



B2H Transmission Line Q&As

Length

The 293.4-mile approved route will run across 100.3 miles of Federal land.

Partners

PacifiCorp, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and Idaho Power jointly propose to design, construct, operate and maintain this 500 kilovolt, single-circuit electric transmission line.

Energy

The B2H Project will add approximately 1,000 megawatts of much needed bi-directional power capacity between the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain West regions.

How long will the transmission line be?

The 293.4-mile approved route will run across 100.3 miles of Federal land (managed by the BLM, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. Department of Defense), 190.2 miles of private land, and 2.9 miles of state lands.

What is the benefit to the region?

The B2H Project will add approximately 1,000 megawatts of much needed bi-directional power capacity between the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain West regions. The additional capacity will help improve the region's ability to transmit low-cost energy from a variety of generation sources to serve residences, farms, businesses, and other customers throughout the region.

The Project would also alleviate existing transmission constraints (currently lines at capacity) and ensure that there is sufficient electrical capacity to meet present and forecasted customer need as described in Idaho Power Company's 2015 Integrated Resource Plan.

In November 2017, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) had signed a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project (B2H Project). The B2H Project will provide additional electrical capacity between the Pacific Northwest and the Intermountain West regions.

Why is BLM involved?

This plan constitutes the BLM's final decision regarding approval for a Right-of-Way grant to be issued to Idaho Power Company to construct, operate and maintain an extra-high-voltage, transmission line from the Boise, Idaho area to the Pacific Northwest to increase system capacity and reliability for customer load. The approval would also minimally amend portions of two Resource Management Plans in Oregon for visual resources. The Project is a linear Project from northeastern Oregon to an existing substation in southwestern Idaho.

How much will this cost?

The B2H Project, which will have a three-year development phase, will alleviate existing transmission constraints by providing sufficient electrical capacity to meet present and forecasted customer needs. The total capital expenditure for the B2H Project is approximately \$1 billion to \$1.2 billion.



Is BLM's process the last step for approval?

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) will issue a separate ROD for lands administered by the USFS based on the analysis in the Final EIS. The project must also be considered through the state permitting process. The Oregon Department of Energy and the Energy Facility Siting Council will review Idaho Power's application for compliance with state energy facility siting standards.

Where would the power supply come from?

The power imported on the proposed transmission line would come from a variety of northwest sources including hydroelectric, natural gas, coal, nuclear and wind resources.

Can energy conservation reduce the need for this transmission line?

Idaho Power actively pursues cost-effective energy efficiency and demand response programs to help customers manage their energy use and demand. Idaho Power has numerous programs benefiting residential, agricultural and commercial/industrial customers.

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission commended Idaho Power for aggressively pursuing demand side management; however Idaho Power believes energy efficiency cannot replace the need for the B2H Project because transmission in the Pacific Northwest is already at capacity, and additional transmission is needed for the region.

This project will improve the delivery of electricity to all Northwest and Intermountain West utility customers. The Pacific Northwest requires more power during the winter months while the Intermountain West electricity system peaks and requires more power during the summer. With this new line, electricity will be able to flow to where the highest energy demand is occurring at the time. It will improve the reliability of the regional transmission system and help maintain fair-priced electricity for everyone in the region.

Would the new transmission line result in additional energy generation facilities?

The proposed transmission line would increase regional transmission transport capacity. The project is not related to any specific power generation resource. The added capacity generated by the B2H Project would relieve existing transmission congestion. The provided relief may stimulate interest in siting power generation facilities that were previously deterred due to transmission congestion. The line will be open to all generators who meet regulatory requirements, regardless of where the energy comes from.