

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 27, 2019 - 4:30 p.m.

Location: Port of Morrow, Riverfront Room
2 Marine Drive NE
Boardman, 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

7 Ann Gravatt, Councillor

8 Hearing Officer Alison Greene Webster

9 Patrick Rowe, Counsel

10 Todd Cornett, Council Secretary

11 Kellen Tardaewether, Oregon Department of Energy, Senior

12 Siting Analyst

13

14 SPEAKERS:

15 Sam Myers

16 Travis Eri

17 Brian Dougherty

18 Elizabeth Ashbeck

19 Chris Rauch

20 Irene Gilbert

21 John Luciani

22 Fuji Kreider

23 Jerry Myers

24

25

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

2 June 27, 2019 - 4:30 p.m.

3 Boardman, Oregon

4

5 CHAIRMAN BEYELER: We have come to item A-5,

6 which is the Boardman to Hemingway transmission line

7 public hearing on the draft proposed order and request

8 for comments. If you want to make public comment,

9 there's a green card on the table back in the corner,

10 please fill that out and bring it up to Max up here on

11 the corner, that way you can testify tonight at the

12 hearing.

13 And now I am going to hand the meeting over to

14 Alison Greene Webster, who is the Council-appointed

15 hearing officer for the Boardman to Hemingway Project

16 and who will be the presiding officer for tonight's

17 public hearing.

18 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Good afternoon. I

19 think the first order of business, I understand that

20 Council Member Grail has a statement to make.

21 COUNCILLOR GRAIL: Yes.

22 For the record, this is Councillor Grail. I

23 do not intend to vote on any Energy Facility Siting

24 Council actions relevant to the proposed Boardman to

25 Hemingway transmission line.

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1 I was employed by Pacific Power from 2001

2 until approximately 2006. I have no financial interest

3 in Pacific Power, PacifiCorp, or any related entity.

4 However, as a condition of my accepting appointment to

5 this Council, I agreed to recuse myself from voting on

6 any projects owned by 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 Morrow County on

13 the draft proposed order on the application for site

14 certificate for the Boardman to Hemingway transmission

15 line.

16 I am Alison Greene Webster, presiding

17 administrative law judge at the Oregon Office of

18 Administrative Hearings and the EFSC-appointed hearing

19 officer. I am serving as the presiding officer for this

20 hearing this afternoon.

21 It is June 27th, the last I checked, 2019. It

22 is now 4:33 p.m. Pacific Time. We are located in

23 Boardman, Oregon, at the conference -- what is this?

24 Port Morrow Riverfront Center.

25 First up is Kellen Tardaewether, senior siting

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1 analyst at the Oregon Department of Energy, and the lead

2 on the Boardman to Hemingway transmission line facility.

3 She will provide a county overview of the proposed

4 transmission line within Morrow County and summarize the

5 opportunities for the public to participate in the EFSC

6 process at the draft proposed order phase.

7 MS. TARDAEWETHER: I will try not to yell in

8 my yell-talk.

9 For the record, my name is Kellen

10 Tardaewether. I'm a senior siting analyst at the Oregon

11 Department of Energy. Thank you, Alison Greene Webster,

12 and Chair and members of the Council.

13 I am sitting over here because, as most of you

14 are aware, this is our fifth in a series of hearings,

15 and at the first couple hearings I kind of sat at the

16 testimony table to talk to Council. And then really,

17 with feedback from the audience and from Council

18 members, the vast majority of my presentations are for

19 folks that are attending the public hearing, and so I

20 want to orient myself so I can be able to talk to you

21 because most of my presentation is actually for you and

22 also for the Council members. So I apologize to the

23 people that I have my back turned to.

24 All right. That's me, we're here. All that

25 looks right.

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1 Okay. So what I would like to do today, I
 2 don't have too long of a presentation, but the goal of
 3 my presentation is to, one, go over -- to provide a
 4 county-specific overview to kind of let Council know of
 5 some of the specific items about the proposed facility
 6 and the proposed transmission line within Morrow County.
 7 And then a portion of my presentation is also
 8 just kind of helpful hints on how to comment at this
 9 phase, and I'm also going to go over the importance of
 10 why we're here to provide comments at this point in the
 11 state process.
 12 The slide I have up in front of me is what we
 13 call the procedural history slide. So as folks probably
 14 are aware, this project has been around for a while.
 15 What I'd like to pull out and note about this slide is
 16 that this proposed transmission line proposed by Idaho
 17 Power, or what we call the applicant, also has a federal
 18 permitting requirement that is led by the Bureau of Land
 19 Management.
 20 The applicant has gone through what we call
 21 the NEPA process. That's the federal review process led
 22 by the BLM. In July of 2017, the BLM issued its ROD,
 23 which is their record of decision, which resulted in the
 24 agency, the BLM, basically told the applicant where the
 25 proposed transmission line would be located on federal

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1 lands.
 2 I'll kind of talk a little bit more about how
 3 alternatives or the difference between the state and the
 4 federal process on the next slide.
 5 So based on that federal review process, the
 6 applicant submitted a revised application. It's this
 7 amended preliminary application in July of 2017. The
 8 Department reviewed that application, it was quite long,
 9 had a lot of information. And we deemed it complete in
 10 October. And so we did a series of informational
 11 meetings from the end of September. But we did
 12 informational meetings in October; so we've seen a lot
 13 of you folks relatively recently.
 14 At those meetings, we kind of prepped folks
 15 for the draft proposed order, which is the document that
 16 we issue based off of the information in that complete
 17 application. And then there's a comment period on that
 18 draft proposed order, or the DPO, and that's why we're
 19 here today.
 20 So kind of looking ahead, this is the last of
 21 the public hearings, which is the public's opportunity
 22 to provide oral testimony and written comments to the
 23 Department and to Council. However, as a lot of you
 24 folks know, you may have read the notice of the DPO in
 25 the newspaper or received it in the mail or via gov

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1 delivery or just word of mouth, the previously
 2 advertised closing dated for the public comments was
 3 July 23rd.
 4 At last night's hearing in Pendleton there
 5 were requests to extend the public comment deadline, and
 6 Council granted that request. So it's extended for 30
 7 days, and the new closing for the comment period is on
 8 August 22, 2019, at 5 p.m. Pacific.
 9 If anybody has questions about where to submit
 10 written comments, we can provide you that information.
 11 However, this hearing is the last opportunity to provide
 12 the oral testimony.
 13 So the purpose of these hearings are for
 14 members of the public to be able to provide their
 15 testimony to the Council members and have them listen.
 16 They are also on the record; they are being recorded by
 17 a court reporter so we will have transcripts of the
 18 testimony. All of this information will be available at
 19 a later date.
 20 However, these meetings are not the Council's
 21 review of the draft proposed order. So even though I'm
 22 going to go over some -- I'm going to reference the
 23 draft proposed order or the application or certain
 24 things in it, this is not Council's actual formal review
 25 of the DPO. That is going to happen at a later Council

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1 meeting after the close of the public comment period,
 2 which is, at this time, August 22nd, as I just
 3 mentioned.
 4 At that meeting Council will review the DPO
 5 and they will also review how we, the Department,
 6 addressed and incorporated all the public comments
 7 received on the record. So that's going to happen
 8 later. So more meetings.
 9 Then after that, the document that reflects
 10 all of those changes is called the proposed order. And
 11 so we will issue the proposed order. When we issue the
 12 proposed order, we will also issue the notice of
 13 contested case. To qualify to participate in the
 14 contested case, you must comment on the record of the
 15 DPO, which is why we're here. So thank you everybody
 16 for being here.
 17 Lastly, on my looking ahead to-do list, which
 18 is in my notes, not up there, I just wanted to let
 19 Council know, and I mentioned it at other meetings, that
 20 the Department anticipates to issue a third amended
 21 project order. It's very confusing because this is a
 22 draft proposed order, and it sounds very -- like it's --
 23 anyhow, it's an administrative document that really kind
 24 of outlines the information that the applicant must
 25 provide in the application. So the Department is going

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1 to amend the project order. So that's just for
 2 Council's information and for the public, just to let
 3 you know.
 4 So this is a very high-level map, that is
 5 difficult to view, of more in the proposed facility in
 6 Morrow County. A lot of my conversation is going to
 7 focus along the route along Bombing Range Road. It's
 8 been an area that has been discussed at length, and
 9 folks from Morrow County are probably familiar with this
 10 area.
 11 I apologize that I don't have a better
 12 zoomed-in map of the one on the right, which kind of
 13 lays out the details of the alternative routes in this
 14 area. And I'll just kind of provide a description of
 15 them.
 16 So along Bombing Range Road, there is the
 17 Naval Weapons System Training Facility, or NWSTF.
 18 That's that pink area. And then on the opposite --
 19 which that is the west side of Bombing Range Road. And
 20 then the white side, or the right side, is primarily
 21 agriculture, like irrigated agricultural land.
 22 So there's three routes in this area. The red
 23 route is the proposed route. And as you can see, it
 24 kind of runs north and south or south to north, but it
 25 runs on the west side on the NWSTF or on the Navy's land

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1 within an existing BPA right-of-way.
 2 And then there's west -- I guess I can kind of
 3 click on this. No, no. Maybe that helps. So west of
 4 Bombing Range Road, Alternative 1, is that kind of blue,
 5 where it runs down, and it is on the west side of the
 6 road, and then you can see where kind of the lime green
 7 swaps over on the other side of the road.
 8 And then there is Alternative 2 -- which it's
 9 not a great map either -- which runs -- the alternatives
 10 that are proposed on the east side of the road are
 11 proposed to avoid impacts to Navy land. And then the
 12 proposed route on Navy land is proposed to avoid impacts
 13 to agricultural lands.
 14 So those are just kind of high-level summaries
 15 of those alternatives. I'll kind of get into the
 16 alternatives and how they're treated in the Council's
 17 process on the next slide. But I just kind of wanted to
 18 go through some additional siting opportunities and
 19 siting constraints within Morrow County.
 20 Opportunities are basically placing what I
 21 call siting, it's like placement of the facility. And
 22 so it's placing the facility in a manner that reduces or
 23 avoids impacts to certain resources. One of the
 24 opportunities that we talk about with siting
 25 transmission lines is co-location; so placing a

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1 transmission line next to an existing transmission line
 2 or within an existing right-of-way to reduce impacts
 3 associated with it. There is lots of co-location in
 4 Morrow County and examples of that.
 5 There is also, as I just mentioned, there is
 6 property owned by the Navy, which also has a Research
 7 Natural Area, or RNA. There's also a Habitat Management
 8 Area. Both of these areas within the NWSTF are
 9 discussed in different places in the DPO. For instance,
 10 the Habitat Management Area is discussed in fish and
 11 wildlife, and I'm going to talk about the Washington
 12 ground squirrel in a little bit. But also the Research
 13 Natural Area are discussed in the Protected Area section
 14 of the draft proposed order for an evaluation there.
 15 Sorry, I just paused because I just decided
 16 I'm going to talk about something else on the next
 17 slide.
 18 So in the Habitat Management Area, there is a
 19 Washington ground squirrel, or what we fondly call WAGS.
 20 They are quite adorable if you look them up. There is
 21 WAGS habitat in this area. If there's an active
 22 Washington ground squirrel burrow found, that is
 23 considered Category 1 habitat by the Oregon Department
 24 of Fish and Wildlife, or ODF&W, and that habitat shall
 25 be avoided. And then in buffer areas outside of that

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1 active colony, it's like 785 feet, in areas that extend
 2 out it's considered Category 2 habitat, which has
 3 different considerations and protections by ODF&W.
 4 So I'm going to go -- I have a couple slides.
 5 This is the proposed route and this is the proposed
 6 route through the entirety of Morrow County. These
 7 tables basically just identify the facility components,
 8 like how many towers or multi-use areas, which are
 9 considered construction sites are located.
 10 But I'm just going to go to the next one,
 11 which these are the breakout for the alternatives in
 12 that Bombing Range Road, and I'll just stay on this
 13 slide for a little of it to make a couple other notes
 14 that I had mentioned.
 15 So the project has the federal permitting
 16 component. As the result of the federal NEPA process,
 17 and this is just very -- I'm certainly not a NEPA
 18 expert, but this is just a high-level summary. The
 19 result of meetings that you folks probably participated
 20 in in all these siting studies and the BLM issuing an
 21 environmental impact statement and a final environmental
 22 impact statement, and finally in their ROD was the BLM
 23 issuing their preferred route on federal land.
 24 Compared to that and in Council's review
 25 process, the Council or the state process, they have

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1 what we call a standards-based review. So the applicant
 2 can propose any route or any combination of routes and
 3 we, as staff, evaluate each route separately and either
 4 recommend approval or denial of each route. But we
 5 basically look at it independently within the context of
 6 whether or not the applicant met each standard; so did
 7 they provide information for any of these routes that
 8 meets each of the standards. So Council will either
 9 approve or deny any combination.

10 It's not a spoiler alert here, it's on the
 11 first page of the draft proposed order, but the
 12 Department is recommending Council approval of the
 13 proposed facility and all of the alternative routes in
 14 all of the counties before this project.

15 So what that means for the applicant if
 16 Council ends up approving this facility and all the
 17 alternatives and the proposed route, that it essentially
 18 gives the applicant the opportunity to select which
 19 route they would like to go with. And then throughout
 20 the draft proposed order there are some conditions that
 21 apply to one route that may not apply to another one.

22 Just for an example, in Union County there's a
 23 condition in the Recreation section that recommends
 24 Council impose a condition for different tower
 25 structures within the vicinity of a recreational area

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1 called Morgan Lake Park. However, that condition is not
 2 found or not imposed for the proposed route. So that's
 3 just an example of what that may look like.

4 So if there is in previous siting efforts, if
 5 there is a route that is not in here, the Council cannot
 6 consider it. And the Council is not going to, cannot,
 7 they don't have the -- well, they cannot recommend a
 8 route variation that isn't in the application. It is
 9 approval or denial of what is proposed in the
 10 application.

11 So as I had mentioned, there was the record of
 12 decision led by the Bureau of Land Management. There's
 13 also the Navy has selected to do its own NEPA review for
 14 those segments on maybe -- can I go back? No.

15 Anyhow, the Navy opted to do its own NEPA
 16 review, which means the Navy has to issue its own ROD
 17 for the transmission line within that area of the
 18 Bombing Range Road. I don't think there's folks from
 19 the Navy here. They anticipate it to be, I'm unsure,
 20 perhaps this year. I'm unsure on what that timeline is.

21 What I would like to note about that is that
 22 there's a section 106 component, which what that means
 23 is it's part of the federal review process, and it's the
 24 federal agency's obligation to engage in consultation
 25 with tribal governments for an evaluation of cultural

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1 resources.

2 And this is just kind of an interesting note
 3 for Council, and I don't want to get too far in the
 4 weeds here, but in the Historical, Archeological, and
 5 Cultural Resources section of the DPO under Tribal
 6 Resources, has a separate section. But the applicant
 7 had engaged with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla
 8 Indian Reservation and come to an agreement about how to
 9 evaluate or mitigate impacts to tribal resources, and
 10 came to a confidential mitigation agreement. This
 11 letter is also attached as part of the attachments to
 12 the draft proposed order.

13 What's interesting about it is that the tribe,
 14 in its letter, is noting that the agreement that they
 15 came to with Idaho Power, it can be used for the
 16 Council's review and it's discussed in this draft
 17 proposed order, but that agreement can also be used for
 18 the Navy's consultation or section 106, and also for
 19 Bureau of Land Management's consultation. So that's
 20 just kind of an interesting note that feeds into the
 21 timeline of the Navy's record of decision.

22 I swear I'm going to be done. I skipped
 23 something. There's also -- all my batteries are dying.
 24 I apologize, everybody. It's been a long 2 weeks.
 25 There is also a Longhorn substation -- within

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1 this application and in the draft proposed order the
 2 applicant proposes the Longhorn substation, which is
 3 like a 20-acre substation here in Morrow County at the
 4 Port of Morrow. In the application the applicant
 5 discusses that this is an area that was purchased by
 6 Bonneville Power Administration, which is one of the
 7 partners with Idaho Power. However, there is some
 8 uncertainty about who's going to build the substation
 9 first. This is just summarizing it.

10 So the applicant has proposed it as part of
 11 the application. So this draft proposed order and this
 12 application assumes that the substation is in and that
 13 the substation will be built as part of the application.
 14 Therefore, there are lots of conditions that reference
 15 things that have to be done at the substation.

16 So if, for some reason, at a later date BPA
 17 does end up building that substation, either the
 18 applicant, if it goes through an amendment process, it
 19 may remove the substation or merely it is no longer a
 20 facility component that would be, like, covered. It
 21 would be a moot point that if it wasn't a condition, it
 22 would not be part of the facility that was constructed.
 23 So clearly that part of the condition wouldn't apply to
 24 it.

25 Let's get on to the public testimony portion.

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1 So folks got notice of the DPO in the mail or gov
 2 delivery or in the newspaper. It had the comment
 3 deadline that has been extended. I'm going to breeze
 4 through this. It's a lot of words. There's two parts
 5 about commenting at this phase that are important. One
 6 is the timing, and you'll see here I did not update my
 7 slide.

8 So that first bullet point is Time Matters.
 9 So somebody has to comment in person here today or in
 10 writing before August 22nd to be able to participate
 11 further in the process. So that's the important part.
 12 And you can kind of check that box by providing oral
 13 testimony or written comments.

14 The second part is a little maybe less
 15 straightforward, but it basically means the content of
 16 your comment matters. To really be able to preserve
 17 your spot to be able to participate in the contested
 18 case, the quality and the content of your comment
 19 matters. I swear it's not our fault, we didn't do it,
 20 but it says "sufficient specificity" and for whatever
 21 that means.

22 But it does say that your comments should be
 23 provided with sufficient specificity to afford the
 24 Council, the Department, and the applicant an adequate
 25 opportunity to respond. What that means is we want to

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1 understand what your comment is, what the issue is. So
 2 help us understand that by pointing out, helping us
 3 understand the issue. Which I have some of those kind
 4 of hints in this slide.

5 So some of the things that help us understand
 6 what your issue is is if you point out specific
 7 standards, statutes, or rules that support whether or
 8 not the standard or statute, et cetera, has been met.
 9 Stating supporting facts and reference materials. And
 10 if you provide a study or reference material, really
 11 helping us, like, tie it together, what is your issue,
 12 what are you seeing, and how does that reference
 13 material support whatever your position is.

14 Then also just pointing out specific pages in
 15 the draft proposed order. If we got something wrong,
 16 tell us where we did it or if there is something wrong
 17 in the application, or right, I guess, then help us
 18 understand where that is.

19 And then the other bullets are kind of: Less
 20 effective comments are... Which you totally can make
 21 them, just please understand there's not very much the
 22 Department can do with comments that merely state your
 23 support or opposition for the project.

24 Only providing a copy of a report or a study
 25 or reference materials without any supporting statements

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1 or guidance of how that may support your position.
 2 If you raise issues outside of the Council's
 3 jurisdiction, then Council doesn't have any authority to
 4 address the issue.

5 And then just making unsubstantiated comments.
 6 So I hope that helps. And again, even if you
 7 provide oral testimony here today and if you want to
 8 follow up with written comments, you absolutely can do
 9 that as well. We're all here to listen and help.

10 Thank you.
 11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: May I ask a question?
 12 MS. KELLEN TARDAEWETHER: I don't know. Are
 13 we taking questions?
 14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Beings Idaho Power does
 15 not ever answer our questions at these formal meetings,
 16 will the Energy Siting Council answer some of our
 17 questions that we have?
 18 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: These meetings here
 19 are for the public to comment. They're not -- the
 20 Council that's here, is not in a position to be able to
 21 answer questions now. But the purpose of this meeting
 22 is to raise questions and concerns that you may have
 23 about the B2H project. And then it gives Council and
 24 Idaho Power and Department staff the opportunity to
 25 consider and evaluate and then perhaps maybe answer that

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1 question later on down the line.
 2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.
 3 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: So the purpose of
 4 the hearing is to provide an opportunity for the public
 5 and the applicant, if they wish to do so, to present
 6 oral and written testimony on the Boardman to Hemingway
 7 transmission line application for site certificate and
 8 the draft proposed order.

9 The public hearing comment period on the draft
 10 proposed order now closes on August 22, 2019. As Kellen
 11 had indicated, it previously was scheduled to close on
 12 July 23rd, but the Council granted an extension at last
 13 night's public hearing. And you now have until
 14 August 22, 2019, at 5 p.m. Pacific Time.

15 Anyone who wishes to provide oral testimony
 16 must fill out a registration form located near the
 17 entrance. Department staff can provide you a form if
 18 you have not received one yet. If you want to give
 19 testimony tonight, please fill out a form and hand it to
 20 either Max in the corner here or in the back corner they
 21 are holding up the green card. Thank you.

22 We also have the telephone line open this
 23 evening. So can I ask at this time if there is anybody?
 24 So if somebody is listening in on the phone and would
 25 like to give public comment, please just speak up your

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1 intention at this time and we'll circle back to you and
 2 give you the opportunity.
 3 I don't hear anybody on the line.
 4 So I will call up the people with the cards
 5 that I have here. But before I do that, I have at this
 6 point four comment cards. I expect that some more will
 7 trickle in. Because we have allotted several hours or a
 8 few hours for this, I will not put any time constraints
 9 on anybody this evening. But I do ask that you be
 10 succinct in your comments. And as Kellen had indicated,
 11 keep them -- the more effective the better for us.
 12 Any requests that are made to EFSC will be
 13 brought up at the conclusion of the public testimony
 14 opportunity of the hearing.
 15 Today's hearing, as well as all of the public
 16 hearings on the Boardman to Hemingway draft proposed
 17 order, are being documented by a certified court
 18 reporter, and there will be transcripts of the testimony
 19 made available after completion of the public hearings.
 20 We are also recording the hearing tonight.
 21 The presentations, written comments and oral
 22 testimony are part of the decision record for the
 23 proposed facility.
 24 And then for the legalese. Pursuant to OAR
 25 345-015-0220(5)(a) and (b), please note the following:

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1 A person who intends to raise any issue that may be the
 2 basis for a contested case must raise the issue in
 3 person at the public hearing or in a written comment
 4 submitted to the Department of Energy before the
 5 deadline, which we just indicated has been extended to
 6 August 22.
 7 A person who intends to raise any issue that
 8 may be the basis for a contested case must raise the
 9 issue with sufficient specificity to afford the Council,
 10 the Department, and the applicant an adequate
 11 opportunity to respond, including a statement of facts
 12 that support the person's position on the issue.
 13 To raise an issue in a contested case
 14 proceeding, the issue must be: Within the Council's
 15 jurisdiction; raised in writing or in person prior to
 16 the close of the hearing record comment period, which
 17 is, as we have now said several times, is August 22,
 18 2019; raised with sufficient specificity to afford
 19 Council, the Department of Energy, and the applicant an
 20 adequate opportunity to respond.
 21 And as we have stated previously, to raise an
 22 issue with sufficient specificity, the person must
 23 present facts that support the person's position on the
 24 issue.
 25 We will now begin the public testimony portion

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1 of the hearing. I will ask that when I call the speaker
 2 up, the first thing you do is provide your name and
 3 spelling and your address for the record, so that the
 4 court reporter can have that information.
 5 And the first person coming up to give
 6 testimony is going to be Sam Myers. Mr. Myers.
 7 MR. SAM MYERS: My name is Sam Myers. S-a-m,
 8 last name M-y-e-r-s. Our address is 68453 Little Butter
 9 Creek Road, Heppner, Oregon.
 10 Thank you for allowing me to be here. Again,
 11 my name is Sam Myers. I operate a family-owned dryland
 12 wheat farm on the eastern edge of Morrow County. I am
 13 here with my father, Jerry Myers, who is in agreement
 14 with the comments that I'm about to make.
 15 If I could, so I understand fully, when I'm
 16 opposed to the project, do I call it the order or the
 17 proposed order? Does it make a difference?
 18 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: It doesn't really
 19 make a difference. If you have concerns about -- you
 20 would have concerns about the draft proposed order or
 21 parts of the application. So either one of those two
 22 would be where you would be addressing your concerns.
 23 MR. SAM MYERS: My argument against the
 24 proposed order has to do with and relates to the issues
 25 regarding a fire. My arguments do not have to do

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1 with -- they assume that the transmission lines are
 2 going to light fires and that we have not come to a
 3 conclusion that that doesn't happen. So my testimony
 4 tonight wants to shed light on the issues that I have
 5 regarding a potential fire from these transmission
 6 lines.
 7 The damage that concerns me the most is
 8 long-term. Even more than the loss of buildings,
 9 dwellings or equipment or crops that are destroyed, it
 10 is the damage from an in-crop fire that is detrimental
 11 to our soil and our livelihood. Buildings can be
 12 rebuilt, equipment can be replaced. But the moment a
 13 fire hits the soil, the soil can be damaged.
 14 The cropping system this transmission line
 15 crosses over is one of our really most prized fields,
 16 untouched in many ways from any of mankind's buildings
 17 or roads, so to speak. It is our job to manage this
 18 field, and we do so, with respect to the soil, as best
 19 we can.
 20 We work to maintain the soil. Our livelihood
 21 depends on the soil. We have to consider soil organic
 22 matter, soil microbes, soil structure, and sequestering
 23 as much rainfall into this soil as possible due to our
 24 low rainfall area. The soil is our most precious
 25 resource, and preserving its health is our top priority.

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1 Firsthand experience, along with the counsel
 2 from the researchers at Columbia Basin Research Center
 3 near Pendleton, Oregon, have revealed to me that a fire
 4 in our dryland crop, which this transmission line goes
 5 over, does destroy the crop. In their words, a
 6 gentleman I talked to this morning, a researcher, I
 7 believe his name was Steve, said literally a fire takes
 8 the life out of a soil.
 9 Here's what a fire does specifically to a
 10 soil. It burns off organic matter. It kills the
 11 microbial colonies that are needed for soil health. It
 12 destroys the carbon-nitrogen cycle that we depend on to
 13 break down the previous crop into nutrients that can be
 14 used for the next one.
 15 It destroys soil structure. Soil structure is
 16 critical for the ability of the soil to hold water and
 17 also for the soil to be able to take higher rates of
 18 water into it before it's eroded. Fire also creates a
 19 wind erosion potential. In our area that's very
 20 critical.
 21 The long-term loss from soil damage could
 22 threaten our livelihood. That is because the soil
 23 rebuilding process takes years, perhaps 6 to 10 years,
 24 to fully recover from a fire. Again, this is firsthand
 25 knowledge and counsel from the research center.

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1 The revenue loss encountered by the soil
 2 destruction would be financially disastrous to us. We
 3 currently have no protection from that kind of loss. We
 4 are simply exposed to that risk.
 5 The second issue that I think is specific to
 6 our area is our climate. We have very dry conditions in
 7 the spring, late spring and summer, sometimes into the
 8 fall, with low relative humidity. Our area has some of
 9 the lowest relative humidity percentages over a cropped
 10 land of perhaps any place in the state. These dry
 11 conditions do not suppress the ignition of a fire.
 12 The National Weather Service issues red flag
 13 warnings. We had one just a few days ago. I spoke with
 14 the National Weather Service and had quite a
 15 conversation with the gentleman there. Red flag
 16 warnings happen a couple times during June, July, and
 17 August in our area, sometimes even into September.
 18 These warnings indicate that a fire can spread rapidly
 19 upon ignition. The red flag warning is an indication
 20 that widespread fire damage can occur.
 21 Now, just to clarify, the Weather Service
 22 cannot predict a fire; it can predict the possibility,
 23 the probability of a lightning strike in your area. So
 24 it also depends on determining fire load and other
 25 weather conditions that can make a fire possible.

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1 What happens to our crop as it moves from a
 2 small green, leafy plant and matures towards harvest to
 3 this time of year, what they characterize as a living
 4 load, a green, leafy plant, turns into what they call a
 5 dead fire load. The Forest Service uses these
 6 designations as they seek to understand how potentially
 7 dangerous a fire can be in the forest.
 8 So when our crop approaches a dead fire load
 9 at full maturity, the fire that could happen at that
 10 point in time is devastating to the soil. It does all
 11 the things that I previously mentioned in destroying
 12 that soil.
 13 It is also important for me to note, however,
 14 that a postharvest fire, fire when the crop has been
 15 harvested, there is a significant height difference with
 16 the remaining residue. It can also be very dangerous.
 17 And those are the fires that I fought and had personal
 18 comment from the neighbors describing to me years later
 19 they can still tell where the yield reduces where the
 20 line of the fire started.
 21 This is the place we live in. These are the
 22 climate conditions that we face; hot, dry, windy days,
 23 wind speeds in the 20s or 30 miles per hour. They all
 24 happen simultaneously. These are the conditions that
 25 have me extremely concerned. If these transmission

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1 lines started a fire, it could spread for miles.
 2 My goal here today is that you understand that
 3 the destruction of our soil resource is very troubling
 4 to me. The pennies we might receive from a right-of-way
 5 to Idaho Power does not compensate us for the risk we
 6 would bear. What is at stake here is our soil.
 7 I would urge the Siting Council to consider
 8 this testimony as it specifically relates to this area.
 9 We cannot ignore the environmental damage to the soils
 10 that could happen on an event that is possible almost
 11 every year. Red flag warnings, like I mentioned, can
 12 be -- we've seen them perhaps on average once a month,
 13 maybe twice a month. Like I said, the Weather Service
 14 lists those, put those out there so the general public
 15 knows that if somebody is going to be doing something
 16 that could potentially start a fire, it could spread
 17 rapidly and cause massive amounts of damage.
 18 So I thank you for being here and hearing my
 19 testimony. When I had considered this project some,
 20 almost 10 years old now, I can't believe that for
 21 pennies for a right-of-way our farm could be devastated
 22 financially. We could be left with nothing. Our
 23 margins on that farm are small. There is no protection
 24 for a 7-, 8-year yield reduction. We live with that
 25 risk, and now we're adding potentially another risk

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1 factor to that environment.
 2 There are other problems on our farm that I
 3 have with this. We have an airstrip that will probably
 4 be rendered useless because of the transmission lines'
 5 location; we have Internet communication that could be
 6 interrupted; and the cropping system that we use, most
 7 likely I can't use an aerial applicator in that area.
 8 It would make it extraordinarily more expensive to fly
 9 next to this transmission line. So I have a lot to
 10 lose. I have a lot to overcome if this happens.
 11 So I appreciate the Council's consideration of
 12 what I hoped to have made very specific, very real, very
 13 credible information. We're talking about an
 14 environmental problem and we're talking about destroying
 15 a resource that could probably, in my opinion, there
 16 might be better ways to serve the needs of power
 17 somewhere else than making me live under such a
 18 disastrous risk from the transmission lines.
 19 Thank you very much.
 20 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you,
 21 Mr. Myers.
 22 Next up is John -- is it Luciani?
 23 MR. JOHN LUCIANI: I'm not quite ready,
 24 please.
 25 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Do you want me to

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1 put you at the end of the line?
 2 MR. JOHN LUCIANO: Please.
 3 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Next is Travis Eri
 4 or Eri?
 5 MR. TRAVIS ERI: That's correct.
 6 Hello. Travis Eri. It's T-r-a-v-i-s, E-r-i.
 7 Address is 17200 Northeast Sacramento Street, Portland,
 8 Oregon 97230.
 9 So to start with, my background, I'm a
 10 journeyman lineman, having worked in the Pacific
 11 Northwest, earning my certificate right here throughout
 12 Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. I currently am the
 13 business manager for International Brotherhood of
 14 Electrical Workers, Local Union 125. And IBEW 125
 15 represents the electrical workers throughout Oregon,
 16 Washington, Idaho, and Montana, consisting of 3600
 17 members in the utility and construction industry in all
 18 sectors of construction, transmission, and distrib- --
 19 or generation, transmission, and distribution services.
 20 I'd like to start by recognizing all those who
 21 may be in opposition of this project for various
 22 reasons. My testimony is not to minimize any of their
 23 concerns that they are here discussing today.
 24 The IBEW was formed in 1891, and our purpose
 25 and our mission was to stand for improving safety in the

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1 electrical industry. After over 125 years, our mission
 2 still stands as that.
 3 The things that I want to bring to light are
 4 the IBEW is in agreement with this project. We're in
 5 support of this project for all the reasons identified
 6 by Idaho Power. But the most important is for balancing
 7 the renewable resources throughout this region and the
 8 Intermountain West.
 9 When we look at the constraints that are on
 10 current transmission right-of-ways, those constraints
 11 lend to high-capacity time periods in which additional
 12 transmission lines throughout our regions can help
 13 minimize I think some of these fire concerns that a lot
 14 of the public has. The more that a transmission line is
 15 overloaded, the more likelihood or the potential for the
 16 system to fail, and the more likelihood of those fires
 17 could occur.
 18 I'm not here to discuss the potential routing
 19 as far as the benefits or the considerations that went
 20 in prior to this. My testimony is just to discuss the
 21 imminent need. Transmission lines throughout this
 22 region as well as connecting the Intermountain West are
 23 needed in order to balance the peak-and-valley nature of
 24 our renewable portfolios.
 25 The energy imbalance market is something that

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1 Pacific Power started several years ago, and many of the
 2 utilities have joined into this. And it's nothing more
 3 than basically sharing transmission authority between
 4 different regions and taking advantage of
 5 peak-and-valley natures of renewable portfolios.
 6 What it allows for is a reduction in having to
 7 spend resources to create new generation, allowing for a
 8 lot of our carbon-emitting generation facilities to be
 9 able to scale back and take advantage of excess
 10 renewable in other areas.
 11 The Boardman to Hemingway line, in what I have
 12 seen from the studies, will do just that. It will
 13 balance out renewable portfolios within the
 14 Intermountain West, and the Oregon and Washington
 15 Columbia River Gorge renewable portfolio, taking
 16 advantage of those resources at different times when
 17 they will be able to exchange power.
 18 The additional benefit, other than easements
 19 to those that are affected by the transmission
 20 corridors, are also going to be felt through the
 21 reduction in necessary transmission -- or sorry,
 22 necessary generation being built in order to cover the
 23 electrical needs of our communities.
 24 And with Bonneville Power Administration
 25 joining the energy imbalance market, all of the

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1 communities served along this right-of-way that utilize
 2 Bonneville Power Administration energy, will be able to
 3 have their rates affected by this in a positive manner.
 4 Bonneville will be able to experience the net savings of
 5 the energy imbalance market, which is a net benefit to
 6 all of the ratepayers in this region.
 7 The additional construction of the project, of
 8 course, is a time-limiting benefit within the region,
 9 but also the construction of the project should also
 10 benefit the entire region wherever the work occurs.
 11 We have a lot of electrical workers that would
 12 be benefited from this kind of construction. Our
 13 generation facilities, all of you are familiar with
 14 Boardman, the coal plant and the building of the
 15 gas-fired plant. Those additional capacities continue
 16 to be levied throughout the transmission corridors.
 17 I think that's all I'll submit for oral
 18 comment. We will be submitting written testimony that
 19 outlines some of those benefits with the electrical or
 20 the energy imbalance market, as well as some of the
 21 other workforce studies throughout the region.
 22 Thank you.
 23 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you very much.
 24 Next up is Brian Doherty.
 25 MR. BRIAN DOHERTY: Hello. My name is Brian

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1 Doherty, B-r-i-a-n, D-o-h-e-r-t-y. My address is 70516
 2 Highway 207 in Lexington, Oregon.
 3 As I said, my name is Brian Doherty. I'm a
 4 fourth-generation dryland wheat farmer in central Morrow
 5 County. I have five children. My wife Peggy and my son
 6 Dan are here with me today.
 7 The B2H project will cut a nearly 4-mile swath
 8 through our family's farm. My great-grandfather
 9 established our farm at Sandhollow in 1885. It's not an
 10 easy place to farm and survive economically. And I
 11 think some of my neighbors would agree with me on that.
 12 Over the years our family has supported
 13 development that improved life for everyone in our area.
 14 We have over 20 miles of state and county roads cutting
 15 through our property. With right-of-ways, that's a lot
 16 of land removed from production.
 17 There's a substation just above our farmstead
 18 and many standard power lines on our property. In
 19 addition, there are phone lines, fiberoptic lines, and a
 20 gravel borrow pit for the State. Historically we have
 21 been very cooperative with these projects for the
 22 greater good.
 23 I oppose the B2H project coming through my
 24 family's property as it is currently proposed. This
 25 project will permanently change the landscape and

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1 usefulness of our property. It will limit the future
 2 development opportunities on our property. It will make
 3 farming more expensive, less efficient, and our
 4 production will be lowered. We can't afford that.
 5 We have never been "not my backyard" people,
 6 our family. But if you're going to cut a swath through
 7 our land 250 feet wide, make the compensation fair.
 8 Paying for an easement with a single payment, with the
 9 possibility of a judge determining what's fair, doesn't
 10 sound like a good deal to us.
 11 In 2012, we had the federal government shut
 12 down the installation of windmills on our property. I'm
 13 not sure we ever got the true explanation of why that
 14 was done.
 15 In the early 1980s, my father had irrigation
 16 that he legally developed on the west side of our
 17 property shut down by the State with regulations that
 18 came later on the critical groundwater area. This was
 19 an economic blow that was very difficult for us to
 20 overcome. Forgive us if we have misgivings about what
 21 the government will deem fair.
 22 I don't believe I have the political or
 23 economic clout to stop Idaho Power, PacifiCorp, and BPA.
 24 But I would like to propose an ongoing lease payment
 25 based on each tower or a portion of receipts from

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1 wielding costs returned to the landowner based on how
 2 many towers are on their land. And I'd like to credit
 3 my neighbor Roger Morter for that idea.
 4 You can respond that it isn't done this way,
 5 but that doesn't mean it can't be. I think most of the
 6 landowners would find this more agreeable. We are not
 7 opposed to prudent development for the common good. But
 8 we are losing more than the land under these towers.
 9 My view of the Gleason Butte from my tractor
 10 seat will forever be altered. I love that view, I've
 11 earned that view. We can work with you, but be fair.
 12 Recognize that we are giving up more than an easement
 13 here. Compensate us fairly, that's all we ask.
 14 Thank you.
 15 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Next up is Elizabeth
 16 Ashbeck.
 17 MS. ELIZABETH ASHBECK: E-l-i-z-a-b-e-t-h,
 18 A-s-h-b-e-c-k. Mailing address 71384-A, as in "apple,"
 19 Highway 207, Echo, Oregon 97826. The reason why it's in
 20 Echo and not Lexington is they won't deliver to where we
 21 live. So we go 6 miles to go get our mail.
 22 Which is why I'm here. I don't have anything
 23 on any studies. I have been in agreement with Sam and
 24 Brian both of what they have said. I appreciate your
 25 time.

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1 Mine is more of I married a farmer. I'm
 2 originally from Portland, but I married a farmer,
 3 seventh generation. We have one son, and we hope to be
 4 a third generation.
 5 Where we put our mobile home, our home where
 6 we raised our son, is right, this line goes right behind
 7 us. It's on our land and it goes right behind us. We
 8 have one of the best views ever, I think per Brian.
 9 Where the line is going is my favorite spot. I can see
 10 Mount Hood, Mount Adams, and Mount St. Helens on a clear
 11 day from our top, right where this line is going. It's
 12 where I love to spend our time when it's not in crop, we
 13 do crop rotation.
 14 My hardest part is if you're not from this
 15 area, you might not understand the land and how it
 16 works. We border the two men who just spoke. And so
 17 when there is a fire from one of these, it will wipe out
 18 all of us that are bordering each other. There is no
 19 way to stop a fire. We saw that in Morrow in the fires
 20 that were along the river this last year. A farmer died
 21 trying to put it out with his tractor. So that's very
 22 real.
 23 The right-of-ways that have been in the first
 24 meeting, from the first meeting Idaho Power said they
 25 would just condemn our land if we did not agree to this

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1 process. So from the get-go 10 years ago, it has been
 2 stressful, to say the least, to have that be our first
 3 meeting here, except for in a different room.
 4 So my concern is what was said -- and I didn't
 5 get your name, I apologize, and I'm sorry, you just took
 6 a bite so I won't... But I spoke with -- we could do
 7 comments or questions last time in our meetings here to
 8 Idaho Power about once a corridor is open, the
 9 possibility of more lines. And as she said, that once a
 10 line is open, they won't call it co-locations; it's much
 11 easier to do lines down the same corridor. Makes total
 12 sense. Didn't you say that? Once there's a line it's
 13 easier to go down where a line is. You said
 14 co-locations?
 15 MS. TARDAEWETHER: Yes, the siting
 16 opportunity.
 17 MS. ELIZABETH ASHBECK: Siting opportunity.
 18 I'm using wrong words.
 19 So once there is a line though it's easier to
 20 add another line; is that correct?
 21 MS. TARDAEWETHER: It depends.
 22 MS. ELIZABETH ASHBECK: Yes. Thank you. I
 23 know you're shaking your head no.
 24 But you see them. I've just taken pictures
 25 along -- you can just go out here -- not out here. If

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1 you go out here, once the lines are open out here they
 2 open up. My concern is, we are only one, one house
 3 right there on Melville Lane, we're the only one. We
 4 were told we were the path of least resistance because
 5 we are the only one. I understand that, being a house.
 6 So my concern is, is once that line is open
 7 and you put in more lines, where does that leave our
 8 family farm? I don't have any stats on that. And they
 9 can say they don't know, but to me that risk is too
 10 high. And so that's really -- I don't know how to make
 11 stats on that because once it's opened you can't close
 12 it because it's there.
 13 So how does that change our way of live and
 14 where we live? And we've lived there for the last
 15 25 years. They have farmed there a lot longer, but we
 16 have lived there for 25 years.
 17 And so I do appreciate your time. I know that
 18 you probably don't know what the land looks like since
 19 you haven't been out there. But I do invite you. You
 20 have my address, you can come out and see if you would
 21 like.
 22 So that's it. Thank you.
 23 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 24 Next up is Chris Rauch.
 25 MR. CHRIS RAUCH: Chris Rauch, C-h-r-i-s,

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1 R-a-u-c-h. Just like it doesn't sound. Address, 72967
 2 Strawberry Lane, Lexington, Oregon. I'm managing
 3 partner of North Lex Power And Land. I'm also managing
 4 partner and owner of Starvation Farms. And part of this
 5 runs right through part of this, or both of us.
 6 Wouldn't it be good if this gentleman back
 7 here with the maps could have had it up here so these
 8 landowners coming up here could have just looked at it?
 9 It would have helped somewhat.
 10 But I want to stress or put my 2 cents in.
 11 North Lex Power And Land, its managing partner is pretty
 12 much neutral in this project. Starvation Farms' owner,
 13 I'm basically neutral. The one concern I would like to
 14 see done probably -- I know how some of these things
 15 work. If they could have put it right on the property
 16 line it would have been less problematic, put it that
 17 way, between me and my neighbor or just on my property
 18 line because some of it's strictly on ours.
 19 Being off to the side is a bit of a concern as
 20 a farmer. It does add cost, it's kind of a pain in the
 21 ass. I'm being quite honest.
 22 The other two concerns is for North Lex Power
 23 And Land, and they are actually directed not to you
 24 guys. There's like two questions basically directed to
 25 Idaho Power. One, on part of this land there's already

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1 a lease with another company. I'm wondering how that's
 2 going to be handled. And that lease could have
 3 something be built on it? And if that is built, what
 4 happens then to the power line? Where does it go?
 5 And that's pretty much it at this point.
 6 Unless somebody wants to answer the questions.
 7 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Unfortunately, no
 8 real answers tonight, just testimony from the public.
 9 MR. CHRIS RAUCH: Yeah, I know.
 10 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you though.
 11 Next up, Irene Gilbert.
 12 MS. IRENE GILBERT: Irene Gilbert, Stop B2H
 13 member. And first I want to make -- oh, 2310 Adams
 14 Avenue, La Grande, Oregon.
 15 First, actually, today I'm just going to make
 16 some general comments about different areas of the
 17 application. But I also wanted to remind the folks
 18 here -- I know you don't deal with me that much -- but
 19 when people talk about restrictions on the transmission
 20 line, I just wanted to remind you that a lot of the big
 21 players, like Google, Target, Walmart, Home Depot, all
 22 those big companies are trying to get off the grid.
 23 They're wanting to develop their own energy sources.
 24 There are lots of litigation things going on in
 25 different states now because the utilities don't want

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1 them to leave the grid or be able to do that. So
 2 anyway, that really counters the idea that we're going
 3 to have this huge influx of electric need.
 4 Also, the FERC requirement that new renewables
 5 have a consistent level of energy coming onto the grid
 6 has resulted in, as you well know, a lot of the wind
 7 developers are asking to have solar and batteries added
 8 to their development so that they can have consistency
 9 in the energy that they're providing.
 10 So those kinds of things are going to mean
 11 that the projections for this huge need for transmission
 12 lines is somewhat overstated.
 13 Now, I've been a member of a farming family,
 14 ranching family. And in the Willamette Valley, we
 15 raised a lot of cattle, we raised feed for them, we grew
 16 trees, we harvested trees. We provided habitat for
 17 western pond turtles and endangered species of fish, all
 18 kinds of wildlife.
 19 And I can remember at one point having to sit
 20 around the table and having one of my sister-in-laws
 21 say, I wonder how many cows we would have to raise to
 22 make any money. We were selling 200 cows every fall and
 23 the prices were so bad that we were thinking, if we
 24 raise more will we start making money or how does this
 25 work?

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1 A lot of these farmers and ranchers, the
 2 average for these smaller developments -- we weren't
 3 small, we had a thousand acres, that's a lot in the
 4 Willamette Valley -- but here, a lot of these people,
 5 according to the data, says they're living on an average
 6 of like \$22,500 a year.
 7 So I can appreciate this line would make jobs
 8 for some electricians, and I can appreciate that they
 9 would like that. But it also can take away the jobs and
 10 the livelihood of a lot of farmers who understand they
 11 don't own the land they're on; they are the caretakers
 12 of that land. The land owns them. And they're here
 13 trying to protect what is -- well, it's just the basis
 14 of their entire existence.
 15 So having said that as kind of an
 16 introduction, I'd like to remind you that whatever you
 17 put in the site certificate, if indeed you get a site
 18 certificate issued, is all that Idaho Power is going to
 19 be required to do.
 20 So when you don't have final plans for things
 21 like fire, and you say it's going to be developed after
 22 the fact, you are leaving all of these people very
 23 vulnerable because they had no input in what the final
 24 product looks like. It's my observation that you have
 25 accepted some very bare-bones kinds of plans, and say,

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1 We'll work it out later. Idaho Power is going around
 2 telling people, We'll work it out later.
 3 They got 31 issues from the weed folks in five
 4 counties that they have felt should be in that plan.
 5 Those things are not in the plan. And Idaho Power is
 6 telling people, they're telling our commissioners, We'll
 7 work it out later. We'll talk about it after the site
 8 certificate is issued.
 9 We all know that if people don't ask for a
 10 contested case now, by the time those things happen,
 11 it's too late. And all of these people that are
 12 concerned about it will have nothing. They wouldn't
 13 even be notified of what kinds of final plans get
 14 approved. So it's a pretty unbalanced kind of system.
 15 And a few things I just wanted to just comment
 16 about are notification of people. When you notify
 17 people within 250 feet of a transmission line that this
 18 line is going to go in, there are a whole lot of people
 19 that are being directly impacted who don't even know,
 20 who were never notified. It's not a just kind of
 21 notification.
 22 I am concerned about groundwater and the
 23 groundwater impacts. You heard something about that
 24 here from one of these farmers. But when you bring in a
 25 bunch of equipment and you start -- one thing, you

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1 compress the soils, you tear up the habitat. And
 2 feeding the groundwater system is dependent on having a
 3 cover of grasses and things for the water to get
 4 through. When you take that away, what you end up with
 5 is a lot of erosion. When you talk about in these
 6 areas, it's not just about water erosion, you're not
 7 getting water into the ground table, but you also have
 8 issue of wind, and you have windstorms. And they are
 9 losing their property when it blows away.

10 So I'm concerned about wetlands and the fact
 11 that this developer is only having to deal with wetlands
 12 within the site boundary. Now ODF&W, I go out to the
 13 Ladd Marsh fairly frequently, and they have a sign there
 14 on the wetlands that says: Wetlands are the most
 15 important habitat in the state. And yet, this developer
 16 is being allowed to do things right up next to wetlands,
 17 and they are being allowed to tear up wetlands.

18 They also, for whatever reason, I know ODF&W
 19 rates property as Category 1 through 6. Some of the
 20 wetlands they're rating as a Category 3. I mean, where
 21 do you come by figuring out that a wetlands and the
 22 number of critters that are dependent on it, that that
 23 would be just sort of an, Okay, let's just destroy it.
 24 We'll just kind of make it up someplace else. So I hope
 25 you really look carefully at how they're looking at the

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1 categorization of some of this. Any water resources
 2 that they're saying is a Category 3, I just I can't
 3 believe that.

4 The rating of things like farmlands are very
 5 understated. And in fact, one place in the application
 6 they said that when lands are rated as farm and grazing,
 7 they don't include them in the farmland. They don't
 8 include them as part of the farmland. So they said that
 9 right in the application. And they said that someone
 10 had gotten ahold of LCDC and made that determination. I
 11 can tell you that the LCDC rules don't say that grazing
 12 land is not farmland or the combination of grazing-
 13 agricultural is not agricultural land. It is
 14 agricultural land. So some things like that are just
 15 kind of very questionable.

16 I think I said something to someone the other
 17 day about the site certificates are getting a lot better
 18 and it's a lot harder to challenge some of the site
 19 certificates that are coming out. But this is not the
 20 case with this one. And it doesn't have to do with EFSC
 21 staff. It has to do with garbage in-garbage out. You
 22 have gotten garbage in this application. And so you're
 23 dealing with garbage and you're not going to get a good
 24 product unless you go back and really look at what's in
 25 that application, because it's not the way it seems.

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1 The thing with Ladd Marsh and not talking
 2 about the fact that there's a federal mitigation site
 3 there. Actually, there are three parcels of land. And
 4 ODF&W receives payment every single year to make sure
 5 that those mitigation areas as a result of the Columbia
 6 River Dam have, if you look at the documents, those are
 7 supposed to have zero damage, zero negative impact. And
 8 ODF&W has gotten hundreds of thousands of dollars to
 9 protect those and see that nothing damages them.

10 Now, when you put a transmission line that's
 11 impacting wildlife that are supposed to be utilizing
 12 that, that's not consistent with zero damage.

13 I have trouble with the way they dealt with
 14 scenic impacts because basically Idaho Power made up a
 15 scale -- it's nothing that's had any kind of research --
 16 they made up a way of rating visual quality on a 1-to-30
 17 scale, and then they made objective statements about how
 18 different areas are rated on this scale.

19 And I'm sure when I go to turn in my
 20 statements or my written information, I will include
 21 pictures of some of these places that they've rated.
 22 And certainly one of them will be Ladd Marsh because
 23 they rated it an 11 on a scale of 30. And Ladd Marsh is
 24 surrounded 360 degrees with mountains. 11 out of 30,
 25 hmm, strange scale.

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1 I'm going to be quick today. You'll be
 2 thrilled with this.

3 One thing, another thing that bothers me a lot
 4 in looking through this application is that Idaho Power
 5 has rated -- I have a problem with the habitat
 6 mitigation anyway because only things that have
 7 structures on them are considered permanent impacts
 8 normally. But they decided that when you cut down a
 9 forest, and they say this line is going to last
 10 indefinitely, that that's a temporary impact because
 11 it's only going to last as long as the transmission line
 12 lasts.

13 I question that when you have something, when
 14 you have a change in habitat that's going to last as
 15 long as this transmission line, that's not a temporary
 16 impact.

17 The area around that, along that transmission
 18 line where they are cutting out forests, all of it
 19 should be habitat that is compensated and mitigated for.
 20 At least in the area around La Grande, their surveys for
 21 wildlife show almost a hundred species fewer birds than
 22 the surveys that were done for Antelope Ridge and the
 23 surveys that have been done out at the wildlife refuge.

24 So I'm not so sure -- and they're looking at
 25 this whole line and how many birds is it going to

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1 impact. I can tell you, there's information out there
 2 that contradicts what they're saying.
 3 Around fires, this is another one. They're
 4 relying on local fire departments, volunteer fire
 5 departments, to deal with fires along this transmission
 6 line. It takes minutes in some of these low-lying dry
 7 areas for a fire to go a really long ways.
 8 And I know one fire department in our area
 9 said they can respond between 4 and 6 minutes. Well,
 10 whoever asked them and they responded, I don't think so.
 11 When you have a fire alarm and you're relying on people
 12 to leave their work and their houses and get to the fire
 13 department, they can't be there in 4 to 6 minutes. So
 14 sometimes you kind of have to wonder how the question
 15 was asked to get the kind of responses that they say
 16 they've gotten.
 17 Regardless of that, the fire issue and who is
 18 going to take care of fires. I know Baker County asked
 19 for a unit, to have the developer develop resources to
 20 deal with fires, particularly in forested areas, because
 21 those local fire departments don't have the equipment
 22 that's necessary to deal with wildland fires. And
 23 that's what you're going to be dealing with part of the
 24 time. It's ignored in the application.
 25 The traffic statements that they've made about

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1 changes in traffic, I haven't looked at a lot of the
 2 roads they're going to use supposedly to take equipment
 3 and things up to this site, back and forth, but I know
 4 in my area they're talking about doubling the amount of
 5 traffic that's currently existing on those roads.
 6 Now, it may be legal to add 130 vehicles to a
 7 narrow country road, with no sidewalks, like Foothills
 8 Road. If any of you are familiar with Union County,
 9 Foothill Road gets an incredible amount of -- bikers
 10 love that road, walkers love that road. There is a lot
 11 of just people who use that road. And now we're talking
 12 about taking a road that normally gets about 120
 13 vehicles a day and putting another 130 vehicles a day,
 14 and that's not even including big equipment. That is a
 15 safety issue where someone is going to get killed. Some
 16 kid is going to run out in the middle of the road and
 17 get killed. Who is responsible for that?
 18 They didn't model noise along a lot of the
 19 site, for instance, like the lay-down areas and that
 20 kind of thing. I think I mentioned that the other day.
 21 They also, as far as noise, there's so many problems
 22 with noise I can't even hardly begin to think about it.
 23 But they average the noise exposure across the 300-mile
 24 line. So when people's exposure to noise is going to
 25 run between 20 percent weather that would cause it -- or

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1 like 10 percent weather that would cause a corona effect
 2 and 22 percent weather that would cause a corona effect,
 3 that's a big difference. They didn't look at individual
 4 locations, which as I read the rules, that's what you're
 5 supposed to do is look at individual locations and what
 6 is the difference going to be.
 7 They didn't include some things in their
 8 baseline noise evaluation that, according to the rules,
 9 have to be included.
 10 The fact that they took a consultant's
 11 statement that it was okay to use a 5-hour period to
 12 establish the baseline noise level and interpreted that,
 13 it was interpreted as meaning it was okay to look at a
 14 5-hour period of time to establish how many times a day
 15 there was going to be a noise exceedance is pushing the
 16 envelope, I would say. So typically you're looking at a
 17 24-hour period when you look at it.
 18 I would also like to share there was
 19 mitigation with LCDC and also with the state courts that
 20 say that the noise standard is not subject to de minimus
 21 decision-making; it is a yes/no answer. It is a black
 22 and white answer. So that is not consistent with saying
 23 a certain percentage, whatever the percentage is, if
 24 they're over the standard, they're over the standard.
 25 And I did provide that to one of your folks here to go

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1 back and look at that.
 2 Because I don't think you can say that it's
 3 okay when you have litigation already that's gone
 4 through the Oregon courts that say it is yes or it is
 5 no. It is not de minimus.
 6 So thank you. And you'll hear lots and lots
 7 from me, comments, I'm sure you know. Thank you.
 8 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 9 MS. IRENE GILBERT: Any questions?
 10 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Anybody else that
 11 would like to fill out a comment card, please do so.
 12 And Mr. Luciani, you are up.
 13 I have a question for you: Is today your
 14 birthday?
 15 MR. JOHN LUCIANI: Yes. I'm here on my
 16 birthday.
 17 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Happy birthday.
 18 MR. JOHN LUCIANI: Thank you.
 19 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: It looked like you
 20 were very used to writing June 27 of a different year,
 21 that's why I guessed it was your birthday.
 22 MR. JOHN LUCIANI: Very good.
 23 I'm John H. Luciani. It's L-u-c-i-a-n-i. My
 24 address is 27633 Butter Creek Road, Echo, Oregon 97826.
 25 I thank you for being here.

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1 I drove to La Grande the other night, and
 2 watched as everybody there I guess you would call it
 3 testified or said what they had to say. You were all
 4 very kind. Everybody listened, everybody was -- I think
 5 with interest.
 6 Before I get into what I have to say, it broke
 7 my heart, a lot of the cases up there, the people and
 8 what they had to say. And so many of them have come to
 9 the party late. One nice gentleman in particular, he
 10 talked about years and years of getting permits to build
 11 his dream home, it's a retirement home, and getting it
 12 done in the mountains of La Grande. And we all know how
 13 beautiful it is up there. And once everything was
 14 finished and he just wanted to live his life, he gets a
 15 letter, and he gets a letter in the mail from Idaho
 16 Power that says, We're coming through.
 17 And you can understand how obviously shocked
 18 he must have been to have that happen with no prior
 19 notice, nobody told him anything about it. And he was
 20 in shock, he was hurting, and he was in shock. The
 21 anger wasn't there yet, I don't think, maybe it was. He
 22 was a very gracious person. He just didn't know where
 23 to go. And a lot of times we have nowhere to go.
 24 As you can see with my wavery voice, this
 25 isn't my strong suit, public speaking. I'm a dirt

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1 farmer. I've spent most of my life on a tractor out in
 2 the wild. I don't go that many places, I don't vacation
 3 much. My wife doesn't like that very well but that's
 4 the way it is. We stay on our ranches and we work.
 5 A little bit of history. It seems to me this
 6 has been going on -- I wish I would have wrote down the
 7 first time that I had any dealings with Idaho Power. It
 8 seems to me it was late '90s. I drove up my canyon to
 9 work, as I had hundreds of times before, and something
 10 out of the corner of my eye, it caught my eye, and it
 11 was basically a piece of Sheetrock that had been ripped
 12 a foot in diameter, 8 feet long, in an arrow right off
 13 the side of the road. I hit the brakes and stopped and
 14 backed up and said, What is this?
 15 Obviously it was something that somebody could
 16 see from the air. There were two of them on our place
 17 that I found. And I went back and told my pop, I said,
 18 Pop, what have we got here? He didn't know. And pretty
 19 soon there was a meeting that we were all made aware of,
 20 one of our neighbors, Frank Mater, my father, my mother,
 21 some of the neighbors, went to this meeting. It was in
 22 Boardman, as far as I can remember. And the Idaho Power
 23 people were there talking about this proposed line and
 24 how they had gotten in touch with everybody, and
 25 everybody was in agreement and everybody let them go on

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1 their land.
 2 And I remember my father telling me that Frank
 3 Mater got up and said, You didn't get in touch with me.
 4 Oh, yeah, we did. No, you didn't. Everybody had
 5 answering machines, different things; there was no
 6 message. Then my father also got up and said, Nobody
 7 contacted me. Oh, yeah, we did. No, you didn't.
 8 So this is what started our relationship with
 9 Idaho Power. They trespassed on our land and then lied
 10 about it and told us they did, and they didn't. So this
 11 is who you're dealing with. This is who we're dealing
 12 with. This started our relationship.
 13 After that, I remember quite a while later
 14 going to a meeting in Ione, Oregon, where this was the
 15 first time that we basically had to speak or to listen
 16 to what Idaho Power had to say. And I had several
 17 questions, as did everybody else. And there was a
 18 gentleman there, I will never forget, named Keith
 19 Jorgenson, he was in charge of the project at the time.
 20 And he came up to me after the meeting and said, Well,
 21 John, what we basically want to do here is we want to
 22 get along with you, being the landowner, before we have
 23 to come in and take it. And I said, Take what? He
 24 said, Your land. And I remember him standing next to
 25 me, he hit me at my waist, and the first thing I wanted

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1 to do is, I don't even want to say. How could a person
 2 say that to another person? What I came away from that
 3 meeting with is the arrogance of Idaho Power.
 4 So I had somebody that's trespassed, that's
 5 lied to me, and now threatened to take my land. So this
 6 is who we're dealing with. And I don't think anything
 7 has much changed.
 8 Over the years, we made an effort to once work
 9 with Idaho Power; that didn't work very well either. I
 10 remember I got together with my neighbors, the Hawkins
 11 boys, and we met with a man called Terry Martins, and
 12 came up with somewhat of a plan. Terry said, Okay, I'm
 13 going to go home and go back and propose this and we'll
 14 see what we can do. And it seems to me a year and a
 15 half went by, and I finally got in touch with Terry. He
 16 said, Well, I will meet you at your shop. And I
 17 remember these guys by heart, it was Terry Martins and
 18 Jeff Maffuccio, and it was Todd Adams, if I'm not
 19 mistaken. And we sat down and talked a little. I said,
 20 Well, did -- the issue at the time was it was going to
 21 go right through our wheat land, and I didn't want the
 22 trellis towers. And so we were proposing mono poles at
 23 the time. A mono pole being one pole.
 24 And I remember Terry saying, You know how big
 25 those are? I said, No. He said, Well, they're 16 feet

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1 in diameter, and they're going to go all along your
 2 road. So I said, Okay.
 3 We had the meeting. They showed up at my
 4 shop. I said, Well, did you take that to the engineers?
 5 What did you think? He said -- I remember Terry looked
 6 at Todd and he says, Did we ever submit that? After a
 7 year and a half of waiting. So obviously he didn't
 8 submit it. He didn't have any -- he didn't care.
 9 Obviously I waited a year and a half thinking we were
 10 getting somewhere.
 11 I said, You guys, we're done. I'm done with
 12 you. I will never talk to you again. You will never
 13 come on my place again. We got up, they left, and that
 14 was the last I had any dealings with Idaho Power, other
 15 than emails and a few things that I've said along the
 16 years.
 17 How can a company, 306 proposed lines --
 18 306 miles long, a company in another state, dictate to
 19 me that they're going to run through my property, ruin
 20 my life, possibly ruin my profession, anything I have,
 21 anything I've worked for over my life, my father, who's
 22 now deceased 2 years ago. The arrogance to think they
 23 can build a 306-mile transmission line, ruin thousands
 24 of lives, take their ability to make a living, on and on
 25 it goes, and to think they can get away with doing that.

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1 Plus the fact the fires are a big issue
 2 obviously, but we were also told the cancer factor.
 3 We're going to be working under these things. You
 4 cannot park your equipment under them, which we're going
 5 to have to when we're harvesting, when we're working,
 6 they drain the batteries.
 7 One person said that we have to ground our
 8 equipment because if you grab a catwalk or something to
 9 get up in your tractor you can be shocked and killed
 10 from the static. How do you ground a farm truck that
 11 goes to the elevator every few hours? How is that
 12 possible?
 13 I can't use a spray plane anymore to spray my
 14 crops when I need it. Not that I do that often but
 15 there's times when I need to. The land values, what
 16 that's going to do to the value of my farm, which I just
 17 now own myself.
 18 I also understand, and this is one of the
 19 things I asked, I have questions, I understand by law
 20 that this has to follow the power corridor. It's not
 21 supposed to go over private ground. Nobody has answered
 22 that question to me. There is a power corridor, and by
 23 law, this is supposed to go along there.
 24 Over the years coming to these things, there's
 25 probably five or six of them that I have talked at,

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1 everybody talks about high-value irrigated ground, and
 2 we can't do that and we can't do this. But there is a
 3 power corridor. Here is my question: This line is
 4 supposed to go along a power corridor. Am I mistaken?
 5 Can somebody answer that for me? An established power
 6 corridor.
 7 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: I can't answer that.
 8 Idaho Power may make some commentary tonight, somebody
 9 might help out that may be able to address that. But as
 10 Ms. Tardaewether indicated at the outset, EFSC's job is
 11 to determine whether the proposed route -- it's sort of
 12 a thumbs up or thumbs down on the proposed route. So
 13 EFSC is not in a position to identify a better
 14 alternative necessarily. They're just dealing with the
 15 route that's in the application.
 16 MR. JOHN LUCIANI: I appreciate that. I
 17 understand. Thank you.
 18 This is a problem. We have a lot of questions
 19 and no answers. It's been -- well, not comical, it's
 20 just been to me over the years, watching this change,
 21 and it's always who's who. And it started out going one
 22 direction and, Oh, no, I can't have that. So then they
 23 change it. Seems like they always kick it south. Then
 24 it went here and then it went there, and then it went
 25 here, and then Pendleton can have it. No, we don't want

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1 it.
 2 So it's basically down to us that are left.
 3 And I feel the less important, the out of sight, out of
 4 mind nobodies, because we're an easy target.
 5 There's men on this Council here, if somebody
 6 knocked on your door, came in, wanted to rob you, do
 7 whatever to your family, you guys would not allow it. I
 8 know you wouldn't allow it. No way. Women here,
 9 hopefully you're all armed, hopefully you have been
 10 trained. You wouldn't allow it either.
 11 I'm not going to allow this line to go through
 12 my farm. Everybody is very aware of it. I've been very
 13 boisterous about this through the years. I don't
 14 understand how anybody could allow this to happen. The
 15 carnage that it would cause to our farms, what's going
 16 to happen to it, on and on it goes.
 17 And we have nowhere to go. We are up against
 18 a wall. We are backed in a corner. I thought for years
 19 that our Council members would not allow it, zero,
 20 nothing, zero. Like they don't care.
 21 I always knew that the Port of Morrow wanted
 22 this. They were the only ones that I knew that wanted
 23 it. Nobody ever explained to me where this tower is
 24 going to go. At first it was going to come up, it was
 25 going to go to California. Then no, it's going to take

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1 a right, it's going to go east.
 2 Now I hear that all these data centers who
 3 were all in, all of us are in there, isn't that
 4 pleasant? And may I say, the planning commission, the
 5 Port of Morrow, they are going to regret the day that
 6 they let these data centers come here. Some day they're
 7 going to use all the water and all the power. And right
 8 now there's no power to run the rest of them. I guess
 9 there's two or three built. I don't know, I don't care.
 10 And there's probably five more to go.
 11 What is going on? Who allows this fiasco in
 12 our backyard? So is the Idaho Power line going to feed
 13 these? I don't know. I don't have the answers. Nobody
 14 is willing to say anything. And you think, you think
 15 that your elected officials are going to help us out
 16 here. They wouldn't allow this to happen to us, have
 17 somebody ruin our farms.
 18 Then you find out, I read about Greg Smith the
 19 other day, being the big buddy of the people of the Port
 20 of Morrow. It's almost like he runs his own Clinton
 21 Foundation. It's mind-boggling and unbelievable to me,
 22 but he's obviously not going to help us out.
 23 So I have nowhere to go. Nowhere. Nobody is
 24 willing to listen. But all I know is Mark Stokes,
 25 project guy, engineer, project leader, you're not coming

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1 through my farm. I won't allow it. Jeff Maffuccio, who
 2 I have talked to I don't know how many times before,
 3 facilities siting coordinator, you're not coming
 4 through. I will not allow it.
 5 And can you imagine 300 miles of pissed-off
 6 people when this gets rolling, and I will hope that
 7 there will be civil disobedience with this fiasco, that
 8 will not allow it to be built. I pray every night and
 9 all day that this line is not built. It has stolen my
 10 joy. This goes on every day, the stress, the thought of
 11 it.
 12 It's like a bank foreclosure. You're waiting
 13 on a bank foreclosure that goes on for 15 years. It has
 14 stolen my joy. I'm not happy about it. I'm very angry.
 15 And I will not allow it to be built on my farm, to ruin
 16 my ranch, my family's ranch. It will not happen. I
 17 won't allow it.
 18 Thank you. And, no matter what happens, we
 19 all have to look in the mirror every morning. Please do
 20 not let this happen. Please do not vote and let this
 21 happen. Thank you.
 22 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you.
 23 We have one more comment card. I don't know
 24 if Council is going to have questions for -- we have two
 25 more comment cards. And I don't know if Council is

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1 going to have questions for Idaho Power tonight. No?
 2 Why don't we take a break now and we'll
 3 reconvene in about 15 minutes, then we'll hear from the
 4 last two. Give people an opportunity to, if there's
 5 anybody here that hasn't filled out a comment card that
 6 wants to do so, please do so during the break.
 7 We'll reconvene about 6:40.
 8 (Recess taken.)
 9 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: It is 6:44. We are
 10 back on.
 11 My understanding is that we have somebody that
 12 has joined us on the phone that would like to give
 13 public comment as well. If you're out there, would you
 14 please make yourself known.
 15 Well, I will come back around to triple check
 16 in a minute.
 17 But here in person to give testimony tonight
 18 is, coming up next is Fuji Kreider.
 19 MS. FUJI KREIDER: Good evening. Fuji
 20 Kreider, 60366 Marvin Road, La Grande, Oregon. Thanks,
 21 and thanks for hearing from me again.
 22 First off, I want to thank you all sincerely,
 23 all of you, Council and the staff, for the action that
 24 you took last evening. That was to extend to the
 25 comment period another 30 days to August.

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1 And I want to say, and maybe you were starting
 2 to observe from the prior meetings, that you weren't
 3 getting people testifying with significant specificity,
 4 or whatever the word is. With the first month, with the
 5 draft proposed order in front of us, as I mentioned to
 6 you last night, people are very, very confused. And the
 7 draft proposed order doesn't have the same table of
 8 contents as the exhibits and this and that, no numbers
 9 and attachments, and other things. It was just getting
 10 to be crazy lately. So I really appreciate the extra 30
 11 days.
 12 I think at this point, most of us have
 13 navigated the table of contents and we understand what
 14 documents we have to look at and all. So this gives us
 15 a little more time to digest it. So thank you for that.
 16 You know I've been at all five of these
 17 hearings, you've seen me, most of you, that also have
 18 been at all five meetings and are probably as tired as I
 19 am, or more so, you have to sit and pay attention.
 20 But I thought that maybe tonight because I too
 21 am going to submit my written comments by the deadline,
 22 but I thought I'd take a little time tonight because you
 23 don't have a lot speakers. As one of the gentlemen
 24 said, it's not really in the culture of east Oregonians
 25 to do a lot of public testimony; so we're slow at this.

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1 But I thought that maybe it would be good for you to
 2 just know who I am and a little bit about my journey
 3 that got me here and why I'm passionate about this issue
 4 and keep coming to all the meetings.
 5 I live in La Grande. For about 6 1/2 years my
 6 husband and I left and we worked internationally and we
 7 worked in international development work, democracy,
 8 governance, in the Balkans predominantly --
 9 international development work in democracy and
 10 governance processes as an advisor, and also with
 11 climate refugees. And so I am also very passionate
 12 about climate change and climate issues.
 13 We returned in the end, the very end of 2008.
 14 In early 2009, just feeling all this -- returning from
 15 being abroad, you have a lot of stuff to adapt to. But
 16 a big thing was our neighbors. We've been in La Grande
 17 since '87, prior to that in Boise actually. So I know a
 18 lot of the Idaho Power people, too.
 19 But there was a stress. What is going on
 20 here? What is happening to the community? People were,
 21 like there was this big thing about this power line.
 22 And neighbors were pitted against neighbors and
 23 everybody was pointing their fingers, No, it should go
 24 there, it should go there. It was like the neighborhood
 25 was pretty much falling apart.

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1 And now, prior to leaving and continued when
 2 we returned, I manage the neighborhood listserv. In my
 3 neighborhood, which is Morgan Lake neighborhood, you
 4 heard from many of my neighbors the other night, I
 5 manage the listserv. We have no fire protection so we
 6 had to keep in touch with other each; lost pets, the cow
 7 is out, a fire is starting. So we keep in touch.
 8 So the stress, I was like, Okay, what are we
 9 going to do? So we got everybody together. A lot of
 10 people had gotten letters from Idaho Power at that
 11 point. We got together and said, Okay. What's going
 12 on? What can we agree to? Can we figure something out?
 13 The only thing we could really agree to was
 14 nobody wanted the line. That was a no-brainer. Of
 15 course nobody wants a line. But it's not needed, we
 16 don't get a substation, there's no power for us, all of
 17 these things. Not to mention all the environmental
 18 issues, et cetera. So we said, Okay. So one thing we
 19 can all agree to, and we can stop this infighting in the
 20 neighborhood, is we don't need the line. So let's
 21 organize and start to fight it. This was the beginning
 22 of the Stop B2H Coalition. That's our little story to
 23 tell you.
 24 However, I said to the group even, and then
 25 thereafter in the email threads, We sound like a bunch

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1 of NIMBYs. And we are NIMBYs unless we really
 2 understand what this is about. We've got to find out
 3 what the need is and why they want to do this.
 4 So that started our research. Then from
 5 there, we started our group. People started researching
 6 their various options. We were in the EIS process at
 7 the time. Some people got into environmental stuff.
 8 And you guys know Irene, she's the EFSC, blah, blah,
 9 blah.
 10 Myself got into the real, what's the real
 11 need. So my husband and I, and occasionally two or
 12 three others, went to Boise every month for 8 months the
 13 first year, and then a year and a half later 8 months
 14 again with transmission workshops, and then over to the
 15 PUC in Salem, et cetera, et cetera. Some of this I told
 16 you in Baker. And we educated ourselves. We had to
 17 find out.
 18 I wanted to know: Am I going to be on the
 19 wrong side of history here? Does Idaho Power really
 20 need power? Does Idaho need power? I lived in Idaho.
 21 I love Idaho. Do they need the power?
 22 So in the beginning this started, by 2026,
 23 351 megawatts of power, Idaho Power will be short
 24 because they're closing the coal plants. Right on,
 25 they're closing the coal plants. I'm a climate

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1 activist, too. So great thing.
 2 350 megawatts, huh, 351 as a matter of fact is
 3 the number. That's not -- let's figure this out. Let's
 4 see how it goes. So in these IRP meetings, Integrated
 5 Resource Planning meetings, coming up with other stuff,
 6 other ideas; solar, wind, renewables, et cetera. Oh,
 7 no, oh, no, that's too far out into the future. We
 8 can't have that. That's too far out in the future.
 9 So over time now, two IRP rounds I've been,
 10 and I've testified at three IRP rounds with the Public
 11 Utility Commission, Idaho Power now has portfolios,
 12 that's what it's called, how to satisfy need, they call
 13 it portfolios, they have portfolios with solar, battery
 14 storage, wind storage, pump storage. Now, some of them
 15 are astronomical prices, don't get me wrong. But a lot
 16 of them are within reason.
 17 They have 24 portfolios to meet their need;
 18 they have 12 with B2H, 12 without B2H. Now, you don't
 19 need to hear about the 350 megawatts any more at these
 20 meetings. That's long gone. They put on 480 megawatts
 21 of renewables already in southern Idaho, not counting
 22 the Jackpot holding solar farm that I talked about in
 23 Baker.
 24 This is just context for you guys. I know
 25 you're not going to deal with this need stuff in this

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1 way; it's a Public Utility Commission thing. But I want
 2 to give you the backdrop. The backdrop is: There are
 3 other ways that Idaho Power can meet its needs.
 4 Now, the more recent need is about capacity.
 5 You don't hear any more about 350 megawatts, coal plants
 6 closing; now it's about capacity. So what about
 7 capacity?
 8 The last go-around with IRP, capacity comes
 9 up. We're researching and learning a lot more about
 10 capacity nowadays. I can tell you from these meetings
 11 and what their options are, there also are choices. Do
 12 not feel in a lurch about this. There are plenty of
 13 other choices. And every time we go there are more and
 14 more options. Technology is improving, costs are going
 15 down.
 16 For example, something like batteries, which
 17 could really, very much it's a game changer for
 18 transmission. You've got batteries that are not just
 19 battery storage for a solar farm, they actually provide
 20 voltage regulation, they smooth the balance on the grid,
 21 the peaks and valleys of renewables. Batteries actually
 22 regulate that. So they offer about six different
 23 ancillary services that can help and secure our grid.
 24 And they're not just a storage option, although that is
 25 what they do as well.

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1 So as I said, I'm telling you some of this
 2 more to put it into context of the urgency or the need
 3 that you hear out of Idaho Power, and why so many of us
 4 who have so much at stake, and you've heard a lot from
 5 people over the last few days and last week, that it
 6 would be one thing, if there was no other way; but we
 7 know there are other options. This destruction of
 8 people's lives and land and habitat and everything else,
 9 and the risk of fire, has us all really on edge and
 10 living in fear.
 11 And I want you to know there are other ways
 12 and don't feel like your feet are being held to the
 13 fire.
 14 It was mentioned tonight a little bit about
 15 EIM, energy imbalance market. The energy imbalance
 16 market exists already. They're all involved. Idaho
 17 Power has been over a year, a year ago April in '18 or
 18 whenever they joined finally, okay, it sounds good on
 19 the surface. Again, another green thing, let's move the
 20 energy around. It's good in that way. But it isn't
 21 that you have to have this more transmission to be part
 22 of the EIM. The EIM exists, people are participating.
 23 And I can tell you, they're making a lot of money.
 24 The EIM also makes a lot of money. So if you
 25 had more lines, you could do more EIM, you could also

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1 make more money. It doesn't really change our life.
 2 I told you about storage. Anyway, the
 3 interesting thing in all of this is when we also got
 4 started, we researched and learned a lot about the
 5 energy industry, and seeing that the future is not going
 6 in a centralized grid; the future is in a decentralized
 7 grid.
 8 I'm proud to be an Oregonian. And I am proud
 9 to know on the other side of the state we are working to
 10 prepare for microgrids for the Cascadia event, a big
 11 tsunami. We're planning for microgrids, we've got all
 12 kinds of emergency preparedness, we can disconnect from
 13 the central grid, they can island themselves off around
 14 these smaller grids.
 15 And we should be doing the same thing here in
 16 eastern Oregon for fires. There's no reason why we are
 17 not preparing for the big forest fire.
 18 I live in La Grande. You heard people talk
 19 about it the other night. We are like Paradise. It's
 20 not going to be our paradise though. We're going to
 21 make it different. We are not going to burn up. We are
 22 really working hard to protect ourselves. But we have
 23 the same kind of climate; we're even drier. We have the
 24 same kind of winds, if not stronger, in Paradise. This
 25 line is going so close to the city of La Grande that has

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1 everyone on edge. We are more on edge than ever.
 2 You heard from my neighbor, lives right down
 3 the hill from me. Her house burned in '74, the last big
 4 fire. You go to the fire museum in our town, you see
 5 where the fire burned. It nearly burned the whole city
 6 down and the hospital. Look at where the line is. It's
 7 just mind-boggling to many of us that you would even
 8 consider, the company could even consider putting a line
 9 so close to such a population base.
 10 Now, jumping around a little bit. But you've
 11 heard a lot of -- what I meant to say in the midst of
 12 all this, the line changes a lot. You heard that from
 13 other people, too, how it moves this way, that way,
 14 whatever. Some of that, from our experience, was
 15 interesting because the two routes that you're looking
 16 at in Union County, what the company is looking at, did
 17 not exist in those early days of our organizing the Stop
 18 B2H Coalition.
 19 And I can't help but keep this mantra in my
 20 head: No good deed goes unpunished. Because when I was
 21 part of this coalition initially, we were trying to
 22 protect the elk herd. It's a really big elk herd, it's
 23 very popular. Most of you have heard about it. People
 24 will say it's the next big thing after Jackson Hole, and
 25 we need to protect the big game going through the Morgan

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1 Lake area.
 2 Well, now the power line is in my viewshed,
 3 and I generally do not disclose this. I like to think
 4 of myself as an activist; I'm not a NIMBY. I am not
 5 looking to move the line. I am telling you the line is
 6 not needed, but I am directly affected and I have to
 7 disclose that. Most of the people know this, Idaho
 8 Power knows where I live. So I might as well put it out
 9 to you there.
 10 I will have, without a tree blocking my view,
 11 four towers across my viewshed and then the big span
 12 across Morgan Lake Road over to the next hillside.
 13 Hanley knows where I live, too.
 14 But the thing is, just like some of the people
 15 you heard tonight, it's our life. And now I'm not a
 16 farmer; so it's not my livelihood. But there was many,
 17 many days, many days living abroad, working in hard
 18 conditions, when the only thing that could pull me
 19 through was the vision of my view. Now, you might not
 20 think viewsheds have a lot of value. Viewsheds are
 21 priceless. That viewshed is what kept me going. When I
 22 returned and working on this project, day in and day
 23 out, I work -- I have big bay windows, and that is where
 24 I look out on, and it is what keeps me going and it is
 25 why I am working so hard to protect it.

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1 So that's my story. I continue to work on
 2 this. Now I'm totally sucked in as an energy activist,
 3 a climate activist. We will be in front of the PUC next
 4 spring, and on and on and on.
 5 You heard a lot about -- and I will dip into a
 6 little bit of the project and will write about in our
 7 comments, I won't tell you anything I just told you in
 8 my comments, but I will write things about, for example,
 9 the boundaries. The boundaries are very, very
 10 questionable. The boundaries in front of my house are
 11 going to take another piece of my land across the way of
 12 the viewshed. There's a road to a nowhere. It's a road
 13 to a tower. It doesn't connect to anything. It doesn't
 14 connect to the road of my house. It doesn't connect to
 15 the Morgan Lake Road. There is this road to nowhere.
 16 That is one little boundary.
 17 There is boundaries around all the spur roads
 18 and all of these different access roads. Some are in
 19 the project; some are not in the project. What is the
 20 rhyme and reason there? Is it because Idaho Power
 21 doesn't want to have to notify people because of where
 22 the certain boundaries line are that we incorporate more
 23 people? Is it because of mitigation and not wanting to
 24 mitigate in certain areas? It's not clear.
 25 But that part of the application in and of

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1 itself is a big problem. And you can just start there
 2 and everything will flow from there. Because if you
 3 don't have those boundaries right you have to do the
 4 notification over again, and you have a lot of problems.
 5 So that is the first big thing.
 6 You heard in La Grande about the blasting,
 7 about the slope for the Mill Creek route. We have got
 8 soil, loose soils, slopes, the hospital right there, you
 9 have got problems with that. You heard a lot about
 10 that. And I didn't even realize about -- I knew a bit
 11 about soil health and whatnot, but listening to Sam
 12 Myers speak, I was like, Wow, this is quite an issue
 13 with the soil biochemistries as well.
 14 Noise, you have listened to noise the other
 15 night, the guys that have disabilities and then are
 16 going to have towers over them and the noise factor.
 17 The roads, the amount of roads is
 18 unbelievable. When you think of 670 miles of access
 19 roads, 400 miles of new or improved roads, the weeds are
 20 just -- you just can't even image. It's not just a cut
 21 through the land and then some of our landscapes, these
 22 are scars, these are big scars because they are not all
 23 treed, it's mixed, as you know.
 24 But the weeds will be phenomenal, as many
 25 people you've heard speak about, the effects on

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1 agricultural land with those weeds, the cost involved in
 2 that, the property owners just dealing and contending
 3 with the weeds. The health of the rangelands that we
 4 have, the habitat, the big habitat issues with more
 5 weeds on the rangelands.
 6 Habitats, you heard about Washington ground
 7 squirrels, I do know a little bit, I lived in Morrow
 8 County, Washington ground squirrels. Most of Morrow
 9 County's route has not been even surveyed yet for
 10 Washington ground squirrels. So you have got issues
 11 there.
 12 The raptors, the eagles and other raptors
 13 around Ladd Marsh, Ladd Marsh is a protected area, it
 14 has a lot of tourism. We have a big birding festival in
 15 La Grande every year around Ladd Marsh, and this goes
 16 right through Ladd Marsh and through an area that
 17 already has federal mitigation lands on it. I won't get
 18 into that.
 19 You have sage-grouse, Mark Bennett talked
 20 about that in Baker County. Sage-grouse, the last of
 21 the subspecies, of a particular subspecies of
 22 sage-grouse about to go extinct and will when it goes
 23 through Baker County. That is just a number of -- I'm
 24 not going to get into fisheries and roads. But the
 25 environmental effects, you'll hear about that in writing

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1 by many people, I'm sure.
 2 Tourism, recreation, I mentioned Ladd Marsh,
 3 but who in their right mind would think about putting
 4 those transmission towers in line, in front of the
 5 National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in
 6 Baker City. This is their premier tourism destination.
 7 We do not have much economy going on out here except
 8 for -- after you get ag and timber, the next thing is
 9 tourism. Yet, we are expected to just stomach this line
 10 coming through and across some of the best tourism and
 11 recreation areas that we have. Not just off the beaten
 12 path where you won't see things, these are coming right
 13 into the areas that we depend on for tourists to come,
 14 not an annual festival, even just local people day in
 15 and day out.
 16 The viewsheds, like I said, I feel like a "me
 17 too." My viewshed, the quality of life and how peaceful
 18 it all is for many of us. And I know a lot of people
 19 come and they think it's just bare ground out there,
 20 just sagebrush or whatever. But this is the vista the
 21 pioneers saw when they came over Flagstaff Hill and saw
 22 the Baker Valley, and they came into the Grande Ronde
 23 Valley, these huge open vistas. And these are things
 24 that are very dear to us and spiritual to us -- and I'm
 25 going way too deep -- the forest as well. But we all

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1 have different things that keep us centered.
 2 So the big wide open spaces is a big deal for
 3 many of us, and please do not discount it. Real
 4 property values, my property value for certain is going
 5 down. I talked to the appraiser to come up and give me
 6 an appraisal. There is no way. I live in a remodelled
 7 trailer basically, but I have got a million dollar view,
 8 and that view is going to be gone. So I'm just going to
 9 have my little mobile home that is worth nothing. I
 10 mean, property values is also a big deal for many of us.
 11 Eastern Oregon University, it's a rural
 12 university, they have to make a go of it. We don't have
 13 a state board of ed anymore. And you stand on the
 14 campus and you look up at the hillside, and there will
 15 be a transmission line. Now, I know when I was looking
 16 around at colleges with my parents, we looked around and
 17 saw how pretty and how nice it was or what you could do,
 18 what was the recreation in the area, et cetera,
 19 et cetera. And I just look at that and I think, how
 20 could that not affect recruitment, recruitment at our
 21 premier rural college, or a rural university for the
 22 state of Oregon.
 23 Anyway, the last kind of parts that I just
 24 wanted -- I'm jotting some notes down and wanted to
 25 share are big ones in the news. The real big ones

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1 lately in the news is fire and grid security. So back
 2 to industry, energy industry, and all that again.
 3 A centralized grid is becoming less and less
 4 secure for us. I mentioned the fire before and I
 5 mentioned planning for microgrids, like we are doing on
 6 the coast for the tsunami. We need to be planning from
 7 a bottom up grid, not a top down grid. It's going to be
 8 a very difficult transition. Just think of what Ma Bell
 9 went through and the telephone and the telecom.
 10 But a centralized grid is very susceptible,
 11 not only to the weather that we have, the trees falling
 12 down, whether it's an ice storm or whatever and taking
 13 out the grid, taking out the grid, having Cascadia
 14 failure for many, many communities, or even states, but
 15 also cyber attacks.
 16 So we know that we are hacking the Russian
 17 grid and we know that Russians are hacking our grid. We
 18 have domestic terrorists. Look at where we live. We
 19 had a Malheur takeover not too long ago. Don't kid
 20 yourself. This grid security stuff is big stuff. We
 21 have to be planning differently.
 22 And I know this isn't your gig, it's more
 23 again to the PUC, or even beyond them, because they
 24 don't even really get into that level. But it's in the
 25 news a lot, and people are not confident in continuing

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1 the path of investment, a \$1.2 billion investment that
 2 we are going to be paying 30 years or more for something
 3 that is already outdated. So the grid security issue is
 4 problematic.
 5 And then fire, fire, everybody talked about
 6 fire, you all heard about fire. We live in fear of
 7 fire.
 8 Now, the BPA recently has done a really good
 9 move. First of all, they canceled out of the I-5
 10 Corridor Reinforcement Project. It went from southwest
 11 Washington to Troutdale. Why? In their CEO's piece on
 12 that, he said, We are going for the more wireless
 13 solution. That's the future. It's not really wireless.
 14 What it is we are talking about is building generation
 15 closer to load so you don't have so much transmission.
 16 Now, you are still going to have distribution.
 17 I'm not talking -- it's funny they use the word
 18 "wireless solution" because it's not totally wireless.
 19 But when you build close to the load, you do not have
 20 the transmission losses of 12 to 20 percent
 21 transmission loss. You do not have these risks of cyber
 22 attack as much as you would with the centralized grid.
 23 You don't have as much fire risk. Smaller lines, less
 24 heavy.
 25 And BPA is upgrading, they are moving towards

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1 the more digitized grid, smart technologies in the
 2 substation. They are moving to maintaining their
 3 current infrastructure. That's the recent stuff with
 4 their budget. We've been analyzing their budget and
 5 seeing where they are putting their money, which, by the
 6 way, they still have not budgeted for B2H, except for
 7 permitting, but they are putting money into fixing their
 8 poles, their lines, their corridors and investing there.
 9 These folks are really, I think, looking to the future.
 10 Now, maybe necessity is the mother of
 11 invention, and BPA is in a world of financial hurt,
 12 whereas, the other two investor-owned utilities, they
 13 are not in a world of hurt financially. As a matter of
 14 fact, they just continue to see the dollar signs in
 15 their eyes. Because, again, when you have this
 16 transmission line, it isn't just for free.
 17 So all of our wind farms and all of our
 18 renewables are also going to have to pay wielding
 19 charges on these new lines, this new line, and it's not
 20 going to be a cheap thing for us. Who gets those taxes
 21 or those tariffs on those lines? The companies that own
 22 that line.
 23 Again, back to the energy imbalance market.
 24 It isn't just sounding nice, we move around energy. We
 25 are talking big money and big profits here.

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1 So that's the bottom line, that's what we are
 2 up against. And all of us who have our lives, our
 3 livelihood and the people that you heard from for the
 4 last 2 weeks, I hope you hear us, because this is what
 5 we are up against. It's basically a David and Goliath
 6 kind of thing. And we are going to do the best we can.
 7 We are not going to go away. We are not going to stop,
 8 because for many of us, this is all we really have. So
 9 we are going to keep working at it, and we are going to
 10 do the best we can. Like I said, I'm trying to not
 11 personalize this.
 12 Dealing with the standards you have, the
 13 application, the DPO, we are going to do our best
 14 research, we are going to send you the best comments we
 15 can with they extra 30 days you gave us.
 16 But it's been really stressful, extremely
 17 stressful. Sorry that I broke, I had a little meltdown
 18 there. But I have hopes for Oregon. I really do. The
 19 microgrids on the coast, I think that is the beginning
 20 of something really new and really cool. I think we are
 21 investing in renewables that we need to be investing in.
 22 The regulatory reforms, for 8 months I was
 23 involved in this process, Senate Bill 978, about the
 24 regulatory reforms that have to happen. We are
 25 incentivizing the investor-owned utilities so the

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1 investor-owned utilities can be incentivized to take
 2 some risks, to not just go least costly, least risk
 3 portfolio. Maybe take a little more risk, do something
 4 a little more innovative, more towards the green energy
 5 future that we are about to head into. And the market
 6 is going to do that for us. I know it will.
 7 But I think here in Oregon we have something
 8 going for us because we are moving in that direction
 9 already with the regulatory reforms on the table, if
 10 they ever get back to work. That's another story;
 11 right?
 12 And part of that is green energy jobs, not
 13 just putting solar panels or whatever, but I'm talking
 14 about insulation, windows, new building codes, energy
 15 efficient appliances, and on and on and on. We have so
 16 much of an industry that can be emerging for us,
 17 especially in rural Oregon where we don't have so many
 18 opportunities. But a handful a transmission jobs, 4 to
 19 6 months? First off, 4 to 6 months, 25 percent local
 20 hires for 245 jobs. How many jobs does that come to and
 21 what are they going to do? They are driving some trucks
 22 around, cleaning up stuff. No real long-term jobs.
 23 Under 10, it's confidential, but we know -- so it's a
 24 handful of jobs that will be the long-term jobs.
 25 When you can think of all the green energy

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1 jobs that we could create with \$1.2 billion. Change all
 2 the poles, re-conductor. They have five lines coming
 3 from the Pacific Northwest into Idaho, five 230 lines,
 4 they could all be re-conducted on the same poles, the
 5 same corridor, and up them to 345s, at capacity. Do the
 6 math on five of those lines. There are ways to do this
 7 without building a new infrastructure and a new
 8 corridor.
 9 And co-locating? You co-locate, you can't
 10 tell me that if a fire takes out the 230 line in my
 11 neighborhood, that the 500 kV standing 125 feet next to
 12 it isn't also going to go down. This is not redundancy
 13 and resiliency that they are prophesying that it would
 14 create.
 15 I'm sorry. I'm going on longer and I'm
 16 rambling.
 17 But I trust that you guys will protect us.
 18 The standards are good and meant to protect us and put
 19 in conditions that are workable.
 20 Now, they are starting to get outdated, sure.
 21 You don't have climate standards. You don't have
 22 environmental justice standards. And when you think of
 23 Malheur County, where did the get line moved off of and
 24 who is it in front of now? I didn't even want to get
 25 into the environmental justice issues there.

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1 But I still trust that we will do the right
 2 thing here. And I believe over time that Idaho Power's
 3 own IRP process will also discover that the
 4 decentralized local generation, local distribution,
 5 non-centralized huge transmission grid is the way of the
 6 future. And once they change their business model to
 7 correlate and align with that new energy future, I think
 8 we are all going to be better off in the end.
 9 So on a good day, I'm very optimistic; and on
 10 a bad day, you catch me like you saw me a few minutes
 11 ago.
 12 So anyway, that is my journey, that is my
 13 story. I probably won't ever talk to you guys again,
 14 but you'll get my stuff in writing. And I wish you
 15 luck. This is not an easy process. Thank you.
 16 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you,
 17 Ms. Kreider.
 18 Next up we have Jerry Myers.
 19 COUNCILLOR ROPPE: I have a question. How
 20 many people do we have total? He said there was
 21 somebody on the line, and we also wanted to talk to
 22 Idaho Power before we leave, and we only have 45 minutes
 23 left.
 24 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Right. He would be
 25 the last member of the public and then we have Idaho

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1 Power.
 2 If there is anybody on the line, on the phone
 3 line, that wants to speak up, please make yourself known
 4 now.
 5 COUNCILLOR ROPPE: Thank you.
 6 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: So hearing none, we
 7 have just Mr. Myers and then Idaho Power.
 8 MR. JERRY MYERS: Thank you. It won't take
 9 long.
 10 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: If you could start
 11 with your name and your address, please.
 12 MR. JERRY MYERS: My name is Jerry Myers from
 13 Butter Creek, Little Butter Creek. I have difficulty
 14 talking sometimes. What more do you need? 68477 Little
 15 Butter Creek.
 16 I've got 5 more days and I'll be 85 years old.
 17 My granddad started farming over there in 1898. And he
 18 himself was a brother, and he didn't want to do that.
 19 He just wanted to go to town and drink beer.
 20 Well, we have done a lot of things on the
 21 farm. It started from we didn't have any electricity
 22 for anything at all. And so my granddad figured out a
 23 way, something they called a tower, a tower with a
 24 little fan on it, and he bought some gigantic batteries
 25 and put it in a building. And that is what he kept.

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1 Everybody has one light there in each room. So that was
 2 all they had. That was the only power they had. There
 3 had to be a well, too.
 4 So anyway, in my life, somewhat, I joined the
 5 co-op when I got older than 21. And as another
 6 neighbor, when running with Haddock on the -- was the
 7 director, and he had to move to the country, somewhere
 8 else. So he wanted to get a new director. So I said,
 9 well, I thought maybe that would be fun, too. So I did
 10 that for quite a while.
 11 Then I had a tremendous amount of -- well, I
 12 was there for 23 years. Even developing our country
 13 around to where everybody had, at first, where they had
 14 30 volts of electricity. That was just for everything
 15 in the wiring and in the house, every building had to be
 16 redone.
 17 So we got that big, that new bolt of
 18 electricity, that was really, just had one -- I think it
 19 had just one big wire on all of the wires on about
 20 25 miles. And that was the end of the line. And we
 21 lived there at end of the line and we are on the last
 22 pole.
 23 So it didn't take very long, found out that we
 24 needed a lot more, where everything we started buying,
 25 things needed power. First thing you only had a

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1 battery, or an electric, something to charge things, the
 2 thousands of elements of things that we have nowadays.
 3 So the first thing you know pretty quick we
 4 had to have bigger wire because the electricity gets
 5 very low. I'm getting too far off the subject here.
 6 But we will go directly to, as a director, I
 7 learned slowly but I got, after a while, it seemed that
 8 Bonneville electricity, power was everywhere I guess in
 9 Idaho, that they were kind of tough people. So we had
 10 to be careful dealing with. And it was something that
 11 kind of developed over many years and did not have a
 12 good subject to talk about. So that was the first thing
 13 we noticed right away.
 14 So for what more -- it took a tremendous
 15 amount of electricity, but we had plenty of power right
 16 here. And first thing in 1930, early '30s, all of
 17 Bonneville had started building dams all around the
 18 Columbia River, and they were big. They dammed the
 19 whole river and built up everything. That was the
 20 subject of many things. Went right from -- right here
 21 on to out in all of Washington and right here. And it
 22 mostly was pumping with electricity and water. So that
 23 goes on and on forever practically. Every day I think
 24 they built a new thing.
 25 But I'll go back to my first part. It took me

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1 38 years to pay for that. It took a long time. I had
 2 to pay for -- of course, my folks, I had to pay for
 3 them. And then when they died, then they were finally
 4 passed on to all the relatives, but then it was all
 5 developed and done up in the first place. And I had to
 6 add quite a bit for the federal tax payment or income
 7 tax. It took a long time, but I finally got that done.
 8 Next, one of the things that I find around
 9 here is looking -- if you look they have a really nice
 10 map out there on the computer up there. That is pretty
 11 nice. It's much better than I ever saw anywhere. And I
 12 would like to have it bigger and be able to have more
 13 items that we can see, just to read the paper. So I
 14 don't know why -- I don't why they need to do it so
 15 tiny.
 16 Some other item, a night from last night,
 17 which is last night, it was lightning. And we have a
 18 lot of lightning for some reason. They like it in
 19 those, it's just partly in the flat county and part of
 20 it is up in the hills. They get up pretty close to get
 21 it into the mountains. That was a big item.
 22 Now, I have many things about the towers, and
 23 I don't know about them. I don't know anything about
 24 them. Are they made of wood? Are they made of steel?
 25 Are they just a single pole that goes up? I haven't

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1 heard anything like that. I thought I got pretty good
 2 educated from all these papers that we get once a while,
 3 but apparently we don't.
 4 Since my farming, there is 2 miles of these
 5 towers that go through 2 miles of -- touches to my land.
 6 I do not know what the special would be. I understand
 7 that it is 6 feet -- or 600 feet wide of something in
 8 space in the ground. I don't know that. On my place
 9 there is nothing on it except soil and good dirt.
 10 Once in a while they used to, they used to
 11 have wood posts with a steel fence, just making a fence.
 12 It's only 4 feet high. Now we don't have any. We took
 13 them all out, cleaned them all up. So that is the way
 14 it goes nowadays.
 15 But on those towers, do they call them towers
 16 or poles, or whatever you call them, how high do they
 17 go? How do they go across the ground? Are they a
 18 quarter of a mile or are they a few hundred feet? I
 19 have not heard any of this. So I'm guessing I'd like to
 20 know things that way.
 21 I think I'm about done. Thank you very much.
 22 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you,
 23 Mr. Myers.
 24 Okay. Next we will have Mark Stokes from
 25 Idaho Power.

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1 MR. MARK STOKES: Good evening, Chair Beyeler,
 2 Vice Chair Jenkins, other Council members, staff. Thank
 3 you again.
 4 My name is Mark Stokes from Idaho Power
 5 Company. I'm the engineering project leader for the
 6 Boardman to Hemingway Project. My address is 21 West
 7 Idaho Street, Boise, Idaho 83702.
 8 I do have a few comments I would like to make
 9 tonight before we get to some of your questions. To
 10 start out with, on Thursday night, last week, there was
 11 a person that made a comment that Idaho Power did not
 12 have any customers in Oregon, and I attempted to correct
 13 that during my testimony at the end after that session.
 14 And the number that I put out was incorrect. So I want
 15 to get that corrected on the record.
 16 The number that I gave you was 15 percent of
 17 our load is for Oregon customers. That number is
 18 actually approximately 3 1/2 percent of our total load.
 19 And then also to add to that, we have a little over
 20 19,000 customers between Malheur and Baker County.
 21 Let's see, the next piece I wanted to address,
 22 and I have been holding off doing this because over the
 23 course of last week and the two hearings this week there
 24 have been a lot of comments made that really get back to
 25 the need for the B2H project, and it really does go back

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1 to the Integrated Resource Planning process.
 2 According to EFSC's guidelines, standards, the
 3 Council relies on determination of need, they rely on
 4 the opinion of the Oregon Public Utilities Commission.
 5 There is a fair amount of information in Exhibit N that
 6 addresses the IRP and that whole piece of that
 7 long-range planning process. We go through and we
 8 update that plan every 2 years.
 9 The IRP that is in our current application,
 10 that is in your hands right now, was filed in 2017, by
 11 June of 2017. And it was acknowledged, I believe it was
 12 May of 2018 when the Oregon PUC acknowledged that IRP.
 13 And it's literally that acknowledgment of the action
 14 plan in the IRP that establishes the need for whatever
 15 resources or actions are proposed in there. And very
 16 specifically in that 2017 IRP, we asked the Commission
 17 to acknowledge certain construction activities related
 18 to B2H and they did grant that.
 19 Jump forward 2 years, right now we have just
 20 completed our 2019 IRP that will either be filed
 21 tomorrow or next Monday with the Oregon Commission. And
 22 our intent is to go ahead and file that with ODOE so you
 23 have an updated copy of that.
 24 There is a lengthy regulatory process that we
 25 have to go through with the PUC, and so I would not

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1 anticipate this IRP getting acknowledged until roughly
 2 May of 2020. But we will have the document out there
 3 and available for anybody to look at. And just for your
 4 information, Boardman to Hemingway is still showing to
 5 be the lowest cost, least risk resource for meeting
 6 future load growth for Idaho Power's customers.
 7 The last piece I really wanted to mention is,
 8 it's been talked about tonight, I am sure you all
 9 remember last night, the Council voted to grant a 30-day
 10 extension on the public comment period. And I think
 11 when I got up last night, you probably expected me maybe
 12 not be in support of that. And I generally wasn't, I'll
 13 be honest with you. But I did not want to speak out
 14 against that last night, knowing that I was going to
 15 come here and ask the Council if you would be willing to
 16 grant two things basically is what I would like to ask
 17 for.
 18 One is that Idaho Power be given an
 19 opportunity of an additional 30 days past what is now
 20 the August 22nd date to be able to respond to any
 21 comments that are filed at the very last minute. We
 22 expect there will be quite a few comments that come in
 23 right at that 5 p.m. deadline on the 22nd. So we would
 24 like to have the opportunity to respond to those if we
 25 could.

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1 The second part of my request would be that
 2 the Council consider taking a vote tonight to not grant
 3 anymore further extensions. As we work our way through
 4 this process, there have been a lot of deadlines set and
 5 very few of them actually met. And I understand that
 6 because it's a big public process.
 7 But from our standpoint, we are trying to go
 8 through this project and the whole permitting that we
 9 need to do, and we some need certainty on how we can
 10 move forward with this, if we can ultimately get a site
 11 certificate, which is what we are trying to do. But
 12 again, continued delays just create issues for us. So I
 13 would ask the Council to consider that also, if you
 14 would, please.
 15 And with that, I think I'm just going to turn
 16 it over. I know there are probably quite a few
 17 questions tonight that Council members will have. And I
 18 do have, I believe, David Stanish on the line to help
 19 tonight. I think we have a better connection with him
 20 tonight than we did last night.
 21 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you,
 22 Mr. Stokes.
 23 Councillors, questions?
 24 VICE CHAIRMAN JENKINS: So this is Hanley.
 25 Mark, we haven't heard anything about the

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1 alternative routes that are proposed through Morrow
 2 County going along the property owned by the Navy.
 3 There is a proposed route and then there is two
 4 alternatives. Can you talk a little bit about those?
 5 Kellen has tried to pull up -- I think tried to pull up
 6 a map for us.
 7 I have the information here that is in the DPO
 8 that talks about where the proposed route is and where
 9 the two alternatives are, but it may be best if we heard
 10 from you.
 11 MR. MARK STOKES: Okay. The proposed route
 12 that we started out with initially basically heads south
 13 out of the Longhorn substation, and it stays on the west
 14 side of Bombing Range Road all the way down that piece
 15 of the bombing range.
 16 The reason we proposed that was because in the
 17 process of working with the landowners who had the
 18 agricultural property on the other side of the road, we
 19 were trying to avoid impacts to them. And as we
 20 continued to work through the process, in working with
 21 the Navy, there were two resource areas that were
 22 identified that were on the Bombing Range property that
 23 were on the west side of Bombing Range Road. And I
 24 believe the further north one was the RNA and the
 25 southern one was the RMA. And so this whole process is

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1 what led to the two alternatives.
 2 Alternative 1 goes down all the way -- or it
 3 only goes down to the RNA and then crosses to the east
 4 side of Bombing Range Road. So Alternative 1 avoids
 5 both of those resource areas.
 6 Alternative 2 goes down, still through that
 7 RNA, the northern resource area, but then jumps across
 8 on the east side prior to the southern resource area
 9 there, the RMA.
 10 And so because we felt like the Navy would not
 11 let us go through either of those resource areas, we
 12 have started to pursue Alternative 1. And what that
 13 entails again is hopping across Bombing Range Road north
 14 of the RNA, the northern resource area, and then heading
 15 south along the east side of Bombing Range Road. And to
 16 make that work out we have had to work with the property
 17 owners on that side and the Umatilla Electric
 18 Cooperative because they have got a line there that they
 19 have to move to make this work. And we are also with
 20 the landowners, we are working with them to move two
 21 center pivots to create space for the towers for B2H.
 22 CHAIRMAN BEYELER: Would that just be
 23 shortening pivot circle irrigation spans?
 24 MR. MARK STOKES: Chairman Beyeler, we are
 25 actually moving the center pivots. We are not reducing

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1 any irrigated acreage.
 2 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Other questions for
 3 Mr. Stokes?
 4 COUNCILLOR GRAVATT: I have one. Obviously, I
 5 don't have a chance to look at the 2019 IRP, but what
 6 actually is in the action plan for B2H?
 7 MR. MARK STOKES: The action plan items itself
 8 basically ask for acknowledgement of continued
 9 construction activities for B2H. So basically there is
 10 nothing really new in there that we are asking for.
 11 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Anything else?
 12 Council?
 13 COUNCILLOR GRAVATT: Two questions: One is --
 14 this is not the only time we will get a chance to
 15 address the applicant?
 16 SECRETARY CORNETT: In terms of their
 17 responses to comments and giving them sort of an insight
 18 into what you would like to see them respond to, yes, it
 19 really is.
 20 COUNCILLOR GRAVATT. Then I have more than one
 21 question.
 22 Can you respond to the concerns about fire
 23 that were shared this evening and what the applicant is
 24 prepared to address to the property owners' concerns
 25 about fire?

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1 MR. MARK STOKES: Yes. There have been a lot
 2 of concerns expressed over fire. We have got the fire
 3 prevention protection plan in our application at this
 4 point. Our intent, and actually I believe we are
 5 required to do this, is to continue to work through with
 6 the counties those plans and make revisions so that we
 7 meet all of the individual county standards. And then
 8 ultimately I think that is what we have to do to get
 9 through the BLM process as well. They'll ultimately get
 10 a notice to proceed. So we recognize there is more work
 11 to do there.
 12 A lot of that though is based on -- there is
 13 certain things associated with the project that we don't
 14 know yet because there is places where the route is not
 15 fixed and other issues out there still. But that is in
 16 our plan to get those plans done, work with the counties
 17 and get them approved.
 18 COUNCILLOR GRAVATT: What is the expectation
 19 on timing of knowing it?
 20 MR. MARK STOKES: Well, that plan and other
 21 plans would get finalized as a part of working on the
 22 construction POD, which is a document that BLM kind of
 23 governs us putting that together because there is a lot
 24 of different agencies, including BLM, that provide input
 25 into that. And that should be taking place in 2021 and

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1 and 2022 as well, and that work will be being done and
 2 being finalized.
 3 COUNCILLOR GRAVATT. I have one other
 4 question. From the applicant's perspective, are your
 5 negotiations with the landowners complete, from your
 6 perspective? We have heard concerns about financial
 7 compensation. Is that, from the applicant's
 8 perspective, are those conversations done or are they
 9 ongoing?
 10 MR. MARK STOKES: Oh, no, no. In fact, we
 11 have had numerous conversations with landowners. But
 12 the formal right-of-way acquisition process has yet to
 13 begin. In fact, it is on our plan to start that here in
 14 2020.
 15 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Thank you,
 16 Mr. Stokes.
 17 And I want to sort of circle back to the
 18 Council now to address Mr. Stokes' request -- or Idaho
 19 Power's request, the applicant's request, for an
 20 additional 30 days to respond after close of the comment
 21 period on August 22nd.
 22 VICE CHAIRMAN JENKINS: We granted 30 days to
 23 the public to provide additional written testimony,
 24 until August 22nd. I think it's only fair to provide
 25 the applicant additional time to be able to respond to

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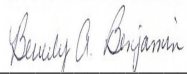
1 that. And I am open to suggestions if 30 days doesn't
 2 seem to be appropriate. But I do believe there needs to
 3 be additional time to respond.
 4 COUNCILLOR ROPPE: Hanley, are you saying that
 5 you don't believe 30 days is long enough or too long?
 6 VICE CHAIRMAN JENKINS: I'm not committed to
 7 30 days. Thirty days would be adequate, as far as I'm
 8 concerned.
 9 COUNCILLOR ROPPE: So are you going to make a
 10 motion?
 11 VICE CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Well, I thought the
 12 Council could have a discussion about the 30 days, or
 13 whatever you want.
 14 COUNCILLOR ROPPE: I think 30 days is
 15 appropriate.
 16 CHAIRMAN BEYELER: As do I. I'm of the belief
 17 there are going to be a mountain of things that come in
 18 at the end of, on the 22nd of August.
 19 COUNCILLOR GRAVATT: I'm okay with providing
 20 the applicant with the additional time to respond.
 21 COUNCILLOR HOWE: I think 30 days makes sense.
 22 VICE CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Mr. Chair, I make a
 23 motion. I move that we grant the applicant an
 24 additional 30 days, whatever that comes out to, for
 25 written rebuttal responses to testimony received up to

1 and through August 22nd at 5 p.m.
 2 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: That is a Sunday.
 3 You said August. Do you mean September?
 4 VICE CHAIRMAN JENKINS: An additional 30 days,
 5 I didn't check what that date is.
 6 COUNCILLOR ROPPE: I'll second that motion.
 7 SECRETARY CORNETT: If I can just make one
 8 minor adjustment to that. That is a Sunday. So
 9 September 23rd is a Monday. So September 23rd at 5 p.m.
 10 might be a more appropriate time, one extra day, but it
 11 puts it on a weekday.
 12 VICE CHAIRMAN JENKINS: I agree to that.
 13 COUNCILLOR ROPPE: I agree with it also.
 14 CHAIRMAN BEYELER: Mr. Secretary, please call
 15 the roll.
 16 SECRETARY CORNETT: Kent Howe?
 17 COUNCILLOR HOWE: Yes.
 18 SECRETARY CORNETT: Ann Gravatt?
 19 COUNCILLOR GRAVATT: Yes.
 20 SECRETARY CORNETT: Barry Beyeler?
 21 CHAIRMAN BEYELER: Aye.
 22 SECRETARY CORNETT: Mary Winters?
 23 COUNCILLOR WINTERS: Yes.
 24 SECRETARY CORNETT: Betty Roppe?
 25 COUNCILLOR ROPPE: Yes.

1 Power, Idaho Power gets theirs back, staff is going to
 2 have a ton of stuff to go through. So yeah, I think
 3 that is why we are actually looking at this, we don't
 4 want to drag this clear into December. So I just think
 5 that getting another extension is going to be difficult
 6 out of the Council.
 7 SECRETARY CORNETT: No vote. There is not a
 8 motion on the floor.
 9 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: Okay. Thanks,
 10 Council.
 11 I'm just going to give one last chance for
 12 anybody. We have about 10 minutes left. Does anybody
 13 want to say anything or are we good to go? Is there
 14 anybody on the phone that would like to give public
 15 comment?
 16 Okay. Hearing none. It is 7:51 p.m. on
 17 June 27, 2019, and as the presiding officer I will go
 18 ahead and close the public hearing in Morrow County and
 19 end the then public in-person testimony. But we will
 20 keep the time period open for the public to continue to
 21 comment in written form through August 22nd, 2019, at
 22 5 p.m. Pacific Time.
 23 That is it for tonight, folks. We are done.
 24 (Hearing concluded at 7:51 p.m.)
 25

1 SECRETARY CORNETT: And Hanley Jenkins.
 2 VICE CHAIRMAN JENKINS: Yes.
 3 SECRETARY CORNETT: Motion carries, Mr. Chair.
 4 VICE CHAIRMAN JENKINS: So as to the second
 5 request, I'm not willing to make a commitment on any
 6 further extensions. From my perspective, we just need
 7 to see how this process evolves. I do find it ironic
 8 that Idaho Power asked for 30 days and then it wants to
 9 not allow any other extensions.
 10 COUNCILLOR ROPPE: I agree with Hanley. I
 11 don't see that we want to make a commitment to that
 12 since we don't know what would come up before us. We
 13 will have to handle that as they come.
 14 COUNCILLOR WINTERS: Agreed.
 15 CHAIRMAN BEYELER: I'm in concurrence.
 16 COUNCILLOR HOWE: I agree.
 17 HEARING OFFICER WEBSTER: So if I understand,
 18 you are leaving it at this point that the plan is for
 19 August 22nd for the public comment and September 23rd
 20 the time for Idaho Power to respond to the public
 21 comment. And you are not going to commit one way or the
 22 other as to any other extensions, but wait and see how
 23 things sort of shake out until August and September?
 24 CHAIRMAN BEYELER: By the time the staff gets
 25 all of the written comments, delivers them to Idaho

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 10th day of July 2019.
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