Oregon
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To: Energy Facility Siting Council

From: Sarah Esterson, Senior Policy Advisor

Date: November 6, 2026

Subject: Agenda Item E (Information Item) – Quarterly Construction Update for Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line for the November 19-20, 2026 EFSC Meeting

Background

The second amended site certificate for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project (B2H) was issued by the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) to Idaho Power Company (IPC) on August 23, 2024. The approved facility includes approximately 273 miles of 500 kV transmission line, plus two substations, communications stations, access roads, multi-use areas and pulling and tensioning sites.

Quarterly Update

Construction Status

Pre-construction compliance requirements were substantially completed in June 2025, and IPC notified the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) that the $250,000 threshold for start of construction had been met on July 10, 2025. Construction activities have been conducted in all five counties included in the Oregon portion of the project: Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Baker, and Malheur. The construction contractor is Quanta Infrastructure Solutions Group (QISG).

Substantial progress has been made during the 16 months that the project has been under construction. Ground disturbing activities, which are primarily associated with the construction of access roads and creating pad sites for the transmission towers, are approximately 90% complete. Ground disturbance should be essentially finished by the end of 2026. Over 700 transmission towers (61%) have been erected, and about 33% of the wire for the transmission line itself has been installed.[1] Civil and foundation work are on schedule to be completed by the end of 2026, with mechanical completion and commissioning of the transmission line scheduled to finish before the end of 2027.

Compliance Overview

Prior quarterly updates have provided an overview of the compliance program and approach. The certificate holder, IPC, is responsible for complying with all conditions of their EFSC site certificate and they have engaged the services of an environmental consultant, Eocene, to

[1] Completion statistics are as of October 25, 2026.

monitor compliance during construction. There is also a Construction Inspection Contractor (CIC) who is under contract by the Bureau of Land Management. Their role on the federal side is analogous to Haley & Aldrich' relationship with ODOE, with full-time staff in the field to monitor compliance to federal laws, including but not limited to Section 106, the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, eagle protections, noxious weed management, and fire protection. The CIC for this project is Power Engineers.

Eocene summarizes their monitoring activities in a weekly report that is shared with ODOE. The report provides an overview of monitoring activities, construction progress, and documents any compliance issues that were noted during the reporting period.

Every Wednesday, there is a Teams call which includes personnel from IPC, Eocene, QISG, Haley & Aldrich and ODOE. A set agenda for the call includes construction status, a review of monitoring activities, revegetation and noxious weed management, incidents, inspections, and other current issues. The weekly call provides an opportunity to review any issues that were noted from the weekly reports in more detail and to follow up on action items.

Site Inspections and Compliance Issues

Field inspections of the construction right of way are being conducted approximately once per month while construction is in progress. Most inspections are being performed by Anderson Perry, an engineering firm with a base of operations in La Grande, Oregon.

Site inspections during the third quarter of 2026 have focused on concrete management and washout (July), fish passage (August), and waste management and recycling (September). The site inspection for October 2026 focused on compliance with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality 1200-C permit. Each inspection begins with a desk audit, followed by field observations at construction locations along the right-of-way. One finding of non-compliance (FNC) was issued during the October site inspection for improper installation of a fish passage at Powell Creek in Baker County. An FNC was also issued for failure to follow the Fire Prevention and Suppression Plan (FPSP) and is discussed below.

Fire Season

Construction work in central and eastern Oregon during the summer comes with inherent risks. The project's Fire Prevention and Suppression Plan, required under condition GEN-PS-02, is intended to help reduce fire risks related to project activities.

Three fires were started by project activities during the 2026 fire season: one in Idaho and two in Oregon. For the first fire in Oregon, an FNC was issued for failure to comply with a requirement under the FPSP to monitor and record data from a Portable Weather Station during a Red Flag Warning.

Removal Fill Conditions

Several conditions from the site certificate which fall under the Removal Fill standard require that periodic updates be provided to the Council.

- GEN-RF-01 Site Rehabilitation Plan: No significant reclamation activity has occurred as construction is still ongoing.
- GEN-RF-02 Compensatory Wetland and Non-Wetland Mitigation Plan: The Hassinger Mitigation Site is being developed, and the Powerpoint presentation to Council will include pictures and current status.

- GEN-RF-04 Removal Fill Permit: A modification to the Removal Fill permit was approved by the Department of State Lands on June 24, 2026.