

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

100 Oregon Street • Vale, Oregon 97918 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale>

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
For release: For Immediate Release

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BLM
Vale District Office

Scoping Meetings for Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line

Vale, Ore. – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Vale District Office is reopening the scoping period for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line (B2H) project and will host additional public meetings in coordination with the Oregon Department of Energy.

The BLM is seeking additional input in preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the B2H project under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The BLM, acting as lead Federal agency, will oversee preparation of the planning effort. Since the B2H right-of-way application was originally filed by Idaho Power Company (IPC) in December 2007, IPC has obtained additional public input through a community advisory process to help identify alternative routes that would be more acceptable to local stakeholders.

The B2H is a new electric transmission line (single circuit 500kV) from the proposed substation near Boardman, Oregon, to the existing Hemingway substation near Melba, Idaho. The proposed route crosses Federal lands administered by the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service in Oregon and Idaho. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will analyze potential environmental impacts from construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of the B2H project.

Additional scoping meetings will provide an opportunity for the public to understand the roles of the BLM and State of Oregon Department of Energy in the B2H project and to provide comments for consideration in the EIS. Comments submitted during the previous scoping period will be considered in addition to comments received in the upcoming meetings.

All meetings will be from 3:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. In addition, formal presentations from the BLM and Oregon Department of Energy will be held at 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The agencies will host open houses on the following dates in the following communities:

- **Monday, August 2 – La Grande, Oregon (Blue Mountain Conference Center, 404 12th St.)**
- **Tuesday, August 3 – Baker City, Oregon (Best Western Sunridge Inn, 1 Sunridge Lane)**
- **Wednesday, August 4 – Pendleton, Oregon (Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate)**
- **Thursday, August 5 – Mt. Vernon, Oregon (Mt. Vernon Community Hall, 640 Ingle St.)**
- **Monday, August 9 – Marsing, Idaho (Marsing American Legion Community Center, 126 N. Bruneau Highway)**
- **Tuesday, August 10 – Ontario, Oregon (Four Rivers Cultural Center, 676 S.W. Fifth Ave.)**
- **Wednesday, August 11 – Boardman, Oregon (Port of Morrow Riverfront Center, 2 Marine Drive)**
- **Thursday, August 12 – Burns, Oregon (Harney County Community Services Center, 17 S. Alder Ave.)**

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The scoping period will begin on July 27, 2010, and run through Sept 27, 2010. Written comments may be submitted at the scoping meeting by letter to the address below or by e-mail to:

Comment@boardmantohemingway.com. Please include “B2H Project” in your correspondence. All comments must be received on or before the close of business, Sept 27, 2010.

**Bureau of Land Management
B2H Project -- P.O. Box 655
Vale, Oregon, 97918**

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to have your personal identifying information withheld from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Additional information regarding the meetings and the project is available online at:

www.boardmantohemingway.com

About the BLM: The BLM manages more land – 245 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM’s multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

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