



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Boise District Office

3948 Development Avenue

Boise, Idaho 83705

<http://www.id.blm.gov/offices>



In Reply Refer To:
1784

Date: November 27, 2013

Memorandum

To: Gene Gray, Chair Boise District Resource Advisory Council

From: James M. Fincher, BLM Boise District Manager *Jan*

RE: Establishment of a RAC Subcommittee for the Gateway West Transmission Line Project

The Gateway West Transmission Line Project Record of Decision (ROD) has been released and the BLM has decided to defer offering a ROW grant for Segments 8 and 9 to provide additional time for federal, state, and local permitting agencies to pursue a consensus regarding siting routes in these segments. As the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the BLM's Boise District I am requesting that a Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Subcommittee be established to determine if there is new information and/or modifications to the alternatives analyzed in the Final EIS and the companies enhancement proposal that BLM should consider that could resolve the principle siting issues identified in the ROD. The objective is to identify through a collaborative, consensus-driven process, opportunities that BLM should consider. I propose that the subcommittee be co-chaired by Dr. Neil Rimbey and Karen Steenhof.

Following past RAC practices, membership of the subcommittee should consist of current and past Council members and individuals recognized as subject matter experts and/or stakeholders. The committee should represent a variety of viewpoints and interests. Because Idaho Power Company and Rocky Mountain Power Company are the project applicants, no employee (or spouse or parent of an employee) may serve on the committee. However, the applicant's representatives may provide technical information to the subcommittee to aid the subcommittee in its work.

In addition, while we welcome input from stakeholders who may be directly affected by one or more siting routes, federal regulations preclude appointment of those members to the subcommittee. I certainly encourage persons directly affected by the project to attend subcommittee meetings and provide input as interested members of the public.

Meetings held by the subcommittee will meet the requirements outlined in the RAC Charter and 43 CFR 1784 regarding public notice of meetings, open meeting requirements and operating procedures such as record keeping. Recommendations identified by the subcommittee will be submitted to the full RAC for consideration.

I request that the subcommittee submit its recommendations to the full Council no later than February 28, 2014.