 12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mr. Barnes is not here.
 13 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Well, then we are
 14 going to skip Mr. Barnes and we will hear from JoAnne
 15 Marlette after --
 16 MR. MOYAL: David Moyal.
 17 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Yes, your turn, and
 18 then Ms. Marlette.
 19 MR. DAVID MOYAL: Thanks for allowing me to
 20 speak to members of the Council --
 21 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: A couple things. If
 22 you would use the microphone, if you would state your
 23 name and your address, and if you would read a little
 24 bit slower so the court reporter can take it down.
 25 MR. MOYAL: I will.

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1 My name is David Moyal, and my address is 1804
 2 Second Street here in La Grande. I appreciate the
 3 opportunity to speak to the members of the Council.
 4 I object to the proposed routing of the B2H
 5 transmission line through Union County. I'm a resident
 6 of La Grande, and I'm very concerned because I live not
 7 much more than a mile from the proposed route. In its
 8 application for site certificate, Idaho Power states
 9 that the project is, and I quote, "not likely to result
 10 in significant adverse impacts to scenic resources and
 11 values identified as significant or important in local
 12 land use plans, tribal land management plans" --
 13 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Mr. Moyal, if you
 14 would move the mic a little closer to you.
 15 MR. MOYAL: Closer still? Is this okay?
 16 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Yes.
 17 MR. MOYAL: -- "and federal land management
 18 plans for any lands located within the analysis area
 19 described for the project."
 20 But this conclusion is far from the case. The
 21 arguments for it can only be made by the narrowest
 22 possible interpretation of specific clauses in the Union
 23 County land use plan. The plan's general and
 24 overarching purpose, and I quote Union County's general
 25 plan, is: "The natural beauty of Union County is worthy

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1 of preservation and should be preserved consistent with
 2 the stated purposes of this plan."
 3 It goes on to say on page 33 that the
 4 development will maintain or enhance the attractiveness
 5 of the area and not degrade resources. The application
 6 ignores the general purpose of the plan, basically
 7 saying, and I paraphrase it, if an area isn't
 8 specifically mentioned in the plan, in County's plan,
 9 then it lies outside the purview of the application and
 10 doesn't need evaluation.
 11 The logic behind this dismissal of scenic
 12 resources impact is flawed. The County, in defining
 13 specific areas of concern, couldn't possibly in the
 14 1970s have anticipated every possible project that might
 15 deleteriously affect County viewshed, hence the general
 16 mission statement of the plan, which I quoted earlier,
 17 needs to be addressed in the application before
 18 conclusions regarding scenic values can be reached.
 19 I'll go off topic a little bit. I would like
 20 to point out the injustice in the exclusion of the City
 21 of La Grande from permitting and siting process. More
 22 than any other municipality we are impacted by this
 23 project, yet because it lies immediately outside our
 24 city limits we are excluded beyond the City Council
 25 proclamation opposing the project from the

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1 decision-making process.
 2 Please remember as you reach your decision,
 3 that you'll be gone tomorrow, but we'll be living with
 4 the effects of your decision, positive or negative, for
 5 years to come. Thank you very much.
 6 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 7 Following Ms. Marlette we will be hearing from
 8 Virginia Mammen.
 9 Good evening.
 10 MS. MARLETTE: Hi. Thank you for allowing us
 11 to speak to you this evening. I am JoAnne Marlette,
 12 2031 Court Street, Baker City, Oregon. You will
 13 probably hear pretty much what I said last night.
 14 As you are all well aware, Oregon has an
 15 existing utility corridor which was set in place during
 16 the administration of Governor Tom McCall. I knew Tom
 17 McCall; as a matter of fact, I typed the first draft of
 18 his mother, Dorothy Lawson McCall's, book, "Ranch Under
 19 the Rimrock."
 20 It was his love of this ranchland in Central
 21 Oregon that led him to his commitment to preserve farm
 22 and forestland. And in the early 1970s, as governor, he
 23 signed Senate Bill 100, which created a statewide land
 24 use regulatory system aimed at preserving farm and
 25 forestland.

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1 Knowing how important preserving farm and
 2 forestland would be, a utility corridor was set from
 3 Boardman, Oregon, to the Idaho border, so that issues
 4 such as what we are having right now would not exist.
 5 All utilities would have their own corridor and would
 6 not encroach on farm and forestland in other parts of
 7 the state. Idaho Power has consistently claimed using
 8 our existing utility corridor would cost too much money.
 9 From what I could find, it appears to me that
 10 Idaho Power is not going through our public lands
 11 because the environmentalists would be after them like
 12 stink on a dog, perhaps even suing Idaho Power for all
 13 the reasons we are objecting to it coming through our
 14 private property here in northeastern Oregon. I'm sure
 15 they don't want to spend tons of their money defending
 16 this B2H proposed project through our public lands with
 17 impending threats of lawsuits at their every turn.
 18 Also, I find quite a discrepancy as to need.
 19 My research shows the market is not growing. Idaho
 20 Power's billed sales for the last 10 years have been
 21 essentially flat, if not declining. That is supported
 22 by reports from the US government and Idaho Power's own
 23 data.
 24 And I will be providing further written
 25 comment prior to the July 23rd deadline. Thank you so

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1 much.
 2 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 3 Following Ms. Mammen, we will be hearing from
 4 Adrian Henderson.
 5 SECRETARY CORNETT: Because we are recording
 6 it and we have people on the phone, if everybody could
 7 speak into the mic, it will be much more helpful for us
 8 and those on the phone.
 9 MS. VIRGINIA MAMMEN: I'm Virginia Mammen. I
 10 live at 405 Balsa here in La Grande. I have lived on
 11 Balsa, off Modelaire/Hawthorne Loop for 50 years, and I
 12 love and appreciate the area in which I live. Through
 13 those years I have learned to appreciate the area in
 14 which I live. Although, I have learned that the land
 15 around me, not only under my house, but far up into the
 16 hills above me are to be respected as much as my
 17 neighbors are to be respected.
 18 During that time I have also learned that
 19 although I have taken good care of my body, age and time
 20 demand that I not push it any farther than necessary or
 21 it will break down in one place or another.
 22 So too the hills west above my house. As I
 23 have watched this land creak and grown with the seasons,
 24 it has been plagued with fire, drought, and flooding. I
 25 have learned it is to be respected as a living being and

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1 should not be pushed. In 2010, this area was determined
 2 to be a hazard area and unstable. It moves and shifts
 3 with the nudges from Mother Nature making appearances
 4 down below my house with cracks and other minor
 5 nuisances.
 6 I don't see any respect for our hills or me or
 7 my neighbors if B2H comes into our area, which is rated
 8 "high" or "very high" as a landslide area, while not
 9 just to give our hills an occasional push, but to slam
 10 them with dynamite, create massive holes, introduce
 11 excessively heavy weight and strip them of their beauty,
 12 pride, and spirit while opening the opportunity for
 13 causing the changing of the underground water paths and
 14 land stability and introducing possible new elements for
 15 fire hazard. Any one of these could create catastrophic
 16 danger to the formerly quiet neighborhood below that I
 17 have enjoyed for 50 years.
 18 The disturbance of a soil and track-out would
 19 pollute the clean area which we cherish. Then there is
 20 the noise pollution from both construction and completed
 21 project. To me this is not progress in the making but a
 22 total lack of respect and appreciation for both people
 23 and the land.
 24 I would invite you to come walk my
 25 neighborhood with me, on the streets meant not for

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1 massive construction trucks -- that is
 2 Modelaire/Hawthorne Loop -- but to serve the hospital
 3 when needed for the residents of 37 homes of men, women,
 4 and children who walk -- I might add, there are no
 5 sidewalks on that loop -- or drive daily, a neighborhood
 6 which you could destroy, seemingly without giving it
 7 another thought. Thank you.
 8 I will be providing written testimony another
 9 time.
 10 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 11 MS. ADRIAN HENDERSON: Hello. I'm Adrian
 12 Henderson. Thank you very much for letting me speak
 13 today. I live at 219 Harrison in La Grande, Oregon.
 14 Thank you for allowing me to testify.
 15 You've already heard about the problems with
 16 noise and invasive weeds. I am concerned with the lack
 17 of requiring Idaho Power to make sure weeds do not go to
 18 seed or make them clean their equipment before it leaves
 19 the road or moves from one person's property to another.
 20 As a member of the Chickasaw/Choctaw/Umatilla
 21 tribe, I want to remind you of how important this is to
 22 the tribes because of how it impacts our first foods.
 23 Comments were provided by the tribes about this.
 24 You also heard from the developer that they
 25 would be working with the counties to make more changes

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1 to their weed plan. What I'm concerned about is that
 2 the only thing Idaho Power is required to do are the
 3 things that you include in the site certificates. The
 4 site certificates need to state that Idaho Power must
 5 comply with the state rules that require them to protect
 6 the land from seeds being spread from their transmission
 7 line, as long as the lines are in place. This is a
 8 major problem, and why we need to be listening to the
 9 people who are here today.
 10 A statement by the developer that they plan to
 11 fix something later means nothing if you do not include
 12 it in the site certificate. The public will no longer
 13 have the right to appeal what they are doing; in fact,
 14 they don't even need to receive the information about
 15 what the developer is actually including in their weed
 16 plans.
 17 This is why you will be receiving in writing
 18 comments from me and others in this audience about what
 19 needs to be changed.
 20 I hope you will address the many problems you
 21 are hearing about or denying Idaho Power permission to
 22 build a transmission line that will cause huge damages,
 23 increase our electric costs, but give us nominal
 24 benefits.
 25 Unlike Idaho Power customers, we are not

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1 having blackouts, equipment failures, or other problems
 2 that this utility company are having. Maybe they would
 3 have so many more problems if they would develop
 4 energy -- so many less problems if they would develop
 5 energy resources in Idaho instead of moving in hundreds
 6 of miles of high-voltage transmission lines to get it to
 7 their customers.
 8 Thank you very much. Appreciate it.
 9 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 10 Following Mr. Rosenbaum, we will hear from
 11 Lois Barry.
 12 MR. MICHAEL ROSENBAUM: A little bit of an
 13 aside here, interestingly enough, I received an email
 14 from my insurance company today: "Help protect your
 15 home from wildfire. Find out how. Dear Michael,
 16 Wildfires can occur suddenly with little to no warning.
 17 We want to help you stay safe and prepared. Review the
 18 resources below to learn how to protect yourself and
 19 your property from wildfire."
 20 I would like to thank the Council for this
 21 opportunity to present testimony to the EFSC.
 22 My name is Michael R. Rosenbaum. I reside at
 23 1402 First Street in La Grande. I first moved to
 24 La Grande in 1969, and I have lived here for a total of
 25 27 years, having left and returned twice. I work

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1 seasonally for a federal agency and am currently a
 2 member of the City of La Grande committee dedicated to
 3 wildfire awareness, protection, and preparedness. The
 4 views expressed here are my own, and do not represent
 5 either my employer or the committee of which I'm a
 6 member.
 7 According to Wikipedia, there are a total of
 8 946 incorporated and unincorporated cities in Oregon.
 9 In the 2018 study "Exposure of human communities to
 10 wildfire in the Pacific Northwest," researchers Joe H.
 11 Scott and Julie Gilbertson-Day of Pyrologix and
 12 Richard D. Stratton of the USDA Forest Service, ranked
 13 La Grande number 40 of 50 communities with the highest
 14 community exposure ranking with 5,426 housing units
 15 exposed to wildfire and a burn probability rate of 138.
 16 You will note that La Grande is edged by open
 17 grasslands and timber on its southwest, west, and
 18 northwest flanks, two of these three directions housing
 19 the proposed Boardman to Hemingway transmission line.
 20 The June 30, 2016, revision of the Union
 21 County Wildfire Protection Plan, the CWPP, details in
 22 the Union County Risk Assessment Summary of the
 23 Northeast Oregon Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard
 24 Mitigation Plan, wildfire that either did encroach or
 25 had the potential to put La Grande at risk. It details

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1 as well conditions that put the community's probability
 2 of and vulnerability to a future hazard event rating as
 3 high.
 4 Note, this rating did not include any events
 5 that might be caused by or influenced by a 500-kV power
 6 line or a failure thereof in close proximity to
 7 La Grande. This issue will be taken up later in the
 8 testimony.
 9 1973: The Rooster Peak Wildfire, 6,400 acres,
 10 encroachment into the southwest city limits, structures
 11 lost and the city threatened.
 12 1986: The Frizzel Wildfire, 250 acres burned
 13 in the Mt. Emily Wildfire-Urban interface, northwest of
 14 La Grande.
 15 2001: The Boulevard Wildfire, 150 acres in
 16 the La Grande City watershed southwest of the city.
 17 Fuel conditions in this location remain a substantial
 18 hazard and this fire could have presented a "major
 19 event" given less favorable conditions.
 20 In a brochure issued by the La Grande
 21 Wildland-Urban Interface Committee, there were
 22 approximately 34 human-caused and approximately 52
 23 lightning-caused wildfires in the last 10 years in close
 24 proximity to La Grande, several of which were on or near
 25 to the proposed route or routes of the Boardman to

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1 Hemingway power line.
 2 Let us look briefly at weather patterns in
 3 La Grande. From the weatherspark.com website, the
 4 predominant wind direction from mid-March to mid-October
 5 is from the west. However, there are extended
 6 exceptions to this. In 2017 and 2018, smoke from remote
 7 wildfires in British Columbia, Montana, and Washington
 8 were driven into the Grande Ronde Valley by north and
 9 northeast winds. The limited visibility could have
 10 hampered early wildfire detection. It did affect
 11 livability and health issues.
 12 Also note that the majority of thunderstorms
 13 are driven into this area of the Blue Mountains by
 14 southwest and west winds.
 15 In a plot from the Department of Atmospheric
 16 Sciences at the University of Utah, the strongest area
 17 winds from 16 to 20 miles per hour and from 20 miles per
 18 hour to infinity are from the south. The winds were
 19 plotted from January 2017 to June 2019. The seasons of
 20 the highest winds were not noted. Additionally, these
 21 stronger winds did occur, to a lesser extent, from the
 22 west and northwest. The Western Regional Climate Center
 23 notes that from 1992 to 2002 the predominant wind
 24 direction from April to September was northwest with
 25 southerly winds October to the end of the year.

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1 Referring back to the Union County Risk
 2 Assessment Summary, windstorms not attributable to
 3 outflow from thunderstorms are not infrequent, but tend
 4 to occur in the late fall and winter. Exceptions to
 5 this are June 1998 with gusts to 50 miles an hour,
 6 June 2001 with gusts to 60 miles per hour, July 22,
 7 2004, with 70 miles-per-hour winds, and August of 2004
 8 with gusts to 54 miles per hour. There may be other
 9 incidents which occurred after these dates.
 10 Again, please note that these wind events are
 11 not generally attributable to outflow from nearby
 12 thunderstorms, but it is general knowledge that
 13 cumulonimbus-generated lightning with resultant wildfire
 14 can create their own winds and patterns such as fire
 15 whirls and long-distance transport of spotting, burning
 16 material.
 17 Thus, the power lines which are the subject of
 18 this hearing could be affected by wildfire not generated
 19 by line failure and from a remote ignition source. And
 20 once involved, this grid could further amplify wildfire
 21 severity and possibly drive the flame front into La
 22 Grande.
 23 Let us turn to the subject of wildfire
 24 detection and the danger posed to the City of La Grande
 25 by a proximate transmission line. There are three

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1 lookout towers which could early detect a wildfire start
 2 either generated by a power line failure, line drop, or
 3 a wildfire encroaching on the transmission line route.
 4 They are Johnson Rock on the Wallowa-Whitman National
 5 Forest southwest of La Grande, Mt. Ireland on the
 6 Wallowa-Whitman northwest of Baker City, and Table Rock
 7 on the Umatilla National Forest north of La Grande in
 8 Washington.
 9 Other means of detection include aircraft
 10 flyovers, public reporting, strike indicators, and
 11 satellites.
 12 The Camp Fire of 2018 which forced evacuation,
 13 and eventually engulfed, the City of Paradise,
 14 California, and forced evacuation of Magalia,
 15 Centerville, Pulga, and three other cities and
 16 threatened seven other communities was not early
 17 detected. The failure of PG&E transmission lines was
 18 caused in part by wind speeds of up to 72 miles per
 19 hour. A local lookout, which may have been able to
 20 early detect the fire start, had been decommissioned.
 21 Realistically, Johnson Rock lookout above
 22 Vey's Meadow and the Grande Ronde River would have the
 23 greatest chance to report a wildfire start. But would
 24 there be enough time given possible extreme fire
 25 behavior, possible transmission line failure causing a

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1 fire start, possible limited visibility preventing early
 2 detection, possible spotting from a remote ignition, and
 3 other variables bringing wildfire to the transmission
 4 line route to suppress the incident in time to stop
 5 encroachment into the city limits and to save structures
 6 in the Wildland-Urban Interfaces that are also in
 7 proximity to the transmission line route?
 8 These factors must be taken into account
 9 before approval and construction of the Boardman to
 10 Hemingway system.
 11 In Oregon on June 14 --
 12 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Mr. Rosenbaum, we
 13 are out of time.
 14 MR. MICHAEL ROSENBAUM: I have got another
 15 minute. Okay?
 16 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Okay.
 17 MR. MICHAEL ROSENBAUM: In Oregon, on June 14,
 18 2019, according to "The Statesman Journal," Pacific
 19 Power, with approximately 600,000 end-user customers,
 20 proposed to shut down electricity during extreme weather
 21 events, which will help limit the effects of the grid on
 22 wildfire. It is likely that other Oregon power
 23 companies with local end users will follow suit, in my
 24 estimation.
 25 In California, PG&E has recently cut power in

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1 extreme weather conditions in several northern
 2 California counties, including Butte County where
 3 Paradise is located.
 4 Note that the Soda fire in 2015 in southwest
 5 Idaho and Oregon was not caused by a failure in Idaho
 6 Power's system, but did require the company to replace
 7 2.5 miles of transmission line. I ask: What is the
 8 guarantee to the people of La Grande, Oregon, that Idaho
 9 Power, with no local end-user customers, will shut power
 10 generation in the event of red flag warnings locally for
 11 extreme conditions, including low RHs of single digits
 12 to the low 20 percents, lightning activity levels of 4
 13 and higher, extended high temperatures, severe
 14 thunderstorms with attendant high outflow winds?
 15 I haven't gone into the issue of the changing
 16 climate of the Blue Mountains and also the frequent
 17 changes in weather patterns from year to year during
 18 fire season. The estimate in the Blue Mountains is the
 19 temperatures could increase 4 1/2 to 6 1/2 degrees over
 20 the next 30 years.
 21 In conclusion, I propose that the Boardman to
 22 Hemingway transmission line, with the suggested routes
 23 in close proximity to the City of La Grande and
 24 structures in the Wildland-Urban Interface, would
 25 contribute to the vulnerability and the high probability

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1 of wildfire intrusion and exposure. It would put values
 2 at risk with a failed line on the ground or involvement
 3 of transmission lines and support structures in a
 4 wildfire. Values such as firefighting personnel and
 5 equipment, homes, structures, including medical
 6 facilities, businesses, infrastructure, private
 7 timberlands and pasture.
 8 If the system is not a causative factor in a
 9 wildfire start, it could be a contributing factor in the
 10 rapid acceleration of unchecked wildfire spread.
 11 Should you approve this transmission line
 12 route through the Blue Mountains, and specifically in
 13 proximity to La Grande, you are quite literally playing
 14 with fire.
 15 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 16 After we hear from Ms. Barry, we will hear
 17 from John Anderson.
 18 MS. LOIS BARRY: I'm Lois Barry, L-o-i-s,
 19 B-a-r-r-y. I live at 60688 Morgan Lake Road in
 20 La Grande, which appropriately enough is the 150 acres
 21 that burned in a 1973 forest fire that Mike Rosenbaum
 22 just referred to. That is the fire that endangered the
 23 entire town of La Grande and especially the hospital.
 24 At the moment, the current proposed Mill Creek
 25 route of the B2H would put three towers right across the

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1 middle of that 150 acres of 40-foot high pine trees that
 2 have regrown in the last 50 years. That was an aside.
 3 Now, I have two statements. I realize that
 4 the mission of the EFSC committee is to choose a route
 5 for the B2H and not to decide if it's a good project.
 6 Even so, you should know that the B2H project has a
 7 basic flaw. It was discussed as early as 2006, and
 8 those plans have not changed in 13 years: It is no
 9 longer needed. And if it were needed, the BLM
 10 environmentally-preferred route should be the route of
 11 choice. If you approve the site application for the B2H
 12 now, whatever route is chosen, will become the site of a
 13 \$1.2 billion stranded asset.
 14 My second point. I'm a retired professor. I
 15 taught research writing and critical thinking for
 16 25 years. And I have carefully read several relevant
 17 sections of Idaho Power's application. It's a
 18 substandard piece of work. It's replete with obvious
 19 inaccuracies and unsupported conclusions.
 20 And here is a clear example of a factual
 21 inaccuracy: Page 62 refers to, quote, "extensive work
 22 in the siting study of the Morgan Lake Alternative,"
 23 unquote. I doubt it was extensive because it's
 24 completely inaccurate. Morgan Lake Park is described as
 25 204 acres, containing one lake, which is developed with

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1 primitive campsites and a fishing dock. Morgan Lake
 2 Park actually contains two lakes. Morgan Lake covers
 3 70 acres.
 4 The other, Twin Lake, is in plain site within
 5 300 feet of Morgan Lake, it covers 27 acres. Twin Lake
 6 is undeveloped, a wildlife and bird sanctuary, home to
 7 nesting bald eagles. It is designated as protected
 8 wetlands. In their application Idaho Power conveniently
 9 omits any references to Twin Lake.
 10 Page 156 purports to be a map of Morgan Lake
 11 Park. According to the map legend the purple crosshatch
 12 amoeba-shaped area is Morgan Lake Park. That is wrong.
 13 The purple crosshatch is Morgan Lake. The actual
 14 boundaries of the 204-acre park are not indicated. And
 15 obviously it's difficult to believe "extensive work on
 16 this siting study" ever occurred.
 17 A specific example of unsupported conclusions:
 18 Page 145, Baseline condition, quote: "A goal of minimal
 19 development of Morgan Lake Park should be maintained to
 20 preserve the maximum natural setting and to encourage
 21 solitude, isolation, and limited visibility of users..."
 22 Page 146, quote: "The landscape character is
 23 natural appearing. Scenic integrity is high as the
 24 human developments are harmonious with the landscape."
 25 Page 149: "Vegetation will block views of the

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1 towers from most locations in the park," unquote.
 2 In reality, one tower would dominate the
 3 entrance to the park, all 130 feet of it in plain view.
 4 Within the park, trees bordering the lake are no more
 5 than 80 feet high. 130-foot transmission towers will
 6 rise more than 50 feet above those trees, dominating the
 7 current landscape.
 8 Idaho Power simply concludes that the
 9 inescapable sight of 500-kV transmission lines and
 10 towers around a natural lake setting will have, quote,
 11 "no significant impact," on Morgan Lake Park. In
 12 research writing this qualifies as wishful thinking.
 13 This is the park whose baseline, quote,
 14 "should be maintained to preserve the maximum natural
 15 setting and to encourage solitude, isolation, and
 16 limited visibility of users," unquote, because 50 years
 17 ago, no one ever imagined anything larger than a human
 18 being might ever intrude.
 19 If this application were an airplane, it would
 20 have crashed long ago. I urge the Commission to deny
 21 this application for a site certificate until each
 22 comment submitted at these public meetings and sent to
 23 the Commission by July 23rd has been thoroughly analyzed
 24 and Idaho Power has provided credible evidence to
 25 support each of its conclusions of, quote, "no

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1 significant impact."
 2 Thank you.
 3 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Following
 4 Mr. Anderson, we will hear from Jonathan White.
 5 MR. JOHN ANDERSON: Thank you. Many of the
 6 things I have to say have already been covered.
 7 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: If you could give
 8 your name and your address.
 9 MR. JOHN ANDERSON: I'm sorry. John C.
 10 Anderson, 409 Sunset Drive, La Grande.
 11 Many of the things that I have to say have
 12 already been covered quite eloquently, but being short,
 13 I will say them anyway.
 14 There are many good reasons to abandon Idaho
 15 Power's planned B2H power line. Today you may hear
 16 testimony regarding economics, geology, eminent domain,
 17 view scapes, and many others.
 18 I would like to talk about the danger of fire.
 19 We know about the Camp Fire and the tragic consequences
 20 for Paradise, California. This and other major fires
 21 were caused by power lines owned by PG&E.
 22 B2H will cross the Blue Mountains west of
 23 La Grande through areas of extreme risk of wildfire.
 24 This is reckless behavior.
 25 In 1973, the Rooster Peak Fire started 6 miles

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1 west of La Grande. When it was discovered it was
 2 limited to 1 acre. Days later it had consumed 6,000
 3 acres and had burned right up to the hospital's grounds.
 4 It could happen again.
 5 PG&E and other utilities are shutting down
 6 some of their lines during times of high risk. If Idaho
 7 Power wisely followed their lead, they would lose the
 8 power they say they need during a time of peak demand.
 9 Siting a high-voltage line through fire-prone
 10 areas is an unacceptable risk to take when this line is
 11 not needed. I don't think that Idaho Power has
 12 presented plans to mitigate this dangerous situation nor
 13 the unforeseen consequences of construction during peak
 14 fire season.
 15 Please consider the safety of La Grande and
 16 its surroundings before you make any decisions.
 17 Thank you. My written remarks will follow at
 18 a later time.
 19 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 20 Following Mr. White, we will hear from Susan
 21 Badger.
 22 MR. JONATHAN WHITE: Jon White, 485 Modelaire
 23 Drive, La Grande.
 24 My comment is about the blasting that would
 25 likely be required during the construction phase of the

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1 B2H line near milepost 106 through 108 of the
 2 IPC-preferred Mill Creek route, and that is where the
 3 line would come closest to La Grande. Although the
 4 application does not specify where blasting will occur,
 5 the applicant's blasting plans state, quote: "Blasting
 6 may be needed in certain areas with rocky terrain to
 7 excavate tower footings, prepare station pads, and to
 8 construct access roads."
 9 The relevant Structural Standard states, in
 10 part: The applicant, through appropriate site-specific
 11 study, has adequately characterized the potential
 12 geological and soils hazards of the site and its
 13 vicinity that could be aggravated by the construction of
 14 the proposed facility.
 15 My impression from reviewing the application
 16 is that the applicant has not fully considered the
 17 impacts of blasting on the nearby unstable slope in a
 18 populated area of La Grande, Oregon. There is map in
 19 the application that shows the B2H line at milepost 106
 20 through 108. That map depicts where the line is about
 21 2,500 feet from a populated "Unconsolidated Sediments"
 22 zone, and then crosses a, quote, "Landslide Deposits"
 23 zone near milepost 108.
 24 The application also mentions in text, slope
 25 instability in a small part. Quote: "One of the

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1 landslides intersects the IPC proposed routed between
 2 towers 160/3 and 106/4. Based on review of the
 3 topography and aerial photographs, this mapped landslide
 4 may impact the proposed work areas around tower 160/4.
 5 A field reconnaissance of this area should be performed
 6 as part of the geotechnical exploration program,"
 7 unquote.
 8 My concern is more about the construction
 9 process than about the integrity of the towers after
 10 construction. The application identifies the problem in
 11 general but provides no detail about the blasting or the
 12 potential effects on nearby houses in an area that the
 13 City of La Grande designates as a, quote, "Geologic
 14 Hazard Zone," unquote. We know that each tower footing
 15 will require a hole 30 to 50 feet deep, and that the
 16 bedrock underneath the line on milepost 106 to 108 will
 17 almost certainly require blasting for efficient
 18 excavation.
 19 The application does not address this concern,
 20 and the proposed construction is simply too close to a
 21 populated area to mitigate the risk of damage to homes.
 22 The application does not comply with the relevant
 23 standard.
 24 I will include detailed references in my
 25 written comments. Thank you for your consideration.

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1 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 2 MS. SUSAN BADGER-JONES: Thank you. Susan
 3 Badger-Jones, 412 H Avenue, PO Box 1341, La Grande.
 4 While I agree with most of the objections
 5 you'll hear this evening about elements of the
 6 application for site certification, I want to
 7 specifically address portions of the Morgan Lake
 8 Alternative, Exhibit T, page 44.
 9 La Grande has been my home for more than
 10 30 years, and in that time, visiting Morgan Lake Park
 11 has been a weekly, but more likely daily pleasure,
 12 enjoying the wildflowers as they emerge, walk or bird,
 13 exercise my dog, meet friends, gather at a picnic table.
 14 Which brings me to the tower at the park. The
 15 City of La Grande has many well-manicured parks with
 16 playing structures, sports fields, hard scape,
 17 buildings, and professional landscaping. Morgan Lake,
 18 however, has been reserved to experience the natural
 19 world; birds, waterfowl, fishing, camping under the
 20 stars. It's one of the few places around here you can
 21 go to see the sunset. Nesting osprey, cormorants, and
 22 other waterfowl. It's a quiet place; no motors are
 23 allowed on the lake.
 24 Due to the popularity of the park, over the
 25 last few years the City has made improvements to

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1 hosting, maintenance, and campground designation,
 2 supporting that natural experience. A tower is very
 3 much at odds with this.
 4 The application says vegetation will block
 5 views of the proposed tower. It's just not true. Trees
 6 at the proposed site are 70, maybe 80 feet tall, but the
 7 tower 130 feet and basically ugly. The tower will be
 8 highly visible coming and going and from many locations
 9 in the park.
 10 While people may still be able to walk and
 11 boat and camp, the quality of that natural experience
 12 will be very much compromised. "Less than significant
 13 impact" is what the application says. Give me a break.
 14 That brings me to fire. Fire is a constant
 15 danger in a park area, and the proposed tower heightens
 16 that threat. The area is already well familiar with
 17 wildfire and subsequent loss of timber and homes, yet
 18 that risk isn't even addressed.
 19 And then there is the road. The only access
 20 to the staging area and future maintenance is the
 21 county's Morgan Lake Road. It's the only access to town
 22 and emergency services for more than 30 families. You
 23 do the math; 30 homes, 2 drivers each, 2, 4 trips a day,
 24 6 to 7 days a week to work, to school, church, kids,
 25 medical services, and then there are people coming up

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1 the road to visit, and even more park goers. That road
 2 is steep, it's a 17-degree slope. They don't even let
 3 you build those anymore. Besides it being steep, it's
 4 narrow, windy, and in bad shape. Except for a few days
 5 after its annual grading, which they just did, in case
 6 you want to drive up there, I imagine, the road is
 7 bumpy, rutted and loose with gravel.
 8 Earlier this year a car-sized section of the
 9 road slumped more than a foot, causing one-way traffic
 10 for more than 3 weeks. Last year a long section of
 11 guardrail simply fell off the side of the road and
 12 remained off for months.
 13 The prolonged pounding of large tires on heavy
 14 construction vehicles going up and down the road, that
 15 application says it will cause only temporary and less
 16 than significant impact. That is just not true. There
 17 will be significant impact to the daily users and
 18 significant and probably long-term impact to the
 19 condition of the road.
 20 And finally there is the future. The
 21 likelihood for this area to become a utility corridor.
 22 Imagine a guy showing up on your front doorstep and just
 23 moving in, uninvited, unwanted, parking in your
 24 driveway, throwing stuff around your house, making noise
 25 and dust, wrecking your view for months, and you get no

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1 benefit. There are no substations that benefit people
 2 in Union County or other nearby counties. And when this
 3 guy finally moves out, he leaves a big swath through
 4 your landscape with a permanent buzz overhead. And he
 5 says, Oh, by the way, there will probably be more of us
 6 coming. Uninvited, unwanted, offering us no benefit.
 7 These are significant and permanent impacts.
 8 I object, especially knowing that this whole thing could
 9 have gone through uninhabited BLM land.
 10 Thank you. I will submit details.
 11 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Following Mr. Dill,
 12 we will hear from Brian Kelly.
 13 MR. DWIGHT DILL: Dwight Dill, I live at 7077
 14 Aquarius Way in La Grande.
 15 You spoke a lot this evening about raising our
 16 issues with sufficient specificity. I will be
 17 submitting written comments at a later date. I will be
 18 sufficiently specific. I think my comments tonight are
 19 probably more emotional.
 20 I'd like speak to my concern regarding the
 21 environmental and visual impact of the B2H towers since
 22 they were proposed to be sited on the southern edge of
 23 La Grande near Morgan Lake. I have heard many
 24 individuals refer to Union County as a "hidden gem" in
 25 Oregon. We have an incredibly beautiful valley with

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1 scenic vistas of the mountains surrounding our valley.
 2 Many out-of-town visitors are drawn to Union County
 3 because of this scenic beauty. Placement of these
 4 towers will certainly have an impact on this part of our
 5 tourism.
 6 I often take early morning walks and am in awe
 7 of the beauty that surrounds us, especially in my views
 8 to the southern end of the valley where I reside. I
 9 have always considered myself fortunate to live in such
 10 a spectacular area. I am extremely concerned as to the
 11 blight these towers will place upon our viewshed.
 12 Currently, I look out and see a ridge line
 13 topped with green trees that presents a spectacular
 14 view. This will forever be changed and irrevocably
 15 harmed by the placement of these towers. Please
 16 consider the aesthetic needs and economic interests of
 17 our beautiful valley and take the responsible action
 18 against the siting of these towers in our valley.
 19 Thank you for your time.
 20 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 21 Following Mr. Kelly, we will hear from Anita
 22 Metlen.
 23 MR. BRIAN KELLY: Good evening. I'm Brian
 24 Kelly, B-r-i-a-n, K-e-l-l-y. My address is PO Box 2768
 25 in La Grande, Oregon 97850.

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1 I am the restoration director with the Greater
 2 Hells Canyon Council. We are a conservation
 3 organization based right here in La Grande. We have
 4 been in existence for 52 years located in northeast
 5 Oregon.
 6 One reason I mentioned that we have been
 7 around for 52 years is we started to prevent dam
 8 building in Hells Canyon. The reason I bring that up
 9 tonight is because when I read through the justification
 10 for this power line, it's eerily reminiscent of the
 11 justification to build the dams in Hells Canyon. As you
 12 may know, we have three existing dams in Hells Canyon,
 13 but there was a proposal in the late '60s to construct
 14 more dams that would block up the Salmon River coming
 15 out of central Idaho and the Imnaha River coming out of
 16 the heart of the Wallowa Mountains.
 17 When they constructed the original dams, one
 18 day in 1958, 4,000 salmon came to the construction site
 19 and promptly died. In my book, that constitutes crime
 20 against nature. And we, when I say "we," the people who
 21 came before me, successfully prevented those dams from
 22 being built and prevented a crime against nature.
 23 We have learned a lot. We have developed a
 24 lot of technology in the last 52 years, and we can do
 25 better than constructing this power line. When I was

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1 preparing for tonight, I pulled up some comments that I
 2 had written earlier. And these comments, I won't
 3 provide them tonight because I printed them out on some
 4 other stuff I'd prefer not to share with you. But I've
 5 already sent them to you. And these are dated
 6 September 2010. I'm not going to read them, I'm just
 7 going to use them as a cheat sheet for myself to page
 8 through some of the topics that I want to cover.
 9 I'm going to focus on forests and the
 10 grasslands and the wildlife and the fish. Just in terms
 11 of background, I have a bachelor's degree from Cornell
 12 University, where I studied forestry and arboriculture.
 13 I have been a certified arborist in good standing for
 14 the last 23 years. I have lived and worked in northeast
 15 Oregon for almost 40 years, and during that time I have
 16 studied extensively the forests and the grasslands of
 17 this area.
 18 One of the most important aspects of our
 19 ecosystems is the connectivity of a variety, a wide
 20 variety of habitat we have here, forests and
 21 non-forests. And connectivity is the way that plants
 22 and animals can move across the landscape. As we
 23 continue to see the effects of climate change, that
 24 connectivity is going to be so much more important.
 25 Constructing a power line through the middle

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1 of these native forests and grasslands goes right
 2 against the concept of connectivity because by the
 3 nature of it you are disrupting it, you are creating a
 4 barrier.
 5 It was mentioned earlier that in the forested
 6 areas that the right-of-way would be 300 feet wide. And
 7 in layman's terms what that means is there is going to
 8 be a 300-foot wide clear-cut through all the forests
 9 that this power line crosses. 300 feet is the length of
 10 a football field. So if you stand at the zero yard line
 11 and you are looking clear down to the other end of the
 12 100-yard football field, that is going to be width of
 13 the clear-cut through the forest.
 14 Personally I feel like clear-cuts are not a
 15 good thing to begin with, but under a power line it's
 16 always going to be a clear-cut, and it's going to be
 17 maintained either by cutting down the trees and shrubs
 18 that grow back in or spraying with herbicide. Herbicide
 19 is a necessary tool, but it comes with a lot of
 20 environmental damages, and creating a new magnet for
 21 herbicide is really just a bad idea.
 22 I have reviewed the environmental impact
 23 statement, and I objected, we objected to the national
 24 forest decision on this project. And one of the reasons
 25 we did is because several hundred acres of national

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1 forest, our shared public lands, will be clear-cut as a
 2 part of this project and will be maintained in a
 3 non-forest condition.
 4 Also, the Forest Service has waived their
 5 requirements for protecting riparian areas, and they
 6 waive their protections for large trees and older trees
 7 with this project.
 8 I have looked at the new draft proposed order
 9 for the project. I have not found a total on the
 10 acreage of private land forests that will be clear-cut,
 11 but I assume it's extensive also. These are really
 12 important ecological damages that will result in this
 13 project.
 14 Let's see, just to name a few wildlife
 15 species, sage-grouse down in Baker County. In Union
 16 County this line would cross some of the most important
 17 and the most valuable elk habitat in the state of
 18 Oregon, just south of La Grande here. And pronghorn
 19 antelope and mule deer, they all need habitat, they all
 20 need to be able to migrate, they all need connectivity
 21 of habitat. And this line would severely damage all of
 22 those functions.
 23 I did want to read one section that I wrote
 24 8 years ago, 9 years ago. It says: "Rural Oregon tends
 25 to have higher poverty rates, lower wages and higher

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1 unemployment than the urban areas where the electricity
 2 would be shipped. Environmental justice is not served
 3 when these rural areas are saddled with the
 4 environmental cost of a transmission line and more
 5 affluent urban areas are the primary beneficiaries."
 6 That remains true, and that is just not right.
 7 So my time is almost up. In conclusion, I
 8 would just -- I hope -- again, I want to thank you for
 9 coming and listening, coming to the community where we
 10 all live.
 11 I mentioned some of the challenges we face in
 12 the community, but we are a strong community. So I urge
 13 you to do the right thing and prevent this line from
 14 being built.
 15 Thank you.
 16 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 17 Following Ms. Metlen we will have Joe Horst,
 18 and I think we will do one more after Mr. Horst. We'll
 19 hear from Gail Carbiener, then we will take our break.
 20 MS. ANITA METLEN: Good evening. Thank you
 21 for hearing me and allowing all my fellow community
 22 members to make comments on this project. My name is
 23 Anita Metlen. I live at 65208 Hull Lane, Imbler, Oregon
 24 97841.
 25 I strongly agree with all the previous

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1 comments about fire and environment and the viewsheds.
 2 I have lived in this valley for 43 years. I've been a
 3 business owner, I have raised a family. Two of those
 4 businesses do involve tourism and serving local people.
 5 Those people enjoy the benefits of Morgan Lake, the
 6 wilderness area, Ladd Marsh, the Oregon Trail, the
 7 scenic bikeways and scenic byways that crisscross this
 8 area. These are all very important to our culture here.
 9 And Glass Hill, Glass Hill is also something that we all
 10 gaze upon and truly enjoy.
 11 My comment is that I am opposed to
 12 installation of this transmission line. My greatest
 13 concern is the damage that the system would cause to the
 14 viewshed or the countryside in which it travels through.
 15 I would encourage you to look to other options. I know
 16 that solar panels, batteries, and all these kinds of
 17 options are now available.
 18 But have you even thought to maybe aboveground
 19 type conduit? Like within a house you can have conduit,
 20 where you have transportation of your power, but it is
 21 less visible. Yes, there would still be some issues,
 22 but at least we wouldn't all have to look at it all the
 23 time.
 24 So rural areas are dependent upon tourism.
 25 Tourism in 2014 was \$12.8 billion worth of the economy

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1 in Oregon. Certainly we have a portion of that.
 2 Tourists do not travel to ponder the power grid. And
 3 those of us who live in the rural area made a choice to
 4 live here where the countryside is not marred by manmade
 5 structures. Please do not ruin the viewshed for
 6 eternity for your towers and lines.
 7 Our future is the continued livability of the
 8 place that we live, work, and play. Our future requires
 9 that we maintain the viewshed that is not marred by
 10 large unsightly towers and miles of wire.
 11 So your plan is to plan for the future; our
 12 plan is to protect our future.
 13 Thank you.
 14 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 15 MR. JOE HORST: Hello. My name is Joe Horst.
 16 I live at 87 Hawthorne Drive. My house and property
 17 sits right next to where their proposed tensioning
 18 station lines are going to be. Because of where it is
 19 we will be able to see at least a couple of the towers
 20 from our property.
 21 In 2002, I bought 135 acres right there. It's
 22 up here on the hill, and the Oregon Trail -- there's two
 23 reasons I bought it, and one was the view, it was really
 24 good; the other one was the Oregon Trail came across it,
 25 which really intrigued me. And I very shortly

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1 thereafter contacted the Oregon Trail Society. They
 2 came and marked off the trail. So I've had this little
 3 piece of heaven up there.
 4 In 2014, my wife and I decided to build,
 5 rebuild our house or we actually entertained the idea of
 6 building on another piece of property, having 2 acres up
 7 there and a lot of places we could build with a view, we
 8 decided to go ahead and rebuild the house where it is,
 9 not knowing what the future had in store. We could have
 10 built the house on another section of property.
 11 The first time that I was ever -- on May 5th
 12 of 2016, I got a letter from Idaho Power about -- and
 13 this is the first time I ever heard anything about this
 14 project, ever. And it was a very short letter. It just
 15 said that -- they put bold letters in the middle of the
 16 letter, it said: "Permission to enter your property for
 17 survey and information gathering does not constitute
 18 your consent to grant a future easement."
 19 So I didn't think too much about it, but there
 20 was a name on there. I contacted a gentleman at Idaho
 21 Power named Mike Takac for more information. And we
 22 talked about it, and I said the Oregon Trail came across
 23 my property and this and that. And he said, Well, I
 24 guess we'll have to find another place to build the
 25 line. He said, what he said was, We will have to find

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1 another route. So I didn't think anything about it, as
 2 far as I know, it's a done deal.
 3 On December 16, 2016, I received a second
 4 letter with some maps, and it showed a -- they weren't
 5 very detailed, they were pretty vague, and neither the
 6 proposed route or the alternative route came near my
 7 property on those maps. This letter was very short and
 8 a bunch of legal jargon, but it had a questionnaire
 9 which pertained to farming. I didn't fill it out or
 10 anything.
 11 Then the very next letter I received was on
 12 May 12th of 2017, and the letter said it was contacting
 13 landowners whose property may be crossed by this
 14 project. At this time I was contacted by somebody from
 15 Idaho Power. He was actually contracted to come talk to
 16 me. And this is when he actually started talking to me
 17 about the tensioning station. So I went ahead and sat
 18 down and talked to him. And as it comes out, they want
 19 to use the road coming up to our house, where it comes
 20 right past our house, literally 20 feet from our front
 21 door, 10 feet from our well, with big heavy trucks and
 22 everything. And because of the tensioning station
 23 building built, according to Idaho Power, could be as
 24 many as 160 vehicles per day. That's what they said.
 25 The other issue I have on that particular deal

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1 is the entrance, and they've talked about it a little
 2 bit previously, where you come in off of Sunset onto
 3 Modelaire and it splits to Hawthorne and Modelaire.
 4 There is no sidewalks. It's the only entrance into the
 5 place. There is a lot of bike traffic, a lot of kid
 6 traffic, a lot of walking, people just walking up and
 7 down that hill. And it's a potential hazard, big time.
 8 Idaho Power has been very deceptive, and I've
 9 had almost no contact with them whatsoever. I don't
 10 know what to expect. All the information I'm getting is
 11 just really meetings, and yet I'm going to have to sit
 12 there. And it's getting close enough I'll hear the
 13 buzzing. I'll see two towers. I see people walk up the
 14 Oregon Trail all the time, and they'll have to sit there
 15 and look at these huge towers as they are walking. It's
 16 beautiful up through that little piece of property up
 17 there.
 18 I just found out about the blasting, which I
 19 have a 565-foot well we put in when we did the house.
 20 They are going to have to do some blasting there because
 21 it's solid rock.
 22 So it's just a potential hazard all the way
 23 around, as far as -- I'm not going to gain -- I will
 24 have no gain. Looking at these things, I'll have to
 25 listen to them, and I don't gain anything from them. So

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1 I don't think it's -- I'm not really sure how they can
 2 actually come and do that.
 3 So anyway, so that was the third time I was
 4 contacted was in 2017. Then I was actually -- somewhere
 5 around the end of 2017, a gentleman with Idaho Power, I
 6 believe his name was Jeff Maffuccio, or something like
 7 that, came up to the property. We discussed a few
 8 things. I voiced my concerns one more time with him.
 9 Then we discussed -- we discussed about maybe put a road
 10 in a different spot, the one up there. But I don't know
 11 who is going to -- as far as I can tell, they will just
 12 come in and just use the one in front of my house, and
 13 there's nothing I can do about it.
 14 I also live in the area, and a couple of
 15 people have mentioned, about the '73 fire actually
 16 burned where my house sits, right across that property.
 17 So that's another concern of mine as well.
 18 I don't think there has been any environmental
 19 impact statement done on that particular route right
 20 there either. They said something about there was one
 21 done somewhere nearby, but I'm not sure how close that
 22 was or anything.
 23 But I'm just going to ask that you guys take
 24 us into consideration. We have to live and deal with
 25 this and with no gain on it. Especially from my

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1 perspective up there, like I said, Idaho Power has
 2 contacted me a total of four times, and I really don't
 3 know about what is going on or anything. I think they
 4 should be a little more inclusive to people who are
 5 going to be impacted by this.
 6 So I want to thank you guys for listening, and
 7 take some of these things into serious consideration in
 8 making your decision.
 9 Thank you very much.
 10 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 11 MR. GAIL CARBIENER: I'm Gail Carbiener. I'm
 12 from Bend, Oregon, but behind me are lots and lots of
 13 friends. It's almost as if I live in this county I'm
 14 over here so frequently. I represent the Oregon Trail.
 15 That is a national organization whose job it is to do
 16 what we can to protect and preserve the trail as well as
 17 educate the public. I'm proud to say that our national
 18 organization is a member of Stop B2H and has donated a
 19 substantial amount of money to their effort to Stop B2H.
 20 On Exhibit S, Historic Properties Management
 21 Plan, at 7.2.3, which is the field crew definition, I
 22 would like to add an expert from the Oregon Trail's
 23 Association to be a member. There is many, many
 24 instances in the documents presented for the Oregon
 25 Trail where the Oregon Trail is misrepresented,

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1 sometimes not even on the maps and, therefore, you need
 2 an expert, and there is none on that field crew. You
 3 have got my specific recommendations in writing.
 4 Also, I'm glad to hear that Kellen led off
 5 tonight with information about fire. Last night she did
 6 not. And I mentioned that Idaho Power's fire prevention
 7 plan is not only weak, it is less specific than I think
 8 you are requiring us to be. For example, Idaho Power
 9 last night responded to the chairman's question about
 10 have they submitted a draft fire prevention plan, and he
 11 said that it will be submitted. That is my
 12 recollection.
 13 They not only submitted a draft fire
 14 prevention plan, but it was forwarded to the Forest
 15 Service and to the State Forestry fire prevention and
 16 corrections, and suggestions were submitted. However,
 17 in the draft project order, the fire prevention plan has
 18 not changed. I suggest that they do that.
 19 I recommended a couple of things in the fire
 20 prevention plan: (1) cameras could be posted to cover
 21 the area of the power line if, in fact, it is to be
 22 built; (2) Idaho Power recommends that a watch person,
 23 an individual watch person be present to report fires
 24 during construction. My recommendation is that Idaho
 25 Power provide a crew with a wildfire engine, Category 3,

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1 which is used by most of the wildfire prevention
 2 districts, to be present during construction at all
 3 times, including after hours when the vehicles and
 4 equipment are being serviced.
 5 Last, but not least, the vegetation management
 6 plan that is presented by Idaho Power is a copy of
 7 PacifiCorp's vegetation management plan. They did not
 8 even take off PacifiCorp's logo. How insulting can that
 9 be?
 10 So I hope that you will hear the people here
 11 tonight, and that you will turn down and reject the
 12 current B2H.
 13 Thank you.
 14 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 15 Let's take a break. Let's come back at 6:40,
 16 and then we will then be calling Irene Gilbert to
 17 testify followed by John Williams.
 18 Thank you all.
 19 (Recess taken.)
 20 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: We are back on the
 21 record. We are going to be hearing from Irene Gilbert,
 22 and following Irene we will be hearing from John
 23 Williams.
 24 SECRETARY CORNETT: Before we begin, I'd like
 25 to make a quick announcement. For those of you who will

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1 come in a little bit later -- Max, can you raise your
 2 hand back there? Max. Cliff, in the red shirt, if
 3 anybody has come in late, we have comment cards. If you
 4 would like to make a comment, please fill out a card.
 5 Max is holding them up right now. Go back and talk to
 6 him. You can fill them out and then he'll bring them up
 7 to us. Thank you.
 8 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Also, if there is
 9 anybody that is on the phone that would like to give a
 10 comment telephonically, please speak up now so we can
 11 accommodate you. We are going to put the phone callers
 12 in at the end of the in-person testimony, but we need to
 13 know if anybody is on the line so we can have time for
 14 you. Hearing none, we will proceed and time it as if
 15 there is nobody on the phone that wants to participate.
 16 So, Ms. Gilbert, thank you.
 17 MS. IRENE GILBERT: My name is Irene Gilbert.
 18 I live at 2310 Adams Avenue here in La Grande. I come
 19 representing myself. I'm also the legal research
 20 analyst for Friends of the Grande Ronde Valley and a
 21 member of the board for Stop B2H.
 22 I want to make a few just really quick
 23 comments before I get into the main part of my
 24 presentation. But this is some of the concerns that I
 25 have: The Oregon Department of Energy does not

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1 recognize or honor the federal protections for
 2 threatened and endangered species; in fact, it removed
 3 them from their rules. I asked Representative Greg
 4 Smith to get a response from Oregon legal Council about
 5 whether or not that was legitimate or legal. And the
 6 response that he got was, Well, they can get away with
 7 it if -- and this was a written response -- as long as
 8 they include all those animals in their habitat section
 9 of the evaluation.
 10 They do not cover all of the threatened and
 11 endangered or federally protected species; and, in fact,
 12 it says that pretty much if they run into them, sort of
 13 as an aside, they will note it. So I think that's a
 14 problem.
 15 I think that when you read through these site
 16 certificates, there is a lot of use of language to
 17 misdirect people. And in the thousands of pages of
 18 information they provide they say things like: There
 19 will be no direct impacts on things like the Oregon
 20 Trail. That means they won't put a tower right in the
 21 middle of the trail.
 22 They have done other things, like with Ladd
 23 Marsh, they rated it on a 30-point scale, they rated the
 24 views from Ladd Marsh and rated it an 11. So I would
 25 say that is a long ways from 30. And when they say they

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1 are protecting raptor nests, that means they won't cut
 2 one down as long as there are young in the nest; but if
 3 the young are not there, they will cut it down and put a
 4 tower right next to it.
 5 So those are the kind of individual things
 6 that I hope people are looking at and commenting on. I
 7 could give you 50 others.
 8 Anyway, you previously heard from me in some
 9 level of detail about noise and weeds resulting from
 10 this development. I'd like you to keep in mind that the
 11 recommendations from the Oregon Department of Energy in
 12 the draft proposed order only give information in
 13 support of their recommendation.
 14 So I hope that you thoroughly consider the
 15 comments and the written comments that you will receive
 16 from the rest of the community here.
 17 One thing that happened is Idaho Power chose
 18 to identify the minimum amount of land that they
 19 possibly could as a part of their site. So what that
 20 means is things like to notice those people who are
 21 impacted that they have to notify people with 250 feet
 22 of it, they really limited the amount of people who got
 23 to know that this was happening. They also then got to
 24 minimize the damages from things like farm and
 25 forestland impacts. They didn't have to do surveys in a

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1 fairly large area.
 2 And what's ended up happening is they've had
 3 to ask the Oregon Department of Energy and the Energy
 4 Facility Siting Council to give them an exception to the
 5 Goal 5 land use rules. And what the developers have
 6 asked is they have asked the Oregon Department of Energy
 7 to give them the exception to this for putting roads
 8 through forest lands that are not on part of the site.
 9 Now, this is kind of interesting, because I
 10 had a contested case before the Siting Council because
 11 of the developer who was not including a transmission
 12 line in their order. What happened is I lost that
 13 contested case because the Department of Energy decided
 14 that if the developer didn't include it in their
 15 application, then it wasn't considered part of the site.
 16 I was not real happy about losing that
 17 contested case until now, because now Idaho Power wants
 18 you to approve this exception to the forest damages that
 19 they are going to create. And unfortunately for them,
 20 it's clear in the state statutes, the agency rules,
 21 contested case results I referred to, that for site
 22 certificates the Council can only approve construction
 23 within the site.
 24 So Idaho Power now has four options for these
 25 roads outside of the area of their site, as I see it.

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1 They can go through each individual county and go
 2 through their processes to get approval for every one of
 3 these roads they are going to put on people's property
 4 who have received no notice and have no clue what is
 5 going on. That will allow people to participate in
 6 another process like this.
 7 They can amend the site certificate and start
 8 over with the Energy Facility Siting Council. They can
 9 try to win a court case by arguing that they should be
 10 able to have an exception for property where people have
 11 no idea that this thing is coming through and get the
 12 Energy Facility Siting Council to say, Yes, you can
 13 build roads anywhere you want outside the site.
 14 And the fourth option, which I recommend, is
 15 to recognize that this transmission line is not needed
 16 and build local energy developments in Idaho to meet
 17 their perceived need, assuming they actually do occur.
 18 I've said it before and I'll say it again:
 19 The Travel Management Plan is not the only government
 20 action eastern Oregon citizens can stop if the people
 21 are active in participating and resisting.
 22 And I am really glad to see, I want to thank
 23 everyone who showed up, because we can stop and we will
 24 stop the Boardman to Hemingway transmission line.
 25 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Following

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1 Mr. Williams, we will hear from Peter Barry.
 2 MR. JOHN WILLIAMS: Appreciate the opportunity
 3 to talk here. John Williams, I live at Box 1384,
 4 La Grande. I own property northwest and west of Morgan
 5 Lake, and both power lines are going to cross my
 6 property.
 7 I would like to start off and go back to
 8 something from 2009, which is the Sixth Power Plan
 9 Overview from Northwest Power Conservation Council. And
 10 this is the memo that apparently the folks didn't get.
 11 The first full paragraph says, this is a
 12 summary: "The Pacific Northwest power system is faced
 13 with significant uncertainties about the direction and
 14 form of climate change policy, future fuel prices,
 15 salmon recovery actions, economic growth, and
 16 integrating rapidly growing amounts of variable wind
 17 generation. And yet the focus of the Council's power
 18 plan is clear, especially with regard to the important
 19 near-term actions.
 20 "The Council's power plan addresses the risks
 21 these uncertainties pose for the region's electricity
 22 future and seeks an electrical resource strategy that
 23 minimizes the expected cost of, and risks to, the
 24 regional power system over the next 20 years. Across
 25 multiple scenarios considered in the development of the

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1 plan, one conclusion was constant: the most
 2 cost-effective and least risky resource for the region
 3 is improved efficiency of electrical use.
 4 "In each of its power plans, the Council has
 5 found substantial amounts of conservation to be cheaper
 6 and more sustainable than most other types of
 7 generation. In this Sixth Power Plan, because of the
 8 higher costs of alternative generation sources, rapidly
 9 developing technology, and heightened concerns about
 10 global climate change, conservation holds an even larger
 11 potential for the region.
 12 "The plan finds enough conservation to be
 13 available and cost effective to meet 85 percent of the
 14 region's load growth for the next 20 years. If
 15 developed aggressively, this conservation, combined with
 16 the region's past successful development of energy
 17 efficiency could constitute a resource comparable in
 18 size to the Northwest federal hydroelectric system.
 19 This efficiency resource will complement and protect the
 20 Northwest's heritage of clean and affordable power."
 21 The list goes on to address --
 22 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: If you could just
 23 slow down because we are trying to listen and she's
 24 trying to get it all down.
 25 MR. JOHN WILLIAMS: It goes on to address the

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1 reasons stated for this project in the first place,
 2 which is enervation of variable power sources, such as
 3 wind and solar into the grid and it will increase the
 4 capacity that the transmission lines would have to
 5 provide. You can read that, and I'll skip over to what
 6 is going on with particular storage in the past
 7 10 years.
 8 I would like to start with 2008 or '09 when
 9 Nissan Leaf came out with all-electric cars that weighed
 10 2,000 pounds and went 100 miles. And then Tesla comes
 11 along with a 4200-pound car that runs like a rocket and
 12 did 300 miles. Then Tesla further, in the aftermath of
 13 Maria in Puerto Rico, they supplied the hospital down
 14 there with power until the juice got turned back on to
 15 them.
 16 Kodiak Island is an independent grid that was
 17 run by diesel and now is being powered by renewables.
 18 The John Day Dam on the Washington side had a project
 19 permitted for a wind farm, and that wind farm would take
 20 water from below the John Day Dam and back up above it,
 21 therefore, making the John Day Dam a more efficient
 22 battery. And then in Turkey, General Electric developed
 23 an integrated project of solar, wind, and a gas turbine
 24 to produce electricity.
 25 It seems like this technology has moved rather

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1 rapidly. I think we are in the crossroads of whether we
 2 need increased transmission or see if storage technology
 3 is going to make that obsolete. There is going to be a
 4 few more cards dealt in this. I've always thought at
 5 this point in time this project just needs to be kicked
 6 down the road and see what happens.
 7 That's it.
 8 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 9 Following Mr. Barry, we will hear from Steven
 10 Clements.
 11 MR. PETER BARRY: Yeah, I've got my 7 minutes
 12 here. I'd really appreciate it if you guys would all
 13 listen to me. Hanley, all you guys, I wish you would
 14 all listen to me. Maybe you are all listening intently
 15 but you are not making eye contact with these good
 16 people who have come far and worked hard all day long,
 17 and they deserve to be heard. And maybe some of their
 18 comments are not germane and they are not perfectly
 19 denoted by page and appendix and which tower that Idaho
 20 Power dreamt up, but none of us want this line.
 21 Who wants this line? Anybody?
 22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Not me.
 23 MR. PETER BARRY: Stand up and --
 24 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Mr. Barry.
 25 MR. PETER BARRY: These people need to be

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1 heard.
 2 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: And they need the
 3 opportunity to do so.
 4 MR. PETER BARRY: I'm just using some of my 7
 5 minutes. I'll burn a minute or two for that one.
 6 But I'm passionate about this. You have seen
 7 this beautiful valley. Hanley used to live here.
 8 Unfortunately, he was a community planner, he didn't
 9 protect the viewshed. But we're NIMBYs; right? Oh, we
 10 don't want you going up our road, we don't want you
 11 going on our land.
 12 But 300 miles, 300 miles of Oregon and you
 13 guys have a chance to derail this stupid idea. You can
 14 slow it down, derail it, you know you can. You have all
 15 of these different ways. You can allow contested case
 16 hearings. You can look at all of the stuff Stop B2H is
 17 going to submit. You can look at every one and go, Huh,
 18 that's a pretty good point. Can Idaho Power really
 19 prove that verifiably? Can they really prove it?
 20 Ten years ago, more than 10 years ago they said, We want
 21 to build this line. A for-profit corporation.
 22 I used to think utilities were like a public
 23 service agency. They brought you water and electricity.
 24 We all love electricity. It turns out Idaho Power is a
 25 terrible juggernaut. They wanted to plug up Hells

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1 Canyon, the last free-flowing stretch of the Snake
 2 River, the last stretch. They lobbied hard. They spent
 3 millions of their ratepayers' dollars trying to plug up
 4 the last wide beautiful stretch of the Snake River.
 5 Took it all the way to the Supreme Court of our land,
 6 and fortunately, they had the wisdom to slam them back.
 7 They wanted to build a coal-fired plant right
 8 by Boise that has horrific air quality. Fortunately,
 9 that was slammed down, too.
 10 This is your chance to stop this stupid idea.
 11 We are talking about should it be built here or there.
 12 Oh, we love our view, we love our backyard. We love it
 13 here. Maybe you don't, maybe you want to live
 14 somewhere, that's fine, but we love this place. And 300
 15 miles, and it's not federal land; it's public land, we
 16 own it. We all own the federal land; right? It's ours,
 17 it's yours.
 18 And you guys have a chance, you have a little
 19 slice of voice; we don't. We get our 7 minutes, that's
 20 it. We can try to comprehend 20,000 pages of gibberish
 21 while trying to raise a family and hold down two jobs or
 22 raise four kids. That's what we can do. We can try to
 23 discern this crap.
 24 It's difficult. Have you guys, have any of
 25 you read all 20,000 pages? Any of you? No one can do

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1 it. Your staff can't read all 20,000 pages. They each
 2 have a section, they try to understand it, and then you
 3 ask Idaho Power, What the hell does this mean? And they
 4 go, This is what it means. No, really, we've got your
 5 back. We will fill you in on that.
 6 Have you heard of regulatory capture? That's
 7 where their staff is interacting with your staff, day
 8 and night, day and night, going out to lunch together,
 9 and they become friends and colleagues.
 10 And no disrespect to you or your staff, I
 11 appreciate that you're doing this voluntarily. You come
 12 all the way out here, and you went to Morgan Lake.
 13 That's great you did that. We appreciate that. But we
 14 want to stop this damn thing. There's no need for it,
 15 and we can prove. There is no need for it. It would
 16 cause -- as everybody has testified, it would cause
 17 horrendous damage through our public land for our
 18 great-grandkids, not just us, but our grandkids and
 19 their kids. It would just be this ugly nightmare out
 20 there.
 21 And it's not just because it's ugly, I don't
 22 want to see it. But we don't need it. We don't need a
 23 300-mile long clear-cut. We don't need it.
 24 If any one of you or me went to a doctor and
 25 said, I've got a back pain. And they said, Oh, we have

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1 got a solution, we will just put a slice down your spine
 2 and we can fix it. And you're like, Boy, that sounds
 3 pretty bad. They go, Oh, we have another option. We
 4 can slice down the other side of your spine.
 5 Oh, that's our preferred grid and Mill Creek.
 6 That's what we got. Thanks a lot. Slice away.
 7 Then you go, I'm going to hire experts. And
 8 for 2 years those experts study and study and study and
 9 they spend \$20 million, the BLM I'm talking about. They
 10 spent 20 million bucks to do this research on where is
 11 the preferred route, not that it should be built or not.
 12 Just if you're going to build the damn thing, where
 13 should you put it.
 14 All those scientists, all those analysts, all
 15 those experts spending all that money and time, they
 16 said, Build it way over there. Well, Idaho Power gets
 17 to say, We don't care what you said. They paid for it,
 18 they had to pay for it. Well, they didn't pay for it,
 19 the ratepayers paid for it; right? The ratepayers had
 20 to pay a lot of money for that study. They ignored it.
 21 So that's like us going, we pay for all these
 22 doctors to study and the doctors say, Oh, we've got a
 23 much easier treatment for you. You're not going to take
 24 that treatment, are you? You don't want to get cut
 25 open, you don't want that treatment. And then someone

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1 says, You know what, we have an alternative, we have an
 2 alternative solution.
 3 This is 2018, and in another 5 years we
 4 have -- we already have solar, wind; right? We have all
 5 this stuff. We have storage. Every day it gets better,
 6 it's amazing.
 7 So if someone says, You don't need an
 8 operation, we can fix you with new technology, every one
 9 of us would grab that opportunity; right? Wouldn't we?
 10 Or would we build this dinosaur because Idaho Power
 11 wants to make 70 million bucks with PacifiCorp, owned by
 12 Warren Buffet, a billionaire, he's a billionaire, and
 13 Idaho Power is a for-profit corporation; right? I'm not
 14 making this stuff up. This is true. They want to make
 15 a bunch of money. Warren Buffet probably said he'd buy
 16 Idaho Power if they shoved this line through or
 17 whatever.
 18 We don't want it. No one in Oregon called you
 19 guys and said, Would you please build a big power line
 20 across Oregon. Nobody said that; right?
 21 Same with Cove Power, no one is saying, Please
 22 build a pipeline across Oregon, across 200 creeks. No
 23 one is doing that except these profiteers. I don't like
 24 that, not personally, but I don't like corporations
 25 shoving their power line through our valley and across

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1 my state. I love my state. I love Oregon. That's why
 2 I live here. I'm sure you guys love Oregon, too.
 3 So what I'm asking you, please, all of you,
 4 please, when you hear an argument from Stop B2H, from
 5 any of these good citizens or anyone else, please have
 6 your staff analyze that material very, very carefully
 7 and then call us back if there is any questions. Don't
 8 just say, Idaho Power, oh, they've responded. Okay,
 9 that's the answer.
 10 I saw that with the PUC. They just asked
 11 Idaho Power, How is that? And they answered. They
 12 didn't ask anybody else, What's your opinion? What's
 13 your view? What's the truth? Idaho Power lies, gives
 14 half truths, misinformation. It's inappropriate.
 15 Can you tell I'm angry? All these people are
 16 angry, too, and a bunch more. We represent a tiny group
 17 of people, a tiny group of people. So I'm asking you,
 18 please help us slow this thing down, help us stop it.
 19 I know you can't consider another intelligent
 20 route, if there was going to be a line, it should be
 21 somewhere else. I know you can't consider that, but we
 22 need to kill this thing. It's a stupid, terrible idea.
 23 You know it, I know it. The only people who want it is
 24 Idaho Power and PacifiCorp, and BPA pulled out; right?
 25 They are not telling anybody; right? Didn't they,

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1 didn't BPA pull out? It's not in their budget; right?
 2 The third partner pulled out. Why did they?
 3 They already cancelled the big power line, or a small
 4 power line they were planning from Portland north into
 5 Washington; right? They cancelled that one. Now they
 6 pulled out, at least according to their budget, B2H
 7 isn't in their budget anymore.
 8 Anyway, we're not getting good information
 9 from Idaho Power. You're not getting good information
 10 from Idaho Power. Don't rubber stamp this thing. Don't
 11 check it off the box. Went to La Grande, went to
 12 Pendleton; rubber stamp, build the line. Don't do it,
 13 please. Don't do it. This is your chance. You have
 14 the power to help Oregon.
 15 Thank you for listening.
 16 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 17 MR. STEVEN CLEMENTS: It's kind of hard to
 18 come up here after that. Thank you, Pete.
 19 My name is Steve Clements. I'm the mayor of
 20 La Grande. My address is 1000 Adams Avenue.
 21 Before I start to speak, I want to thank all
 22 the people that came up here and spoke this evening.
 23 I'm particularly impressed by the background that they
 24 have, the work that they have done. They are to be
 25 commended for all the time that they've put in. It's

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1 amazing. What I know about this project comes to about
 2 this much relative to what they know (indicating).
 3 Anyway, thank you for the opportunity to
 4 present this evening. The La Grande City Council, which
 5 represents more than 13,000 people who will be
 6 negatively affected by this transmission line, has
 7 provided comments through staff, through our city staff
 8 at each of the steps in the process; so you have some of
 9 our input already.
 10 I will reiterate some of that and add to it.
 11 In 2019 and '17, the La Grande City Council, in
 12 partnership with the Union County Commissioners,
 13 conducted two public meetings in this very room to hear
 14 from residents regarding the project in conjunction with
 15 the amended preliminary applications. Public sentiment
 16 expressed at those meetings overwhelmingly opposed the
 17 transmission line. You are hearing some of that this
 18 evening.
 19 The bases for that opposition included, but
 20 was not limited to, reduced property values to homes
 21 along the proposed route; viewshed impacts throughout
 22 the area; environmental impacts both during construction
 23 and when the transmission line is operational; impacts
 24 to recreational facilities such as Morgan Lake; and a
 25 lack of public notice and involvement throughout the

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1 process.
 2 The La Grande City Council has been clear in
 3 its opposition to the project beginning with its first
 4 correspondence with ODOE in August of 2017 and again
 5 this past April in a proclamation that it made opposing
 6 the line. The City has also been consistent with its
 7 request that EFSC include mitigation to address the
 8 City's concerns if the project is approved.
 9 We very much appreciate the inclusion of our
 10 staff's recommended conditions related to transportation
 11 and the impacts to Morgan Lake in the draft proposed
 12 order. We are hopeful that the transportation and
 13 conditions resolve the concerns raised by the City and
 14 Union County throughout the process.
 15 Of the two routes identified in the
 16 application, the applicant has selected Mill Creek, the
 17 most impactful to La Grande. It will be visible up here
 18 on our end of the valley as the proposed route.
 19 And the Morgan Lake, which also impacts City
 20 property because that entire Morgan Lake Park belongs to
 21 the City of La Grande. We have spent a lot of money up
 22 there keeping it and improving it as a recreational
 23 opportunity for people in this county. That is the
 24 alternative route.
 25 And I cannot say this more emphatically: We

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1 oppose, the City of La Grande opposes both of those
 2 routes. And while I realize that the BLM-preferred
 3 route is outside of your consideration, and I appreciate
 4 what you gave us as guidelines before, the City Council
 5 is very concerned about the decision by the applicant
 6 not to submit the route which has lower social and
 7 environmental impacts than the two identified routes. I
 8 cannot understand why that route was not put in there,
 9 personally.
 10 For the proposed route, we ask that a
 11 condition be included to require H-frames. We are
 12 talking about mitigation. Now, these are requests that
 13 we put forward. This is going to be somewhat different
 14 than what you and I agreed to.
 15 But for the proposed route we ask that a
 16 condition be included, so that's the one up here, to
 17 require H-frames with a tower height no greater than 130
 18 feet, with weathered steel between milepost 106/2 and
 19 milepost 108/5. Idaho Power has indicated that they
 20 agree to this level of mitigation.
 21 For the Morgan Lake alternative, the draft
 22 proposed order includes requirements for these same
 23 H-frames between miles 5-7 of Morgan Lake as a
 24 recommended condition. The City of La Grande would like
 25 to express that as an alternative, the City would accept

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1 \$100,000 in funding for improvements to Morgan Lake to
 2 mitigate the impacts on recreation should the Morgan
 3 Lake alternative be constructed. Idaho Power has agreed
 4 to this condition as well.
 5 I want to say this again: Please do not
 6 interpret the City's willingness to agree to
 7 mitigations, that I just meant it as support or
 8 acceptance of the project. We remain firmly opposed,
 9 firmly opposed to the project for the reasons identified
 10 in our 2017 comments of the preliminary application.
 11 We respectfully ask that EFSC require the
 12 mitigation we are seeking in the final order if the
 13 project is approved. And while I have only a modicum of
 14 the compassion as Peter Barry, just say no.
 15 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Next, we have
 16 Mr. Larkin followed by Sheri Kanig.
 17 MR. GREG LARKIN: Good evening. My name is
 18 Greg Larkin. I reside at 59655 Morgan Lake Road. I
 19 live on the top of Morgan Lake Road directly across from
 20 the entrance into Morgan Lake.
 21 The Morgan Lake alternative route of the Idaho
 22 Power transmission line would be located approximately
 23 120 yards from my residence. I'm in the process of
 24 developing my second approved home site on this
 25 property, which would be even in a closer location of

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1 this transmission line in proximity to it.
 2 I spent many years as a locomotive engineer
 3 for the Union Pacific Railroad. I suffered a permanent
 4 disability of hearing loss and tinnitus that forced me
 5 away from this career.
 6 I can read you a screenshot from Wikipedia on
 7 tinnitus: "Tinnitus is the hearing of sound with no
 8 external sound present. While often described as a
 9 ringing, it may also sound like a clicking, hiss or
 10 roaring. Rarely, unclear voices or music are heard.
 11 The sound may be soft or loud, low pitched or high
 12 pitched and appear to be coming from one ear or both.
 13 Most of the time, it comes on gradually. In some
 14 people, the sound causes depression or anxiety and can
 15 interfere with concentration."
 16 I am real bad in the last 3 years. When I
 17 left the railroad in '87, I had a testing in 1985, my
 18 ears rang at that time 57 decibels. Approximately
 19 10 years ago, one ear was at 72 decibels, the other one
 20 was at 75 decibels.
 21 Now, I have great concerns, and I've been
 22 around the transmission lines before where I cannot
 23 stand them, and if this is this close to my home. And
 24 then to cope with it up there, or to tolerate it, I've
 25 done a lot of pruning and thinning of the trees to get

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1 the wind patterns to different velocities of wind to
 2 seek some relief from this, and I've been able to create
 3 this type of environment here.
 4 Now, the facts of this B2H coming through my
 5 property, without it being there, can almost put a
 6 person a little over the top that way. It affects me
 7 every second of every day. It's a 100-pound drill
 8 lodged in their back, to characterize it.
 9 If this transmission line were to go through
 10 at this location, I would no longer be able to reside or
 11 fulfill my lifetime dreams and goal of living here. And
 12 I don't have the time nor the resources or anything else
 13 to seek the relief I've sought or the little bit of
 14 tranquility to deal with this issue. Well, I will leave
 15 it at this, and then I'll address some more issues.
 16 As far as pertaining to the sound, the static
 17 hiss of this line for the peace and tranquility of our
 18 lake up there. We have a gas line that goes through,
 19 this line and this route will cross this gas line twice.
 20 If we have heavy fogs or a rainstorm, that can transmit
 21 a spark to the ground and create a fire, the electronic
 22 field.
 23 Again, I'll repeat myself. The health hazards
 24 of this to people in this close of proximity. And the
 25 deterioration, even in the ground, the potential

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1 deterioration in the ground of this gas pipeline. The
 2 technology, I don't know, as it goes over, through this
 3 route. It had to. There is no longer a route that was
 4 the western route that was on the radar and it's
 5 disappeared, it's gone away. And viably the effect on
 6 our county here, if that route were to go through in
 7 that direction, it would most likely have no less impact
 8 on our county here, to the residents.
 9 I'm not a public speaker. I'll address it
 10 further in some written comments. I'll have some
 11 assistance on that.
 12 I thank you for your time.
 13 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 14 We have Sheri Kanig, and following we will
 15 hear from William Whitaker.
 16 MS. SHERI KANIG: Good afternoon or evening,
 17 everyone. My name is Sheri Kanig, and I reside at 331
 18 Southwest Street in Yreka, California. That is located
 19 in the Klamath National Forest in Siskiyou County,
 20 northern California. I am not a resident of La Grande
 21 but a volunteer and a tourist.
 22 I have been a co-owner of a large logging
 23 company in the Klamath National Forest for many years
 24 and also participated in fire suppression. I guess my
 25 issues today are regarding the fire danger because of

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1 this line.
 2 I've also worked for the Happy Camp Ranger
 3 District in the Klamath National Forest and worked on
 4 active forest fires. I have flown with pilots over the
 5 fires and seen the devastation caused to the habitat and
 6 to the animals. The animals can't be forgotten.
 7 I have many relatives that dedicated their
 8 careers to protecting the towns and forests from
 9 wildland fires. These fires put the lives of
 10 firefighters, volunteers, residents, habitat, and
 11 wildlife in jeopardy.
 12 Living in Happy Camp at one time, I've been
 13 totally surrounded by a forest fire. All of our crew
 14 had to work on this fire. There were many dangers, we
 15 lost some of our vehicles, and the fire and long-lasting
 16 smoke caused severe health issues in many residents,
 17 including my father-in-law who passed away a couple of
 18 years later. He was a fire officer for the Forest
 19 Service for about 25 years.
 20 I'd like to talk about a fire that affected
 21 many people that I knew. In November of 2018, near
 22 Paradise, California, a fire started on the 56-mile
 23 Caribou-Palermo Electric transmission line. This fire
 24 started at 6:33 a.m. near a tower in Pulga -- I may be
 25 saying that wrong -- in Paradise. That day utility

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1 workers discovered that a part had separated from an arm
 2 on the tower, and that is what started that portion of
 3 the fire.
 4 The Camp Fire in Paradise killed 85 people,
 5 destroyed 18,804 structures, and burned 153,336 acres.
 6 That is a huge devastation.
 7 Cal Fire also identified a second ignition
 8 site. The second fire was determined to be vegetation
 9 that got into an electrical distribution line, owned and
 10 operated also by PG&E. Not many people know that there
 11 was a second cause to that fire. Those fires both
 12 emerged.
 13 Many family and friends that I know live in
 14 Paradise. They lost their homes, their pets, their
 15 livelihood. How can that ever be recovered?
 16 If you drive through northern California on
 17 Interstate 5 from the Oregon border, you just have to
 18 look around. You could probably go 20 miles and notice
 19 there was another wildfire and the total devastation
 20 that it caused.
 21 Fires have increased each year that goes by
 22 and become larger and more devastation caused; animals,
 23 plants, people, homes. I mean, what can I say.
 24 As a tourist and visitor from a state
 25 devastated by wildfire each and every year, I can only

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1 say this area holds a serene and untouched beauty. The
 2 landscape and wildlife are stunning; the elk, the deer,
 3 everything that you see every single day.
 4 I spent the past two days on a parcel of land
 5 right across from Morgan Lake. We hiked for many hours
 6 and saw all the wildlife, the beauty, the untouched
 7 beauty of this area.
 8 I think that the building of this power line
 9 will devastate this beauty, and I feel that this should
 10 not go on. That is all I have to say.
 11 Thank you.
 12 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 13 After Mr. Whitaker is Thomas Thompson.
 14 MR. WILLIAM WHITAKER: Good evening. My name
 15 is Bill Whitaker. I live here in La Grande at 1108 G
 16 Avenue, about a mile away from Morgan Lake Road.
 17 I'm vice chair of the Board of Oregon Rural
 18 Action. ORA is a member organization of the Stop B2H
 19 Coalition. ORA believes that local residents, ordinary
 20 people, should be the people who are able to decide the
 21 impact of issues that dramatically affect their lives,
 22 our lives, not corporate interests making those
 23 decisions.
 24 We have many concerns about the necessity for
 25 the cost of and the impact of the B2H transmission line.

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1 I will be submitting a detailed report, but in light of
 2 the fact that many of the things that you have heard
 3 already tonight, I won't repeat. I want to just speak a
 4 bit from my heart.
 5 Idaho Power stated that it intended to
 6 construct its proposed power line on a route that had
 7 the most support from the community, that had the least
 8 impact on the community. The route chosen clearly lacks
 9 support from citizens of La Grande and Union County. It
 10 simply is not something that we want to have here
 11 affecting our community in many ways.
 12 We are asking you to consider some of the
 13 impacts of this line on our community. We want you to
 14 consider, to think about the impact of construction
 15 traffic on our residential neighborhoods and the
 16 deterioration that it will cause to our streets and
 17 roads, and the danger that it would present to
 18 pedestrians walking in these neighborhoods, many of
 19 which don't even have sidewalks.
 20 We want you, please, to consider the negative
 21 impact of the project on our unique Morgan Lake Park.
 22 You have heard vivid testimony about what the impact of
 23 power transmission towers towering 40 feet above the
 24 forest canopy in Morgan Lake would cause to the
 25 viewshed, the solitude, the beauty of that area.

1 We want you to consider the negative impact of
2 the project on the beautiful viewshed of the entire
3 La Grande valley and the entire route of this proposed
4 line throughout eastern Oregon. We want you to consider
5 the likely loss of property values that the viewshed
6 would bring with its massive towers that terribly impact
7 our enjoyment, our livelihood, our ability to bring in
8 tourists that provide very substantial amounts of money
9 to our community.

10 And we would like you to consider the impact
11 of B2H on Ladd Marsh, its watershed, its refuge for
12 waterfowl, and wildlife, and its water quality.

13 So we in Oregon Rural Action believe, and we
14 hope that you will come to agree with us, that Idaho
15 Power should abandon the B2H project and should instead
16 utilize the alternative sources of power that are
17 available to it.

18 Thank you.

19 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Following
20 Mr. Thompson, we will hear from Norm Cimon.

21 MR. THOMAS THOMPSON: Good evening. My name
22 is Thomas Thompson. My address is 2202 Gekeler Lane,
23 La Grande, Oregon. I'm a landowner in the Ladd Canyon
24 area along the existing 240-line that is the proposed
25 action of the current plan.

1 conifer forest. I managed grazing programs in the West,
2 the noxious weed programs in the West. If you don't
3 catch it right at the year or 2 years of knowing it's
4 coming with the right chemicals, the right seeded
5 grasses and follow-up, you are in trouble. And we are
6 in trouble on our land from those construction projects.

7 What was different on the construction of the
8 existing line was, in the 1960s, was they used smaller
9 machines. They crawled over the land, they dug those
10 with pneumatic drills, much like the drills they used on
11 the dams, in rock bedrock, and a lot of those holes were
12 handset by pretty tough guys. When we replaced our
13 existing poles, by worker safety standards, they added
14 those lines into every replaced pole site to get their
15 poles in, set, and with bucket trucks to prepare the
16 H-braces and stuff like that.

17 When I left, I left them with a terribly big
18 problem to deal with, and I'm losing with Ventenata
19 dubia. Please write that down, that grass.

20 In talking to Land Services, the contractor
21 for Idaho Power, it was not on the radar. They didn't
22 hear that. The guy I talked to, I think they were
23 inobservant. They do have a noxious weed manager in the
24 city of Boise, but my gut feeling is their hands are
25 filled with -- their time is dominated with southern

1 I'm not naive enough to know, I think, that
2 both proposals will be approved, and I'm unclear on the
3 decision on either/or how that decision which route to
4 take. If the line is to be built, I support the Morgan
5 Lake alternative for the following reasons:

6 My estimate is that it's shorter in its route,
7 and thus, by logic, less impact. It's located mostly
8 in, not all, but more in the proposed activity in a
9 mixed conifer forest where the moisture regimes are
10 higher. There is ability for lower seral vegetation to
11 re-establish, have to cut trees on. Hopefully most of
12 those will be native.

13 My concern on the proposed, along the existing
14 240, is the noxious weeds. I've heard testimony on the
15 threat of wildfire, but noxious weed invasion is just as
16 threatening as wildfire to landowners, especially if
17 they raise cows. When that conversion from a native
18 bunch grass to an introduced annual grass, everybody
19 knows what cheatgrass and medusa are. There is a new
20 invader on the scene called Ventenata dubia. I don't
21 see that addressed in the boilerplate vegetation
22 management plan. We have been fighting it on the
23 existing 240 with the poles that were replaced from wood
24 and steel.

25 So my fear is -- I'm retired from range and

1 Idaho issues.

2 The reason I support the Morgan Lake
3 alternative over the existing 240 is it avoids Ladd
4 Marsh. It avoids more designated elk winterage, the
5 county map. It avoids the viewshed of La Grande I think
6 more. For the portions that are in the county, from La
7 Grande or from the southern valley, from the viewpoints
8 of Ladd Marsh, and for those reasons -- what really
9 worries me, these last 2 minutes, is I know the problems
10 of noxious weeds, and I'm working with Idaho Power to
11 get it done.

12 But the mitigation plans, it's the landowner's
13 responsibility to determine that problem, design the
14 appropriate method to control it, monitor it to see if
15 it's working, and provide follow-up measures. They are
16 pretty much asking what do you need, if you can't do it,
17 get a contractor.

18 Once the decision is made, when, if, how, what
19 does a landowner have other than legal recourse, if they
20 are not following the plan set or they are not providing
21 the expertise and the information, or the contractors
22 they sent out to help you don't know what they are
23 doing?

24 So another issue I think with the landowners
25 is, once the power poles are in, right-of-ways are

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1 established, and let's say they put access roads down
 2 that right-of-way and use it.
 3 In eastern Oregon, trespass elk hunting is a
 4 big problem, and you want to lock your ground up so you
 5 don't spread weeds or vandals. And some of these guys
 6 are pretty ornery, to the point you need legal, just a
 7 pack of sheriffs to deal with your problems, with a
 8 person that is not going to cooperate if you ask them
 9 nicely.
 10 So I know OHV-ATV trails, they provide funding
 11 for enforcement. I think there will have to be some
 12 sort of follow-up in the mitigation plans to help
 13 landowners to enforce the promises that Idaho Power
 14 submits.
 15 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Before you leave,
 16 can you repeat or spell the name of the invasive grass
 17 that you --
 18 MR. THOMAS THOMPSON: Ventenata dubia. If
 19 it's not an amoeba, if it's not in the vegetation
 20 management plan, it wasn't site specific enough. Not
 21 only the power line and poles, but the access roads.
 22 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 23 MR. NORM CIMON: My name is Norm Cimon,
 24 C-i-m-o-n. I live at 1208 First Street. I'm a systems
 25 analyst. I'm retired but I still have my own company.

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1 I have acted as a consultant for the Stop B2H group.
 2 And I'm also a board member of the same organization
 3 that Mr. Whitaker talked about, Oregon Rural Action.
 4 I'd like to thank the Commission for making
 5 their way to La Grande to listen to our concerns. And I
 6 will be submitting a detail analysis of Exhibit H, the
 7 geology and the soils.
 8 I feel there is a weakness in the bonding,
 9 that there is some substantial problems with the route
 10 itself. I don't know that there is much choices. The
 11 fact is that the bulk of the trail, or the route that
 12 goes across the Blue Mountains goes right through severe
 13 erosion potential. So I will be submitting all of that.
 14 What I'd like to read into the record for the
 15 future is something that I know a lot about, and I think
 16 it's going to greatly impact the future. I think we
 17 need to have this stuff in the record so that people can
 18 look back, which is the age we are in now. We are
 19 talking social media; we are talking the web.
 20 Everything is public; there is no private stuff anymore.
 21 The decisions are always going to be known, whatever
 22 happens.
 23 "An Overview: The electric grid, which has
 24 remained in the same basic form for 100 years, is
 25 changing very rapidly. The introduction of battery

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1 storage, smart meters, and smart inverters is reworking
 2 the way that utilities participate in the marketplace.
 3 The pace of that change will [only] accelerate..."
 4 "The key points are as follows:
 5 "Within 10 to 15 years much of the power on
 6 the grid will come from widely distributed generating
 7 sources.
 8 "Many of these sources will be small to
 9 moderately sized providers hosted through standalone
 10 microgrids.
 11 "Top-down control of those thousands of
 12 emerging sources will no longer be viable."
 13 You can't have tens of thousands of sources
 14 managed the way we've been managing it. What we need is
 15 something that looks a lot more like the Internet. That
 16 is exactly what has been proposed by our research
 17 organizations that are looking into this.
 18 "The rules needed to provide robust management
 19 for many of those sources will mimic those of the
 20 Internet protocols which provide information from the
 21 bottom up.
 22 "Distributed generation will make the grid:
 23 More reliable, more resilient, safer to operate."
 24 That is all over the engineering journals. In
 25 fact, large power grids tend to collapse, and there is

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1 no way to stop it. It's a huge argument going on in the
 2 engineering community right now about just that. The
 3 grid in a nutshell is chaotic. You cannot predict when
 4 it's going to go down. Big stuff just makes it happen
 5 more often and bigger.
 6 "The paradigm shift will make much of the
 7 high-voltage transmission system obsolete.
 8 "That obsolescence will occur long before the
 9 proposed 50 years of financing [for this project].
 10 "The proposed Boardman to Hemingway 500kV
 11 power line is unneeded. Idaho Power's own data clearly
 12 shows that the utility's electric demand has been flat"
 13 [from 2007 to 2016]."
 14 And that's because even with population growth
 15 we are seeing efficiencies, we are seeing conservation,
 16 and we are seeing renewables. So it's all changing
 17 very, very quickly.
 18 "The existing grid will be eclipsed by a
 19 decentralized system. High-voltage, long-distance power
 20 lines will be increasingly underutilized. Moreover,
 21 such lines are inherently unstable and dangerous. They
 22 are fire hazards in arid, semi-arid, and forested
 23 environments -- the ecosystems along any proposed route
 24 for the line in eastern Oregon."
 25 Everything we have around us is fire prone.

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1 In fact, the vegetation literally needs to burn to
 2 regenerate.
 3 "The line will be an economic burden, enabled
 4 by an out-of-date business model with increasing risk
 5 and decreasing financial viability. An economist and
 6 ex-president of the 'Society for Risk Analysis'" -- some
 7 of these actually brought in by utilities -- "had this
 8 to say about billion dollar investments such as this
 9 one:
 10 "If you were silly enough to think about
 11 investing in transmission, we would tell you that we
 12 don't have any idea how you're going to get reimbursed
 13 or how much you are going to get reimbursed.
 14 "The guaranteed rate-of-return offered up to
 15 regulated utilities places that financial burden
 16 squarely on the backs of ratepayers, removing money from
 17 their pockets and" -- it takes it right out of the local
 18 economies. That is what funding this thing will do, in
 19 my opinion, because it's going to be obsolete long
 20 before that 50-year financing lifespan. This provides
 21 context for what I will be writing up.
 22 So you have a very difficult decision in front
 23 of you. These paradigm shifts are difficult, I will not
 24 kid you, but that's exactly what's going on, and we are
 25 starting to see it now accelerate.

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1 We had a congressman from Idaho just propose
 2 that all the dams in the Snake River be taken down. The
 3 BPA -- I'm on the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Board,
 4 and I'm not speaking for them. BPA approached us and
 5 told us that they expect that in the next cycle of
 6 planning for the power distribution to the co-ops and
 7 PUDs, we had them tell us quite clearly they expect a
 8 lot of them are going to walk out the door. That's
 9 because the power is getting cheaper from renewables.
 10 What's going to happen then is the cycle where
 11 the people who are -- organizations, utilities that are
 12 left on the grid, the BPA grid, will simply be charged
 13 more, which means more of them will walk out, which
 14 means the others will be charged more. That kind of
 15 vicious cycle can just blow organizations apart.
 16 So there is great concern amongst the
 17 congressional delegations and also amongst the power
 18 plants in the Northwest.
 19 Thank you very much and good luck with your
 20 decision. It's a tough one.
 21 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 22 MR. RYAN BROWN: My name is Ryan Brown. I'm a
 23 resident of La Grande, and I represent seven generations
 24 of the Webster property, which looking west from
 25 La Grande is the horizon that you see.

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1 If you could imagine for a brief moment an 8th
 2 grade me, getting dropped off near Table Mountain and
 3 walking the Oregon Trail from Table Mountain to Hilgard
 4 State Park. A popular kid, I guess, too good for
 5 walking the Oregon Trail. I didn't listen, didn't pay
 6 much attention.
 7 Fast forward, and unbeknownst to me, I married
 8 a gal that is a granddaughter of the person that owns
 9 the trail I walked or the property in which the Oregon
 10 Trail sits. So now I'm here today.
 11 So as a person who helps out, caretake for
 12 this property, my wife and I, we became aware of the B2H
 13 power line about, around 2015, give or take.
 14 Fast forward a little ways, we ended up having
 15 a meeting with some gentlemen in the back of the room
 16 here from Idaho Power. I asked the question of why is
 17 it that we are just now being made aware of this when
 18 it's been in the works for some time. And basically
 19 they didn't have an answer for it.
 20 Well, unbeknownst to these guys, I was aware
 21 of a lot of the reasons why, and the reason why is
 22 money. If we can't talk about the Glass Hill route,
 23 apparently it's taboo, but it run into a lot of
 24 litigation, I get it.
 25 So I know we can't take that into account, but

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1 I was told that the comment period for the proposed
 2 route and the alternative route had passed. Well, the
 3 comment period for that was before we ever received the
 4 letter.
 5 So my question to the gentlemen in the back
 6 was: What happens if the poles that go in devastate the
 7 property so much that we lose our water? There are
 8 three springs on the property, all of which are within
 9 200 or less feet of proposed towers. If we lose those
 10 three springs, our property is no longer workable.
 11 When I asked them this question, and much like
 12 in the ORS, the burden is on us as landowners. We have
 13 to prove by paying somebody, we aren't going to do it
 14 ourselves, but paying somebody professional to calculate
 15 the flow of water and present what damage has been done.
 16 Does that make any sense? After it's gone in we have to
 17 prove. Is that backwards? Guilty until proven innocent
 18 in our society; right?
 19 So fast forward a little bit more, we allowed
 20 surveyors from Idaho Power, contracted surveyors, and
 21 they walked right over the Oregon Trail; they didn't
 22 even know it existed.
 23 I encourage you to listen to these people. We
 24 are not attorneys, we are not going to comb through
 25 thousands of papers. We don't have the time, it's

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1 impossible. We have families, we have jobs. We can't
 2 afford litigation. A lot of us, I can't speak for
 3 everybody, but I know I can't. This whole process is
 4 the sacrifice of a few to serve the many. It's a
 5 divide-and-conquer approach. It's not right.
 6 I have to answer the questions of my kids
 7 almost every weekend when we work the property, when we
 8 go to hunt, hike, whatever it is that we do. Why does
 9 that power line -- meaning the existing power line --
 10 why does that exist? I don't know, that was before my
 11 time, but it's here. What are we going to do if another
 12 one comes through? I don't know. Dad, how is this
 13 legal, how can they take our property? I don't know.
 14 Imagine that for a second, trying to answer a
 15 9-year-old boy of how you can have property and people
 16 just take it. It's impossible.
 17 I feel like the Council should take into
 18 account the ability of the average person to be able to
 19 comb through this paperwork and to present an articulate
 20 argument which is being requested and demanded of us.
 21 It's impossible. The Council should take into account
 22 the average person's ability to understand and to
 23 articulate this.
 24 So ORS says that we have to cite certain
 25 things; recreation, hunting, hiking. Hiking the Oregon

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1 Trail, the 8th grade me, wildlife, seeing it with my own
 2 eyes; moose, elk, deer, several species, wolves.
 3 So I'm happy to announce, Gail was being
 4 modest, but the last bit of it is historic properties,
 5 the historic property. We have since allowed
 6 professional archeologists on to walk the trail, mark
 7 the trail. It has been approved and recommended to the
 8 National Historic Preservation Society as historic
 9 property, in which how do you mitigate that? Just
 10 because a marker -- or a tower rather, doesn't go right
 11 in the middle of the trail?
 12 Guys, we are talking 300 feet or less of not
 13 only marked trail, some of the best marked trail that
 14 you will see between here and the inception of Emigrant
 15 Campground, burial sites. How do you mitigate that?
 16 You can't. How do you mitigate it for the future
 17 children? How do you mitigate that for the residents of
 18 La Grande who may not even know about this?
 19 I talk to people all the time who don't even
 20 know this exists. Why the hell would they build another
 21 power line? I can't answer that. You cannot mitigate
 22 this. It's impossible.
 23 Thank you.
 24 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 25 Following Ashley O'Toole, we will have Kerry

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1 Tweit.
 2 MR. ASHLEY O'TOOLE: Hi. My name is Ashley
 3 O'Toole. I live at 2 1/2 Depot Street in La Grande.
 4 Thank you to the Council for being here and staying here
 5 with us to the bitter end and hearing what we all have
 6 to say. I appreciate that.
 7 I'll start with referencing a letter To the
 8 Editor that appeared in "The Observer" that I wrote. It
 9 was published online on March 7th of this year, titled,
 10 "Nothing to gain, everything to lose: B2H Transmission
 11 line is obsolete and devastating." I am just going to
 12 read a few excerpts and sort of expand on a few of the
 13 points.
 14 "The B2H transmission line is a 20th century
 15 solution in search of a modern problem that doesn't
 16 exist. It's wasteful, obsolete and potentially
 17 devastating."
 18 La Grande has nothing to gain from this
 19 project and everything to lose. It will ruin our
 20 surrounding ecosystems, our hunting and recreational
 21 grounds, and our historical sites, our property values,
 22 our view of the surrounding mountains and our ability to
 23 effectively protect ourselves from devastating
 24 wildfires. All of this, to help a private corporation's
 25 customers in another state receive hydropower originally

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1 intended for our state and Washington.
 2 Since 2009, at least 12 similar proposals
 3 across the country for these new high-voltage
 4 transmission lines have been denied, and they have been
 5 replaced by more cost-effective solutions.
 6 I think that is it from the article. But as
 7 you can see, I'm definitely of the Stop B2H crowd, not
 8 move B2H crowd. So we hear people complaining about
 9 this route or that route. Let it be clear, we really
 10 are Stop B2H. I want to touch on a few points I think
 11 from both of those routes, proposed routes.
 12 I think I wanted to, at least first ask, just
 13 because I'm not familiar with how long the Council has
 14 been in town today or yesterday or tonight or tomorrow
 15 morning, but I'm sure we have read the proposals, I'm
 16 sure we have reviewed the engineering plans and
 17 elevations and things. My question is: Perhaps, have
 18 you yet physically been on Morgan Lake Road or do you
 19 intend to be on Morgan Lake Road as you research this?
 20 I think the points I wanted to make were how
 21 steep it is and how sharp of turns those are, and I
 22 understand that there could potentially be a mitigation
 23 plan to that effect. I would love to see where in the
 24 proposal in writing Idaho Power is really going to be
 25 compelled to reach certain minimums with the municipal,

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1 the effectiveness of how these in town, along the route,
 2 both at the county level and the city level.
 3 Specifically when we talk to residents on the
 4 Modelaire and Hawthorne Loop, which is in the city
 5 limits, you guys want to try -- I should say Idaho Power
 6 would love us to just kind of swallow this Morgan Lake
 7 route in exchange for, what was it, \$100,000 to make the
 8 park a little prettier? It doesn't make the towers go
 9 away. It really doesn't.
 10 I wanted to -- let me kind of continue to
 11 expand on a few other points though. You may have also
 12 already seen what we call the "mock tower," that sort of
 13 model of the tower up on the hill facing town. That is
 14 pretty darn close to where one of the proposed towers
 15 will be on the Mill Creek route.
 16 By my calculation and guess, if I was standing
 17 in the middle of the south side of La Grande, say, on
 18 the EOU football field, we will see about 13 towers,
 19 plus or minus 1 or 2. I would love to be proven wrong,
 20 but I have not seen any renderings from Idaho Power of
 21 what this is going to look like. Surely in their master
 22 plan that they are trying to sell to you an engineer has
 23 put together an elevation of a view of what these things
 24 are going to look like from certain points of view
 25 overhead and so on.

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1 If they are so proud of the line, why have
 2 they not shared this, why are we guessing what it could
 3 look like from a visual standpoint?
 4 I think one of the other points I wanted to
 5 make was, we are sending this power over there. Idaho
 6 Power did announce that there is going to be a new solar
 7 plant come online, 120 megawatts just south of Twin
 8 Falls. This kind of speaks to what Mr. Cimon was
 9 talking about with this paradigm shift. That is solid
 10 evidence of that concept, and it's announced and
 11 probably touted by the same energy corporation that is
 12 touting the archaic solution to the same problem.
 13 So we have not seen the power demands in Idaho
 14 follow the trends that they hoped they would see. The
 15 population didn't grow like we said it would, people are
 16 moving to more energy-efficient appliances and light
 17 bulbs and smart meters. So how can you tell me 2026,
 18 when this thing is scheduled to come online, that we are
 19 going to need it.
 20 I would love Idaho Power -- I just need to see
 21 more proof from them that they actually need this line 5
 22 years from now, 7, geez, 7 years from now, Matt. So
 23 that's another point.
 24 I think another point I'd like to touch on
 25 here real quickly, looking at the time here especially,

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1 I am a real estate agent. And a point that hasn't
 2 really been brought up very much, I think the Mayor
 3 briefly mentioned that property values that are going to
 4 be affected. As a real estate agent, I've already seen
 5 this in our town. If you guys are interested, there is
 6 a listing on Gekeler Lane right now, directly underneath
 7 the 230kV line, where we currently get our power, that
 8 listing agent has told me that that house was on the
 9 market for most of last year with no success. Here we
 10 are back in the selling season, it's still sitting on
 11 the market with no success.
 12 I can tell you with firsthand evidence, 2
 13 years ago I sold a house that was on the market for 4
 14 years because it was underneath the 230kV line.
 15 So we are not just talking about home values,
 16 but also just marketability, sellability. I mean,
 17 people pull up on the driveway and they see the giant
 18 power lines and they turn around. It's over.
 19 There are many, many citizens on Morgan Lake
 20 Road, Wood Road, and Marvin Lane, Modelaire and
 21 Hawthorne, that are going to be dealing with this, and
 22 Idaho Power's attempt to give them a one-time cash
 23 payment for an easement to make them go away, it's not
 24 going to work for the next generation, it's not going to
 25 work to help sell that property down the line. There is

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1 going to be a very real effect on property values for
 2 many, many of our citizens along the route.
 3 The last point I wanted to make was about the
 4 blasting in the geological hazard zone. Again, as a
 5 real estate agent, I can give you evidence of a home on
 6 Modelaire that was affected by recent blasting from
 7 Grande Ronde Hospital. The hospital put in a parking
 8 lot, they had to demolish or blow away a lot of earth.
 9 When I submit my written statement -- I see my
 10 time is up. When I submit my written statement to you,
 11 I will demonstrate evidence from a home inspection
 12 immediately before and after of a 3-inch crack in that
 13 foundation that formed. Of course, correlation is not
 14 always causation, but it's a pretty sure thing. It has
 15 something to do with all the damn dynamite that was
 16 going on for months and months right across the street.
 17 Don't let them blast in the geological hazard
 18 zone. You are asking for landslides, you are asking for
 19 a lot of other dangerous things.
 20 I've got more to talk about, but I want other
 21 people to speak. Again, I really thank you all for
 22 coming out this evening. Have a good night.
 23 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: I don't know yet if
 24 the Applicant wants to make any statements tonight or
 25 not, but let me know.

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1 Next we will hear from Mr. Tweit, followed by
 2 Michael McAllister.
 3 MR. KERRY TWEIT: Hi, my name is Kerry Tweit,
 4 T-w-e-i-t. I'm located, currently living at 74 West
 5 Hawthorne.
 6 The location of my current house is, at this
 7 point in time, from what I was told last fall by Idaho
 8 Power, less than 1500 feet away from where one of the
 9 towers are supposed to go on my property. I was told
 10 that -- last fall they showed up at my property for the
 11 first time that I talked to them on the property. And
 12 they said they were surprised and wanted to know why
 13 there was a house there. I said, Well, it's been in the
 14 plans since I bought the property 10 years ago. All
 15 they had to do was ask the County.
 16 And he told me they weren't aware of it, and
 17 that it was going to present a problem. I said, Well,
 18 what are the alternatives? We said, Well, we either
 19 move the house or we move the transmission lines; it's
 20 too close.
 21 That made me fairly stressed. This home that
 22 I built, as you heard from Mr. Horst earlier tonight,
 23 and he talked about the location being a little piece of
 24 heaven. I looked for a long time before I purchased
 25 property, and when I found this property, I was

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1 extremely impressed by, I was close to town, but it was
 2 remote. I have game cameras on the property. We have a
 3 lot of elk, deer, bears. We get quite a few cougars
 4 that come through. I usually get a dozen or so pictures
 5 a year. We have fox. We have a lot of animals up
 6 there. It's really a wonderful place to be.
 7 The sunrise and sunsets are breathtaking, to
 8 the point where I designed to build the house that the
 9 entire roof is a deck so I can watch that every morning
 10 and every night. I actually have a hot tub up there
 11 that I sit in and watch the sunrise and the sunsets.
 12 The sunsets are, when I look that direction, are right
 13 where the towers are going to go.
 14 Also, on my property, when I first built it
 15 for fire protection, the County required that I had
 16 approximately 1500 gallons of fire protection, 60 psi.
 17 So I put a 3000-gallon tank on the hill, which is the
 18 exact location of where they want to put one of the
 19 towers. I'm not sure how that will be mitigated, but
 20 apparently it's going to have to go. Another plan that
 21 I wasn't aware of.
 22 The other thing that happened through Idaho
 23 Power at the beginning was I received a phone call, it's
 24 been approximately 2 years ago, from a gentleman from
 25 Humboldt University telling me that he wanted to do an

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1 endangered species assessment on my property. I asked
 2 him why. He said, Because there is going to be power
 3 lines built on your property. My response was, No,
 4 there is not. Nobody has ever told me this. His
 5 response was, It's a done deal, it's going to happen. I
 6 said, Well, why wasn't I told?
 7 Immediately following that conversation, I
 8 went down to the County, I spoke with Scott Cartel [ph]
 9 and he told me that I had been notified. I said, Well,
 10 why would I be here if I had been notified. He said,
 11 Well, it says right here on the computer that you were
 12 notified. I wasn't.
 13 So there has been some frustration in probably
 14 the clarity that Idaho Power -- I am right in the middle
 15 of a really important proposed location for them. They
 16 want to come down off the ridge and make a 90-degree
 17 turn right on my property.
 18 Probably another real significant issue there
 19 is when I first purchased the property I was required to
 20 do a wildlife assessment through Oregon Fish and
 21 Wildlife. The first three times that Oregon Fish and
 22 Game came up to my property they told me no. They said
 23 it was too sensitive of a wildlife corridor and they
 24 wouldn't let me build anywhere on my property. I fought
 25 that. They came out the fourth time and said that they

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1 would agree to let me build as long as I only built on
 2 the very eastern portion of my property.
 3 The proposed tower that is going to go on my
 4 property and control station is right in the middle of
 5 what Fish and Wildlife told me I could not build it
 6 because it was too sensitive of an area. Another
 7 setback.
 8 So now I have my house finished and built. I
 9 am living in my dream home. And it looks as though that
 10 is all going to change.
 11 I haven't been told by Idaho Power how they
 12 are going to rectify the issue that my house is less
 13 than 1,500 feet from their proposed site. They haven't
 14 responded to that. All they said was that they would
 15 figure it out. So I still haven't been told that.
 16 You have already heard from some of the other
 17 people on Hawthorne Drive about their concerns about
 18 obviously the beauty, the looking at the power lines,
 19 the sound of the transmission lines. The gentleman from
 20 Idaho Power told me that one of the main reasons that
 21 they wanted nobody within 1,500 feet of those power
 22 lines was because of the noise.
 23 I asked him if it was a safety issue. And he
 24 said, Well, there has been people in the past that have
 25 implied that it was, but there has never been a court

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1 litigation that had proven that. So I have to trust
 2 them on that, I guess.
 3 I think you'll have to understand, I'm a
 4 little bit skeptical about this. Idaho Power hasn't
 5 been -- I haven't been contacted -- I mean, I have now.
 6 But through this planning process, I really wasn't
 7 contacted. Nobody came to my place and looked at the
 8 site. I don't know if they know there is a pond right
 9 next to where they want to put this tower. I don't know
 10 if they understand I had to put a well in 700 feet deep,
 11 the water is amazing. I don't know if that will change.
 12 The road coming up Hawthorne has to have a lot
 13 of annual maintenance on it for just three houses. The
 14 idea of them hauling that heavy equipment, and I don't
 15 know what they are going to do to improve or better that
 16 road, my concern is they will make it worse. Only
 17 because of the limited history that I've had with them
 18 hasn't really been very supportive. Tonight was the
 19 first night that I got a chance to listen to this many
 20 people talk about their concerns.
 21 Honestly, I'm more concerned now than before I
 22 came in. I have heard a lot of information tonight that
 23 kind of would make, I think, anybody in my shoes afraid
 24 of the future of what's going to happen up there. I
 25 love this place. I think it's going to change

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1 dramatically. That is all I have.
 2 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 3 Following Mr. McAllister we have Charles
 4 Gillis on deck.
 5 MR. MICHAEL McALLISTER: I'm Michael
 6 McAllister. I live at 60069 Morgan Lake Road right at
 7 the top where you confront the wind as you break the
 8 summit.
 9 I am of the Move B2H camp, an advocate of
 10 moving and have been for at least 10 years, when the
 11 initial proposed route was presented. I am a natural
 12 resource inventory expert, and made a career
 13 inventorying fish, forest, wildlife, range, ozone
 14 damage, carbon sequestration. I collect facts from the
 15 landscape and have been in La Grande since 1979, when I
 16 lived right below lower Morgan Lake, which apparently is
 17 not recognized by Idaho Power.
 18 The eagles built two nests right above my wall
 19 tent where I lived as I went to school here at Eastern
 20 Oregon University. And it's really a pleasure to be
 21 here tonight with the community and hearing all of their
 22 different concerns and considerations. It's always been
 23 above my mental capacity to explore the rightness or
 24 wrongness of the power line; so I have focused on moving
 25 B2H.

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1 For everybody here, if you are to looking at
 2 the computer screen that's up on the back wall, there is
 3 a third power line, which is the green route. There is
 4 red, green, and yellow. And I'm pleased to see that the
 5 green line was turned on this evening. It wasn't on
 6 when I originally looked at it.
 7 I also came in late and I was told that I'm
 8 not supposed to advocate for the western route
 9 recognized by the BLM and environmental analysis because
 10 it has not been applied for. That route is what I've
 11 been involved with advocating for for 10 years now,
 12 since day one, really.
 13 I think I probably wrote Adam Bless, with the
 14 Oregon Energy Council, probably the first letter he
 15 received with my concerns about siting this line through
 16 Union County here. And with an empirical background for
 17 virtually every acre of the stretch from Hilgard to Ladd
 18 Canyon that probably nobody else has, I feel like it's
 19 my community contribution to represent it as completely
 20 and as well as I can.
 21 The green route is by far the superior route
 22 when you consider just about any aspect; fish, forest,
 23 wildlife, range, fire, feasibility, all the above. In
 24 my analysis collecting facts relative to all these
 25 resources, the green route is by far the best route.

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1 And I can honestly say that it's a travesty that, for
 2 whatever reason, Idaho Power has chosen to completely
 3 disregard that route. I have seen no evidence in
 4 10 years that Idaho Power has shown any consideration of
 5 that route. I think it's appalling.
 6 I do credit Idaho Power for having in the
 7 10 years considered routes through John Day, extensively
 8 routes through the Blue Mountains, and having recognized
 9 the importance of not further fragmenting large-scale
 10 forest tracks, and that the I-84 corridor is probably
 11 the best route. But specifically through this neck of
 12 the woods, through Union County, Ladd Canyon, I think
 13 every concern I've heard here this evening can be
 14 mitigated by placing this transmission line on the
 15 environmentally-preferred route.
 16 And I am providing comment, written comment
 17 that will specify as well as I can with the time that I
 18 have. I don't believe it's up to me to demonstrate a
 19 burden of proof to this end, but I'm doing my best to do
 20 that.
 21 And I thank you all for your listening here
 22 this evening.
 23 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 24 Following Mr. Gillis, we will hear from, I
 25 believe it's John Winters, if I'm reading that

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1 correctly.

2 MR. CHARLES GILLIS: I would like to thank the

3 Energy Facility Council for coming here. The last time

4 I spoke before you, about 10 years ago, Ryan Wolf was

5 the chairman. A very fine man. I hope he's doing well.

6 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: If you could state

7 your name and your address, please.

8 MR. CHARLES GILLIS: Charles Gillis,

9 G-i-l-l-i-s, 1210 1/2 Adams Avenue in La Grande.

10 Mr. McAllister mentioned the burden of

11 evidence, and I hope that there is a burden of proof on

12 Idaho Power to -- that is, something along the lines of

13 the preponderance of the evidence, or more likely than

14 not, that they can achieve the tasks that they have to

15 do to show the Energy Facility Siting Council that they

16 are worthy of a site certificate.

17 Tonight I would like to address Exhibit M,

18 Financial Capability. "Information about Idaho Power's

19 financial capabilities including ability to obtain a

20 bond or letter of credit for decommissioning site."

21 OAR 345-022-0050 states: "Retirement and

22 Financial Assurance.

23 "To issue a site certificate the Council must

24 find:

25 "(1) The site, taking into account mitigation,

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1 can be restored adequately to a useful, nonhazardous

2 condition following permanent cessation of construction

3 or operation of the facility.

4 "(2) The applicant has a reasonable likelihood

5 of obtaining a bond or letter of credit in a form and

6 amount satisfactory to the Council to restore the site

7 to a useful, nonhazardous condition.

8 "Idaho Power Corporation is the lead

9 organization for B2H but has only a 21 percent interest.

10 The Bonneville Power Administration and PacifiCorp

11 control the majority interests in B2H. Therefore BPA

12 and PacifiCorp must pick up 79 percent of the costs

13 associated with obtaining a bond or letter of credit in

14 a form and amount satisfactory to the Council to restore

15 the site to a useful, nonhazardous condition.

16 "Included in Project Fact Sheets provided by

17 Idaho Power," is the statement, quote: "Economic and

18 population growth are driving up demand for electricity

19 among customers of Idaho Power, PacifiCorp and

20 Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). In the next

21 decade, the utilities will need more resources to meet

22 customers' needs in part of Idaho and Oregon."

23 In October of 2018, there was testimony before

24 the Oregon Public Utilities Commission by PacifiCorp.

25 As a consequence of that testimony, there was written

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1 communication between Oregon Public Utilities Commission

2 and PacifiCorp.

3 In the OPUC written comments, the term "the

4 Company" refers to PacifiCorp. OPUC asked PacifiCorp:

5 "The Company has not identified a need for B2H in its

6 IRP." I believe that is Integrated Resource Plan.

7 "Beyond an update of the project sponsors' role and

8 resource need, the Company has not presented a clear

9 case for why B2H is needed but other segments of Energy

10 Gateway are not. The Company should identify the role

11 of B2H as a need or component in its

12 least-cost/least-risk portfolio and why it intends on

13 moving forward with the project. The Company should

14 also explain the size and status of any B2H transmission

15 service requests that have been submitted to

16 PacifiCorp."

17 Again, this is October 2018.

18 PacifiCorp Response:

19 "The project schedule and in-service date is

20 driven by Idaho Power as the project manager, and

21 PacifiCorp reflects that information as it is made

22 available. PacifiCorp has not determined a need to move

23 forward beyond the permitting phase of the project and

24 as such is only a party to the current permit funding

25 agreement. As the project moves to permit completion, a

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1 determination of next steps will be made based on

2 customer need. To date PacifiCorp has not received any

3 requests for service on the B2H [transmission] line."

4 Zero. That might have changed. This is October 2018,

5 but I haven't heard of them.

6 One of the concepts that I've learned in

7 discussing and speaking with my many friends who oppose

8 this is the concept of stranded assets. And I believe

9 that Exhibit M is a collateral consequence of a failure

10 of Idaho Power to meet Exhibit M's requirements would be

11 stranded assets.

12 Specifically, let's hypothetically assume that

13 the Energy Facility Siting Council gives Idaho Power the

14 go-ahead. After 5 years of so of our county being

15 blessed with 140-foot power towers, the paradigm shift

16 discussed earlier occurs, the power lines are no longer

17 needed and we are stuck with God knows how many

18 unnecessary power lines because the PacifiCorp and

19 Bonneville Power Administration did not pony up the

20 money required to restore the site to a useful

21 nonhazardous condition.

22 I thank you for your time.

23 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.

24 Following Mr. Winters, we will hear from Bill

25 DeLashmutt.

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1 MR. JOHN WINTERS: I'll be brief. Thank you
 2 very much for being here tonight. It's a long day for
 3 you guys, I'm sure. And I hope you get to enjoy our
 4 beautiful valley a little bit while you are here.
 5 John Winters, W-i-n-t-e-r-s, I live at 60214
 6 Morgan Lake Road, La Grande.
 7 And being at Morgan Lake, I go up and down the
 8 hill a lot, and there are some summers where you are
 9 afraid to walk through the grass it gets so dry. I'm
 10 just afraid some time it's going to blow up in fire. So
 11 I am just going to speak to the possibility of any
 12 increase in fire risk is something that doesn't make a
 13 lot of sense to me.
 14 Especially in light of California's
 15 experience, it just occurred to me that the fire risk is
 16 a little underappreciated. Five of the ten most
 17 destructive fires since 2015, as you may well know, are
 18 linked to the PG&E network. PG&E is now bankrupt. They
 19 have 50 lawsuits and \$30 billion in liabilities. And I
 20 kind of wonder if Idaho Power wants to go that route.
 21 Californians are served by PG&E. Idaho Power
 22 does not serve any Oregonians. So it's not as if we are
 23 getting anything out of the deal.
 24 Paradise, interestingly, is somewhat similar
 25 to La Grande. Its elevation is 1,800 feet; we are about

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1 1,200 feet. They are about twice the population of
 2 La Grande. And they get three times as much rain as we
 3 do. So we are a far more arid region than they are, and
 4 we do get winds coming through here and drying patterns.
 5 I talked to John Panches, OSU Extension
 6 forester here, and he demurred on the B2H question, but
 7 he did say that they are tracking weather and there is
 8 more hotter days -- the days are hotter and there is
 9 more of them. He says it only takes a couple of extra
 10 hot days for a tree to turn the corner and to stress a
 11 tree and it will die usually by the next year. He is
 12 seeing a pattern, as we've probably all heard, that
 13 things are going in that direction. So to me it makes
 14 no sense to invite an additional risk when we have got
 15 plenty of existing risks as it is.
 16 The proposal states in Exhibit U, 3.5.6.2,
 17 Exhibit U, it says: The project is not expected to have
 18 significant adverse impacts on fire protection as
 19 they've talked to all the various volunteer units along
 20 the way.
 21 I wonder what California would say. Cal Fire,
 22 again, I talked to them; they wouldn't comment. But the
 23 Santa Rosa Fire Chief has been quoted as saying, they
 24 have 17 states that -- I believe it was the Woolsey
 25 Fire, they had firefighters from 17 states. They had

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1 firefighters from Australia, they had almost 300
 2 engines, 4,300 law enforcement and 2,300 National Guard.
 3 I just don't get the impression that Idaho
 4 Power takes very seriously the even small increase in
 5 risk that they may present with their power line, and
 6 it's us that is going to have to be paying the price.
 7 So that is all I have to say. Thank you very
 8 much for your time.
 9 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 10 On deck is Rod Muilenburg. But first we have
 11 Mr. DeLashmutt.
 12 MR. BILL DeLASHMUTT: My name is Bill
 13 DeLashmutt, and I'm here representing myself. Thank you
 14 for the opportunity to present my thoughts about the
 15 B2H.
 16 I am speaking in support of the B2H, and
 17 invite you to consider some of the reasons for
 18 supporting the line and the effect on our lives.
 19 I understand the concerns of the opposition,
 20 particularly those of you on the route or near the
 21 route; that has to be hard. So I have a question to
 22 start things with, and nobody has to answer it, but did
 23 you apply the brakes on your car and increase energy
 24 consumption as you drove to the meeting? When you have
 25 the heat on in your house, do you open the windows and

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1 heat the outside air? Of course the answer is no. That
 2 wouldn't be smart. We should not ask Idaho Power,
 3 PacifiCorp, and Bonneville Power Administration to waste
 4 energy either.
 5 I want to discuss power line losses and a few
 6 causes. We are all concerned about energy efficiency.
 7 So are Idaho Power Company, PacifiCorp, and Bonneville
 8 Power Administration. B2H will lower line losses. I
 9 can help you visualize that. Power line temperature
 10 rises when you add load to the line. The larger the
 11 load, the hotter the line becomes. This is a problem
 12 with the existing system. And we are wasting energy.
 13 B2H will lower the line losses on the existing system.
 14 If you force Idaho Power Company, PacifiCorp,
 15 and Bonneville Power Administration to operate without
 16 B2H, you are doing the same thing as driving your car
 17 with the brake applied and turning up the heat in your
 18 house while you open the windows.
 19 Idaho Power Company is demonstrating good
 20 corporate practices by providing low-cost power that is
 21 in the bottom 10 percent of the nation. Idaho Power
 22 Company provides you power at 25 percent less cost than
 23 the national average. That is good corporate practice.
 24 Wind farm activity increases losses. We all
 25 talk about microgrids that locate power generation close

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1 to your home. Microgrids would be nice. Instead the
 2 trouble is we are locating wind farms such as the one in
 3 the once naturally scenic Pyles Canyon south of
 4 La Grande, the wind farms and once beautiful Columbia
 5 River Gorge, and the wind farm in the once scenic Burnt
 6 River Canyon on the way to Boise.
 7 These unreliable sources of energy are far
 8 from your home and the load they serve. These energy
 9 sources load the power lines and increase power line
 10 losses. This unnecessary transport of very unreliable
 11 power has created the need for more ability to transport
 12 power.
 13 Idaho Power, PacifiCorp, and Bonneville Power
 14 Administration are responding to the requirements that
 15 power be maintained to your house whether or not the
 16 wind is blowing, and they are keeping this power system
 17 together whether or not the wind is blowing.
 18 A big item in our lives is electric cars.
 19 Transportation accounts for a huge part of our national
 20 energy usage. We want to be able to provide energy for
 21 electric cars. Electric cars hog a lot of electric
 22 power. That will require nearly double the electric
 23 output of our power system. Let's don't stall electric
 24 cars because of stalling a power line.
 25 Please don't pass the mess of a weak

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1 infrastructure of our power system to our children and
 2 all the people in the Northwest. Let's allow Idaho
 3 Power Company, PacifiCorp, and Bonneville Power
 4 Administration to drive without their brakes on. Let's
 5 allow Idaho Power Company, PacifiCorp, and BPA to heat
 6 their house with the windows closed.
 7 If we want to have unreliable energy sources
 8 such as the wind farms located far from where the
 9 electric load is, let's provide the power lines to carry
 10 the load and maintain system stability. If we want to
 11 provide for a huge electrical energy increase to support
 12 electric vehicles, then Idaho Power Company, PacifiCorp,
 13 and BPA have the power lines they need to handle the
 14 load.
 15 I understand your feelings about where to put
 16 the line. Let's not allow our power system to become an
 17 obsolete mess for our children. Let's figure out the
 18 best place to locate B2H. Please make some siting
 19 suggestions to the Commission and to Idaho Power
 20 Company.
 21 Thank you.
 22 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 23 MR. ROD MUILENBURG: My name is Rod
 24 Muilenburg. I reside at 412 16th Street, La Grande,
 25 Oregon.

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1 From what I am understanding this form
 2 provided by Idaho Power, the long and short, from what I
 3 understand, Oregon is supposed to take one for the team
 4 for the sake of Idaho. That makes me wonder. What is
 5 it about the Idaho infrastructure and Idaho's power grid
 6 that determines the demand from Oregon? It also makes
 7 me wonder, why is it that you insist it be in our
 8 backyard and not in your backyard?
 9 I've been here my whole life. I remember the
 10 fire of '73. I remember how hard people worked to save
 11 their houses. I remember the sun disappearing, and I
 12 remember a tinder box ready to go. And you want to go
 13 with an overhead power system that the world doesn't
 14 even recognize anymore. The world puts power grids
 15 underground today. It's the future. It's how we do it.
 16 You are taxing a system that doesn't have to be taxed.
 17 These lines, they inevitably are overtaxed, and they
 18 droop, they hang, and they cause fires. And as I said,
 19 we've have got a tinder box surrounding us.
 20 I don't know if we want to go through the
 21 inevitable again of having another fire. I don't know
 22 if we want to suffer the inevitable outcome that
 23 happened to Paradise, California, when they had only
 24 time enough to grab their purse and wallet and the
 25 shirts on their backs before their house was rendered to

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1 a mere foundation and a fireplace and the rest is a
 2 toxic waste element. Do we want to go through that?
 3 And then I heard only yesterday that a diamond
 4 factory in Washington is going to demand enough voltage
 5 to supply 10,000 people to manufacture synthetic
 6 diamonds. I don't know when this ends.
 7 But I've listened to all these people behind
 8 me talking about the eyesore we are going to see,
 9 talking about the impact. And they are mentioning
 10 things I haven't even considered; hearing problems,
 11 sound transmission lines. There's a whole lot involved
 12 that we have just barely touched the tip of the iceberg.
 13 And is it a requirement that Idaho have its power in the
 14 first place?
 15 I don't know, I am just thinking we have got a
 16 lot of small cities, too, with the prevailing winds
 17 around this area, Ukiah, and all these little cities
 18 surrounding here, and how bad will it be? Is there
 19 enough fire suppression? Is there enough accountability
 20 for the environmental impact?
 21 I don't think anybody here has weighed this
 22 whole thing out until they attended this forum tonight.
 23 Which, by the way, I appreciate you putting it on. I
 24 appreciate you being here. I appreciate Idaho Power for
 25 allowing us to voice our opinions.

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1 But historically, like I said, the Oregon
 2 Trail, we have to consider it. We have got the
 3 procurement of land, and apparently no letters were
 4 offered for the initial route before anybody had a
 5 chance to respond. And now this new thing comes in and
 6 we all get a surprise.
 7 I think a lot of people have a lot more to say
 8 about this than me; so I'm just going to yield back my
 9 time.
 10 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 11 Following Irwin Smutz, we have Jeri Watson,
 12 and then I don't know if Idaho Power wants to -- okay.
 13 So then we will hear from Idaho Power after that.
 14 MR. IRWIN SMUTZ: My name is Irwin Smutz, and
 15 I live at 59074 Foothill Road. My ranch borders the
 16 game refuge. I have got two oil lines, two gas lines,
 17 and two fiberoptic lines, and the power line that, I
 18 think your alternative route, I think the preferred
 19 route is going to be just above that power line.
 20 I have two concerns: One of them is the fire
 21 danger. That present power line set a fire a few years
 22 ago close to Ladd Canyon. The people that ran the power
 23 line, a long distance line, failed to keep the brush cut
 24 underneath the line, and the tree grew up and that line
 25 arced and started a fire.

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1 Also, in the site, the area where they are
 2 going to put the proposed power lines through that you
 3 are talking about is in an unstable area. My dad went
 4 up and checked the cows when I was a boy, and he got up
 5 to this real steep unstable area, and the ground had
 6 shifted because of another line that came through, an
 7 oil line, it shifted, and this pipe came out, out of the
 8 ground 5 or 6 feet in the air and made a bend.
 9 Fortunately, it did not break, or oil or gas or whatever
 10 they put through that, would have ran down the hill.
 11 Well, this proposed power line is going
 12 through that area where that shift was. They cut
 13 through shale type ground, and they kind of loosened the
 14 thing up. So that's a thing that really kind of
 15 concerns me. Of course, we have a lot of game of all
 16 kinds, we border the game refuge.
 17 But I would just like to share that this is
 18 one problem that you would have. The building site
 19 where all my buildings are on the ranch there are down,
 20 of course, at the bottom of the hill, and I guess the
 21 building site where my buildings are slid off the top of
 22 the mountain some time in prehistoric history. And the
 23 geologist out there told Dad, I guess the rest of it
 24 will stay up there. But that line is going to be going
 25 right across that unstable land.

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1 And also it was kind of hinted at by another
 2 speaker, where the hospital is, that is really unstable,
 3 too. They had to put in a huge amount of cement to try
 4 to keep that thing from shifting, the new building that
 5 they put there at the hospital.
 6 The site that my house is on is also shifting.
 7 I have a board fence and they have all pulled away from,
 8 in places they have pulled away from the posts because
 9 the building site is going down the hill. Well, that is
 10 a thing that you are dealing with on the power line
 11 going through that area.
 12 So I just really appreciate you listening to
 13 me, but I am concerned. These people have serious
 14 concerns, it makes a really big difference. You can put
 15 these things through and they'll pay so much a foot to
 16 go through and then you put up with it for the rest of
 17 your life.
 18 Just an example, I went to put some fence
 19 across all those pipe lines, and somebody came out and
 20 told me I was not allowed to put any steel posts in the
 21 fence going across that because some of the, I guess the
 22 fiber optic lines or something were only underneath the
 23 line about 4 inches they said.
 24 So I really appreciate you folks listening.
 25 And I just wanted to share that with you. I have had

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1 quite a bit of experience on things coming through my
 2 land, and it does have everlasting consequences once
 3 these things go through.
 4 Thank you very much.
 5 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: All right. Jeri
 6 Watson.
 7 MS. JERI WATSON: Hello. Long day. I really
 8 appreciate you all being here. And I'm Jeri Watson,
 9 J-e-r-i, W-a-t-s-o-n, and I live at 1906 Foley Street in
 10 La Grande.
 11 I've been here for about 40-some years. And I
 12 moved here, I came from a city in California called
 13 Torrance, and I moved here to teach school, knowing that
 14 I wouldn't make the kind of salary here that I would
 15 make in places that I was capable of going. I'm not
 16 trying to be modest, but I'll just give you an idea of
 17 my qualifications. I could teach, I'm certified in
 18 special ed, high school, elementary school, I speak
 19 three languages; one being Spanish. The others are
 20 Japanese and obviously English. I was at the top of my
 21 class at University of Southern California, and I really
 22 could have gone anywhere if money was important to me.
 23 Enough money to get by is important.
 24 But my folks didn't want me to come here.
 25 They said, You can't eat the scenery. But I live every

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1 day. I have seen things like, I saw a newborn elk
 2 nursing off its mom on the hillside outside of my house.
 3 I could live my whole life someplace in a city and not
 4 have those experiences.
 5 So I really want to see this power line not
 6 come through here because, one, I think it will partly
 7 ruin things most certainly. I care more about kids than
 8 anything, and it will certainly make our major outdoor
 9 park that's wild inaccessible to them during the summer
 10 when they are able to go there. And I don't know how
 11 many summers that road to Morgan Lake will be really
 12 difficult to use. It is a difficult road. If you
 13 haven't experienced it, you should.
 14 One of the teachers I taught with one time was
 15 coming down in the summer, and his wheel caught, it gets
 16 really muddy even this far from the edge. And his wheel
 17 caught in that mud and got stuck and he rolled down into
 18 that valley down there. And he moved his house, he
 19 moved his family, he had kids, and he decided that road
 20 was too dangerous for his family to be up there in the
 21 wintertime. So it's not a good road, and I'm concerned
 22 about the damage that will be done to it.
 23 The other thing is that I am one of those that
 24 believes that the technology is such that there are
 25 other ways to meet this demand that is proposed,

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1 perceived in Idaho. And I do believe that Idaho Power
 2 is doing the best job that they can do, as being
 3 financially responsible for their ratepayers and their
 4 shareholders. They are looking for the cheapest way to
 5 do this.
 6 But there is all kinds of wealth, and one of
 7 the kinds of wealth we have is a world that is viable.
 8 A world that's not too hot and not too cold. And the
 9 alternative energy, things we have, like solar and
 10 water, are so perfect for the area that they want to
 11 serve, but it does cost more. So in order for it to not
 12 cost more, they are going this route.
 13 But I would like all of us to look a little
 14 larger. I have all the kids I taught who are now having
 15 children of their own. The kids I first taught, when I
 16 first came here, some of them are grandparents now. I
 17 came here because I care about connections. I care
 18 about people and I care about animals and I care about
 19 connections, and I want the human race to go on for a
 20 while.
 21 And I think that doing everything we can to
 22 make that happen is incumbent upon all of us, even
 23 though we have different ideas of what that might be.
 24 I am hoping that as a government agency -- you
 25 know, world edification under Franklin Roosevelt's

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1 program where it was federally instituted, brought us
 2 great wealth. And I believe that we can keep some of
 3 that wealth. But we can't keep going to provide
 4 electricity in the ways that we have, because -- I mean,
 5 the water is renewable from the dams. But the coal
 6 production and so forth, no, we have got to have other
 7 ways, or my grandchildren and your grandchildren, they
 8 are not going to have the kind of world we have.
 9 And you people are government employees, and
 10 because people have so many different ideas about who
 11 should cut what and this is what I can do so that you
 12 can do -- oh, you're traveling around the world. Well,
 13 that's a lot of carbon footprints. So we all have these
 14 different things.
 15 So it's time for government, for you guys to
 16 stand up and say, Is this really a good idea? Not just
 17 for this community, but is it really necessary to do
 18 this kind of power, to cause this kind of fire danger?
 19 I know I'm kind of rambling here, and I didn't
 20 have much time to prepare anything. But I was down in
 21 Santa Rosa after the fire, I think it was 2015, I was
 22 down there in January, and I saw -- my friend lived very
 23 close to the devastated area in the town of Santa Rosa.
 24 And I camped in Napa Valley and came over through Rincon
 25 Valley, which was burned up.

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1 I used to think when I looked on the news and
 2 I saw that one house there and everything else that was
 3 burned around it, and I looked at that one house and
 4 thought, boy, were those people lucky. But when I got
 5 to Sonoma County, and I saw that, and I saw the one
 6 house remaining, and there is just charred foundations
 7 everywhere, and chimneys, that's all that was there, and
 8 I saw that one house that was standing, and I realized
 9 they are not lucky. Everybody they were connected to is
 10 gone. Most of their neighbors have a sign up to try to
 11 sell their property. But who wants to buy it?
 12 So we have to take care of the future. We
 13 have to mitigate fire danger. And this place here is
 14 too dry to take on any more risk. Please help us out
 15 here.
 16 Thank you.
 17 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 18 Mr. Stokes.
 19 MR. MARK STOKES: Good evening, everybody.
 20 It's getting late. Chair Beyeler, Vice Chair Jenkins,
 21 City Council member, staff, good evening. My name is
 22 Mark Stokes. I'm an engineering project leader for
 23 Idaho Power Company. My address is 1221 West Idaho
 24 Street, Boise, Idaho 83702.
 25 MR. DAVE STANISH: I'm Dave Stanish, also with

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1 Idaho Power, same address. So hopefully together we can
 2 help answer your questions.
 3 MR. MARK STOKES: After listening to all of
 4 the comments tonight, we thought there were just a
 5 couple of things that we wanted to get corrected on the
 6 record.
 7 First off, some previous testimony that was
 8 presented tonight a statement was made that BPA is not a
 9 partner in the project any longer. That is not true.
 10 They are still a fully committed partner. In fact, I
 11 was in communication with my counterparts at BPA earlier
 12 this week before I left town. So I just want to get
 13 that on the record.
 14 One other item here, a few speakers ago made
 15 the statement that Idaho Power does not have any
 16 customers in Oregon. And that is not true as well. We
 17 serve approximately 15 percent of our total system load
 18 is for Oregon customers that are located in Malheur and
 19 Baker Counties. So we do have a fairly substantial
 20 number of customers in Oregon.
 21 So with that, as we have done previous nights,
 22 David and I would like to make ourselves available to
 23 try and field any questions that Council members may
 24 have.
 25 VICE CHAIRMAN JENKINS: So Mark and David, I'm

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1 going to ask a really hard question tonight: Why wasn't
 2 the BLM route proposed as a part of your application to
 3 EFSC?
 4 MR. MARK STOKES: Back when BLM was working on
 5 getting their ROD issue, the delays in their process
 6 happened, occurred. We had to move ahead with the state
 7 process late in the application. And by the time BLM
 8 came out with their ROD, their record of decision, it
 9 was too late for us to really go back at that point.
 10 Now, when I had conversations with BLM's
 11 program manager about this and whether that created any
 12 issues for BLM, they recognized that the Glass Hill
 13 route that you're talking about and the Morgan Lake
 14 route were identical on parcels that were under control
 15 of BLM, federal government.
 16 So the fact that in our state application we
 17 had the Morgan Lake route did not influence or impact
 18 BLM's record of decision in their process.
 19 VICE CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Thank you.
 20 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Any further
 21 questions?
 22 CHAIRMAN BEYELER: Not from me tonight.
 23 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you,
 24 gentlemen.
 25 MR. MARK STOKES: Thank you very much.

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1 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Last call for
 2 anybody to give any statements?
 3 MR. RANDY SILTANEN: Thank you for letting me
 4 speak. My name is Randy Siltanen. My address is 1901
 5 Foley Street.
 6 So I guess my major question to Idaho Power
 7 is: For what just cause? So why are we doing this? If
 8 there were no other options it would be understandable,
 9 but there are plenty of other options. And we have
 10 heard tonight dozens of reasons why this is a bad idea,
 11 and we haven't heard any reason why this is a good idea.
 12 And what it comes down to, to me, I think, is
 13 money. And they think that it will be cheaper in the
 14 long run to do this rather than use other new
 15 technologies.
 16 And Mr. Cimon spoke very eloquently about
 17 this, that it's yesterday's news. We have got new
 18 options. We have solar and we have wind. And there is
 19 a very smart engineer by the name of Mark Jacobson at
 20 Stanford who has outlined a really good road map for
 21 renewable energy by the year 2030. And it doesn't
 22 really make any sense to do this if money is the only
 23 reason.
 24 I think that's what it is, and I think they
 25 are wrong on that. At this point they think it's

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1 cheaper, but as Mr. Cimon outlined, it's not. In the
 2 long run, it's not cheaper. And there is no just cause
 3 to do this. It's not like there is -- it's not like we
 4 are trying to provide water to an impoverished area.
 5 It's not like bringing electricity to a third-world
 6 country who needs it to run their hospital.
 7 There is plenty of electricity, there is
 8 plenty of ways to get it, and it's not absolutely
 9 essential that it goes that way. And yet you are asking
 10 people to give up their viewshed. You are putting
 11 people's lives at risk for something that is not
 12 necessary, other than that it's cheaper, and it seems
 13 cheaper, and in the long run it's not cheaper. And that
 14 is all I have to say.
 15 Thank you.
 16 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 17 We have run an hour past our allotted time.
 18 So anybody -- do you want 2 more minutes, Ms. Barry?
 19 MS. LOIS BARRY: This will be very short. But
 20 since you have all been so patient and listened for so
 21 long and you have heard a lot of important information,
 22 one is, from my research, that every single planned
 23 transmission line that has been canceled was considered
 24 essential until the day it was canceled.
 25 But now I think you deserve a laugh. I want

1 to tell you about a B2H presentation about a year ago.
2 They brought several graphic presentations. Someone
3 said they wished Idaho Power would provide a
4 presentation of what the towers would like look around
5 the valley.

6 Well, this was a presentation of what the
7 towers would look like at Morgan Lake. And so there was
8 the blue sky and the green trees and the blue lake,
9 which in their application they describe as level, calm,
10 and reflective, unlike every other lake in America. But
11 rising out of the blue lake was a large transmission
12 tower painted red. And I said, What is that? What is
13 that about? And he said, Well, look at the caption. It
14 says, "Red is invisible."

15 And that was their graphic presentation of how
16 the towers would look at Morgan Lake. Envision this:
17 Red towers are invisible. Okay, gang, that's what you
18 get.

19 Thank you.

20 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: It's now 9:01 and we
21 are going to close this hearing. And the next one will
22 be next Wednesday night in Pendleton.

23 (Hearing concluded at 9:02 p.m.)
24
25

1 **REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE**

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

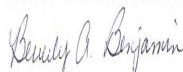
4 That the foregoing proceedings were taken before
5 me at the time and place therein set forth;

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 3rd day of July 2019.

16
17
18 

19
20 **BEVERLY A. BENJAMIN, CSR 710**
21 **Notary Public**
22 **P.O. Box 2636**
23 **Boise, Idaho 83701-2636**
24
25

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